

Harøya wetlands system

Information sheet on Ramsar wetlands

1. Country: Norway 2. Date: 3. Ref: 7NO 019
4. Name and address of compiler: Øystein R. Størkensen, Directorate for Nature Management, Tungasletta 2, N-7005 Trondheim, Norway. Tel. +47-7358 0500, Fax: +47-7391 5433.
5. Name of wetland: Harøya wetlands system. Consists of 4 different reserves: 1) Lomstjønnna nature reserve, 2) Selvikvågen nature reserve, 3) Lyngholmen nature reserve and 4) Malesanden and Huse bird protection area.
6. Date of Ramsar designation: 19/03/1996
7. Geographical coordinates: 62⁰ 45' N, 6⁰ 28' E
8. General location: Situated in Sandøy municipality. Møre og Romsdal county, near Molde city.
9. Area: The reserves cover a total area of 189 ha: 1) Lomstjønnna (10,5 ha), 2) Selvikvågen (46,1 ha), 3) Lyngholman (65,9 ha), 4) Malesanden og Huse (consists of two separated sites in the same area) (66,5 ha).
10. Wetland type: Localities 1) S, U; localities 2-4): A, D, E, G.
11. Altitude: Locality 1): 13-22 masl and localities 2-4): 0-12 masl.
12. Overview: The wetland system consists of several shallow bays, with extensive tidal mud and sandflats with seaweed zones, sanddune systems, and a freshwater marsh including mires.
13. Physical features: Situated on an island on the extreme outermost part of the coast. This area is characterised by a flat landscape formed by the ice-age and by quaternary deposits. The area has an Atlantic climate, with relatively cool summers and mild winters. Annual precipitation is relatively high exceeding 1200mm.
14. Ecological feature: Extensive marine shallow waters with bays with mud and sandflats allows large quantities of seaweed to accumulate, and thus create rich feeding opportunities for birds. Sanddunes and wet meadows create a zone between the shoreline and the ericaceous dominated inland mires. One locality is a eutrophicated fresh water marsh, surrounded by mires. The extent of wetlands and the geographic position make this internationally important in particular for migratory birds.
15. Land tenure/ownership of:
 - a) site: Private.
 - b) surrounding area: Private.

16. Conservation measures taken: All established as reserves 27 May 1988. Nos. 1 - 3 as nature reserves, no. 4 as a bird protection area.

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: None.

18. Current land use:

a) Site: Nature conservation, fishing and grazing.

b) Surrounding/catchment: Principal human activities: Agricultural use, fishing and hunting, recreation and camping, excavation of sand and construction of roads and houses.

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:

a) at the site: Mainly change in agricultural practices, ie. end of grazing by husbandry.

b) in the surroundings/catchment: Agricultural, gravel quarries, boating activity, planting of alien coniferous trees as wind shelter, and development for housing.

20. Hydrological and physical values:

21. Social and cultural values:

22. Noteworthy fauna: These wetlands is particularly important for migrating and wintering birds. Also important as a breeding site for *Anser anser*, *Calidris alpina*, *Larus fuscus* (160 pairs), *Sterna paradisea* (± 500 pairs) and *Stercorarius parasiticus* (± 35 pairs). Other interesting breeding species are *Saxicola torquata* and *Calcarius lapponicus*. Waterfowl winter in high numbers with 5,000 - 10,000 birds, these include *Podiceps grisegena* (200), *Phalacrocorax* spp. (5,000), *Somateria mollissima* ($>1,000$), *Melanitta fusca* (1000), *Clangula hyemalis* (1300), *Mergus merganser* (500) and *Cephus grylle* (300). *Haliaeetus albicilla* is common. Migrating waders also occur in high numbers. Because of the islands inaccessibility bird registrations are relatively poor. *Lutra lutra* and *Phoca vitulina* are common.

23. Noteworthy flora: The shallow tidal waters is ideal for extensive beds of seaweed and mussels. Dead seaweed also creates shore vegetation typical for the Atlantic coast, where *Atriplex* species and *Cakile maritima* dominates. Typical are stands of *Spergula salina*, *Puccinella maritima*, *Carex subapathacea*, *Juncus gerardii*, *Festuca rubra* and *Aster tripolium*. *Carex paleacea* and *Blysmus rufus* is typical on sheltered sites. In wet parts *Senecio aquaticus* and on the dunes *Carex arenaria* are interesting elements. The eutrophic Rørvikvatn is dominated with stands of *Carex rostrata* and *Schoenoplectus lacustris*.

24. Current scientific research and facilities: None.

25. Current conservation education: None.

26. Current recreation and tourism: Camping sites, hunting, windsurfing and boating.
27. Management authority: Fylkesmannen i Møre og Romsdal, Fylkeshuset, N-6400 Molde.
28. Jurisdiction: Dept. of Environment.
29. Bibliographical references: Numerous reports (in Norwegian) and studies have been published on the natural history and botanical history of the area. The inventory of wetlands in this county lists an extensive bibliography (in Norwegian): Fylkesmannen i Møre og Romsdal 1982: "Utkast til verneplan for våtmarksområde i Møre og Romsdal fylke". Botanical report on a survey of wet marine meadows in the county: Holten, J.I., Frisvoll. A. A. & Aune, E.I. 1986. Havstrand i Møre og Romsdal. Flora vegetasjon og verneverdier. *Økoforsk Rapp.* 1986, 3A. 253pp. *Økoforsk Rapp.* 1986, 3B. 184 pp. (with English abstract).
30. Reasons for inclusion: 1 b, 2 c, 3 b.
31. Map of site: Enclosed.

