# Ramsar Information Sheet

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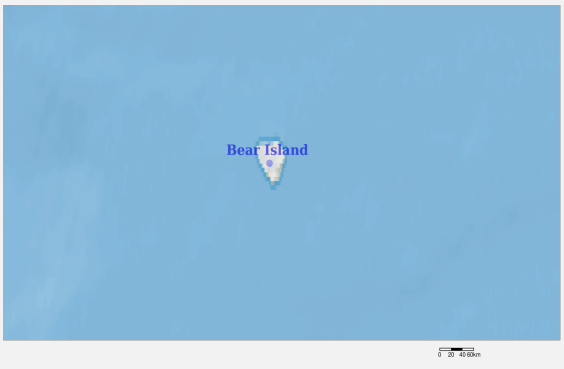
# Norway

## Bear Island




| | |
|---|---|
| Designation date | 12 November 2010 |
| Site number | 1966 |
| Coordinates | 74°26'03"N 19°01'31"E |
| Area | 298 171,00 ha |

## Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

## 1 - Summary

Summary

Bear Island (Bjørnøya) is the southernmost island of the Svalbard archipelago, situated half-way between Svalbard and mainland Norway. The Ramsar Site includes a marine area of 2806 km2 (94%) around the island. The relatively flat northern part of the island forms is dotted with lakes, whereas the south-eastern and southern parts are mountainous. The island is 20 km long and 15 km wide, with approximately 740 lakes covering an area of 18.8 km2 (10.6%). Most of these lakes are shallow and dry out during the summer months. Only 10-15 lakes are deeper than 3m. Ellasjøen with 35m depth being the deepest.

The Polar Front surrounds the island to the east, south and west, providing conditions for a high primary production, making it an important area for fish and consequently seabirds. Higher production and biological diversity occurs in the warmer Atlantic waters south and west of the front than in the Arctic waters to the north. The shallow marine area surrounding Bjørnøya is an important nursery ground for cod, haddock, saithe, herring, Norway redfish, Greenland halibut and American plaice. In total, there are 24 fish species observed in these waters. Most of the Arctic whale and seal species can be found here as well. Banks near Bjørnøya are hot-spots for several summer migrating baleen whales.

Seabirds dominate terrestrial life at Bjørnøya and monitoring programmes have been active since 1986. Bjørnøya has been a SEAPOP (SEAbird POPulations) keysite since 2005 and a SEATRACK locality since 2013. A total of 126 different species of birds have been registered on the island, whereof 33 are breeding. The seabird colonies in the southern parts of the island are among the largest in the Northern hemisphere with over one million breeding birds. Between Glupen and Sørhamna there are almost 9 km of continuous bird cliffs. The island is the only land between Svalbard and the Norwegian coast and therefore constitutes an important resting area for birds migrating to and from Svalbard.
The island became a nature reserve in 2002, and has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International.

# 2 - Data & location

## 2.1 - Formal data

### 2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

#### Compiler 1

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | Pernille Kvernland |
| Institution/agency | Norwegian Environment Agency |
| Postal address | Post box 5672 Torgarden, N-7485 Trondheim, Norway |
| E-mail | post@miljodir.no |
| Phone | +47 73580500 |

### 2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

| | |
|---|---|
| From year | 1986 |
| To year | 2015 |

### 2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

| | |
|---|---|
| Official name (in English, French or Spanish) | Bear Island |
| Unofficial name (optional) | Bjørnøya |

### 2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

| | |
|---|---|
| (Update) A. Changes to Site boundary | Yes ○ No ◉ |
| (Update) B. Changes to Site area | No change to area |

### 2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

| | |
|---|---|
| (Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS? | Not evaluated |

## 2.2 - Site location

### 2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image
<1 file(s) uploaded>

| | |
|---|---|
| Former maps | 0 |

Boundaries description

The boundary is the same as for the Bjørnøya Nature Reserve established August 16th 2002. The boundaries were later expanded to 12 nautical miles December 12th 2008.

### 2.2.2 - General location

| | |
|---|---|
| a) In which large administrative region does the site lie? | Svalbard |
| b) What is the nearest town or population centre? | Longyearbyen (approx. 430 km from Bjørnøya, population approx 2 100) |

### 2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

| | |
|---|---|
| a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? | Yes ○ No ◉ |
| b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? | Yes ○ No ◉ |

### 2.2.4 - Area of the Site

| | |
|---|---|
| Official area, in hectares (ha): | 298171 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries | 298304.06 |

## 2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

| Regionalisation scheme(s) | Biogeographic region |
|---|---|
| Other scheme (provide name below) | 1. MATZ – middle arctic tundra zone. |
| EU biogeographic regionalization | 2. Arctic |

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

1. Zonal division based on the distribution of thermophilius vascular plant species. Vascular plants abundant on Svalbard are divided into five groups based on temperature demands and the distribution of these groups of species have been surveyed in 163 areas (In: Elvebakk, A. (1997): Tundra diversity and ecological characteristics of Svalbard. In: Wiegolaski, F.E. (ed.): Polar and alpine tundra. Ecosystems of the world 3: 347-359. Elsevier.
2. Biogeographical Regions, European Environment Agency, 2005

# 3 - Why is the Site important?

## 3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

☑ Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Other reasons: In a global context Bjørnøya has a unique geology, ecology and cultural history. Due to its isolation and low human activity impact, the Site constitutes one of the few intact ecosystems in Europe. The Site's location at the Polar front results in the sea's high primary production, which is the basis for the birdlife on the island. The bird cliffs are the most dominant habitat on the island, where the cliffs host one of the largest seabird colonies in the Northern Hemisphere.

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification: Bjørnøya is considered important for maintaining the biological diversity in the biogeographic region. The seabird colonies in the south of Bjørnøya are among the largest found in the Northern Hemisphere. It is estimated that over a million seabirds gather here during the breeding season. The island is home to the world's northernmost sizeable breeding colony of Common guillemots, and also has one of the world's northernmost colonies of Razorbills (IUCN: NT, Svalbard Red List: EN).

☑ Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

☑ Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers: over one million seabirds gather during the breeding season.

Start year: 2005

Source of data: http://www.seapop.no/opencms/export/sites/SEAPOP/no/filer/publikasjoner/2015/SEAPOP-Nokkeldokument-2 015-web.pdf

☑ Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

## 3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

## 3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

| Phylum | Scientific name | Common name | Species qualifies under criterion | | | | Species contributes under criterion | | | | Pop. Size | Period of pop. Est. | % occurrence 1) | IUCN Red List | CITES Appendix I | CMS Appendix I | Other Status | Justification |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 2 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | | | | | | | | |
| **Birds** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CHORDATA / AVES | *Alca torda* | Razorbill | ☑ | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | NT | ☐ | ☐ | Svalbard red list: Considered as EN | Criterion 3 & 4: The island is home to one of the world's northernmost colonies of Razorbills Alca torda. The species is breeding within the site. |

| Phylum | Scientific name | Common name | Species qualifies under criterion | | | | Species contributes under criterion | | | | Pop. Size | Period of pop. Est. | % occurrence 1) | IUCN Red List | CITES Appendix I | CMS Appendix I | Other Status | Justification |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 2 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | | | | | | | | |
| CHORDATA / AVES | *Anser brachyrhynchus* | Pink-footed Goose | ☐ | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | LC | ☐ | ☐ | | Criterion 4: Svalbard's populations of this species stop at Bjørnøya during their seasonal migration. |
| CHORDATA / AVES | *Branta bernicla hrota* | Brent geese | ☐ | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | | ☐ | ☐ | Svalbard red list: Considered as NT | Criterion 4: Svalbard's populations of this species stop at Bjørnøya during their seasonal migration. |
| CHORDATA / AVES | *Branta leucopsis* | Barnacle Goose | ☐ | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | LC | ☐ | ☐ | | Criterion 4: Svalbard's populations of this species stop at Bjørnøya during their seasonal migration. |
| CHORDATA / AVES | *Fratercula arctica* | Atlantic Puffin | ☑ | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | VU | ☐ | ☐ | | Criterion 4: Bjørnøya has breeding populations of this species. |
| CHORDATA / AVES | *Fulmarus glacialis* | Northern Fulmar | ☐ | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | 60000 | | | LC | ☐ | ☐ | | approx. 30 000 pairs Criterion 4: Bjørnøya has breeding populations of this species. |
| CHORDATA / AVES | *Larus fuscus fuscus* | Lesser Black-Backed Gull | ☐ | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | 8 | | | | ☐ | ☐ | | 3-4 pairs (northern border for distribution) Criterion 4: Bjørnøya has breeding populations of this species. |
| CHORDATA / AVES | *Larus hyperboreus* | Glaucous Gull | ☐ | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | 1200 | | | LC | ☐ | ☐ | Svalbard red list: Considered as NT | approx. 600 pairs Criterion 4: Bjørnøya has breeding populations of this species. |
| CHORDATA / AVES | *Pagophila eburnea* | Ivory Gull | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | NT | ☐ | ☐ | Svalbard red list: Considered as VU | |
| CHORDATA / AVES | *Polysticta stelleri* | Steller's Eider | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | VU | ☐ | ☑ | Svalbard red list: Considered as VU | |
| CHORDATA / AVES | *Rissa tridactyla* | Black-legged Kittiwake | ☐ | ☑ | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | 250000 | | 3.8 | LC | ☐ | ☐ | Svalbard red list: Considered as NT | approx. 125 000 breeding pairs Criterion 4: Bjørnøya has breeding populations of this species. Criterion 6: Biogeographic region: Arctic from NE Canada to Novaya Zemlya/N Atlantic |
| CHORDATA / AVES | *Uria aalge* | Common Murre | ☑ | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | ☑ | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | 140000 | | | LC | ☐ | ☐ | Svalbard red list: Considered as VU | approx. 70,000 pairs Criterion 3 & 4: The island is home to the world's northernmost sizeable breeding colony of Common guillemots Uria aalge. |
| CHORDATA / AVES | *Uria lomvia* | Thick-billed Murre | ☐ | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | 220000 | | | LC | ☐ | ☐ | Svalbard red list: Considered as NT | approx. 110 000 breeding pairs Criterion 4: Bjørnøya has breeding populations of this species. |
| CHORDATA / AVES | *Xema sabini* | Sabine's Gull | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | LC | ☐ | ☐ | Svalbard red list: Considered as VU | |
| **Others** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CHORDATA / MAMMALIA | *Odobenus rosmarus* | Walrus | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | VU | ☐ | ☐ | Svalbard red list: Considered as VU | |
| CHORDATA / MAMMALIA | *Phoca vitulina* | Harbor Seal | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | LC | ☐ | ☐ | Svalbard red list: Considered as VU | |
| CHORDATA / MAMMALIA | *Ursus maritimus* | Polar Bear | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | VU | ☐ | ☐ | Svalbard red list: Considered as VU | |

*1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site*

Capitalized letters shows the species' status on the Svalbard Red List 2015

## 3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

# 4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

## 4.1 - Ecological character

Situated in the Arctic and characterized by:
• An extremely isolated island surrounded by a shallow seashelf with high primary production
• Steep cliffs with seabird colonies among the larges found in the Northern Hemisphere
• Approx. 740 lakes and small ponds, covering 10.6% of the area of the island

## 4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

| Wetland types (code and name) | Local name | Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least) | Area (ha) of wetland type | Justification of Criterion 1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A: Permanent shallow marine waters | | 1 | | |
| D: Rocky marine shores | | 2 | | Unique |

Inland wetlands

| Wetland types (code and name) | Local name | Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least) | Area (ha) of wetland type | Justification of Criterion 1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes | | 3 | | |
| Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic or peat soils >> Vt: Tundra wetlands | | 4 | | |
| Fresh, saline, brackish or alkaline water > Subterranean >> Zk(b): Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems | | | | |

## 4.3 - Biological components

### 4.3.1 - Plant species

<no data available>

### 4.3.2 - Animal species

<no data available>

## 4.4 - Physical components

### 4.4.1 - Climate

| Climatic region | Subregion |
|---|---|
| E: Polar climate with extremely cold winters and summers | ET: Tundra (Polar tundra, no true summer) |

The climate is Arctic oceanic. The meeting between cold Arctic waters and cold air masses from the North with the warmer waters and warmer air masses from the South creates unstable weather conditions and polar low pressures with high wind speeds. Temperature differences between summer and winter are low. There is a lot of wind and fog due to the prevailing polar lows, small-scale, short-lived atmospheric low-pressure systems that develop over the ocean.

The yearly middle temperature is -2.4°C (Ottar 5-2005). July is the warmest month (+4.4°C) and January is the coldest month (-8,1°C). Annual precipitation is 371 mm (met.no)

### 4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres): 0

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 536

Entire river basin ☐

Upper part of river basin ☐
Middle part of river basin ☐
Lower part of river basin ☐
More than one river basin ☐
Not in river basin ☐
Coastal ☑

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

Norwegian Sea

### 4.4.3 - Soil

Organic ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

No available information ☐

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes ○ No ◉

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

The areas surrounding the bird cliffs are the most fertile, while the rest of the island is characterized as barren. On top of the bird cliffs in the south there are peat deposits which are several meters thick. The peat deposits results from thousands of years of remains from guano, feathers and eggs. In combination with low temperatures, this have created deposits up to 5 m thick overlying cores of ice produced by the permafrost. Only the top layers melt during summer months. These layers of turf are 8 000 - 9 000 years old.

The bedrock varies as to chemical composition. Some soil is high in Na, which is presumably caused by sea-spray. Bird manure contributes to the enrichment of N and P, and the seabirds also drop shells and carcasses.

Observed ground thawing down to approximately 0,75 m in the summer. Below this level permafrost continues down to 60-70 m.

### 4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

| Presence? | Changes at RIS update |
|---|---|
| Usually permanent water present | |

Source of water that maintains character of the site

| Presence? | Predominant water source | Changes at RIS update |
|---|---|---|
| Water inputs from rainfall | ☑ | No change |
| Marine water | ☐ | No change |

Water destination

| Presence? | Changes at RIS update |
|---|---|
| Marine | No change |

Stability of water regime

| Presence? | Changes at RIS update |
|---|---|
| Water levels fluctuating (including tidal) | No change |

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology.

Bjørnøya is surrounded by a shallow sea. The difference between high and low tide is 1.2-2.2 m. Most of the lakes on the island are quite shallow, and only 10-15 lakes are deeper than 3 m in depth. Ellasjøen is the deepest lake (35 m).

All freshwater originate from precipitation (water retention function).

### 4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown ☐

<no data available>

### 4.4.6 - Water pH

Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4 ) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

Please provide further information on pH (optional):

pH is 7.1

### 4.4.7 - Water salinity

Unknown ☐

Please provide further information on salinity (optional):

A combination of vertical mixing of sea masses during autumn and winter, which brings nutrition up from the deep sea, and a layering in spring and summer has a boosting effect on primary production. Influx and outflux of water also have a positive effect on vertical mixing and supply of nutrients. A thermocline develops in spring and during the summer as the surface water is heated by the atmosphere and by radiation from the sun. Together with warm Atlantic water the increasing heat also rapidly melts the ice, which covers the sea during the colder period of the year. The melted ice forms a layer of surface water with low salinity which adds to the layering effect of the thermocline. This stable layer of water may reach depths of up to 50-60 meters in the south-western part of the Barents Sea.

### 4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Unknown ☐

<no data available>

### 4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar ○ ii) significantly different ◉

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development ☐

Surrounding area has higher human population density ☐

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use ☐

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types ☐

## 4.5 - Ecosystem services

### 4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

| Ecosystem service | Examples | Importance/Extent/Significance |
|---|---|---|
| Food for humans | Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains) | Low |

Regulating Services

| Ecosystem service | Examples | Importance/Extent/Significance |
|---|---|---|
| Maintenance of hydrological regimes | Groundwater recharge and discharge | Medium |

Cultural Services

| Ecosystem service | Examples | Importance/Extent/Significance |
|---|---|---|
| Recreation and tourism | Picnics, outings, touring | Low |
| Recreation and tourism | Nature observation and nature-based tourism | Low |
| Spiritual and inspirational | Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological) | Low |
| Scientific and educational | Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site) | High |
| Scientific and educational | Long-term monitoring site | High |
| Scientific and educational | Major scientific study site | High |

Supporting Services

| Ecosystem service | Examples | Importance/Extent/Significance |
|---|---|---|
| Nutrient cycling | Carbon storage/sequestration | Medium |

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

All freshwater originate from precipitation (water retention function).

Bjørnøya was discovered in 1596, and its history revolves around hunting; particularly that of walrus, polar bears, seals, whales and seabirds. In the 1900s, coal and galena were extracted for a short period. This has left several protected cultural heritage sites. There were both German and Allied activities here during the Second World War.

The island is visited by scientific researchers, both Norwegian and from other nations parts of the year. Most of the areas are untouched nature with no nearby human activity. In addition, tourists make landings every year within the borders of Bjørnøya Nature reserve. In 2009 there were approximately 200 persons visiting Bjørnøya by boat. Oversea Cruiseliners often sail close to the island on their way up to or down from Spitsbergen.

See additional material for further information.

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes ○ No ○ Unknown ◉

### 4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland ☐

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland ☐

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples ☐

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland ☐

<no data available>

## 4.6 - Ecological processes

| | |
|---|---|
| (ECD) Nutrient cycling | The bird cliffs are considered to be important in the nutrient flow between ocean and land. |

# 5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

## 5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

### 5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

| Category | Within the Ramsar Site | In the surrounding area |
|---|---|---|
| National/Federal government | ☑ | ☑ |

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

Within the Ramsar site: State owned.
In the surrounding area: State owned

### 5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site: Governor of Svalbard

Postal address: PO Box. 633, N-9171 Longyearbyen

E-mail address: postmottak@sysselmannen.no

## 5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

### 5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Energy production and mining

| Factors adversely affecting site | Actual threat | Potential threat | Within the site | Changes | In the surrounding area | Changes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mining and quarrying | Low impact | Low impact | ☑ | No change | ☐ | No change |

Human intrusions and disturbance

| Factors adversely affecting site | Actual threat | Potential threat | Within the site | Changes | In the surrounding area | Changes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Recreational and tourism activities | Low impact | Low impact | ☑ | No change | ☐ | No change |

Pollution

| Factors adversely affecting site | Actual threat | Potential threat | Within the site | Changes | In the surrounding area | Changes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Industrial and military effluents | Medium impact | Medium impact | ☐ | No change | ☑ | No change |
| Air-borne pollutants | Medium impact | Medium impact | ☑ | No change | ☑ | No change |

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Within the Ramsar site: The human activity on the island itself is low, and consists of a manned meteorological station and scientific research. Previous activities, such as hunting for marine mammals and birds, collection of bird eggs and excavation of coal and galena, are no longer taking place. Traffic on the island and close to bird colonies is strongly regulated. A low number of tourists visit the island yearly with expedition cruise vessels. The presence of POPs in local biota most likely results from long-range transport of contaminants to the area.

In the surrounding area: The southern part of the Barents Sea north to 74° 30' N is formally opened to petroleum activities. However, in the Integrated Management Plan for the Barents Sea and the Sea Areas off the Lofoten Islands the Government has established a framework for petroleum activities on the basis of an evaluation of the areas identified as particularly valuable and vulnerable and an assessment of the risk of acute oil pollution. In accordance with this framework, no petroleum activities will be initiated within a 65-km zone around Bjørnøya.

### 5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

| Designation type | Name of area | Online information url | Overlap with Ramsar Site |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nature Reserve | Bjørnøya | | whole |

Non-statutory designations

| Designation type | Name of area | Online information url | Overlap with Ramsar Site |
|---|---|---|---|
| Important Bird Area | Bjørnøya nature reserve | http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/bj%C3%B8rn%C3%B8ya-(bear-island)-iba-svalbard-and-ja n-mayen-islands-(to-norway)/deta ils | partly |

### 5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

Ia Strict Nature Reserve ☑

Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection ☐

II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation ☐

III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features ☐

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention ☐

V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation ☐

VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems ☐

### 5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

| Measures | Status |
|---|---|
| Legal protection | Implemented |

Other:

The southern part of the Barents Sea North to 74˚ 30' N is formally opened to petroleum activities. However, in the integrated management plan for the Barents Sea and the aea areas off the Lofoten Islands the government has established a framework for petroleum activities on the basis of an evaluation of the areas identified as particularly valuable and vulnerable and an assessment of the risk of acute oil pollution. In accordance with this framework, no petroleum activities will be initiated within a 65-km zone around Bjørnøya.

### 5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes ○ No ◉

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes ○ No ◉

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

No such activities have been conducted, mainly because of the remoteness of the area and difficult access.

### 5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Please select a value

### 5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

| Monitoring | Status |
|---|---|
| Birds | Implemented |

Bjørnøya is included in The National Monitoring Programme for Seabirds. Bjørnøya is also included as one of the key-sites within SEAPOP (SEAbird POPulations), which is a long-term monitoring and mapping programme for Norwegian seabirds. Bjørnøya has also been a SEATRACK (national habitat mapping study in close collaboration with SEAPOP) locality since 2013.

Common guillemots and Brünnich's guillemots have been instrumented there since 2007, great skuas since 2008, black-legged kittiwakes and little auks since 2009 and glaucous gulls since 2010.

# 6 - Additional material

## 6.1 - Additional reports and documents

### 6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Elvebakk, A. 1989: Biogeographical zones of Svalbard and Jan Mayen based on the distribution patterns of thermophilous vascular plants. Upubl. manuskript, Universitetet i Tromsø.

Norwegian Polar institute: http://npweb.npolar.no/

Forvaltningsplanen for perioden 2005-2010

Norsk Polarinstitutts Meddelse nr. 143 19997: Dokumentasjon og verneverdier på Bjørnøya

Forskningsrådet https://www.forskningsradet.no

Bear Island Metrological Station http://bjornoya.org

SEAPOP http://www.seapop.no/en/

Norwegian Polar History http://www.polarhistorie.no

Environmental Monitoring Svalbard and Jan Mayen http://www.mosj.no/no/

Tromsø Museum 2004: Bjørnøya – Historie, natur og forskning. Ottar nr. 5-2004.

Evenset, A., Christensen, G. N., Skotvold, T., Fjeld, E., Schlabach, M., Wartena, E., & Gregor, D. (2004). A comparison of organic contaminants in two high Arctic lake ecosystems, Bjørnøya (Bear Island), Norway. Science of the Total Environment, 318(1), 125-141.

### 6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)
<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)
<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory
<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports
<no file available>

v. site management plan
<1 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature
<1 file(s) uploaded>

### 6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:

Revdalen, towards Kapp Kolthoff ( *Andrine Kylling/Sysselmannen, 30-06-2017* )

Stappen ( *Gunhild Lutnæs/Sysselmannen, 30-06-2017* )

Gravodden and the metrological station (not part of the ramsar area) ( *Lise Loktu/Sysselmannen, 30-06-2017* )

Bird research in Revdalen ( *Andrine Kylling/Sysselmannen, 30-06-2017* )

The Hammerfest building, the oldest standing building on Svalbard ( *Lise Loktu/Sysselmannen, 30-06-2017* )

### 6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation: 2010-11-12