

Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 10 May 2023 Update version, previously published on : 9 March 2018

Norway Sklinna



Designation date 12 November 2010 Site number 1953

Coordinates 65°12'19"N 10°58'29"E

Area 589,00 ha

https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/1953 Created by RSIS V.1.6 on - 10 May 2023

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

The Sklinna archipelago is situated in the municipality of Leka, approximately 40 km off the mainland coast and 20 km off the Vikna archipelago. Sklinna is located on a shallow plateau in the otherwise deep sea-landscape that surround the archipelago, and consists of a number of low, small islands and islets with mostly sparse vegetation. The main island of the archipelago is Heimøya, which also contains a lighthouse and a few buildings.

The archipelago as a whole is an important site for seabirds, especially in the breeding season. Sklinna is home to a high breeding populations of European shags. This population normally ranges 2000-2500 pairs, but up to 3200 pairs have been recorded. Common guillemot and black guillemots can be found breeding on some of the islands as well as razorbills, Atlantic puffins, great cormorants, and hundreds of pairs of common eiders, herring gulls and Great black-backed gulls. Low numbers of common gulls, lesser black-backed gulls, northern fulmars and European storm petrels are also found.

The grey seal, which use this area both as breeding- and staging area, is a common mammalian species. Harbour seals are observed less frequently, and sometimes one can also observe harbour porpoise and killer whales.

In terms of flora, red campion is one of the most common species. However, in gull and cormorant colonies the droppings offer nitrous substrate which benefits plants such as common scurvy and common sorrel. On the highest islands one can find different heathers such as the common heather, however, this plant species is extensively used as nest building material by the cormorants.

Seabird monitoring was initiated on Sklinna in the early 1980's. Sklinna was established as a SEAPOP (SEAbird POPulations) site in 2007 and a SEATRACK site in 2014, although GLS loggers have been deployed on European shags since 2008 and common guillemots since 2009. Common eiders, herring gulls, and Atlantic puffins are also instrumented with GLS loggers. Since 2011, after the disappearance of the breeding population in Sklinna, kittiwakes have been monitored and equipped with GLS loggers at the colony in Sør-Gjæslingan, approximately 50 km south of the archipelago.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1 - I Offilai data	
2.1.1 - Name and address of the com	piler of this RIS
Responsible compiler	
	Norwegian Environment Agency
	Post box 5672 Torgarden, N-7485 Trondheim, Norway
Postal address	Toolson son 2 Toligardshi, TT Tios Trondishin, TO May
National Ramsar Administrati	ve Authority
Postal address	Postboks 5672 Sluppen Trondheim Norway
2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and	d information used to compile the RIS
From year	1970
To year	2021
2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site	
Official name (in English, French or	Sklinna
Spanish)	
2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries an	d area of the Site since its designation or earlier update
(Update) A.	Changes to Site boundary Yes O No ●
(Updat	te) B. Changes to Site area No change to area
(Update) For secretariat only: To	his update is an extension
2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological cha	
(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of t applicable Criteria) change	he Ramsar Site (including No ed since the previous RIS?
2.2 - Site location	
2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries	
o) Digital map/image <1 file(s) uploaded>	
Former maps	0
Boundaries description	
	the existing Sklinna Nature Reserve.
2.2.2 - General location	
a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Trøndelag County
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Rørvik
2.2.3 - For wetlands on national bound	daries only
a) Does the wetland extend onto the ter	rritory of one or more other countries? Yes ○ No No
b) Is the site adjacent to another design territory of a	gnated Ramsar Site on the Yes O No on the another Contracting Party?

Data & location, S2 - Page 1

Official area, in hectares (ha): 589

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from 589.004 GIS boundaries

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Other scheme (provide name below)	Middle boreal vegetation zone (Mb-O2 – 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.

Moen 1998 National Atlas of Norway: Vegetation. Norwegian Mapping Authority, Hønefoss

2. Biogeographical Regions, European Environment Agency, 2005

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 islets and islands. This kind of archipelago is typical for the North-European coast.

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further information Sklinna archipelago host several rare/threatened species of both national (NRL) and international (IUCN) concern, such the Atlantic puffin (IUCN: VU, NRL: EN), the black-legged kittiwake (IUCN: VU,NRL: EN) and the common guillemot (NRL: CR).

Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

The area is one of the most important breeding sites for seabirds in the middle parts of Norway. It also Justification has a value for wintering seabirds.

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

Optional text box to provide further information

Sklinna is home to large breeding populations of European shags. Common guillemot and black quillemots can be found breeding on some of the islands as well as razorbills, Atlantic puffins, great cormorants, and several hundred pairs of common eiders, herring gulls and Great black-backed gulls.

For the grey seal this area is an important breeding- and staging area.

☑ Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

Optional text box to provide further information

Sklinna inhabit a large colony of European Shag, with a population range between 2000-2500 pairs (however, up to 3200 pairs have been recorded). This comprises more than 1% of the population found in this biogeographic region (Coastal N Europe).

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		Spec contrib nder cr	outes iterio	n Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
Others												
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA								LC			National Red List: Considered as VU,	Criterion 4: The site is regularly visited by this species, which also use this area as a breeding- and staging area.
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	Lutra lutra	2 000						NT	 ✓		Ann. II Berne Convention	On occation this species visits the archipelago.
Birds												
CHORDATA/ AVES	Alca torda				150			NT			National Red List: Considered as VU	Approx. 50-100 pairs (2016). Criterion 4: The area is a breeding site for this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Cepphus grylle				2000			LC				Approx. 1000 pairs (2017). Criterion 4: The area is an important breeding site for this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Fratercula arctica				2700			VU			National Red List: Considered as EN	approx. 1350 pairs (2017). Criterion 4: The area is an important breeding site for this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Fulmarus glacialis							LC			National Red List: Considered as EN	Criterion 4: Rarer species found to be breeding at this location.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Haliaeetus albicilla							LC	/	V		Criterion 4: The area is an important breeding site for this species.
	Phalacrocorax aristotelis				4000		2				Ann. Il Berne Convention	approx. 2000 breeding pairs on average (2011-2020) Criterion 4: The area is an important breeding site for this species. Criterion 6: Biogeographic region: Coastal N Europe
	Phalacrocorax carbo				1790		1.5	LC				approx. 895 pairs (2017). Criterion 4: The area is an important breeding site for this species. Criterion 6: Biogeographic region North-west Europe
CHORDATA / AVES	Rissa tridactyla							VU			National red list: Considered as EN	After 2011 the breeding population of kittiwakes disappeared from Sklinna
CHORDATA/ AVES	Somateria mollissima				200			NT			National red list: Considered as VU	Approx. 100 pairs (2017).
CHORDATA/ AVES	Uria aalge				2400			LC			National red list: Considered as CR	Approx. 1200 pairs (2017). Criterion 4: The area is an important breeding site for this species.

Capitalized letters shows the species' status on the National Red List 2021.

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

<no data available>

Optional text box to provide further information

Kelp forests constitues an important nature type within the Ramsar-site.

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

4.1 - Ecological character

The site is a coastal zone with rock and stone dominated shores. The main vegetation on the islands and islets are moors with common heather. The vegetation is at several places influenced by seabird droppings. In the gull and cormorant colonies the droppings offer nitrous substrate which benefits plants such as common scurvy and common sorrel. The outer skerries have little to no vegetation, a result of exposure to wind and waves. The bedrock consists of hard and acidic rock. On the highest islands one can find different heathers such as the common heather, however, this species is extensively used as nest building material by the cormorants.

The isolation of the archipelago, and the absence of four-legged predators, provide an environment where the seabird population can develop freely without disturbance.

Sklinna is frequently visited by ornithologists during autumn, when rare migrating species stop by the area.

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

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Cochlearia officinalis	In the gulls and cormorants colonies the droppings give nitrous substrate which benefits plants such as this species.
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Rumex acetosa	In the gulls and cormorants colonies the droppings give nitrous substrate which benefits plants such as this species.
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Silene dioica	Red Campion Silene dioica is one of the most common species.

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Phoca vitulina				The site is regularly visited by this species.
CHORDATA/AVES	Hydrobates pelagicus				Rarer species
CHORDATA/AVES	Larus argentatus				
CHORDATAVAVES	Larus fuscus				Rarer species
CHORDATAVAVES	Larus marinus				
CHORDATAVAVES	Oceanodroma leucorhoa				Rarer species.

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 with high annual precipitation (>1500 mm and approx. 200 days with precipitation pr. year), wet summer and mild winters Characteristic for the coastal climate in this region is heavy precipitation, low temperature difference between summer/winter, and lots of wind. January is usually coldest, while July tends to be warmest. October is the month with most precipitation, with May often being the driest. 4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres) a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in 36 metres) Entire river basin Upper part of river basin Middle part of river basin Lower part of river basin \square More than one river basin \square Not in river basin \square 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 O Decrease O Unknown O No available information Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological Yes O No 🖲 conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Please provide further information on the soil (optional) Sklinna consists of gray to slightly reddish granite, partly permeated by minerals (quarts, feldspars and mica), formed during the Caledonian orogeny. 4.4.4 - Water regime Water permanence Changes at RIS update Presence? Usually permanent water present Source of water that maintains character of the site Changes at RIS update Presence? Predominant water source Marine water No change Water destination Changes at RIS update Marine No change Stability of water regime Changes at RIS update Presence? Water levels fluctuating No change (including tidal) Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology: The archipelago is part of a larger shallow area of approximately 12 km2 where the water depth is between 0-50 m. Consists mostly of shallow marine water less than 30 m in depth at low tide. However, some deeper areas occur in the catchment area.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown

<no data available>

4.4.6 - Water pH

Unknown 🗹

4.4.7	 Water 	salinity

		(a)
Ur	known	1

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 i) broadly similar O ii) significantly different o site itself:

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

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Water sports and activities	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Medium
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	Medium
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	Medium

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

Sklinna has a long history of traditional fishing, and has a historical function as a fishing harbour. Even if the fishing activities have decreased, the archipelago still functions as a fishing harbour today. There is a lighthouse and a house for the lighthouse keeper at the main island Heimøya. Following the establishment of the nature reserve, traditional hunting became forbidden.

The site is used by local fishermen and for research purposes.

Seabird monitoring was initiated on Sklinna in the early 1980's. Sklinna was established as a SEAPOP (SEAbird POPulations) key-site in 2007, which is a long-term monitoring and mapping programme for Norwegian seabirds. Sklinna was incorporated as a SEATRACK site in 2014.

Some sea rafting activities, as well as small boat tourism.

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site?

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

(ECD) Nutrient cycling The vegetation is at several places influenced by seabird droppings.

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

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

-				
Puh	lic	own	arc	hin

Category		Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
	National/Federal government	 ✓	/

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

Within the Ramsar site: State owned In the surrounding area: State owned

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any	County Governor of Trøndelag
agency or organization responsible for	
managing the site:	
Provide the name and/or title of the person	
r people with responsibility for the wetland:	County Governor of Trøngelag
	Statsforvalteren i Trøndelag
Postal address:	
	N-7734 STEINKJER
E mail address.	sftlnost@statsforvalteren.no
E-man address.	SIIIDOSIIO/SIAISIOIVAIIEIEILIIO

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

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

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Medium impact	Medium impact	✓	No change	✓	No change

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Unspecified/others	Medium impact	Medium impact	✓	No change		No change

Pollution

1 one on						
Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Air-borne pollutants	Medium impact	Medium impact	✓	No change	✓	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Within the Ramsar site:

Sklinna is situated relatively close to fishing grounds, and at the end of the 1800s the island had 26 residents. Heimøya contains a lighthouse and some buildings. Following the downsizing of the light house in 2004, there have not been any permanent residents at Sklinna. The harbour is utilized by small fishing boats throughout the year. In recent years there has been some activity in relation to fishing for saithe, which has generated some activity which, during mooring, disturb the seabirds.

From early June to end of July the station is fully operated, usually with 3-4 persons, for research purposes (global monitoring). Seabird eggs collected from Sklinna were analyzed for 201 various inorganic and organic contaminants, of which 149 compounds were detected.

The are no public accommodations on the archipelago, but Sklinna is regularly visited by ornithologists during the autumn migration.

In the surrounding area:

Seaweed trawling in proximity to the Ramsar-area could potentially result in a decline in the local juvenile saithe population which use these kelp forests as nursery grounds. The European shag feed on these juveniles, and a decline from trawling could potentially affect the breeding success of the common shag.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

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

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

la Strict Nature Reserve	
aged mainly for wilderness protection	lb Wilderness Area
aged mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation	II National Park
ged mainly for conservation of specific natural features	II Natural Monument:
cted area managed mainly management intervention	
d area managed mainly for nonservation and recreation	
cted area managed mainly use of natural ecosystems	/I Managed Resource

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented

Other

The area is by a Royal Resolution given the status as a nature reserve (Norw. Naturreservat), which is the strongest form of nature conservation in Norway. All kind of human activity in the nature reserve is regulated by an official set of detailed regulations specific for nature reserves. The aim of the nature reserve is to conserve a distinctive archipelago situated by the coast of the middle of the Norway. The area is characterised by the botanical, zoological and geological elements both on land and in the ocean.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? In preparation

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 Yes O No

processes with another Contracting Party?

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

None		

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

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

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Birds	Implemented
Animal species (please specify)	Implemented

The archipelago has also been an important site for seabird monitoring since the early 1980s. The research activity was particularly carried out in the 1990's and early 2000s, when the Norwegian University of Science and Technology performed several studies in relation to physiology and ecotoxicology.

New research projects was then established when Sklinna became a SEAPOP (SEAbird POPulations) key-site in 2007, which is a long-term monitoring and mapping programme for Norwegian seabirds. In 2014 Sklinna was also implemented as a SEATRACK site, although GLS loggers have been deployed on European shags since 2008 and common guillemots since 2009. Since 2011, after the disappearance of the breeding population in Sklinna, kittiwakes have been monitored and equipped with GLS loggers at the colony in Sør-Gjæslingan approximately 50 km south of the archipelago. Additionally, common eiders, herring gulls and Atlantic puffins are also instrumented with GLS loggers.

The blue mussel is a well established environmental indicator within monitoring and is implemented in both national and international monitoring programmes. Blue mussels are collected from several locations, but also at locations where one can find common eiders, for the possibility to consider biomagnification of environmental pollutants through the food chain. A total of 150 samples are collected from each location that is monitored.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Artsdatabanken (2021, 24. november). Norsk rødliste for arter 2021. https://www.artsdatabanken.no/lister/rodlisteforarter/2021/

Lorentsen, S.H. & Eriksen, J.M. 2009. SEAPOP Short report 4-2009. Norwegian Institute for Nature Research. Tronheim.

Moen, A. 1998. Nasjonalatlas for Norge; vegetasjon. Statens Kartverk, Hønefoss

Nygård, T., Einvik. K. & Røv. N. 2006. (in Norwegian) Sklinna – Fugleøya lengst ut i havet. Fylkesmannen i Nord-Trøndelag, Miljøvernavdelingen. Rapport 6-2009. 44s

Leka Kommune - http://www.leka.kommune.no/

SEAPOP - http://www.seapop.no/en/

Miljøprøvebanken - https://miljoprovebanken.no/prover-og-arter/blaskjell/

Trondheimsfjorden våtmarkssenter - http://trondheimsfjordenvatmarkssenter.no/

Lorentsen, S. H., Moe, T., & Stübner, E. (2010). Key-site monitoring in Sklinna in 2009.

Huber, S., Nygård, T., Warner, N. A., Remberger, M., Harju, M., Uggerud, H. T., ... & Hanssen, L. (2014). Kartlegging av miljøgifter i sjøfuglegg fra Sklinna og Røst. Report number OR, 8, 2014.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

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

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

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

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

v. site management plan

vi. other published literature

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



The dock at Sklinna (John Environment Agency, 13-10-2017)



European shag, one of many seabird species breeding at Sklinna (John Haugen/Norwegian onment Agency, 13-10-



Beautiful sunset at Sklinna (Environment Agency, 13-10-



The lighthouse at Sklinna (Environment Agency, 13-10-2017)



The dock at Sklinna (John Environment Agency, 13-10



The dock at Sklinna (John Haugen/Norwegian Environment Agency, 13-10-2017)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 2010-11-12