

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

Country: Sweden

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Name of wetland: Perrsfjärden

Date of Ramsar designation: 5 December 1974

Geographical coordinates: 65°46'N 22°08'E

General location: Located about 30 km north of the town of Luleå in the County of Norrbotten, at the head of the Gulf of Bothnia.

Area: 3,320 ha

Wetland type: Q W

Altitude: 1-15 m above sea level.

Overview: Lake Persöfjärden is situated at the coast in the north of Sweden. The site has its largest importance as a resting area during spring migration.

Physical features: Lake Persöfjärden was formed when part of a coastal bay was isolated from the sea by rise in land level. It is about 15 km long, and is shallow with flat shores. In 1937 the lake level was lowered by about 1.3 m. Many sections of the shore still regularly flood.

Ecological features: There are extensive belts of *Scirpus* and *Phragmites*. The spread of floating vegetation is also extensive. Some areas in the south-west have been invaded by *salix*. The shores and some of the islets have deciduous forests or *Juniperus* bushlands.

Land tenure/ownership of

a) site: privately owned.

b) surrounding area: privately owned.

Conservation measures taken: Listed as site of national importance for nature conservation. The area has no protection by virtue of Nature Conservancy Act. In order to establish priorities for action, investigation concerning water quality, revegetation rate and changes in bird fauna has been carried out.

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: Protection as a nature reserve has been considered, but so far

no decision is taken. Raising the water level is being considered and is already gradually taking place because the lake outlets have been allowed to become blocked by vegetation.

Current land use: principal human activities in

a) **site:** Fishing; Agriculture

b) **surroundings/catchment:** Forestry and Agriculture.

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

a) **at the site:** The lake level was lowered by about 1.3 m in 1937. Before, Persöfjärden was noted for its diverse fish and bird populations, but after the change in water level the fish largely disappeared though the number of bird species increased. There are some indications that a decrease in the breeding bird population has occurred in the last few years.

b) **in the surroundings/catchment:** The regular flooding causes problems for local farmers and has prompted requests for further drainage of the area.

Hydrological and physical values: no information supplied.

Social and cultural values: no information supplied.

Noteworthy fauna: Breeding: *Podiceps cristatus*, *P. grisegena*, *Anas penelope*, *A. crecca*, *Aythya fuligula*, *Bucephala clangula*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Phalaropus lobatus*, *Numenius arquata*, *Sterna hirundo*, *S. paradisaea*, *Emberiza rustica*.

Occasionally: *Podiceps auritus*, *Anas querquedula*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Lanius minutus*, *Calidris temminckii*, *Tringa totanus*, *Asio flammeus*. The lake is one of few inland lakes in this region where *Phalaropus lobatus* breeds. Flocks of *Anser fabalis* are regular feeders.

Resting: ducks, geese, waders and birds of prey such as *Falco columbarius*, *F. tinnunculus*, *Pandion haliaetus*, *Buteo buteo* and *Buteo lagopus*.

Noteworthy flora: no information supplied.

Current scientific research and facilities: no information supplied.

Current conservation education: no information supplied.

Current recreation and tourism: no information supplied.

Management authority: There is no appointed manager. The landowner himself manages his land.

Jurisdiction: Territorial and functional: County Administration of Norrbotten.

Bibliographical references:

- Grimmett, R.F.A. & Jones, T.A. (1989). Important Bird Areas of Europe. ICBP.
- Svenska våtmarker av internationell betydelse (1989).

Swedish EPA information. (English summary).

- Several reports on bird fauna. County Administration of Norrbotten.

Reasons for inclusion: 1b, 2b, 3b

Map of site: enclosed