

Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 9 July 2018 Update version, previously published on : 27 May 2013

Norway Risøysundet



Designation date Site number 2163 Area 504,00 ha

27 May 2013 Coordinates 68°58'59"N 15°41'36"E

https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/2163 Created by RSIS V.1.6 on - 18 May 2020

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

Risøysundet marks the division between islands of Andøyan and Hinnøya, and the Ramsar-site comprise the north-western parts of this strait. Risøysundet is dominated by shallow marine areas with a variation of flat grassy islets, lagoons and brackish ponds. To the west, one can find a 15 ha lake surrounded by a large beach meadow complex. The lagoon is characteristic for the area, but there are also exposed bays, isolated freshwater ponds, sheltered saltmarshes and exposed seaweed meadows. The area is of great importance as a reference area for beach vegetation, due to a broad range of rare vegetation types and species, and little human disturbance. As a result, Risøysundet wetland is an essential part of Andøya wetland system on an international level.

Because of a high food production, many species of waterbirds depend on these areas for food and rest during spring and autumn migration. More than 50 species of waterfowl are registered here, mainly ducks and waders, with some species reaching several thousand individuals. The Site is particularly important as staging area for pink-footed geese during their spring migration. The Site is also an important breeding site. Additionally, the Site has a sizable population of European otters.

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	1980
To year	2015

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or	Diagraundat
Spanish)	Risøysundet

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

 $^{(Update)}{\rm A}$ Changes to Site boundary Yes O No O

(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?

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 Risøysundet Nature Reserve.

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?	Harstad, approx pop. est. 25 000 (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 O No (

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): 504

Area in bostares (ba) as calculated from	
Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from	500.43
CIS boundarios	500.45
GIS DOUNDARIES	

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions								
Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region							
EU biogeographic regionalization	Atlantic							

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

European Environmental Agency (EEA, 2012): http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/figures/biogeographical-regions-in-europe-1

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 The Site supports one of few intact larger mud flats/sand flats in Northern parts of Norway. The Site has a high biodiversity, and is one of the best representations of this nature type in the region. This wetland type is of great importance as staging and breeding grounds for many bird species, and the Site hosts some of the largest remaining populations of many plant and animal species that were previously common.

Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

The vegetation is diverse, and contains a broad range of regionally rare species. The vegetation is only slightly influenced by human activities, which makes the area an important reference for sublittoral vegetation, saltmarshes and brackish swamps. Of particular interest is the occurrence of species living close to the limit of their distribution zone, such as the grassleaf orache, the sago-pondweed, the saltmarsh flat-sedge and the medium widgeon grass.

☑ 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

Scientific name	Common name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Atriplex littoralis	Grassleaforache		V					Aspecies living close to the limit of its distribution zone.
Ruppia maritima	Medium widgeon grass		V					Aspecies living close to the limit of its distribution zone.
Stuckenia pectinata	Sago-pondweed		V		LC Str			Aspecies living close to the limit of its distribution zone.

Species listed that are not yet assessed by Catalouge of Life: Blysmopsis rufa (Saltmarsh flat-sedge) - Criterion 3 - A species living close to the limit of its distribution zone.

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion 2 4 6 9	criterion	Pop. Size Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red A List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
Birds	Birds										
CHORDATA / AVES	Anas crecca	Green-winged Teal; Eurasian Teal					LC				Criterion 4: This species breed in this wetland.

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion 2 4 6	i co 1 c	Species ntribute under riterion 5 7	Size	% IUC occurrence 1) Lis	Appendix	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
CHORDATA / AVES	Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard									Criterion 4: This species breed in this wetland.
CHORDATA / AVES	Anser anser	Greylag Goose				200					200 individuals. Criterion 4: Considerable numbers of staging birds are registered such as this species.
	Anser brachyrhynchus	Pink-footed Goose	•020								Criterion 4: particularly important as staging area
AVES	Calidris alpina ڇ 🌉 🄌	Dunlin				300				Ann. Il Berne Convention	300 individuals. Criterion 4: Considerable numbers of staging birds are registered such as this species.
AVES	Cepphus grylle	Black Guillemot								National Red List: Considered as VU	This species is observed within the site.
CHORDATA / AVES	Charadrius hiaticula	Common Ringed Plover				300	LC St			Ann. Il Berne Convention	300 individuals. Criterion 4: Considerable numbers of staging birds are registered such as this species.
/ AVES	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	Black-headed Gull								National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: This species breed in this wetland.
AVES	Clangula hyemalis 🕌 🔐 🍳	Long-tailedDuck; Oldsquaw				200				National Red List: Considered as NT	200 individuals. Criterion 4: Considerable numbers of staging birds are registered such as this species.
AVES	Cygnus cygnus	Whooper Swan								Ann. Il Berne Convention	This species is observed within the site.
AVES	Gavia arctica 📲 💁 🔌	Black-throated Loon; Arctic Loon								Ann. Il Berne Convention, Emerald Network	This species is probably occurring regularly in and outside the site.
CHORDATA / AVES		Mew Gull					LC Øs			National Red List: Considered as NT	Criterion 4: This species breed in this wetland.
AVES	Melanitta fusca 🕌 🤐 🤌	White-winged Scoter; Velvet Scoter								National Red List: Considered as VU	This species is observed within the site.
	Mergus merganser	Common Merganser				100					100 individuals. Criterion 4: Considerable numbers of staging birds are registered such as this species.
AVES	Mergus serrator	Red-breasted Merganser				800					800 individuals. Criterion 4: Considerable numbers of staging birds are registered such as this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Numenius arquata 🎴 🚉 🔌	Eurasian Curlew					NT Sta			National Red List: Considered as VU	This species is observed within the site.
/ AVES	Phalacrocorax carbo	Great Cormorant				600					600 individuals. Criterion 4: Considerable numbers of staging birds are registered such as this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Philomachus pugnax	Ruff								National Red List: Considered as EN	This site offers favorable habitats for this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Tadoma tadoma 📲 🛄 🤌	Common Shelduck	220							Ann. Il Berne Convention	Criterion 4: This species breed in this wetland.

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion 2 4 6 9	criterion	Size	Period of pop. Est. o	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red / List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
/ AVES	e 🤐 🤌	Common Redshank						LC				Criterion 4: This species breed in this wetland.
	Vanellus vanellus 📲 💁 🔎	Northern Lapwing	ØOOO					NT Straight Straight			National Red List: Considered as EN	This species is observed within the site.
Others												
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	Lutra lutra	European Otter	ØOOO					NT ©there	X		National Red List: Considered as VU	The area has a solid population of this species.

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Ca	apitalized 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
Tidal meadow			National Red List: Considered as NT
Eelgrass meadow			Important for foraging 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

Risøysundet is situated in the middle boreal vegetational zone, and is characterized by a varied and productive vegetation:

• Marine tidal zones with mud- and sandflats, and shallow marine waters, including communities with Zostera, Potamogeton and Salicornia.

• There is a gravel ridge creating a unique protected lagoon system in the tidal zones, where brackish conditions occur with aquatic vegetation (e.g. Pucinella maritima, Zostera ssp, Spergularia salina).

· Wet saline-influenced meadows, e.g. typically with Puccinellia and Carex.

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		3	45	
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats		1	212	Representative
H: Intertidal marshes		4	40	
J: Coastal brackish / saline lagoons		2	141	

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
Saline, brackish or alkaline water > Marshes & pools >> Sp: Permanent saline/ brackish/ alkaline marshes/ pools		0	25	

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

<no data available>

4.3.2 - Animal species

<no data available>

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

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

The site has an oceanic climate with mild winters and relatively wet and cool summers. Annual average temperature: ranging from 2-4°C. Average temperature in July: 12-16°C. Average temperature in January : 0-4°C Annual precipitation: 1500-2000 mm. Approximately 220-240 days of precipitation per year.

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

on above sea level (in metres)	a) Minimum elevation ab
on above sea level (in metres)	a) Maximum elevation ab
Entire river basin	
Upper part of river basin \Box	
Mddle part of river basin \Box	
Lower part of river basin \Box	

More than one river basin \Box

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 O Decrease O Unknown O

No available information \Box

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)?

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

Clay, sand and silt dominate in the marine parts of the Site. The bedrock consists mostly of gneiss, gabbro and amphibolites and is mainly covered by marine deposits.

4.4.4 - Water regime

, present

Water permanence	
Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from rainfall	×	No change
Marine water		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.

The site comprises a large area of shallow water. The variation between high and low tide measured at Andenes (the closest measuring station) averages 134 cm annually.

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 O Decrease O Unknown O

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 i) broadly similar O ii) significantly different O

- site itself:
- Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development \Box
 - Surrounding area has higher human population density $\hfill\square$

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types \Box

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

There are some agricultural activities, mainly on the northern side of a road located northwest of the site. Grazing by cattle and harvesting of grass.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services		
Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	Medium

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	Picnics, outings, touring	Low
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Low
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	Low
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Medium

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

Within the Ramsar site: Grazing by cattle. Sports fishing.

Grazing by calle. Sports itsning.

The sheltered structure of the shoreline reduces the impact of waves from the open ocean and no particular erosion problems have been noted. The population of seaweed also stabilizes shoreline.

In the surroundings/catchment:

There are some agricultural activities, mainly on the northern side of a road located north-west of the site. Grazing by cattle and harvesting of grass.

Archaeological/historical sites are registered in the area.

The watercourse and the surrounding area are used for outdoor activities like bird watching and sports fishing.

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

Private ownership		
Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	×	Ø

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
Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:	Radubild Radea Milaasath
Postal address:	Molovn. 10, 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

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Non specified					×	

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Roads and railroads		Low impact	X	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
(Para)military activities		Medium impact	×	No change		No change

Invasive and other proble	matic 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		Low impact	X	No change		No change

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Agricultural and forestry effluents		Medium impact		No change	X	No change
Garbage and solid waste		Medium impact	×	No change		No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Within the Ramsar site:

A road runs through the site. Within the borders of the protected area, military bunkers are located and the site is used for illegal waste disposal. Norway spruce planted outside its native range is also found in the area.

In the surrounding area:

In the catchment area, there is some agricultural activity, which leads to erosion and nutrient run-off. The number of farms and land areas used for agriculture in the catchment area are decreasing.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

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

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

la Strict Nature Reserve 🗹
ea: protected area managed mainly for wilderness
protection

- Il 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	Implemented

Other:

lb Wi

The water system is permanently protected against technical activities.

The site is identified as one of the protected areas where it is necessary to get a management plan.

Picking waste.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? No

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

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:

A poster with information about the Nature Reserve, ecological and biological facts, and information of the regulations has been put up near the site.

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No need identified

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

<no data available>

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Henriksen, S., Hilmo, O., 2015. Norsk rødliste for arter 2015 (red). Artsdatabanken, Norge - 2015 Norwegian Red List. Artsdatabanken, Norway

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

Elven, R., Alm, T., Edvardsen, H., Fjelland, M., Fredriksen, K. E. & Johansen, V. 1988. Botaniske verneverdier på havstrender i Nordland. C: Beskrivelser for regionene Ofoten og Lofoten/Vesterålen.

Fylkesmannen i Nordland. 1985. Utkast til verneplan for våtmarksområder i Nordland fylke. Rapport 6-142.

Moen, A. 1998. National Atlas of Norway, Vegetation. Statens kartverk, Hønefoss

Rikardsen, F. 1980. Registrering av ornitologisk viktige våtmarksområder i Andøy kommune. 18 s.

Strann, K-B, Iversen, H-M & Guldberg, T.I.. 1986. Hekkeregistreringer i Vesterålen 1986. 42 s.

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

<1 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:





Swans in Risøysundet (Ragnhild Redse Mjaaseth, 26-09-2016)



View towards Northwestern parts of Risøysundet (Ragnhild Redse Mjaaseth, 26-09-2016)



Old road leading to Knutholmen in Risøysundet. (Ragnhild Redse Mjaaseth, 26-09-2016)

Southwestern part of the Reserve. Risøybukta in the background. (*Mia Husdal*,

Small bay in the

14-06-2016



Southwestern part of the Reserve. Risøybukta in the background. (*Mia Husdal,* 14-06-2016)

Small bay in the

Wetland in Risøysundet (Ragnhild Redse Mjaaseth, 26-09-2016)



Designation letter

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Date of Designation 2013-05-27