

## INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

**Country:** Sweden

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**Name of wetland:** Gammelstadsviken

**Date of Ramsar designation:** 5 December 1974

**Geographical coordinates:** 65°38'N 22°00'E

**General location:** Situated immediately north-west of the town of Lulea in the county of Norrbotten at the head of the Gulf of Bothnia

**Area:** 430 ha

**Wetland type:** Q W

**Altitude:** Average of 3 m (maximum of 20 m).

**Overview:** As a eutrophic lake with a very northerly position it has become an outpost for many southern plant and animal species. It supports 190 bird species including an unusually large number of ducks.

**Physical features:** Lake Gammelstasviken was formed when a 41 km long coastal bay was isolated from the sea by land elevation. It is a shallow, eutrophic lake with large areas less than 1 m in depth and a maximum depth of 4 m. The floor consists of fine grained marine sediment, clay and fine sand, covered by an increasing depth of lake mud. The inflows are small in volume and consequently the water exchange is low.

**Ecological features:** Along large stretches of the shores is a quagmire-like zone consisting of *Phragmites*, *Typha latifolia*, *Equisetum fluviatile* and *Manyanthes trifoliata*. The floating vegetation is dominated by *Nuphar pumila*, *Nymphaea candida* and *Lemna minor*.

### **Land tenure/ownership of**

a) **site:** privately owned.

b) **surrounding area:** privately and municipality owned.

**Conservation measures taken:** Listed as site of national importance for nature conservation. The area was established as a nature reserve in 1969. Some parts have restricted access. A management plan exists.

**Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:** no information supplied.

**Current land use: principal human activities in**

**a) site:** Nature conservation.

**b) surroundings/catchment:** Woods make up the surrounding areas. A road and a railway strike the area at the south.

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

**a) at the site:** The highway E4 was built in the 1970's across the northern section of the lake, but so far it has not been possible to estimate the effect on the area. The lake is close to the town of Luleå, and some urbanisation is taking place close to the shoreline. The Swedish National Report to the Montreux Conference of Contracting Parties in 1990 referred to a planned exploitation project due to urban growth. The Environmental Protection Agency has stressed the need to incorporate buffer zones into the planning process. An environmental impact assessment is currently being carried out.

**b) in the surroundings/catchment:** no information supplied.

**Hydrological and physical values:** no information supplied.

**Social and cultural values:** Being situated close to urban areas, the site attracts a large number of visitors.

**Noteworthy fauna:** 200 bird species have been observed in the area. Breeding: *Podiceps auritus*, *Branta canadensis*, *Anas crecca*, *A. penelope*, *A. clypeata*, *Aythya ferina*, *A. fuligula*, *Bucephala clangula*, *Larus minutus*, *Phalaropus lobatus*, *Tringa totanus*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Gallinago gallinago*, *Podiceps grisigena*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Tringa glareala*. *Tachybaptus ruficollis* and *Fulica atra* have here their most northerly outposts in the country.

Occasionally: *Circus cyaneus*, *Pandion haliaetus*.

Migration: *Gurs grus*, *Mergus abellus*, *Tringa erythropus*, *Limosa lapponica*, *L. limosa*, *Calidris ferruginea*, *Limicola falcinellus*, *Circus cyaneus*.

**Noteworthy flora:** 150 species of Pteridophyta have been observed. *Nuphar pumila* is rare in the whole of Sweden. Also *Nymphaea candida* is rare in Sweden but common in this region.

**Current scientific research and facilities:** there is an information building including a tower for overlooking the site. In addition there is also a separate bird tower.

**Current conservation education:** The information building and the tower are used by school classes from the nearby town.

**Current recreation and tourism:** Being one of the most well-known bird sites in the region, the site attracts a large number of visitors.

**Management authority:** The manager of Gammelstadsviken N.R. is the County Forestry Board.

**Jurisdiction:** Territorial and functional: County Administration of Norrbotten.

**Bibliographical references:**

- Grimmett, R.F.A. & Jones, T.A. (1989). Important Bird Areas of Europe. ICBP.
- Svenska våtmarker av internationell betydelse (1989). Swedish EPA information. (English summary).
- Duffey, E. (1982). National Parks and Reserves of Western Europe. Macdonald and Co. London.
- Management plan for Gammelstadsviken Nature Reserve (1990).

**Reasons for inclusion:** 1b, 2b, 3b

**Map of site:** enclosed.