

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

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

Note: It is important that you read the accompanying Explanatory Note and Guidelines document before completing this form.

1. **Date this sheet was completed/updated:**

July 18th, 2002

2. **Country:**

NORWAY

3. **Name of wetland:**

KARLSØYVÆR

4. **Geographical coordinates:**

67° 34'N - 14° 40'E

5. **Elevation:** (average and/or maximum and minimum)

0-20 m.a.s.l.

1. **Area:** (in hectares)

5000 (ca 50km²)

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

One out of four large coastal protected sites in Norway. Typified with numerous skerries, islets and larger island, with shallow marine waters and some sandy shores.

8. **Wetland Type:** (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the Explanatory Note and Guidelines document)

marine-coastal: **A** **B** **C** **D** **E** **F** **G** **H** **I** **J** **K** **Zk(a)**
inland: **L** **M** **N** **O** **P** **Q** **R** **Sp** **Ss** **Tp** **Ts**

	U	Va	Vt	W	Xf	Xp	Y	Zg	Zk(b)	
human-made:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Zk(c)

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant: A, D, E

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

1 **2** **3** **4** 5 6 7 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to this site: 1

10. **Map of site included? YES**

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits.)

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

Senior Adviser Øystein Størkersen, Directorate for Nature Management, N-7485 Trondheim, Norway.

Tel. 47-7358 0737, fax 47-7358 0500, e-mail: oystein.storkersen@dirnat.no

Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):

12. **Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page.** (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

1. This is a marine archipelago area with shallow waters dotted with numerous islets and islands. This kind of archipelago is typical of the North-European coast. Wet meadows, dunes and dune slacks and brackish marshes occur on a smaller part of the area.
2. The numbers of breeding White-tailed Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* is noteworthy.
3. The area is a traditional breeding site for numbers of seabirds, eg Herring Gull *Larus argentus*, Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*, Eider *Somateria mollissima* and Sea Eagle, all characteristic species for this kind of archipelago.
4. The area one of several important areas along the coast for staging, breeding, moulting and wintering seabirds from large parts of the Arctic coasts and alpine areas.

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

Nordland county, Bodø municipality, nearest town being Bodø (ca. 40.000 inhab) to the south (10km).

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)

The entire area is characterised by outcrops of hard bedrock and at places also calcareous rock, the lower areas covered with marine deposits. Typefied by shallow marine waters with numerous islets and skerries, in some places also sandy shores, wet salt influenced meadows and even at a few places smaller dunesystems. The climate is typical Atlantic with high annual precipitation (>1500mm), wet summers and mild winters.

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

No data. Since most of the shoreline constitutes of hard granite rocks there are no erosion problems even if the site is located in a very harsh winter climate. All water in the area originates form precipitation.

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

Situated in the boreal zone, and characterised by:

- Shallow marine waters, with numerous islands.
- Coastal substrate characterized by rocks and gravel shores, inland calcareous deposits occur (seashells and corals) creating substrate for flora dependent on calcareous soil. Smaller areas of dune-systems exists.
- Highly differentiated vegetation types, depending of influence from saltwater. Eg foreshore with kelp drifts, salt meadows, brackish meadows - including brackish lagoons and freshwater ponds, herb rich meadows.
- Typical flora contains *Puccinellia* spp., *Carex subspathacea*, *Juncus arcticus* ssp. *balticus* and *Blysmus rufus*. Brackish/aquatic flora typically includes *Hippuris*, *Potamogeton* and *Myriophyllum*.

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

Nationally rare species include *Carex appropinquata*, *Dactylorhiza lapponica*, *Ranunculus trichophyllus* and *Cystopteris fragilis* ssp. *dickieana*.

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

Birds:

Nationally rare or internationally rare or interesting species: Breeding species include: *Gavia stellata* (2 pairs) and *Haliastur albicilla* (50-100 individuals and ca. 10 breeding pairs)

Nationally common species: *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (50 pairs), *Anser anser* (>100 pairs), *Somateria mollissima* (300-500 pairs), *Tringa totanus* (5-10 pairs), *Numenius arquata* (10 pairs), *Gallinago gallinago* (20 pairs), *Larus argentatus* (200 pairs), *Larus marinus* (200 pairs) and *Cephus grylle* (50-100 pairs).

Staging and wintering site for 1000-2000 seabirds, including *Gavia*, *Somateria mollissima*, *Mergus serrator*, *Clangula hyemalis* and *Phalacrocorax*. Little research and counts on birds have so far been conducted in the area.

Sea-gull eggs and eider down have for centuries been collected in area, but is now mostly an abandoned practice. This activity was advantageous to the local breeding population of seabirds through building of eider-houses (for protection during breeding) and lowering of predation levels (crows, raven etc). In relation to the protection regime (and Ramsar-status) plans have been made to re-start these activities, including increase of traditional scything of meadows (cf. Bliksvær).

19. **Social and cultural values:** (e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site, etc.)

Traditionally the breeding population of *Somateria mollissima* were used for down- and eggcollecting. The close relation between man and bird along the northern coast contributed to a high population of *Somateria* and it gained from human protection and erection of breeding-houses. This tradition have gradually faltered and is today only evident at a few revived sites (outside this site).

20. **Land tenure/ownership of:** (a) site State (b) surrounding area State

21. **Current land use:** (a) site/(b) surroundings/catchment: Mainly for leisure activities like fishing and the use of local cabins/houses, also traditionally used for collecting seabird eggs. Smaller populations of sheep graze in the area.

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: Low impact at the moment, but used more extensively in the past for habitation and a combination of agriculture/fisheries. (b) around the site: Generally low today.

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): Protected as a Nature reserve on November 18th 1977. The site is surrounded by a bird protection zone of ca. 10.000 ha (ca. 100 km²). The bird protection zone only enforces a prohibition against bird hunting and does not provide protection of the land or water therein, and is consequently not a part of the Ramsar site.

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

No management plan exist.

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

Not known.

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

Posters have been erected in the area.

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

The area is to a low degree used by tourists and residents, mainly for fishing.

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

The Ministry of the Environment.

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

The site is managed by the County Governor of Nordland, which is a subsidiary body of the Ministry of the Environment. Adresses: County Governor of Nordland, Moloveien 10, N-8002 Bodø.

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Flora:

- Elven, R., Alm, T., Edvardsen, H., Fjelland, M., Fredriksen, K.E. & Johansen, V. 1988. Botaniske verneverdier på havstrender i Nordland. B: Beskrivelser for regionene Nord-Helgeland og Salten. Økoforsk rapport 1988:2B, pages 227-233. (in Norwegian - botanical survey of beaches in Northern parts of Norway).

Birds:

- No scientific survey have been published, but smaller notes on the birds in the area exists.