

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

April 2002

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DD	MM	YY

Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Sweden

3. Name of wetland:

Skålderviken (Bay)

4. Geographical coordinates:

56°14'N, 012°43'E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) 0 – 5 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 1 350 ha

7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

A shallow bay including adjacent shoreline, consisting of grazed meadows, a few islands, sand dunes and shoals and also two small river mouths. The area supports significant numbers of wetland birds

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: A . B . C . D . E . F . G . H . I . J . K

inland: L . M . N . O . P . Q . R . Sp . Ss . Tp . Ts
. U . Va . Vt . W . Xf . Xp . Y . Zg . Zk

man-made: 1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8 . 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant: A, E, H, 4, J, M

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 1

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* -or- *no*

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page. (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

1. A representative example of a near-natural wetland type (shallow marine waters and permanent rivermouths) in the EU Continental region
 2. Supports 1 globally redlisted bird species, about 5 nationally redlisted bird species
 8. Important spawning ground, nursery and feeding area, especially for flatfish and classified as nationally important for commercial fishing
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13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The site consists of a marine coastal bay including its shoreline. It is situated 18 km west of the town of Ängelholm, in the County of Skåne, south-western Sweden. Municipalities: Helsingborg, Höganäs, Ängelholm.

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

The site is one of the largest marine wetlands in the region, with vegetation shaped by grazing. The seashore meadows are flat, with grazed land and remnants of an old pasture landscape. Grazing and trampling of animals have created shallow depressions along the shoreline. In the water off the shore there are shoals of sand and other islets. There are also large moraine boulders in the shallow water between the shore and isles, and also cobblestone areas. The marine part of the site is shallow with a few lagoons. Because of the shallow waters off the shore, large areas of the bottom are exposed and flooded through fluctuations in water level. The terrestrial habitat types have been more widespread in this part of the county, but is now reduced to patches due to exploitation.

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc)

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16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

The *Juncus gerardii-Festuca rubra* vegetation type dominates large parts of the seashore meadows. On the sandy shoals vegetation of the *Spergularia salina* type occurs frequently. In the western parts, *Calluna vulgaris* and *Erica tetralix* can be found.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc)

The site harbours species such as *Sedum sexangulare* and *Salicornia europaea*. Previous records include the nationally red-listed *Polygonum oxyspermum*, although today it seems to have disappeared from this part of the country.

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

The flat seashore meadows contain a rich birdlife, with wader species like the avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, little tern *Sterna albifrons* (both nationally redlisted, EU Birds directive species), common tern *Sterna hirundo* (EU Birds directive species) and meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis*. Previously, the tawny piper *Anthus campestris* (nationally red-listed) was found breeding in the area. Due to the shallow water, the area is also a stopover site for migratory birds, mainly waders and ducks, like the bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica* (nationally redlisted, EU Birds directive species), ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (EU Birds directive species) and wood sandpiper *Tringa glareola* (EU Birds directive species), in wintertime also white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (globally redlisted, EU Birds directive species).

19. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

The area is classified as being of national interest for commercial fishing (mainly flatfish, *Clupea harangus*, *Gadus morhua*).

20. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site (b) surrounding area

(a) Protected areas are owned privately. The rest of the site is owned privately, by the municipality and by the state.

(b) The surrounding area is mainly owned privately and by municipalities.

21. Current land use: (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

(a) Grazing of seashore meadows

(b) Mainly farmland and summer resort

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: (a) at the site (b) around the site

(a) Reduction in grazing pressure will have an impact on the flora. Building dikes is a potential threat, but not likely to occur. Maintenance of ditches may have some negative impact on the flora and fauna.

(b) Any kind of interference in the surrounding waters, affecting watercourses or currents in the bay, is believed to have a negative effect on the birdlife. A proposed camping site may result in disturbances from people, dogs and horses.

23. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

There are two nature reserves within the site:

Vegeåns mynning Nature Reserve – 97 ha. Protected since 1971 and privately owned. Management plan approved in 1988.

Rönnen Nature Reserve – 15 ha. Protected since 1959 and privately owned. Management plan approved in 1980.

There is one bird protection area within the site:

Surkenabben Bird Protection Area – 10 ha. Established 1985 and privately owned. No management plan.

The area is classified as being of national interest for nature conservation.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

There are plans to establish a nature reserve for the entire Ramsar site. The lack of management plan for the bird protection area will be dealt with as management plan for the new nature reserve progresses.

Some parts of the site are considered to be of international importance and have been proposed to the Natura 2000 network:

SE0430147 Skälderviken (1 197 ha) - pSCI

SE0430125 Skälderviken (280 ha) - SPA

SE0430102 Rönnen (15 ha)- SPA

SE0430103 Farhult (71 ha)- SPA

25. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

None known

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

None known

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

The area is of high importance for recreation and tourism and is frequently visited. Its scenic beauty is appreciated. One of the shoals is commonly used for bathing. Some parts are used for angling.

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

County Administrative Board of Skåne

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

County Administrative Board of Skåne

S-205 15 Malmö

Sweden

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 GLAND, Switzerland**

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