

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

Country: Sweden

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Name of wetland: Stigfjorden Bay

Date of Ramsar designation: 12 June 1989

Geographical coordinates: 55°07'N 11°40'E

General location: In the County of Gothenburg and Bohus, about 50 km north of Gothenburg, along the coastline.

Area: 5,180 ha

Wetland type: A D G

Altitude: Between sea level and 75 m above sea level.

Overview: The site includes Stigfjorden Bay, which is a shallow, marine area, and parts of Halsefjorden Bay. The area, with its rich supply of food, is of great importance not only as a stopover site but also as a moulting and nesting place for birds.

Physical features: The site is a shallow, coastal area including many islands. The currents in the area keep the water icefree for long periods. The bedrock consists of granite, augen granite and veins of metabasite.

Ecological features: Large part of the coastal sea-bottom is made up of biologically highly productive *Zostera sp.* and seedproducing *Potamogeton spp.* vegetation. Coastal meadows used for grazing and mostly deciduous forests, dominated by *Quercus*, can be found around the fiord and on the islands.

Land tenure/ownership of

a) **site:** The area is privately owned.

b) **surrounding area:** no information supplied.

Conservation measures taken: Listed as site of national importance for nature conservation. There are four Nature Reserves in the area altogether totalling 1,539 ha: 1) Kälkerön (350 ha, established 8 March 1980); 2) Valön (420 ha, 30 Jan 1975); 3) Råssö (469 ha, 20 Dec 1974); and 4) Svanvik (300 ha, 21 April 1977). The three latter have got management plans. Other parts of the area are Nature Conservation Areas (3,150

ha).

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: no information supplied.

Current land use: principal human activities in

a) site: Livestock grazing; Recreation (boating, swimming); Fishing; Nature Conservation

b) surroundings/catchment: At the nearest surroundings fishing and minor agricultural land use are the main activities. To the east the industrial zone of Stenungsund is situated.

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

a) at the site: It is important that grazing on the shore meadows continues in order to prevent them from being overgrown by brush. Dredging and land reclamation which limits water circulation are threats to the sea beds in the area. Intensive boat traffic and the pursuit of outdoor recreational interests can also disturb birdlife during sensitive stages, e.g. at the moulting sites for *Bucephala clangula* and *Podiceps cristatus*.

b) in the surroundings/catchment: A new threat to our coastal waters is the noticeably increasing rate of eutrophication.

Hydrological and physical values: no information supplied.

Social and cultural values: Fishery plays an important role in the use of the area.

Noteworthy fauna: Figures refer to 1988. Resting or wintering: *Anas platyrhynchos* (5000 birds), *Bucephala clangula* (1500-2000), *Somateria mollissima* (1200-1500), *Anas penelope* (about 2000), *A. crecca* (700-800), *Cygnus cygnus* (300-400), *Aythya ferina* (50-100), *Phalacrocorax carbo* (about 100), *Anas acuta* (about 50), many Swedish wading birds and *Haliaeetus albicilla* (up to 10 during wintertime).

Nesting: *Anser anser*, *Calidris alpina*

Moulting: *Bucephala clangula* (1000-1500 birds), *Anser anser*, *Podiceps cristatus* (100), *Cygnus olor*.

Noteworthy flora: The adjoining shore meadows, pastures and groves are botanically interesting with plants like *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, *Inula salicina*, *Herminium monorchis*, *Epipactis palustris* and *Glaucium flavum*.

Current scientific research and facilities: no information supplied.

Current conservation education: no information supplied.

Current recreation and tourism: The area is widely used for recreation (boating, swimming) in the summertime.

Management authority: The managers of the Nature Reserves are:
Kälkerön: Private Foundation
Valön NR and Råssö NR: County Forestry Board
Svanvik: Forest Service

The areas outside the Reserves are managed by the landowner himself.

Jurisdiction: Territorial and functional: County Administration of Gothenburg and Bohus.

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).
- Management plans for Valön N.R., Råsö NR and Svanvik NR

Reasons for inclusion: 1a, 3b

Map of site: enclosed.