

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: *Obytochna Spit and Obytochna Bay*

4. Geographical coordinates: 46°35'N 36°12' E

5. Altitude (average and/or max. & min.) 0.2-1.8 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 2,000 ha

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

This site is the bay with the spit of the the Azov Sea and is represented by a number of riverside shallow-water lowering and accumulative islands and sandy spits with reed-swamp vegetation. On wintering on the territory of the site several thousands of *Anseriformes* (total seasonal conglomerations of all birds - 16 000-17 000 individuals) one can find, about 5000 pairs of waterfowl nest.

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: A, E

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: 3b, 2c

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

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

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

2c. On wintering on the territory of the site several thousands of *Anseriformes* one can find, about 5000 pairs of waterfowl nest.

3b. In the site regularly big number of *Charadriiformes* and *Ciconiiformes* are placed, which are the indicators of environment wetland quality.

3c. On the territory of site about 1 % of European population of *Egretta alba* nest. On wintering one can find about 5 % of European population of *Aythya marila*.

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

Obytochna Bay is the bay of the Azov Sea. Wetland site 'Obytochna Spit and Obytochna Bay' is situated in 45 km on the south-west of the Berdiansk 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)

Obytochna Bay is limited from the side of the sea by Obytochna Spit (peninsula), which press in the sea on 30 km between Obytochna and Berdianska Bays. Length of the bay also is 30 km, depth is 6-8 m. The continental shores of the bay are high, here and there devided by beams; the bottom of the bay is covered by a silt, about shore - by shell.

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. Average temperature of water in the summer is +22-27° C, maximum is up to +32° C. In the winter the bay freezes. A salinity is up to 13,8 ‰. Western shore of the Obytochna Spit is strongly devided by small and

narrow coves; east - without coves. A surface of peninsula - poorly hilly plain, which consists of sand and shell. In a central part there are the small salty lakes. Height of a peninsula is reduced from east for west. During autumn and spring storms, the significant part of coastal shoals are flooded. In bottlenecks of a peninsula there are the temporary canals in this time.

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

The spit permanently grows because of sand coming from the coastal destruction, due to sea alluvium and shells (mainly *Cardium*).

The influence of the confluent shallow Obytochna, Lozovatka and Korsak Rivers is not considerable.

The territory of a peninsula and environmental shallow waters is used for nesting and feeding by 32 species of birds (from 254, marked on the given territory). The site has a rich fauna of hydrobionts.

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

The emerged vegetation (*Phragmites australis*, *Scirpus tabernaemontani*, *Bolboschoenus maritimus*) and submerged vegetation (*Zostera marina*, *Z. noltii*, *Potamogeton pectinatus*, *Zanichellia major*) are common on the shallows of the hulf. On coast and spit the water coastside, halofitic, salt meadows and steppe vegetation is characteristic. The fields of shell deposits on the bottom of the gulf are good fish spawning sites.

Main breeding sites of birds: accumulative islands, salt downturns, reed-swamp vegetation. Total amount of a nesting ornithocomplex - 4000-6 000 pairs. Seasonal conglomerations by numbers of 16 000-17 000 individuals - on bay, lakes, in shallow lagoons, mouths of the small rivers.

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

Along the coast the following species from the Red Data Book of Ukraine grow: *Tamarix gracilis*, *Astragalus borysthenticus* (endemic), *Caragana scythica* (endemic), *Astrodaucus littoralis* (endemic), *Elitrigia stipifolia*, *Stipa capillata*, *S. graefiana*, *S. Lessingiana*, and very rare medicine plant *Glycyrrhiza glabra*.

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

There are fish species from the Red Data Book of Ukraine: *Umbrina cirrosa*, relic *Huso huso ponticus*, and also other relic from the sturgeons *Acipenser stellatus* (the item of commercial fishery) and 120 breeding pairs *Egretta alba* among birds.

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

This wetland site is important for ecological education, recreation and scientific research. It is also traditional place of fishing for the local population.

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: At the expense of accumulation of biogenous elements on islands; reed progresses, that results changes and simplification of ornithocomplexes;

(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 Azov Sea coastal area), are increased. Recreation burdens grow.

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 the Game Reserve ('Zakaznyk') 'Obytochna Kosa' (= 'Obytochna Spit') and other areas by land and resource users.

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

Documents for creation of Pryazovskyyi (Near-Azov-Sea) National Nature Park are being elaborating now.

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, State University of Donetsk.

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

The special educational programs are not exist. 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)

There is unorganized tourism.

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)

Land and Resource Users (organizations and institutions and citizens) and local authorities are executive bodies for environment protection of the 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.

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.

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