

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

Country: Sweden

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Name of wetland: Getterön

Date of Ramsar designation: 5 December 1974

Geographical coordinates: 57°08'N 12°14'E

General location: Located about 60 km south of Gothenburg at the town of Varberg in the county of Halland, South-western Sweden.

Area: 340 ha

Wetland type: A G J Q 6

Altitude: average of 2 m above sea level.

Overview: The main part of the site consists of a bay, with freshwater inflow and brackish water basins, surrounded by coastal pastures. The area has a very rich breeding waterfowl fauna and it is one of the most important resting places for waterfowl along the west coast of Sweden.

Physical features: Before the 1930's Getterön was an island, but through the dumping of dredged material to form an embankment, and the construction of a road, it is now connected to the mainland. The main part of the nature Reserve comprises Farehammarsviken Bay, an area which has become partly enclosed and desalinated following the embankment construction. The bay has a freshwater inflow, and consists of brackish water basins.

Ecological features: The brackish water basins contain *Phragmites australis*, *Scirpus tabernaemontani* and other higher plants. The coastal meadows are of varying degrees of wetness, and are grazed by cattle. Cattle also graze on the wide belts of *Scirpus*.

Land tenure/ownership of

a) site: Ownership is divided between state, local authority and private.

b) surrounding area: no information supplied.

Conservation measures taken: Listed as site of national importance to nature conservation.

The whole area is a Nature Reserve (10 February 1970). The Reserve has a management plan. Access is restricted to the

reserve in the south-eastern part considerable measures began in 1990 in order to create artificial breeding biotopes for wetland birds. The measures comprise embankment, water-level regulations, vegetation clearing and construction of islets for breeding.

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: Increased grazing pressure, as part of the management plan.

Current land use: principal human activities in

a) site: Nature conservation; Livestock grazing (cattle)

b) surroundings/catchment: There is an airport adjacent to the nature reserve as well as a refuse dump. The town of Varberg is also close to the site. Otherwise the surroundings are mainly used for agriculture.

Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects

a) at the site: In the long term, the current revegetation with macrophytes will have adverse effects. This is due to the gradual accumulation of sediments within the basin. Leakage from the adjacent refuse dump results in increased levels of toxic chemicals, which, if exposed, may have adverse effect on the fauna.

b) in the surroundings/catchment: From time to time the site is threatened by the possible expansion of the adjacent airport.

Hydrological and physical values: No information supplied.

Social and cultural values: No information supplied.

Noteworthy fauna: Almost 300 species of birds have been recorded from the site. Following figures refer to 1988. Breeding: *Recurvirostra avosetta* (0-30 pairs), *Limosa limosa* (about 10), *Tringa totanus* (25-50), *Calidris alpina schinzii* (14-15 in 1990), *Philomachus pugnax* (a few), *Anas crecca*, *A. strepera*, *A. clypeata*, *A. penelope*, *Somateria mollissima*, *Tadorna tadorna*, *Porzana porzana*, *Motacilla flava* (30-40), *Vanellus vanellus* (up to 85). Resting: *Branta canadensis* (up to 3,000 birds), *Anser anser* (1,200), *Larus minutus*, *Chlidonias niger*. Wintering: *Branta bernicla*. Hunting ground used by: *Falco peregrinus*, *Pandion haliaetus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Asio flammeus*.

Noteworthy flora: no information supplied.

Current scientific research and facilities: There is a field station where bird ringing and observation of bird migration are carried out.

Current conservation education: Facilities for bird watchers include an observation tower, an observation hide and a bird station, from which the bay and surrounding meadows can be surveyed without causing disturbance to the birds. The bird station also has an exhibition informing about the area and the station also offers guiding.

Current recreation and tourism: Large numbers of visitors are attracted by the area, being situated in an urban area.

Management authority: The manager of the Nature Reserve is the county Forestry Board.

Jurisdiction: Territorial and functional: County Administration of Halland.

Bibliographical references:

- Grimmet, R.F.A. & Jones, T.A. (1989). Important bird areas of Europe. ICBP.
- Svenska våtmarker av internationell betydelse (1989). Swedish EPA Information. (English summary).
- Pehrsson, O. et al. (1973). Getteröns fågelreservat. Report to the Environmental protection Board No. PM 423 (mimeo).
- Pehrsson, O. et al. (1980). Getteröns fågelreservat. Investigations and proposals for management. PM 1264. (mimeo in Swedish).
- Management plan for Getterön Nature Reserve (1977).

Reasons for inclusion: 1b, 2a, 3b, 3c

Map of site: enclosed