

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:

12-09-2002

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD	MM	YY

Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

the Netherlands

3. Name of wetland: Veerse Meer

4. Geographical coordinates: 51°32'N - 03°44'E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) NAP -23 - -2 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 2,575

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

A 20 km long brackish lake (formerly part of the Oosterschelde estuary, closed off in 1961) with sandbanks and small islands, surrounded by wet meadows, improved grassland, arable land and some plantations.

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: J

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: 6

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:

National Reference Centre for Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries

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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).

Criterion 5: The site regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds: average peak number 27,933 (1991/92-1996/97).

Criterion 6, Average peak numbers of species meeting the 1% threshold (1992/93-1997/98):

Species	Biogeographical population	1% Biogeogr. Population	% at site
<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Russia/ NW-Europe	1800	1,5%
<i>Anas penelope</i>	W-Siberia/ W-Europe	12500	1,1%
<i>Mergus serrator</i>	NW-/ Central-Europe	1250	1,5%

<i>Fulica atra</i>	NW-Europe	15000	1,1%
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13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

Province of Zeeland, ca. 10 km north of Middelburg.

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)

Lake Veerse Meer became a stagnant brackish lake after the closure in 1961 from the Oosterschelde (building of the Zandkreekdam at the eastern side and the Veerse Dam at the western side). The water levels are unnatural, high in summer (NAP 0 m) and low in winter (NAP – 0,70 m). The water quality is influenced by nutrient rich water let in from the surrounding polders and pollution from (recreation) boats.

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

Superfluous water from the surrounding polders is pumped into this lake and subsequently discharged on the Oosterschelde (a sea arm connected to the North Sea).

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

Brackish/saline lagoons 74%, Drained grassland/ rough grassy vegetation 20%, Forests, plantations, and rural estates 6%.

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

Plant communities of European interest: *Charetum hispidae*; *Cladietum marisci*;

Mushroom species on the Red List: *Tricholoma fulvum*; *Clavulinopsis luteoohracea*;

Moss species on the Red List: *Campylium polygamum*;

Vascular plants on the Red List: Parsley Water-dropwort *Oenanthe lachenalii*; Marsh Helleborine *Epipactis palustris*; Early Marsh-Orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata*.

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

Note: Species included on Annex II of the EC Habitats Directive and bird species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive have been indicated with an asterisk. In addition to those waterbirds listed under point 12, all waterbirds are mentioned occurring in numbers between 0,1 and 1,0% of their respective biogeographical populations Other non-waterbird species are included on the national Red List for the species group concerned.

Freshwater molluscs: *Leucophytia bidentata*; *Tenellia adspersa*; *Cerastoderma glaucum*;

Birds (breeding): Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus [graellsii]*, Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*; (non-breeding): Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, *Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, *Bewick's Swan *Cygnus bewickii*, *Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*, Eurasian Wigeon *Anas [Mareca] penelope*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*, Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, *Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*, Common Coot *Fulica atra*, *Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Eurasian Golden-Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*;

Mammals: *Root vole *Microtus oeconomus arenicola*.

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

See 21. Current land use.

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

The site is owned (but not managed) by Staatsbosbeheer (2813 ha).

Surrounding area: the water (North Sea and Oosterschelde) is state owned, on land several private owners.

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

Site: Boating 74%, Tourism and leisure 10%, Farming 8%, Commercial fisheries 74%, Conservation and research 13%, Water management 100%.

Surroundings/ catchment: –

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

Site (A = serious threat covering large part of the area; B = moderate threat or local threat; C = minor threat): Disturbance to birds (airport Midden-Zeeland); Recreation/ tourism (B -); Other (A - water management: insufficient exchange with Oosterschelde); Pollution (not Industrial discharge) (A - eutrophication).

Around the site: –

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)

Special Protection Area (Birds Directive 79/409/EEC, 2000, 2575 ha); Wetland of International Importance (2/4/2000, 2575 ha). Management plan: Staatsbosbeheer. 1993. Beheersplan Veerse Meer 1994-2004. Staatsbosbeheer Regio Deltagebied, Middelburg. Management covered by the “general management plan for national waters” (Beheersplan Rijkswateren 1996-2000) and a more specific management plan for the land areas managed by the Vereniging Natuurmonumenten.

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

Building of a sluice in the Zandkreekdam (separating the site from the Oosterschelde) to allow a more natural water management and to improve water quality.

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

Most of the topics studied at in the Wadden Sea (ecology of seals, birds (numbers, distribution, foraging, breeding), fish, invertebrates, seagrass, sediment) are also studied and monitored in the Delta by the Institute for Coast and Sea (RIKZ, Middelburg, www.rikz.nl) and Center for Marine and Estuarine Ecology (NIOO/CEMO, www.nioo.nl) in Yerseke. The long term studies also include the effects on the ecosystem of the closure of the Oosterschelde with a half-open dam and monitoring the macrobenthic fauna of the estuarine area in the Delta region, in particular related to environmental impact assessment of land reclamation schemes (SLUFTER) and deepening of the Westerschelde.

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

Excursions, information booklet.

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

See 21. Current land use. Number of visitors not known.

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

Territorial: Municipalities of Noord-Beveland, Veere, Middelburg, Goes; Functional jurisdiction (conservation purposes): Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij.

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

Rijkswaterstaat (Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat), Directie Zeeland, PO Box 5014, 4330 KA Middelburg, the Netherlands, +31 118 672200

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

- Meininger P.L., Berrevoets C.M. & Strucker R.C.W. 1993. Watervogels in de Zoute Delta 1987-91. Dienst Getijdewateren, Middelburg.
- Osieck E.R. & Borggreve C.M. 1999. National Inventory of Ramsar sites in the Netherlands. IKC Natuurbeheer, Wageningen.
- van Roomen M.W.J, Boele A., van der Weide M.J.T., van Winden E.A.J, Zoetebier D. 2000. Belangrijke vogelgebieden in Nederland, 1993-97. Actueel overzicht van Europese vogelwaarden in aangewezen en aan te wijzen speciale beschermingszones en andere belangrijke gebieden. SOVON-informatierapport 2000/01. SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland, Beek-Ubbergen.
- Stuart J.J. 1988. Voorkomen en voedsel van watervogels in het Veerse Meer. Rijksuniversiteit Gent/ Rijkswaterstaat Zeeland, Middelburg

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