



# Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 6 April 2018

Update version, previously published on : 1 January 2012

## Norway Karlsøyvær



Designation date	6 August 2002
Site number	1192
Coordinates	67°34'11"N 14°39'19"E
Area	4 936,00 ha

## Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

## 1 - Summary

### Summary

Karlsøyvær is a marine archipelago with shallow waters, dotted with approximately 220 islands, skerries and islets, typical for the North-European coastal landscape. Helløya is the largest and highest island (101 m.a.s.l.). Habitats and ecosystems in the area vary from wet meadows, dunes and dune slacks, drift lines to brackish marshes and lagoons. The climate in combination with topography provide a diverse and varied vegetation cover, which however remains low, apart from some deciduous forest on a few of the islands. In total, more than 250 different plant species are registered in Karlsøyvær. The archipelago is among the largest coastal conservation areas found in Norway.

The site is one of several important areas along the coast for staging, breeding, moulting and wintering seabirds. Slovær is an especially important breeding area for cormorants, gulls and the black guillemot. The central parts of Karlsøyvær (Karlsøya, Lågøya, Dragan, Einholmen, Dypingen and Engøya) host the largest breeding populations of waders, common eiders and red-breasted mergansers in the archipelago, while Bestemorholmen is an important breeding location for black guillemots. Karlsøyvær is also an important breeding- and nesting location for the white-tailed eagle.

The area is important for shoreline stabilization. Traditionally the site was used for eiderdown- and egg collection from common eiders; except for sporadic collection of eggs, this practice has now ceased. Other human activities include recreational activities, fishing, berry picking (cloudberry), and sheep grazing (Karlsøya and Hjelløya). Helløya is a former farmland that is now characterized by overgrowth.

Common eiders used to be a common breeding species in Karlsøyvær, but the population have drastically declined, along with populations of the Northern lesser black-backed gull, the great black-backed gull, the Northern lapwing and the Eurasian curlew. Mink has established as a species during the last decade, and is likely a driving force for the population decline seen for these breeding species. In particular for common eiders, the cessation of eider down and egg collection, and the subsequent loss of predator protection and the building of nesting houses, is likely a large contributor for the population decline seen for this species.

## 2 - Data & location

### 2.1 - Formal data

#### 2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

##### Compiler 1

Name	Pernille Kvernland
Institution/agency	Norwegian Environment Agency
Postal address	Post box 5672 Torgarden, N-7485 Trondheim, Norway
E-mail	post@miljodir.no
Phone	+47 73580500

#### 2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	1988
To year	2017

#### 2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Karlsøyvær
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#### 2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary Yes  No

(Update) B. Changes to Site area No change to area

#### 2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS? No

(Update) Optional text box to provide further information

Common eiders used to be a common breeding species in Karlsøyvær, but the population has drastically declined, along with populations of the Northern lesser black-backed gull, the great black-backed gull, the Northern lapwing and the Eurasian curlew. Mink has established as a species during the last decade, and is likely a driving force for the population decline seen for these breeding species. In particular for common eiders, the cessation of eider down and egg collection, and the subsequent loss of predator protection and the building of nesting houses, is likely a large contributor for the population decline seen for this species.

## 2.2 - Site location

### 2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image  
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps 0

Boundaries description

The boundaries are the same as the existing nature reserve Karlsøyvær.

### 2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie? Nordland

b) What is the nearest town or population centre? Bodø, approx pop. est. 55 500 (2016)

### 2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes  No

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes  No

## 2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 4936

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from  
GIS boundaries 4938.85

## 2.2.5 - Biogeography

## Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Other scheme (provide name below)	1. Middle boreal zone (MbO2 – clear oceanic section)
EU biogeographic regionalization	2. Atlantic

## Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

1. Zonal division showing the variation in vegetation from south to north and from the lowlands to the mountains, and sectional graduation showing the variation between the coast and inland (In: Moen, A. 1998. Nasjonalatlas for Norge; vegetasjon. Statens kartverk, Hønefoss).
2. EU Habitat directive 92/43/EEC

### 3 - Why is the Site important?

#### 3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

- Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Other reasons

This is a marine archipelago with shallow waters dotted with numerous islands, skerries and islets. This kind of archipelago is typical in the North-European coastal landscape. The shores are mostly hard rock and gravel, but in parts of the archipelago there are calcareous rocks, wet meadows and brackish marshes occur on a smaller part of the area.

Some of the habitats in the Ramsar site are considered as coastal heathland (EN), hay meadow (NRL: EN) and semi-natural grassland (NRL: VU). Red list categories are given according to Norwegian Red List for Ecosystems and Habitat types 2011.

- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

- Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification









The area is a traditional breeding site for numbers of seabirds, e.g. the herring gull (NRL: NT), the black-backed gull, breeding area for Northern Scandinavian and Baltic subspecies of the lesser black-backed gull, the Common eider, and the white-tailed eagle, all characteristic species for this kind of archipelago in this biogeographic region.









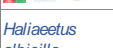
























- Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions









#### 3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

#### 3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence <sup>1)</sup>	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification	
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8									
<b>Birds</b>																			
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Anser anser</i>	Greylag Goose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	38			LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		18-20 pairs. Criterion 4: This species uses this area during moulting.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy Turnstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: This species uses this area during breeding season.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Cepphus grylle</i>	Black Guillemot	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	44			LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU	22 pairs. Criterion 4: The site has a stable breeding population of this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Long-tailed Duck; Oldsquaw	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as NT	Criterion 4: Staging and wintering site for this species.

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence <sup>1)</sup>	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Atlantic Puffin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: This species uses this area during forage and staging.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Common Snipe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10			LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		5 pairs. Criterion 4: This species uses this area during breeding season.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Gavia stellata</i>	Red-throated Diver, Red-throated Loon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4			LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann. II Berne Convention, Emerald Network	2 pairs. Criterion 4: This species breeds in the area.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	164			NT 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		81-82 pairs. Criterion 4: This species uses this area during breeding season.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	75			LC 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		50-100 ind., 8 breeding pairs. Criterion 3: Characteristic species for this kind of archipelago in this biogeographic region. Criterion 4: This species breeds in the area.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	216			LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		108 pairs. Criterion 4: This species breed with this wetland area.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Larus canus</i>	Mew Gull	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as NT	Criterion 3 & 4: The area is a traditional breeding site for numbers of seabirds, e.g. This species.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Larus fuscus</i>	Northern Scandinavian and Baltic subspecies of Lesser Black-backed Gull	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 3 & 4: The area is a traditional breeding site for numbers of seabirds, e.g. this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Larus marinus</i>	Great Black-backed Gull	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	400			LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		200 pairs. Criterion 3 & 4: The area is a traditional breeding site for numbers of seabirds, e.g. This species.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Black Sooter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: This species uses this area during staging.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Mergus merganser</i>	Common Merganser	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: This species uses this area during moulting.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Mergus serrator</i>	Red-breasted Merganser	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	56			LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		22-35 pairs. Criterion 4: Staging and wintering site for this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Numenius arquata</i>	Eurasian Curlew	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12			NT 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU	6 pairs. Criterion 4: This species uses this area during breeding season.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	European Shag	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	64			LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann. II. Berne Convention	27-36 pairs. Criterion 4: Staging and wintering site for this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Common Eider	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	72			NT 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		30-41 pairs. Criterion 3: Characteristic species for this kind of archipelago in this biogeographic region. Criterion 4: Staging and wintering site for this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Parasitic Jaeger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as NT	Criterion 4: This species uses this area during breeding season.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Arctic Tern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann. II Berne Convention, Emerald Network	Criterion 4: This species uses this area during breeding season.

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence <sup>1)</sup>	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i> 	Northern Lapwing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as EN	Criterion 4: This species breeds within this wetland area.	
<b>Others</b>																		
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> 	Gray Seal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Emerald Network	Criterion 4: This area is important staging area for this species.	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Lutra lutra</i> 	European Otter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU, Ann. II Berne Convention	Criterion 4: The site has a stable population of the breeding Eurasian Otter.	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Phoca vitulina</i> 	Harbor Seal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU, Ann. III Berne Convention	Criterion 4: This species used to breed here, whether that is the case present is uncertain, but the area is still important for this species.	

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Additional information under Criterion 4: In total, there are approximately 582-633 breeding pairs inside the Ramsar area. The registrations of breeding birds have been performed in 2009. Numbers will vary between years. Staging and wintering site for 1000-2000 seabirds, including *Gavia* spp. Little research and counts on birds have so far been conducted in the area.

Capitalized letters shows the species' status on the National Red List 2015.

### 3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Hay meadow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		National Red List: Considered as EN
Eelgrass meadow	<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern limits of distribution of eelgrass meadows are found in this area	Eelgrass meadows constitute important foraging sites for diving ducks and waders during staging.
Semi-natural grassland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		National Red List: Considered as EN
Coastal heath	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coastal heath is the dominating vegetation type. Karlsøyvær is one of six areas in Nordland with coastal heath suggested to be a reference area for coastal heath in Norway.	National Red List: Considered as VU
Drift line	<input type="checkbox"/>	An area of the shore on which material is deposited or washed up. As a result, high richness of nutrients occur.	Drift lines constitute important foraging sites for staging waterfowl.

Optional text box to provide further information

Capitalized letters shows the habitats' status on the National Red List for Ecosystems and Habitat types 2011.

## 4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

### 4.1 - Ecological character

Situated in the boreal vegetational zone, and characterised by:

- Shallow marine waters, with numerous islands, skerries and islets.
- Coastal substrate characterized by rocks and gravel shores, inland calcareous deposits occur (seashells and corals) creating substrate for flora dependent on calcareous soil.
- Highly differentiated vegetation types, depending on influence from seawater, e.g. tidal shand shore with drift lines, salt meadows, brackish meadows - including brackish lagoons and freshwater ponds, herb-rich meadows.
- Typical flora contains *Puccinellia* spp., *Carex subspathacea*, *Juncus arcticus* ssp. *balticus* and *Blysmus rufus*.
- Brackish/aquatic flora typically includes *Hippuris*, *Potamogeton* and *Myriophyllum*.

### 4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
A: Permanent shallow marine waters		1		Representative
D: Rocky marine shores		2		Representative
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores		3		
H: Intertidal marshes		4		

### 4.3 - Biological components

#### 4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>		Nationally rare species
<i>Carex appropinquata</i>		Nationally rare species
<i>Cystopteris dickieana</i>		Nationally rare species
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>		Nationally rare species
<i>Dactylorhiza lapponica</i>		Nationally rare species
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>		Nationally rare species
<i>Lemma minor</i>		Nationally rare species
<i>Primula scandinavica</i>		Nationally rare species
<i>Ranunculus trichophyllus</i>		Nationally rare species

Optional text box to provide further information

Species listed under biological components which are not yet included in the Catalogue of Life:  
Chara cfr. *contraria*, National Red List: Considered as NT

#### 4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	%occurrence	Position in range / endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Common Ringed Plover	5			(5 pairs) Nationally common species
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Common Redshank	10			(10 pairs) Nationally common species

Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Neovison vison</i>	American Mink	Potentially	No change

### 4.4 - Physical components

#### 4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
D: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with cold winters	Dfc: Subarctic (Severe winter, no dry season, cool summer)

The climate is typical Atlantic-oceanic with high annual precipitation (>1500mm and average 200-220 days with precipitation pr. year), wet summers and mild winters. October is the month that receives the highest amount of precipitation. Average yearly temperatures of 5,2 °C (Helligvær), with an average monthly temperature of -0,4 °C in February and 12,2 °C in July/August.



4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

- Entire river basin
- Upper part of river basin
- Middle part of river basin
- Lower part of river basin
- More than one river basin
- Not in river basin
- Coastal

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

Norwegian Sea

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

No available information

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes  No

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

The entire area is characterised by outcrops of hard bedrock (mica slate, granites, etc.) and at places also calcareous rock. Typified by shallow marine waters with numerous islets and skerries.

Fjærvær, the island group to the South, contain a belt of calcium silicate schist. Marine deposits containing sand, silt and shell sand.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from rainfall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology.

Shallow marine waters mostly less than six metres deep at low tide; includes sea bays and straits. Some deeper areas (>100 m). Middle tidal amplitude is approx. 174 cm (Bodø harbour).

All fresh water in the area originates from precipitation.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown

4.4.6 - Water pH

Unknown

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Unknown

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Unknown

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar  ii) significantly different

- Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development
- Surrounding area has higher human population density
- Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use
- Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

Fishing

## 4.5 - Ecosystem services

### 4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

#### Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Wetland non-food products	Other	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	Low

#### Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Hazard reduction	Coastal shoreline and river bank stabilization and storm protection	Medium

#### Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Low
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	Low
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Medium
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	Medium

#### Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Nutrient cycling	Carbon storage/sequestration	Low

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

Shoreline stabilization.

Traditionally the breeding population of common eider were used for down- and egg collection. The close relation between man and bird along the northern coast contributed to a high population of eiders (predator protection and erection of breeding-houses). This tradition has gradually faltered and is today only evident at a few revived sites (outside this site). This is likely a contributor to the population decline seen in the common eider population. Some egg collecting is still performed. It is also likely that harvesting of grass/hay and seaweed also occurred.

Smaller populations of sheep graze in the area.

The area is to a low degree used by residents and tourists, mainly for fishing, berry picking (cloudberry), and use of the houses/cabins.

The marine site was earlier included in the national monitoring program for seabirds (SEAPOP).

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes  No  Unknown

### 4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

- i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland
- ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland
- iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples
- iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland

<no data available>

## 4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

## 5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

### 5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

#### 5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

##### Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

##### Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

Within the Ramsar site:  
Privately owned approx. 2/3 and State owned approx. 1/3.

In the surrounding area:  
State owned.

#### 5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site: County Governor of Nordland

Postal address: Moloveien 10, N- 8002 Bodø

E-mail address: postmottak@fmno.no

## 5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

### 5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

#### Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

#### Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Unspecified/others	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

#### Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Medium impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Within the Ramsar site:  
The cessation of traditional agriculture with grazing animals and haymaking has led to an abandon of the unique collaboration between man and seabirds (predator control, building of houses for the common eider, and also to a succeeding overgrowing of the landscape).

The depopulation of the islands and the cessation of traditional agriculture with grazing animals and haymaking has likely resulted in a population decline for species such as the Northern lapwing, the Eurasian curlew and the common snipe resulting from overgrowing of important semi-natural open grasslands of which these species are associated.

Mink was established as a species on the islands in 2004, and in 2011 work began in order to try to manage the mink population. This is a highly prioritized task.

Efforts are also being made in order to prevent overgrowing, and grazing on additional islands in the archipelago is suggested. Overgrowing can also displace plant species important in order to keep the high biological diversity in the area.

In the surrounding area:  
None known

### 5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Nature Reserve	Karlsøyvær		whole

### 5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

- Ia Strict Nature Reserve
- Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
- II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
- III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
- IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
- V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation
- VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

### 5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Proposed

Species

Measures	Status
Control of invasive alien animals	Partially implemented

Other:

The Ramsar site is expected to be included as a part of the national plan for marine protected areas.

### 5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes  No

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes  No

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

A new information folder is produced by the management authorities.

### 5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Please select a value

Further information

Management of the mink population is a highly prioritized task. Discussions of introducing grazing fauna to additional islands in order to prevent overgrowing.

### 5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Birds	Implemented

The marine site was earlier included in the national monitoring program for seabirds (SEAPOP).

## 6 - Additional material

### 6.1 - Additional reports and documents

#### 6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Forvaltningsplan for Karlsøyvær naturreservat Bodø kommune, Nordland. 2012-1017 Fylkesmannen i Nordland. Rapport 2011 – 6.

Sjøfugtelling i Karlsøyvær naturreservat 2017, NOF-notat 2017-14

Larsen, B. H. & Wergeland Krog, O. M. 2009. Karlsøyvær naturreservat i Bodø kommune. Naturtyper, fugl og sjøpattedyr. Miljøfaglig Utredning Rapport 2009:37. ISBN: 978-82-8138-366-1

Flora:  
 Elven, R., Alm, T., Edvardsen, H., Fjelland, M., Fredriksen, K. E. & Johansen, V. 1988. Botaniske verneverdier på havstrender i Nordland. B: Beskrivelser for regionene Nord-Helgeland og Salten. Økoforsk rapport 1988:2B, pages 227-233. In Norwegian - botanical survey of beaches in Northern parts of Norway).

#### 6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<1 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature

<2 file(s) uploaded>

#### 6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Beach meadow at Karlsøya ( [Ingvild Gabrielsen/Fylkesmannen i Nordland, 11-06-2013](#) )



Fjærkvitingen - Overgrowing of rich mire facing north ( [Kjell Eivind Madsen/Fylkesmannen i Nordland, 12-09-2016](#) )



Sand dunes in Fjærkvitingen ( [Hilde Ely-Astrup/Fylkesmannen i Nordland, 15-09-2009](#) )



Engøya in Fjærvær. Overgrowing of beach meadow ( [Kjell Eivind Madsen/Fylkesmannen i Nordland, 12-09-2016](#) )



Engøya in Fjærvær. Beach meadow and beach swamp ( [Kjell Eivind Madsen/Fylkesmannen i Nordland, 15-09-2009](#) )



Overview of Karlsøyvær ( [Hilde Ely-Astrup/Fylkesmannen i Nordland, 15-09-2009](#) )

#### 6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation