

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

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

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated: 5 July 1998

2. Country: Ukraine

3. Name of wetland: *Molochnyi Liman*

4. Geographical coordinates: 46°32'N 35°22' E

5. Altitude (average and/or max. & min.) 0.3-1.6 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 22,400 ha

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

It is a saline liman of small river near the Azov Sea. The basic biological value of the liman - using during all seasons by birds of a hydrophilous complex. Main breeding sites of birds are: sandy-shell islands and peninsulas, coastal breakages, coastal reeds, saltings etc. Total amount of a nesting ornithocomplex is 12 000-15 000 pairs, seasonal conglomerations - 200 000-290 000 individuals.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I if 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: J, F

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

1a • 1b • 1c • 1d | 2a • 2b • 2c • 2d | 3a • 3b • 3c | 4a • 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 3a, 3b

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

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

Dr. Volodymyr P. Stoilovskyi, Dmytro A. Kivganov. Biological Faculty of the Mechnykov State University of Odesa, 2, Shampanskyi Prov., 270058 Odesa, UKRAINE. Tel/Fax 380 4824 954-32. E-mail <sterna@kivdma.tm.odessa.ua>

Under support of the Central Board of National Nature Parks and Reserve Affairs (Director: Mykola P. Stetsenko), Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety of Ukraine / 1, Timiriazevska Street, Central Botanical Garden, Kyiv, 252014, UKRAINE. Tel/Fax 380 44- 295 26 47. E-mail <parks@parks.FreeNet.Kiev.UA>

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9 (please refer to Annex 11 in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document)

2c. The site provides conditions for nest of several thousands pairs and wintering more than 20000 individuals of birds of wetland complex.

3a. On the territory of the site regularly more than 20 000 individuals of waterfowl are placed.

3b. Regularly one can find large conglomerations of *Anseriformes*, *Ciconiiformes* and *Charadriiformes*.

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

Molochnyi Liman is the estuary of the Molochna River near the Azov Sea in 18 km on the south of the Melitopol City in Zaporizka Oblast of Ukraine.

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)

Molochnyi Liman occupies a flooded by sea mouth part of the Molochna River. Liman connects with Azov Sea by a canal, which passes through a sandy-pebble bar. Length of a liman is 35 km, width in a southern part is up to 10 km, depth is 0.5-3 m, area is 168 square km. Western shore of liman is high and abrupt; east is low, flat. The level of liman water is determined by a water's exchange with sea and river drain.

The climate is temperate continental with short mild winter and long hot summer, precipitation equal to 300-400 mm/year while evaporation is 800-900 mm. Temperature of water in the summer is + 30° C, in the winter ice will be formed unstable cover.

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

Molochnyi Liman is a brackish lagoon in mouth zone of the Molochna River.

The hydrological regime of the liman mainly depends on sea waters and less on the shallow Molochna River. Water salinity in the liman is a little bit higher (16-17‰) than in the Azov Sea (14-15‰).

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

The upper part of the liman and some parts of the coast are covered with mire vegetation (*Phragmites australis*, *Scirpus tabernaemontani*, *S. lacustris*, *Bolboschoenus maritimus*) and with vegetation of saline meadows and the main species as *Puccinella distans*, *Juncus gerardii*, *Halimione pediculata*. Salt meadows and marsh vegetation is common on the small liman islands and spits.

The basic biological value of a liman - using of it during all seasons annually by birds of a hydrophilous complex. Only in very severe winters at a freezing of liman, birds moving on the sea.

Main breeding sites: sandy-shell islands and peninsulas, coastal breakages, coastal reeds, saltings. Total amount of a nesting ornithocomplex - 12 000-15 000 pairs, seasonal conglomerations - 200 000-290 000 individuals.

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

Just in the liman the plant communities of broad ecological tolerance *Potamogeton pectinatus*, *Zannichelia palustris*, *Ruppia maritima* are dominant together with brackish water species *Zostera marina*, *Z. nana*. There are plants from the Red Data Book of Ukraine: *Damasonium aliaima*, *Elitrigia stipifolia*.

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

There are about 10 breeding pairs of *Egretta alba*.

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

It is important for ecological education, recreation and scientific research.

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

(a) site: State and collective ownership

(b) surrounding area: State, collective and private ownership

21. Current land use:

(a) site: There is some limited and controlled exploitation of natural resources at the site - fish-breeding and fishing, hunting, recreation etc.).

(b) surroundings/catchment area: the same and traditional farming, including grazing of cattle and sheep, grape-making, irrigation etc.

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: i) eutrophication of water in result of dropings of household drains; ii) the decreasing of fresh water inflow into the Azov Sea.

(b) around the site: in result of a high technogenous burden, rates of pollution of a habitat environment, especially water (on account of dropings of waste products of the numerous industrial and agricultural enterprises of the Azov Sea coastal areas), are increased. A recreative burden grows.

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)

Protection carries out within one Hydrological (=Hydrologichni Zakaznyky) and three Ornithological Game Reserves (=Ornithologichni Zakaznyky) - "Altashyrskyi", "Rodionovskyi", "Stepanovska Kosa" (= "Stepanovskyi Peninsula") by land and resource users.

Using of natural resources is limited and controlled.

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

Expansion of protected territory is foreseen.

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

The scientific researches will be constantly carried out by the Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Pedagogical Institute of Melitopol.

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

The special educational programs are not present. The nature protecting training is provided within the framework of a comprehensive school. Lectures of the experts and scientists with the basic groups of land users (fishermen, hunters, workers of the agricultural and industrial enterprises) are carried out.

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

Unorganized tourism and recreation prevails. It influences negatively on the nesting of colonial birds. The dirts of Molochnyi Liman have medical properties.

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

Territorial: local Soviets of the Deputies.

Functional jurisdiction: regional administrative authorities of different sectors: State Committee of Forestry (forest use and hunting), Ministry of Agricultural Industry Complexes of Ukraine (farming), State Committee of Fishery (fishing), State Committee of Water Resources (water using) etc.

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

Collective fishing enterprise 'Syny Morya (Sons of Sea) and other Land and Resource Users (organizations and institutions and citizens) and local authorities are executive bodies for environment protection of Game Reserve 'Molochnyi Liman' and wetland site.

State Department of Ecological Safety in Zaporizka Oblast (Director: Anatoliy V. Dobrovolskyi. Address: 72a 40 Years of Radyanska Ukraine Str., 330 000 Zaporizhzhya, UKRAINE. Tel./Fax: +380 612 33-02-68. E-mail: <gosupr@gueb.Zaporizhze.UA>) carries out state control for this protection.

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Inventory and Cadastre Description of Wetlands of the Azov-Black Sea Coast of Ukraine. (1993). - Melitopol: Branta. - N1.- 93 p.

Polishchuk V.S., Zambriborshch F.S., Timchenko V.M. and al. (1990). Limans of the North of Black Sea Coastal Area. - Kyiv: Naukova Dumka. - 202 p.

Rare Birds of the Black Sea Coastal Area /Edited by: Korziukov, A.I., Koshelev, A.I., Chernichko, I.I. (1991). - Kyiv-Odesa: Lybid. - 270 p.

Red Data Book of Ukraine /Edited by Shcherbak N.N. (1994). - Kyiv: Ukr. Encycl. - 357 p.

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

Telephone:+41229990170 Fax:+41229990169 e-mail: ramsar@hq.iucn.org