

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

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:**

April 2002

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

**2. Country:**

Sweden

**3. Name of wetland:**

Stigfjorden

**4. Geographical coordinates:**

58°07' N, 011°40' E

**5. Altitude:** (average and/or max. & min.) 0 – 75 m

**6. Area:** (in hectares) 6 940 ha

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

Stigfjorden is connected by narrow, navigable channels to the Skagerrak in the west and to the inner fjord system in the east. The shallow northern part of this fjord holds one of the richest bird colonies of this coast and provides shelter and food for waterbirds. The northern side consist of agricultural lowland as distinguished from rocky islands of the fjord and the hilly, partly forested, south side. The site was classified as a Ramsar site in 1988 (5 180 ha) and was extended in 2001

**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

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,D,G, 4

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

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

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 3

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

(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:**

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S-106 48 Stockholm, Sweden

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

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**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. A representative example of a near-natural wetland type (shallow marine waters and eel-grass beds) in the EU Continental region
  2. Supports 1 globally threatened bird species, 5 nationally redlisted bird species, 4 redlisted plant species
  3. Supports particular elements of biological diversity that are characteristic of the EU Continental region
  4. Moulting area for large numbers of *Bucephala clangula*
  6. Supports 1% of the north-west mainland European population of *Cygnus cygnus* (up to 400 individuals)
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**13. General location:** (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The site is located on the West Coast of Sweden, about 50 km north of the city of Gothenburg, in the County of Västra Götaland, south-western Sweden.

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**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)

Stigfjorden is a large, shallow marine bay with many islands. Parts of Hålfjorden, a similar bay, are also located at the site. The bedrock consists of granite, augen granite and veins of metabasite.

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

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

Most of the seabed is covered by *Zostera* and *Potamogeton spp.* Meadows and deciduous forests fringe the coast.

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

The adjoining shore meadows, pastures and groves are supporting species such as *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, *Inula salicina*, *Herminium monorchis*, *Epipactis palustris* and *Glaucium flavum*. *Euphrasia micrantha*, *Gentianella campestris* and *Glaucium flavum* are all nationally redlisted.

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

Staging or wintering waterbirds include the whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus* (300-400, nationally redlisted, EU Birds directive species), wigeon *Anas penelope* (300), goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* (1 000-1 500) and eider *Somateria mollissima* (1 500). Other nationally redlisted species worth mentioning include the smew *Mergus albellus* (EU Birds directive) and scaup *Aythya marila* (nationally redlisted). The site is important for moulting Anatidae, including the goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*. A maximum number of 10 white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (globally redlisted, EU Birds directive species) winter in the area.

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

The site is used for nature conservation, grazing of livestock, boating and swimming in the summer. The area supports an important fishery.

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**20. Land tenure/ownership of:** (a) site (b) surroundings

(a) Owned privately, by the municipality and by foundations

(b) Owned privately

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**21. Current land use:** (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

(a) The site is used for nature conservation, grazing of livestock and for recreation.

(b) An industrial zone is situated to the east of the protected area.

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**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 (b) around the site

(a) Boating may cause disturbance to moulting birds like goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* and great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*. The submerged flora is vulnerable to damage by dredging and land reclamation.

(b) None known

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**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)

The wetland is of national interest for nature conservation and there are five Nature Reserves within the site, covering a total of 6 339 ha.

Kälkerön Nature Reserve – 350 ha. Protected since 1980 and owned privately and by a foundation. Management Plan does not exist.

Råssön Nature Reserve – 469 ha. Protected since 1974 and owned privately. Management Plan does not exist.

Stigfjordens Nature Reserve – 7 000ha. Protected since 1979 and owned privately, by the municipality and by the state. Management Plan exists.

Svanviksudde Nature Reserve – 300 ha. Protected since 1977 and owned privately. Management Plan does not exist.

Valön Nature Reserve – 420 ha. Protected since 1975 and owned privately. Management Plan exists.

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

The site has been proposed to the Natura 2000 network as both a pSCI and a SPA site:

SE0520034 Stigfjorden (4 923 ha)

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

None known

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

None known

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

None known

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

County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland

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

County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland

S-403 40 Gothenburg

Sweden

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**30. Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

Hultengren, S. & Olsson, K. 1995. Värdefulla odlingslandskap i Göteborg och Bohus län - bevarandeprogram för

odlingslandskapets natur- och kulturvärden. Länsstyrelsen i Göteborg och Bohus län, rapport 1995: 21.  
Johansson, O. C., Blomqvist, D. & Pehrsson, O. 1997. Värdefulla rast- och övervintringsområden för sjöfåglar på Västkusten.  
Länsstyrelsen i Göteborg och Bohus län, rapport 1997: 4.  
Olsson, G. 1976. Stigfjorden - natur och landskap. Naturinventeringar i Göteborg och Bohus län 1976: 1.  
Åhlund, M., Åhlund, I. & Berntsson, B. 1985. Häckfågelfaunan på betade havsstrandängar. Naturinventeringar i Göteborg och Bohus län 1985: 3.

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