Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 8 June 2022
Update version, previously published on : 1 January 1998

Ukraine

Obytochna Spit and Obytochna Bay

Designation date	23 November 1995
Site number	771
Coordinates	46°34'32"N 36°13'31"E
Area	6 917,04 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

The Site "Obytochna Spit and Obytochna Bay" is located at the coast of the Sea of Azov, 10 km south-west of the city of Prymorsk, in the south of the Zaporizhzhia Region. From the east, the spit is washed by the Sea of Azov, from the north and north-west it forms Obytochna Bay, into which the Obytochna, Lozuvatka and Korsak rivers flow. The spit represents a natural area of accumulative origin. The vegetation of the Site includes 6 types of natural communities with the dominance of aquatic and coastal-aquatic ones. The Site supports rare, relict and endemic species of plants, in particular Allium pervestitum, Agropyron cimmericum, Medicago kotovii. Marine waters, washing the spit from the east and west, play a crucial role in providing habitats for a significant number of fauna species. 11 fish species have different protection statuses. The Site supports many waterbird species during wintering, migration, breeding and moulting periods. High concentrations of Phalacrocorax carbo, Larus cachinnans, Philomachus pugnax, and Calidris alpina can be found there. During some years over 80,000 birds are registered in total. The Site also supports rare bird species, listed in different conservation lists, namely Charadrius alexandrinus, Recurvirostra avosetta, Numenius phaeopus, Haematopus ostralegus, etc. The Site provides valuable ecosystem services, the main of which are fishing and recreation.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	Academician O.V. Fomin Botanical Garden of Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University
Postal address	9, Petliury St., Kyiv, 01032, Ukraine

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine
Postal address	35 Mytropolyta Vasylya Lypkivskogo Str.

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

From year	2012
To year	2018

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Obytochna Spit and Obytochna Bay

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary	Yes ◉ No ○
(Update) The boundary has been delineated more accurately	☑
(Update) The boundary has been extended	☐
(Update) The boundary has been restricted	☐
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	the area has increased
(Update) The Site area has been calculated more accurately	☑
(Update) The Site has been delineated more accurately	☑
(Update) The Site area has increased because of a boundary extension	☐
(Update) The Site area has decreased because of a boundary restriction	☐
(Update) For secretariat only: This update is an extension	☐

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?	Yes (likely)
(Update) Are the changes	Positive ○ Negative ◉ Positive & Negative ○
(Update) Negative %	30
(Update) No information available	☐
(Update) Changes resulting from causes operating within the existing boundaries?	☐
(Update) Changes resulting from causes operating beyond the site's boundaries?	☑
(Update) Changes consequent upon site boundary reduction alone (e.g., the exclusion of some wetland types formerly included within the site)?	☐
(Update) Changes consequent upon site boundary increase alone (e.g., the inclusion of different wetland types in the site)?	☐

(Update) Please describe any changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar Site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site.

The Site has lost its eligibility to Criterion 6. According to the previous data, Obytochna Spit supported 1% of the European population of breeding Egretta alba and up to 50% of the European population of wintering Aythya marila. However, the growing abundance of Great Cormorants has somewhat changed the structure of breeding avifauna, especially that of colonial species. With the low numbers of Great Cormorants, the islands supported 8-11 species of breeding waterbirds, and only 3 species left when the number increased. In recent years, the Cormorant has gradually forced out from their breeding areas such species as Egretta alba, Egretta garzetta, Ardea cinerea, Sterna hirundo, and Sterna albifrons. The only species capable to breed next to the high numbers of Great Cormorants, under deficit of breeding places, is Larus cachinnans. Therefore, the increase in the number of the Great Cormorant within the Site had a considerable impact on the structure of breeding avifauna on the islands.
The number of Aythya marila decreased in the entire Azov Sea region. Similar changes are also recorded for Anseriformes and some species of Ciconiiformes. Decrease in the number of these species is associated with the redistribution of birds to other, more suitable wintering areas. Some changes also occurred in the species composition of ichthyofauna. According to the previous information sheet, the Site provided a habitat for such species as Umbrina cirrosa, Huso huso; commercial catches of relict Acipenser stellatus were mentioned as well. Nowadays, however, Umbrina cirrosa is not found in the Site waters; Huso huso and Acipenser stellatus became rare and included in the Red Data Book of Ukraine.

(Update) Is the change in ecological character negative, human-induced AND a significant change (above the limit of acceptable change) Yes ○

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image
<2 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps: 0

Boundaries description

The Site is situated at the northern coast of the Sea of Azov. In the north, the Site borders on agricultural landscapes, located on the mainland (loess) coast, 30-50 m from a slope of the sedentary cliff. The southern, western and eastern borders follow the sublittoral zone, 100-120 m from the coastline. In Obytochna Bay, the site encompasses a number of sandy-silty islands (Velykyi, Holenkyi, Komyshanyi, etc.).The nearest city is Prymorsk (administrative center of Prymorsk District), located as far as 10 km in the north-eastern direction.
In 2018 the boundaries of the Site was delineated more accurately and officially approved by Ukrainian Governance in 2021. The area was calculated based on the Land Cadastral Map of Ukraine using GIS tools

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie? Zaporizhzhia Region

b) What is the nearest town or population centre? Prymorsk

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): 6917.04

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 6917.04

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW)	the Sea of Azov

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

According to the biogeographical zoning of Ukraine (Udra, 1977) the Site is located within the Kakhovka-Molochansk Region of the Dnieper–Azov District of the Lower Danube-Black Sea-Azov Sea Sub-province of the Pontian Steppe Province of the Steppe Zone of Ukraine.

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

<no data available>

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

The Site is an important habitat for rare species of flora and fauna. Flora of the Site includes 558 species from 76 families, among which 60 species are under protection. Six types of vegetation communities are found, which are mentioned here from large to smaller in sizes: aquatic (including coastal-aquatic communities and littoral marshes), halophytic phytocoenoses (or salt marshes), meadows, littoral (including insular littoral) phytocoenoses, sandy, desert and true steppes, planted forests.
Species diversity of Azov aquatic areas of Obytochna Spit currently includes 52 fish species, 11 of which are under protection. The most numerous and commercially important in the region is the mugil so-iuy, several species of gobies, anchovies, Black and Caspian Sea sprat, European anchovy, etc.
Herpetofauna of Obytochna Spit includes 2 amphibian (Pelobates fuscus, Bufo viridis) and 6 reptilian species (Emys orbicularis, Natrix natrix, Vipera renardi, Lacerta agilis, Eremias arguta, Dolichophis caspius).
The Site supports a high number of waterbirds, which variety exceeds 200 species in different years of research. The dominants, according to the species composition, are Passeriformes and Charadiiformes. The most abundant is the Great Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo).
The wetland provides habitats for more than 30 species of mammals, of them the order Rodentia includes 12 species, Carnivora – 7 species, Lagomorpha – 1, Inscectivora – 3, Chiroptera – 5-8, and Artiodactyla - 2 species.

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

☑ Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers	43,000-86,000
Start year	2012

☑ Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Plantae								
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	*Agropyron cimmericum*	☑	☑	☐	EN	☐		
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	*Allium pervestitum*	☑	☑	☐	EN	☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - EN	
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	*Asparagus pallasii*	☑	☑	☐		☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine- VU	
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Astragalus onobrychis*	☐	☑	☐		☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - LC	
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Astrodaucus littoralis*	☑	☑	☐		☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine- VU	
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Crambe maritima*	☑	☑	☐		☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine- VU	
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Glaucium flavum*	☑	☑	☐		☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - VU	
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Glycyrrhiza glabra*	☑	☑	☐		☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - VU	
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Medicago falcata*	☐	☑	☐		☐		
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	*Stipa capillata*	☐	☑	☐		☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - NE	
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	*Stipa lessingiana*	☐	☑	☐	LC	☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - NE	
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	*Stipa rubens*	☐	☑	☐		☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - NE	
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Tamarix gracilis*	☑	☑	☐		☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine- VU	

Dominant flora families of the Site are Asteraceae (79 species), Poaceae (54 species), Chenopodiaceae (38), Brassicaceae (38), Fabaceae (37), Caryophyllaceae (34), Lamiaceae (25), Scrophulariaceae (19), Rosaceae (19), Apiaceae (18), Ranunculaceae (15). The flora of the spit has a high number of endemics divided into 3 groups: endemics of littoral-steppe communities (Agropyron cimmericum Nevski, Arenaria zozii Kleopow, Asparagus levinae Klokov, Asperula maeotica M.Pop.&Chrshan., Astragalus borysthenicus Klokov, Dianthus capitellatus Klokov (locus classicus!), Elytrigia maeotica (Prokud.) Prokud., Helichrysum corymbiforme Opperman ex Katina, Papaver maeoticum Klokov, Polygonum janatae Klokov), southern-steppesublittoral communities (Gagea tesquicola A.Krasnova, Linaria macroura (M. Bieb.) M.Bieb., Agropyron stepposum Dubovik) and halophytic meadow communities (Agrostis maeotica Klokov, Apera maritima Klokov, Juncus fominii Zoz, Odontites salinus (Kotov) Kotov, Puccinellia fominii Bilyk).
The site holds 11 species of vascular plants from the Red Data Book of Ukraine (2009). Six rare formations are included in the Green Data Book of Ukraine (2009): formations of Amydaleta nanae, Stipeta borysthenicae, Stipeta capillatae, Stipeta lessingianae, Stipeta ucrainicae, Glycyrrhizeta glabrae. Thereare 3 formations of regionally rare phytocoenoses: Astragaleta borysthenicae, Medicageta kotovii, Ephedreta distachyae.

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Others																	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Iris polystictica*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				DD	☐	☐	listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine - LC	

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Megascolia maculata*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - NE	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Nyctalus noctula noctula*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - VU	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Papilio machaon*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - VU	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Periphanes delphinii*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - VU	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Phocoena phocoena*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - VU	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Pipistrellus kuhlii*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - VU	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Proserpinus proserpina*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				DD	☐	☐	Bern - Annex II, Red Data Book of Ukraine - LC	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Saga pedo*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				VU	☐	☐	listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine - LC	
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	*Vipera renardi*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - Vu	
Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea																	
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				CR	☐	☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - VU	The site is important for fattening of juvenile fish
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Acipenser stellatus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				CR	☐	☐	listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine - VU	feeds here
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Alburnus leobergi*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - VU	
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Pungitius platygaster*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Syngnathus abaster*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		
Birds																	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas penelope*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1400				☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas platyrhynchos*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1500	2015-2017		LC	☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ardea alba*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	30			LC	☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Aythya ferina*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	110	2015-2017		VU	☐	☑		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Branta ruficollis*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐		2015-2017		VU	☐	☑	listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine - VU	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Calidris alpina*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	700	2015-2017		LC	☐	☑		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Calidris ferruginea*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	100	2015-2017		NT	☐	☑		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Charadrius alexandrinus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	6	2015-2017		LC	☐	☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - VU	Up to 3 pairs are breeding on the weltand
CHORDATA / AVES	*Chroicocephalus genei*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	80			LC	☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Circus pygargus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	6	2015-2017		LC	☐	☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - VU	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Coracias garrulus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	2	2015-2017		LC	☐	☑	Red Data Book of Ukraine - EN	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Haematopus ostralegus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	16	2015-2017		NT	☐	☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - VU	

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1200				☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Larus cachinnans*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	2500			LC	☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Larus ridibundus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	1240	2015-2017		LC	☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Numenius phaeopus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	10	2015-2017		LC	☐	☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine -EN	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	☐	☑	☑	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	55000		9.6	LC	☐	☐		40,000-80,000 ind. are recorded during the breeding season Pop: SINENSIS, BLACK SEA & MEDITERRANEAN
CHORDATA / AVES	*Recurvirostra avosetta*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	86	2015-2017		LC	☐	☐	Red Data Book of Ukraine - Rare	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Sterna hirundo*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tadorna tadorna*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	135	2015-2017		LC	☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Thalasseus sandvicensis*	☐	☐	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	4000		3.6	LC	☐	☐		Pop: SANDVICENSIS, BLACK SEA & MEDITERRANEAN (BRE)

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

The fish fauna of the site tends to change due to the transformation of hydroecological conditions in the Sea of Azov. In recent years (2015-2018), the increase in salinity up to 13-14 g/L has been observed, leading to a significant decrease in freshwater forms of ichthyofauna. The dominant species are the round goby (Neogobius melanostomus), European anchovy (Engraulis encrasicolus), Black and Caspian sprat (Clupeonella cultriventris), actively used in fishery. From the fish species, included in the Red Data Book of Ukraine, the most numerous is the Danube bleak. Much less often, but relatively stable, the catches include beluga, Danube and starry sturgeons.
More than 200 species of birds are recorded in the site. This list includes over 10 species from the Red Data Book of Ukraine. Among them, Charadrius alexandrinus, Recurvirostra avosetta, Numenius phaeopus, Coracias garrulus, Circus pugargus and Haematopus ostralegus are regularly recorded in the Site.
The availability of a great number of various habitats results in a high diversity of birds. Accumulative islands are one of the main nesting habitats, supporting breeding from 3 to 12 colonial species, the total number of which in some years exceeds 80,000ind. The most numerous species is the Great Cormorant. Nesting gulls are typical for the islands, the most numerous species are Yellow-legged, Mediterranean and Slender-billed Gulls. In steppe areas, shelter belts and planted forests, or near the buildings the following species can be found, typical for these habitats: Skylark, Tawny Pipit, Whitethroat, Wheatear, Isabelline Wheatear, Grey Partridge, Common Quail, Pheasant, European Turtle Dove, Collared Turtle Dove, Red-backed Shrike, Lesser Grey Shrike, Long-eared Owl, Scops Owl, Hoopoe, Barn Swallow, Starling, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Hooded Crow, Raven, etc.

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
X29 Salt lake islands	☑	Communities of beaches, dunes and depressions, dominated by Argusia sibirica, Artemisia santonica, Salsola soda, Salicornia prostrata	The community is included in Resolution 4 of the Bern Convention.
X02 Saline coastal lagoons	☑	Habitats of inland shallow saline lagoons	The community is included in Resolution 4 of the Bern Convention.
E6.2. Continental inland salt steppes	☑	Beach communities dominated by Salsola soda, Salicornia prostrata, Halocnemum strobilaceum	The community is included in Resolution 4 of the Bern Convention.
B1.4 Coastal stable dune grassland (grey dunes)	☑	Beach communities dominated by Carex colchica, Secale sylvestre, Festuca beckeri, Stipa borysthenica	The community is included in Resolution 4 of the Bern Convention.
E1.2 Perennial calcareous grassland and basic steppes	☑	Beach communities dominated by the species from the genera Festuca ssp., Agropyron ssp., Stipa ssp.	The community is included in Resolution 4 of the Bern Convention.
B1.3 Shifting coastal dunes	☑	Beach communities dominated by Leymus sabulosus, Crambe pontica, Eryngium maritimum	The community is included in Resolution 4 of the Bern Convention.
B1.1 Sand beach driftlines	☑	Beach communities dominated by Argusia sibirica, Salsola pontica, S. soda, Euphorbia peplis	The community is included in Resolution 4 of the Bern Convention.
A5 Sublittoral sediment	☑	Mud-shell sediments in the sublittoral zone	The community is included in Resolution 4 of the Bern Convention.
A2.61 Seagrass beds on littoral sediments	☑	Hyperhalinous aquatic communities dominated by species from the genera Zannichelia, Zostera, Potamogeton	The community is included in Resolution 4 of the Bern Convention.
A2.5 Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	☑	Communities formed by species of the genera Salicornia, Suaeda, Halimione, Petrosimonia	The community is included in Resolution 4 of the Bern Convention.
A2.3 Littoral mud	☑	Littoral muds in the contact sea/land and at the depths up to 2-2.5 m	The community is included in Resolution 4 of the Bern Convention.

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

4.1 - Ecological character

The Site encompasses Obytochna Spit and aquatic area of the Sea of Azov. The spit is represented by a sand-shell accumulative formation up to 35 km long. The spit is a natural territory of accumulative origin, formed due to the coastal interaction of the Sea of Azov and the terrestrial area, and its small northern part is represented by the mainland area. The Site is characterized by changes in the coastline due to marine activities. Recently, there were recorded phenomena of erosion of certain areas of the spit, flooding (that changes areas covered by plant communities), destruction of shores, which tend to expand. The period of 2015-2018 is characterized by increased salinity up to 13-14 g/L that causes significant decline in freshwater forms of ichthyofauna and transforms aquatic communities.
The climate of the Site is humid continental with severe winter, no dry season, and hot summer. The main impact on the climate is caused by arrival of sea air masses from the Atlantic and Arctic oceans. The average January temperature is -3.3 ° C with an absolute minimum of -27 ° C, July - + 23.5 ° C with an absolute maximum of + 41 ° C. The average annual air temperature ranges from +4 ° to + 9 ° C. Precipitation amount equals to 320-350 mm per year, mostly in the form of rain. Seasonally, the highest amount of precipitation is observed in summer months, the lowest - in spring and autumn. The snow cover is insignificant, 8-10 cm deep, and unstable. The ice cover is also unstable. The stable ice cover is observed in cold years, once in every 10-12 years.
Marine waters, washing the spit from the east and west provide crucial habitats for many species of fauna. The most numerous is the round goby, a commercial species of fish. A high abundance of them in adjacent waters, absence of disturbance and availability of breeding areas caused a significant increase in the number of Great Cormorants (Phalacrocorax carbo). The current population of this species ranges within 60,000-80,000 ind.

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	500	
B: Marine subtidal aquatic beds (Underwater vegetation)		3	200	
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores		2	300	
J: Coastal brackish / saline lagoons		1	500	

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Saline, brackish or alkaline water > Marshes & pools >> Sp: Permanent saline/ brackish/ alkaline marshes/ pools				

Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
Planted forest	10

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Achillea euxina*	endemic
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Asperula tenella*	endemic
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Dianthus borbasii capitellatus*	endemic
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Gagea maeotica*	endemic
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Onosma borysthenicum*	endemic
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Silene artemisetorum*	endemic

Invasive alien plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Ailanthus altissima*	Potential	increase
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*	Actual (minor impacts)	No change
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Clematis orientalis*	Actual (major impacts)	increase
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Cyclachaena xanthiifolia*	Actual (minor impacts)	No change
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Elaeagnus angustifolia*	Actual (major impacts)	increase
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Erigeron canadensis*	Actual (minor impacts)	increase
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Hordeum murinum*	Actual (minor impacts)	No change
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Xanthium orientale riparium*	Actual (minor impacts)	No change

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	*Circus aeruginosus*				
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	*Neogobius fluviatilis*				
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	*Ponticola syrman*				
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	*Zosterisessor ophiocephalus*				

Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
MOLLUSCA/BIVALVIA	*Mya arenaria*	Potential	No change
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	*Nyctereutes procyonoides*	Actual (major impacts)	unknown

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
D: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with cold winters	Dfa: Humid continental (Humid with severe winter, no dry season, hot summer)

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres): 0

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 15

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.

the Sea of Azov

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

No available information ☐

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

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

The spit has chernozem-like and silt-sandy soils; the loess shore has southern chernozems. Marine soils are silt-shelly, less frequently – sandy.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	No change

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Marine water	☑	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Marine	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Sediment regime unknown ☐

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

Alongshore currents accumulate sand-shelly sediment along the body of the spit.

(ECD) Water turbidity and colour: Within the range of 0.5-3 m

(ECD) Light - reaching wetland: The water area lies in a photic zone

(ECD) Water temperature: In winter – 0-2, in summer – 22-25 °C.

4.4.6 - Water pH

Alkaline (pH>7.4) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

Please provide further information on salinity (optional):

The marine water salinity in the area around the Site is 10-11‰

(ECD) Dissolved gases in water

In summer, oxygen ranges at the level of 3.5-7 mg/L, in winter - 6-11 mg/L; hydrogen sulfide is recordedin summer in small amount, which is not critical for hydrobionts

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Mesotrophic ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

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:

Areas adjacent to the site are mostly represented by agricultural lands separated from the site by planted forests, consisting of the black locust, green ash, common oak, Russian olive, etc. In the immediate vicinity of the wetland there are 3 settlements. Their total population exceeds 10,000 people.

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)	Low

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Hazard reduction	Coastal shoreline and river bank stabilization and storm protection	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	Medium
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	Medium

Supporting Services

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

Optional text box to provide further information

In general, the wetland "Obytochna Spit and Obytochna Bay" is the source of many natural resources and ecosystem services, namely fish, recreational, plant, hydrological, mineral, aesthetic, etc.

Within the site: 2,000

Outside the site: 10,000

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 ☑

Description if applicable

The current status of the wetland will depend on the assurance and supervision of the nature protection regime and development of the coastal protection measures. Availability of lands with different types of property in this area (state, local, private) brings certain imbalance in the site status.

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 ☐

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	☑	☑
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	☐	☑

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	☐	☑

Other

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Commoners/customary rights	☑	☑

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

Administrative and economical governance of the wetland is provided by the District Council of Prymorsk District, Zaporizhzhia Region.

5.1.2 - Management authority

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

The protection and implementation of legislation within the wetland and sanctuary (‘zakaznik’) is provided by the state enterprise “Berdiansk Forestry”. The control of implementation of legislation within the wetland and sanctuary is provided by the State Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Zaporizhzhia Region.

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

Serhii Milko, director of the state enterprise “Berdianske Forestry”

Postal address:

106 Gagarina St., Azovske Village, Berdiansk Region, Zaporizhzhia Region, Ukraine, 71154

E-mail address:

berdles@ukr.net

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	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Tourism and recreation areas	Medium impact	High impact	☑	increase	☑	increase

Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Salinisation	Low impact	Medium impact	☑	increase	☑	increase

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Roads and railroads	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	increase	☑	No change

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals	Medium impact	Medium impact	☐	increase	☑	increase
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	increase	☑	increase

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities	Low impact	High impact	☑	increase	☑	increase

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Fire and fire suppression	Low impact	Low impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Low impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change
Problematic native species	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	increase	☐	No change

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Garbage and solid waste	Low impact	Low impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Climate change and severe weather

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Droughts	Low impact	Low impact	☑	increase	☑	increase
Habitat shifting and alteration	Low impact	High impact	☑	increase	☑	increase

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Other international designation	Obytichna Kosa Ta Zatoka (SiteCode: UA0000150)	https://natura2000.eea.europa.eu /Emerald/SDF.aspx?site=UA0000150	whole

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Landscape sanctuary of state importance('zakaznik')	Sanctuary "Obytochna Spit" ('zakaznik')		partly

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Obytochna Spit	http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/2049	partly
Important Plant Area	Obytochna Spit	http://www.botany.kiev.ua/doc/onysh_2017.pdf	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

Habitat

Measures	Status
Faunal corridors/passage	Proposed

Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Proposed

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Proposed
Fisheries management/regulation	Partially implemented

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? No

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 ◉

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No, but restoration is needed

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Animal community	Implemented
Plant species	Proposed

Annual monitoring of game animal species (including birds) is carried out.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Directory of Ukraine's Wetlands /Edited by G. Marushevsky, I. Zharuk – Kyiv, Wetlands International Black Sea Programme, 2006. – P. 77-79. [In Ukrainian]
Directory of Azov-Black Sea Coastal Wetlands: Revised and updated /Edited by Gennadiy Marushevsky. – Kyiv: Wetlands International, 2003. – P. 199-201. [In English]
Siokhin V., Belashkov I., Kolomiichuk V. The Obytochna Bay and Spit/ Numbers and Distribution of Breeding Warebirds in the Wetlands of Azov – Black Sea Region of Ukraine / Edited by Valeriy Siokhin. – Melitopol-Kiev: Branta, 2000. – P. 373-386. [In Russian]
Stetsenko M., Parchuk G., Klestov M., Osipova M., Melnichuk G., Andrievska O. Wetlands of Ukraine. Informational materials / Edited by Stetsenko M. – Kyiv, 1999. [In Ukrainian]
Emerald network in Ukraine / Boltachev O.R., Didukh Ya.P., Dudkin O.V. et al. / ed. by L.D. Protsenko - Kyiv: Khimzhest, 2011. - 192 p. [in Ukrainian]
Udra I.Kh. Biogeographical zoning of Ukraine // Ukrainian Geographical Magazine. - 1997. – Iss. 4. - P. 28-34. [in Ukrainian]
Gorlov P.I., Siokhin V.D., Kostyushin V.A. Great Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) on Obytochna Spit of the Sea of Azov // Bulletin of Zaporizhzhia National University: collection of scientific papers. Biological Sciences. - Zaporizhzhia: Zaporizhzhya National University, 2015. – No 2. - p.33-69. [in Ukrainian]
Gorlov P.I., Siokhin V.D., Kostyushin V.A., Sidorenko A.I. Obytochna Spit. The role of various wetlands for the breeding population of Great Cormorants in Ukraine // Great Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) in Ukraine: population, territorial distribution and their changes. Edited by V.A. Kostyushin, P.I. Gorlov, V.D. Siokhin / Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology, NAS of Ukraine. - Kiev, 2016. - p. 136-164. [in Russian]

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:


Obytochna Spit, the beach (*Vitaly Kolomiychuk, 10-08-2012*)


Obytochna Spit, Phalacracorax carbo (*Vitaly Kolomiychuk, 17-06-2011*)


Obytochna Spit, Golenky island (*Vitaly Kolomiychuk, 17-06-2011*)


Obytochna Spit, Elaeagnus angustifolia (*Vitaly Kolomiychuk, 10-08-2012*)


Obytochna Spit, meadows, the view from Naberezhne village (*Vitaly Kolomiychuk, 09-05-2013*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation: 1995-11-23