

Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 23 June 2023 Update version, previously published on : 21 December 2017

Norway Målselvutløpet



Designation date 12 November 2010 Site number 1956

Coordinates 69°16'28"N 18°30'42"E

Area 1 287,50 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

Målselvutløpet includes an active delta formed at the outlet of the Målselva River into the Malangen fjord. The 8-10 kilometres delta is characterized by sandy substrate, shore vegetation and small islands containing alluvial forest systems with grey alder and birch. As much as 4-5 kilometres of the delta is drained during the low tide. Large tidal meadows are found around the islets and towards the shore, creating a special saltmarsh rush comprised of common bird's-foot trefoil. Brackish water meadows where plants withstand salt exposure from the tide are also found.

Målselvsutløpet constitutes an important migration, staging and moulting area for waterfowl, especially for mergansers. The area is also a winter staging area for ducks and swans. The most numerous species observed are the red-breasted merganser (Mergus serrator), whooper swan (Cygnus cygnus) and the long-tailed duck (Clangula hyemalis). Small flocks of waders can also be observed during spring.

Målselva is the largest salmon river in Troms, and is ranked as a national salmon watercourse, with Malangen as an associated national salmon fjord. and Parts of Målselva and its tributary, Barduelva, are largely affected by hydropower.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS	2.	1	.1	-	Name	and	address	of the	compiler	of th	nis R	JS
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Responsible compiler

Post address Norwegian Environment Agency

Postal address Post box 5672 Torgarden, N-7485 Trondheim, Norway

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Postboks 5672 Sluppen
Trondheim
Norway

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

From year 1981

To year 2021

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)

Målselvutløpet

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 O No

(Update) B. Changes to Site area

No change to area

(Update) For secretariat only. This update is an extension □

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?

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 boundary is the same as for the existing Målselvutløpet Nature Reserve.

2.2.2 - General location

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

Troms and Finnmark County

b) What is the nearest town or population centre?

Tromsø

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes $\mbox{O}\mbox{ No}\mbox{ }\mbox{\Large @}$

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party?

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 1287.5

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from 1257.954 GIS boundaries

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Other scheme (provide name below)	Middle boreal vegetation zone, slightly oceanic section (Mb – O1)
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

This site is representative for this region for a delta originated by the outlet of a large river in a narrow fjord other reasons and dynamics created by large tidal fluctuations in water level. This is one of the largest deltas in Troms County. Botanically this site demonstrates the succession of pioneer association to stable communities.

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further This area host some rare/threatened species, such as the velvet scoter (NRL 2021: VU) and the longinformation tailed duck (IUCN: VU)

Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

This site is important for maintenance of biological diversity in the region. It is of general importance for birds of passage in Troms, and especially for wetland birds such as Mergansers - ducks. Botanically the Justification site is important as a special sea shore meadow that occurs on the islands and meadows along the coast. An important stock of Atlantic salmon passes through this site through migration between river Målselva and the sea.

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

Optional text box to provide further Målselvsutløpet consitute an important mirgation-, staging- and moulting area for water fowl, especially for information mergansers. The area is also a winter staging area for ducks and swans.

information

The site host a large population of the common merganser (8 000 individuals*) which constitute almost Optional text box to provide further 3% of the population in this biogeographic region (North-west & Central European (win)).

*See further explanation in the text box for section 3.3

☑ Criterion 8 : Fish spawning grounds, etc.

Justification

Important river stocks of Atlantic salmon, and anadromous Arctic char and brown trout migrate through the site.

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

0.2 I lant opcoids	.2 I failt opcoled whose presence relates to the international importance of the site												
Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification					
Plantae													
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	Zannichellia palustris	₽			LC		National Red List 2021: Considered as VU						

Tolypella normaniana: This species is endemic to Norway. It can be found innermost in tight fjords with brackish water. The species is only found at a few locations, dispersed over a large area. The dispersion is likely in association with waders. The species is largely exposed to population reductions resulting from road construction (Bjerka) and shoreline filling (Mosjøen).

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

Phylum	Scientific name	qua un crite	cies lifies der erion	Species contributes under criterion	Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
Fish, Mollusc a	and Crustacea	2 7	10 3	3 3 7 0								
CHORDATA/ CTINOPTERYGII	Salmo salar				9			LC				Criterion 3: An important stock of Atlantic Salmon passes through this site through migration between river Målselva and the sea. Criterion 8: Important river stocks of this species migrates through the site.
CHORDATA/ CTINOPTERYGII	Salmo trutta				9			LC				Criterion 8: Important river stocks of the anadromous brown trout migrates through the site.
CHORDATA/ CTINOPTERYGII	Salvelinus alpinus alpinus				9							Criterion 8: Important river stocks of this species migrates through the site.
Birds	_											
CHORDATA/ AVES	Accipiter gentilis	1						LC			National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: This species is foraging in the area.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Clangula hyemalis	V						VU			National Red List: Considered as NT	Criterion 4: This species uses this area during spring and autumn migration.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Cygnus cygnus)			LC				Criterion 4: In winter this site is important for this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Dendrocopos minor							LC				Criterion 4: This species is breeding on the islets.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Melanitta fusca	1						VU			National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: During winter this site is important for this species
CHORDATA/ AVES	Mergus merganser				8000			LC				(8000 individuals) - see textbox below Criterion 4: Målselva outlet is important as staging area for birds, particularly this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Mergus serrator)			LC				Between 1000-2000 individuals regularly observed the reacen years. Criterion 4: Målselva outlet is important as staging area for birds, particularly the Red-breasted Merganser.

¹⁾ Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Further explanation - common merganser (Mergus merganser): This population estimate is based on counts from the 1970's/1980's. However, in the mid 80's the population likely disappeared. The population decline was attributed to the collapse of the local stock of shoaling fish, such as the sandlance, of which these birds feed. However, this is poorly documented, and newer population estimates does not exists. Whether or not the population has been able to recover is still uncertain. It is important to emphasize that is was not a deterioration of the ecological character of the Ramsar site that likely caused the merganser population decline, but rather the lack of alternative feeding opportunities.

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
Active marine delta/River delta	2		National red list 2021: Considered as VU

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

4.1 - Ecological character

This is a large delta. Vegetation established on islets and river bank varies between rich and poor vegetation types. Succession varies from pioneer communities to stable plant communities. The uppermost islets in the delta are covered by forests, some of which is inundated forests of birch and willow. A special meadow exists on the exterior islets. This is an important staging area for water birds especially the common merganser and breeding area for the lesser spotted woodpecker.

In this area one can find vegetation listed on the Norwegian Red List for Ecosystems and habitat types (2021), such as Semi-natural tidal and salt meadow (NRL: VU) and active deltas (NRL: VU).

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

Marine or coastal wetlands

warme or coastal wellands				
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		2		Representative
B: Marine subtidal aquatic beds (Underwater vegetation)		3		
D: Rocky marine shores				
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores				
F: Estuarine waters		1		Representative
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats				
I: Intertidal forested wetlands				

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Flowing water >> M: Permanent rivers/ streams/ creeks		4		
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Xf: Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands				

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Callitriche hermaphroditica	National Red List: Considered as LC
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	Juncus gerardii	No endangered species are observed but a special meadow exists on the exterior islets with this species.
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Lotus corniculatus	No endangered species are observed but a special meadow exists on the exterior islets with this species.

4.3.2 - Animal species

<no data available>

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 near the coprecipitation (700-100		. In the inland more continental climate proceed with warm summer, cold winter and less
4.4.2 - Geomorphic set	tting	
a) Minimum elevation at	bove sea level (in metres)	
a) Maximum elevation at		
	,	tire river basin
		rt of river basin
		rt of river basin
		rt of river basin ☑
	·	one river basin
		ot 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.
eroding/depositing pro		, additionally several smaller creeks discharge within the field. This is a classic delta with active
4.4.3 - Soil		
	4.	Mineral 🗹
		at RIS update No change Increase O Decrease O Unknown O
	No availab	ble information □
Please provide further inform These deposits are do 4.4.4 - Water regime Water permanence	ominated by sand.	
Usually permanent water present	Changes at RIS update	
Source of water that maintain Presence?	s character of the site	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from surface	Tredominant water source	No change
water Marine water		No change
	_	
Water destination Presence? Marine	Changes at RIS update No change	
Stability of water regime		
Presence? Water levels fluctuating	Changes at RIS update	
(including tidal)	No change	
		eterminants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology: s drained during the ebb tide.
ı		
4.4.5 - Sediment regim	e	
Signific	cant erosion of sediments occ	urs on the site $m{arKey}$
	^(Update) Changes	at RIS update No change on Decrease Unknown O
Significant transportatio	n of sediments occurs on or th	nrough the site 🗹
	^(Update) Changes	at RIS update No change increase O Decrease O Unknown O
	Sediment reg	gime unknown

Unknown 🗷

4 4 1						
4.4.7 - 1	\ <i>/\/</i>	2	tor.	22	lın	utv/

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

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

Unknown \square

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 $\ \square$

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

3			
Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance	
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	Medium	
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	Medium	
Wetland non-food products	Other	Medium	

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention	High
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	High

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Water sports and activities	Medium

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

Some sports fishing occurs in the sea.

Sports fishing, Berry picking, outdoor recreation and boat traffic. Grass cutting and grazing on some islets. Spruce planting.

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

<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

Pub			

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

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	/	2

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

owide lutiller information on the faild territie? ownership regime (optional).	
/ithin the Ramsar site: Private	
the surrounding area: Private/state	

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any	County Governor of Troms and Finnmark
agency or organization responsible for	
managing the site:	
Postal address:	Statsforvalteren i Troms og Finnmark, Pb 700 N-9815 Vadsø
E-mail address:	sftfpost@statsforvalteren.no

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

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

Water regulation

affecting site	I threat Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Canalisation and river regulation Medium	n impact Medium impact		No change	✓	No change

Energy production and mining

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Renewable energy	Medium impact	Medium impact		No change	V	No change

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Dams and water management/use	Medium impact	Medium impact		No change	2	No change
Unspecified/others	Medium impact	Medium impact	✓	No change	✓	No change

Pollution

1 Olidaoli						
Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Agricultural and forestry effluents	Medium impact	Medium impact	/	No change	✓	No change
Unspecified	Medium impact	Medium impact	✓	No change	✓	No change
Garbage and solid waste	Medium impact	Medium impact		No change	✓	No change
Household sewage, urban waste water	Medium impact	Medium impact		No change	V	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Within the Ramsar site:

Runoff from surrounding agriculture and built up area.

The salmon parasite Gyrodactylus salaris and other fish parasites and diseases represent a significant ecological and economical risk for the Målsely water course.

In the surrounding area:

Though not well documented there may be a decline in local stock of shoaling fish representing prey for the mergansers.

There is a decline in local stocks of shoaling fish which are prey for the merganser. In the catchment area, there is hydropower regulation, embankments, potential runoff from an airport, surrounding agriculture areas, polluted ground and old garbage dump and local sewer.

Parts of Målselva is largely affected by hydro power, which affects the river environment though altered water levels in comparison to naturally regulated water levels. There is also several erosion control and flood control structures in Målselv.

The river Målselva is not heavily polluted but some enhanced values of nutrients occur due to run off from agriculture and built up surrounding area.

Runoff from Bardufoss airport. Bardufoss airport is surrounded by Barduelva, Andselva and Målselva, and these rivers are recipients of runoff from activities at the airport. Especially de-icing activities constitute a pollution risk.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

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

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

Reserve 🗷	la Strict Nature
derness notection	lb Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for w
	Il National Park: protected area managed mainly for e protection and r
	III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for cor of specific natura
	IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area manag for conservation through management in
	V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed landscape/seascape conservation and research

VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

	Measures	Status
	Legal protection	Implemented

5.2.5 - Management planning

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

for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

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 opposesses 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.

N	0	n	е
1 4	v		C

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

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

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

None known.			

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Cederløv, A. 1981. Ornitologisk viktige våtmarksområder i Troms. Fylkesmannen i Troms. 62pp.

Fjelland, M. Elven,R. & Johansen, V. 1983. Havstrand i Troms, botaniske verneverdier. Institutt for biologi og geologi, UiTø. Rapport T-551. 148-149 pp.

Fylkesmannen i Troms, 1989. Utkast til verneplan for våtmarksområder i Troms fylke.

Fylkesmannen i Troms, 2008. Utkast til tiltaksprogram for Bardu-/Målselvvassdraget – Malangen vannområde. 52 pp.

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

Lindgaard A, Henriksen S (eds) (2011) Norsk rødliste for naturtyper 2010. Artsdatabanken, Norge - 2010 Norwegian Red List for Ecosystems and Habitat Types. Artsdatabanken, Norway

Moen, A. 1998. National Atlas of Norway: Vegetation. Norwegian Mapping Authority, Hønefoss Nortung, B. Xxxx. Vegetsjonskartlegging og floraregistrering i Målselvutløpet naturreservat.

Strann, K.-B. 1998. Telling av vannfulg i Målselvutløpets Naturreservat. NINA Oppdragsmelding 573. 12 pp.

Strann, K. B., Systad, G.H. & Tømmervik, H. 2000. Flora og fauna registrering i Målselvutløpet naturreservat, samt revisjon av vegetasjonskart. NINA Oppdragsmelding 658, 18 pp.

Wartena, E.M.M. 1998. Vannkvalitet i vassdrag i Troms. Akvaplan-niva, rapport nr APN512.814.1. 56 pp.

Naturbase - www.naturbase.no

Høringsdokument, Viktige utfordringer i vannområdet Bardu-/Målselvvassdraget - Malangen, Vannregion Troms, Fylkesmannen i Troms, 2008.

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

<no file available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Aerial view of Målselvutløpet (Norwegian Environment Agency, 12-10-2017)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 2010-11-12