



# Ramsar Information Sheet

## Poland

### Vistula River Mouth



Designation date	9 April 2015
Site number	2321
Coordinates	54°21'13"N 18°55'38"E
Area	1 748,10 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

Vistula River Mouth (Ujście Wisły) Ramsar Site is located in northern Poland in Pomorskie Voievodeship, east of Gdańsk. The Ramsar Site covers two areas of the Vistula River estuary, the largest and most important estuary in Poland. The western part is a partly dyked section of the mouth of the western arm of Vistula called Wisła Śmiała (Bold Vistula). The eastern part of the site is the open mouth of the Wisła Przekop (Vistula Canal), together with surrounding sand bars and maritime area.

The Site is one of the most important sites for migratory and wintering coastal waterbirds nationally, the only nesting site for sandwich tern in the country and one of the most important nesting sites for little tern and common tern. The Site is an important resting area of grey and harbour seals and the main place of occurrence of grey seals in Poland. Harbour seals occasionally breed at the Site - it is the only breeding location of this species in Poland.

The Site is important for nature-based tourism. Visitor facilities include educational trails and observation towers.

## 2 - Data & location

### 2.1 - Formal data

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

##### Compiler 1

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

From year	2004
To year	2016

#### 2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Vistula River Mouth
Unofficial name (optional)	Ujście Wisły

## 2.2 - Site location

### 2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

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

Former maps	0
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#### Boundaries description

Borders of the Ramsar site were created on the basis of the Natura 2000 site PLB220004 Vistula River Mouth. The site includes two isolated parts. The western part of the site is the Nature Reserve "Ptasi Raj" ("Birds' Paradise"), located in the westernmost section of the Sobieszewska Island, on the eastern side of Bold Vistula river mouth (which is a branch of the main river basin). The area consists of a wetland and a part of estuary separated by a dyke. The eastern part covers the main river mouth called Vistula Canal with surrounding sand bars and adjoining marine waters.

### 2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Pomorskie voivodeship (Pomerania)
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Gdańsk

### 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):

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

#### 2.2.5 - Biogeography

##### Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW)	Baltic Sea
EU biogeographic regionalization	Continental

### 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

Hydrological services provided

The area includes the estuary of the biggest Polish river, the Vistula. This is one of the largest and most important estuaries in Poland. There is a unique process of sediment deposition in the sea, which are carried from the mainland by Vistula River, resulting in the formation of sandbanks and bulk cones. These structures are key to the area's biodiversity. Vistula Przekop estuary was dug to protect Żuławy Wiślane against floods.

Other ecosystem services provided

Science and education: It's a place of research for different groups and institutions.  
 Tourism and recreation: The whole area (seaside in particular) is very popular among tourists and beachgoers in summer.  
 Fishing: The area is important for migrating anadromous fish.  
 Biodiversity: It's a key area for the survival of many rare plant and animal species.

Other reasons

The Site contains a mouth of a large lowland river which is unique in the Baltic basin. The form of the Vistula River mouth is a result of interactions of forces of nature and human activity.  
 The Site contains rare and endangered habitats in the continental scale listed in the Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.

- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

- Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

Within the site more than 120 bird species occur in significant numbers during migration season. Among them there are species crucial for regional and national biodiversity, such as the sandwich tern. A very important advantage of this site is hosting groups of grey seals *Halichoerus grypus* (max 55 in 2012) and occasional reproduction of the harbour seal *Phoca vitulina* – for seals this is the most important site in the Southern Baltic.

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

- Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers

30000








Start year

2004




















Source of data:

SDF Natura 2000 site - Vistula River Mouth PLB220004, documents of the site protection plans' project

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

Scientific name	Common name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
 <i>Eryngium maritimum</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Red List of Plants in Poland (VU)	
 <i>Glaux maritima</i>	Sea Milkwort	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Red List of Plants in Poland (VU)	
 <i>Linaria loeselii</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NT 	<input type="checkbox"/>	Polish Red Data Book of Plants (VU), Red List of Plants in Poland (EN), Annex II Habitat Directive	
 <i>Salsola kali</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Red List of Plants in Poland (VU)	
 <i>Sorbus intermedia</i>	Swedish Whitebeam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Polish Red Data Book of Plants (EN), Red List of Plants in Poland (EN)	
 <i>Tripodium pannonicum</i>	Sea Aster	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Polish Red Data Book of Plants (VU), Red List of Plants in Poland (VU)	

### 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 <sup>1)</sup>	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
<b>Birds</b>																		
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Anas penelope</i>	Eurasian Wigeon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Polish Red Data Book of Animals (CR)	pop. size: 140-2500
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Eurasian Bittern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2007-2012		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Annex I Birds Directive, Polish Red Data Book of Animals (LC)	pop. size: 0-4 pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Common Goldeneye	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2004-2012		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Annex II Birds Directive	abundant in the area during migration and wintering, pop size: 1500-22700
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Calidris alpina</i>	Dunlin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2007-2012		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Polish Red Data Book of Animals (EN)	pop. size: 200-1849
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Common Ringed Plover	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2007-2012		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Polish Red Data Book of Animals (VU)	One of the more important breeding sites, pop. size: 2-7 pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black Tern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2007-2012		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Annex I Birds Directive	pop. size: 80-2600
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Long-tailed Duck; Oldsquaw	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2004-2012		VU 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Annex II Birds Directive	abundant in the area during migration and wintering, pop size: 300-30000
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Whooper Swan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2004-2012		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Annex I Birds Directive	pop. size: 0-22
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2007-2012		NT 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Polish Red Data Book of Animals (VU)	pop. size: 1-2 pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		1995-2012		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Annex I Birds Directive, Polish Red Data Book of Animals (LC)	pop. size: 0-20

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence <sup>1)</sup>	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	Little Gull	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2007-2012		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive, Polish Red Data Book of Animals (LC)	pop. size: 1-5000
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Bar-tailed Godwit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive	pop. size: 0-50
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	Bluethroat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive, Polish Red Data Book of Animals (NT)	pop. size: 1-3 pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Numerius arquata</i>	Eurasian Curlew	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2007-2012		NT 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II Birds Directive, Polish Red Data Book of Animals (VU)	pop. size: 0-32
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Ruff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2007-2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive, Polish Red Data Book of Animals (VU)	pop. size: 0-1000
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	European Golden Plover; European Golden-Plover	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive, Polish Red Data Book of Animals (EXP-extinct or probably extinct in Poland)	pop. size: 0-1000
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Horned Grebe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2007-2012		VU 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive	pop. size: 10-300
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2007-2012		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive	the site is important for the species, especially during the breeding periods, pop size: 120-360 pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Arctic Tern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive, Polish Red Data Book of Animals (CR)	pop. size: 0-40
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Little Tern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2007-2012		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive, Polish Red Data Book of Animals (NT)	One of the most important breeding places in Poland, pop. size: 24-125 pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Common Shelduck	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Polish Red Data Book of Animals (LC)	One of the more important breeding sites in Poland, pop. size: 2-4 pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich Tern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2007-2016		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive, Polish Red Data Book of Animals (CR)	The only breeding site in Poland, pop. size: 112-770 pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive, Polish Red Data Book of Animals (CR)	pop. size: 0-2200
<b>Others</b>																		
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	Gray Seal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2007-2017		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II, V of the Habitats Directive, Annex III of the Bern Convention, Annex II of Bonn Convention, Polish Red Data Book of Animals (VU)	resting on land, the only place in Poland with such number of individuals, pop. size: 0-300
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Harbor Seal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2007-2017		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II and V Habitats Directive	pop. size: 0-2; permanent resting place during the whole year (sometimes breeding place)

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

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

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
2110 Embryonic shifting dunes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Habitat listed in Annex I of Habitats Directive
1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Habitat listed in Annex I of Habitats Directive
1130 Estuaries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Habitat listed in Annex I of Habitats Directive
2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline ('white dunes') (Elymo-Ammophiletum)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Habitat listed in Annex I of Habitats Directive
2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Habitat listed in Annex I of Habitats Directive
2160 Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Habitat listed in Annex I of Habitats Directive
2180 Wooded dunes of the Atlantic, Continental and Boreal region	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Habitat listed in Annex I of Habitats Directive



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

### 4.1 - Ecological character

The landscape is dominated by water bodies - rivers, estuaries and marine waters. The characteristic elements are the periodic sandbanks formed at the mouth of Vistula Przekop, intensively used by birds and seals. All the stages of natural succession can be observed at the Site, from bare sand through white and grey dunes covered with vegetation, to the coastal scrub and forest. In many places rugosa rose *Rosa rugosa* and violet willow *Salix daphnoides* have been planted on the dunes to stabilize them, which led to a reduction of natural vegetation in these areas. In some areas, the dunes are covered with planted pine trees with a significant participation of deciduous trees. The area between flood embankments on the Vistula Przekop is occupied by pastures.

The western part of the area is mainly covered by sedge-beds growing on old halophilous meadows, whose condition deteriorated due to changes in use (abandoned grazing). Also, extensive common alder *Alnus glutinosa* plantings occur in an area of old halophilous meadows.

Wisła Śmiała (Bold Vistula) formed in the mid-nineteenth century as a result of accumulation of water through ice blockage, when waters of Vistula broke through coastal dunes and found a new outflow to the Baltic Sea. It has been cut off with a sluice since 1895. The part of the estuary designated as a Ramsar site has been cut off from Bold Vistula with a dyke, however, the hydrological connection remains.

### 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	890	
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores		4		Representative
F: Estuarine waters		2	230	Representative
J: Coastal brackish / saline lagoons		4	105	

### 4.3 - Biological components

#### 4.3.1 - Plant species

Invasive alien plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Impacts
<i>Impatiens parviflora</i>		Actually (minor impacts)
<i>Rosa rugosa</i>		Actually (minor impacts)
<i>Salix acutifolia</i>		Actually (minor impacts)

#### 4.3.2 - Animal species

Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Impacts
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Babka gymnotrachelus</i>	Goat goby	Potentially
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Neogobius fluviatilis</i>		Potentially
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Neogobius melanostomus</i>	Round goby; Round goby; Round goby	Actually (minor impacts)

### 4.4 - Physical components

#### 4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cfb: Marine west coast (Mild with no dry season, warm summer)

#### 4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

- 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.

Vistula river  
Baltic Sea

4.4.3 - Soil

- Mneral
- Organic
- No available information

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

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?
Usually permanent water present

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source
Water inputs from surface water	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marine water	<input type="checkbox"/>

Water destination

Presence?
Marine

Stability of water regime

Presence?
Water levels largely stable

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

- Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site
- Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site
- Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site
- Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually
- Sediment regime unknown

4.4.6 - Water pH

- Acid (pH<5.5)
- Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4)
- Alkaline (pH>7.4)
- Unknown

Please provide further information on pH (optional):

Data for lakes Ptasi Raj and Karaś

4.4.7 - Water salinity

- Fresh (<0.5 g/l)

- Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l)
- Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l)
- Hyperhaline/Hypersaline (>40 g/l)
- Unknown

Please provide further information on salinity (optional):

fresh water - some small ponds and part of the Vistula river  
The majority of waters are mixohaline (Vistula river, lakes Ptasi Raj and Karaś )

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

- Eutrophic
- Mesotrophic
- Oligotrophic
- Dystrophic
- Unknown

Please provide further information on dissolved or suspended nutrients (optional):

Both river and coastal waters contain a lot of phosphorus and nitrogen

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

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

The majority of the site is in the administrative borders of the city of Gdańsk. Next to the site's borders there are harbours and still developing Gdańsk Port.

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)	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Water sports and activities	Low
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	Medium
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	Medium
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	Medium
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	Low

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High

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

<no data available>

## 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

##### Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

The majority of the land is owned by the State Treasury, in management of The Regional Water Management Authority in Gdańsk (ul. Rogaczewskiego 9/19, 80-804 Gdańsk), Maritime Office in Gdynia (ul. Chrzanowskiego 10, 81-338 Gdynia), Elbląg and Gdańsk forest circuits.

#### 5.1.2 - Management authority

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

Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk/  
Maritime Office in Gdynia

Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Regional Director of Environmental Protection in Gdańsk/ Director of the Maritime Office

Postal address:

ul. Chmielna 54/57, 80-748 Gdańsk/  
ul. Chrzanowskiego 10, 81-338 Gdynia, umgdy@umgdy.gov.pl

E-mail address:

sekretariat.gdansk@rdos.gov.pl

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

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

#### Human settlements (non agricultural)

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Housing and urban areas	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commercial and industrial areas	Medium impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tourism and recreation areas	Medium impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Dredging	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Canalisation and river regulation	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Annual and perennial non-timber crops	Low impact	Low impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### Energy production and mining

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Oil and gas drilling		Low impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Renewable energy		Low impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Roads and railroads		Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Utility and service lines (e.g., pipelines)	Low impact		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shipping lanes	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Low impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Recreational and tourism activities	Medium impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Fire and fire suppression		Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dams and water management/use	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Problematic native species	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Garbage and solid waste	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Climate change and severe weather

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Storms and flooding	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Renewable Energy threat refers to potential wind farms in the sea, in the neighborhood of the site.

## 5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

## Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
EU Natura 2000	Ostoja w Ujściu Wisły PLH220044, SCI		partly
EU Natura 2000	Ujście Wisły/ Vistula River Mouth PLB220004, SPA		whole
Other international designation	Baltic Sea Protected Area (HELCOM) Vistula River Mouth/Ujście Wisły		whole

## National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
nature reserve	"Mewia Łacha"		partly
nature reserve	"Ptasi Raj"		partly
protected landscape area	Wyspa Sobieszewska		partly

## Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Vistula River MOUTH PL027	<a href="http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/vistula-river-mouth-iba-poland">http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/vistula-river-mouth-iba-poland</a>	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

Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Proposed
Control of invasive alien animals	Partially implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Fisheries management/regulation	Proposed
Harvest controls/poaching enforcement	Partially implemented
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Partially implemented
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Implemented
Research	Implemented

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? In preparation

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:

An educational trail with information boards on plants and animals encountered leads through the Ptasi Raj nature reserve (ca 6 km of length). Within this path, there are two observation towers. The second trail is in Mewia Łacha reserve at the mouth of the Vistula Przekop. Waterbird Research Group Kuling organizes guided nature tours during summer. Friends of Sobieszewo Island Society, a local House of Culture, as well as the Ornithological Station of the Polish Academy of Sciences, also conduct educational activities. Info-boards set by WWF are standing in the area, indicating occurrence of Gray Seal, its habits and biology.

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No need identified

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Water quality	Proposed
Plant community	Proposed
Plant species	Proposed
Animal community	Implemented
Animal species (please specify)	Implemented
Birds	Implemented

1. The Waterbirds Research Group KULING (NGO) is conducting birds' and seals' monitoring for many years,
2. WWF together with Marine Station of the University of Gdańsk conduct monitoring of Gray Seals, a camera is installed in the area to observe the seals.
3. The Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP) on commission of the General Inspectorate of Environmental Protection conduct Wintering Waterfowl Monitoring



## 6 - Additional material

### 6.1 - Additional reports and documents

#### 6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

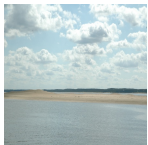
Każmierczakowa R., Bloch-Orłowska J., Celka Z., Cwener A., Dajdok Z., Michalska-Hejduk D., Pawlikowski P., Szczęśniak E., Ziarnek K. 2016. Polska czerwona lista paprotników i roślin kwiatowych  
 Każmierczakowa R., Zarzycki K., Mirek Z. 2014 Polska czerwona księga roślin. Paprotniki i rośliny kwiatowe. wyd. 3  
 Kośmicki A., Bzoma Sz., Meissner W. 2010. Ujście Wisły. W: Wilk T., Jujka M., Krogulec J., Chylarecki P. (red.). Ostoje Ptaków o znaczeniu międzynarodowym w Polsce, s. 150-152. OTOP, Marki.  
 Natura 2000 Standardowy Formularz Danych Ujście Wisły PLB 220004 -  
 Natura 2000 Standardowy Formularz Danych Ostoja w Ujściu Wisły PLH 220044  
 Michałek M., Kruk-Dowgiałło (red.). 2015. Program zarządzania dla rejonu Ujście Wisły obszary: Ostoja w Ujściu Wisły (PLH220044) oraz Ujście Wisły (PLB220004)  
 Wilk T., Jujka M., Krogulec J., Chylarecki P. 2010 Ostoje ptaków o znaczeniu międzynarodowym OTOP Marki  
<http://www.monitoringptakow.gios.gov.pl/baza-danych>

#### 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  
<no file available>
  - vi. other published literature  
<no file available>
- <no data available>

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

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Vistula River Mouth ( *Katarzyna Dziendziela, 08-05-2015* )



Vistula River Mouth ( *Katarzyna Dziendziela, 08-05-2015* )



Vistula River Mouth ( *Katarzyna Dziendziela, 04-07-2015* )



Vistula River Mouth ( *Katarzyna Dziendziela, 08-05-2015* )



Vistula River Mouth ( *Anna Moś, 07-06-2010* )



Vistula River Mouth ( *Anna Moś, 07-06-2010* )



Vistula River Mouth ( *Katarzyna Dziendziela, 04-07-2015* )



Vistula River Mouth ( *Katarzyna Dziendziela, 08-05-2015* )

#### 6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

##### Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation