

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

Country: Sweden

Date: Dec 1991

Ref: 7SE001

Name and address of compiler: Tiina Laantee, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, 17185 Solna, Sweden
Tel +46 8 7991000
Fax +46 8 291106

Name of wetland: Falsterbo - Bay of Foteviken

Date of Ramsar designation: 5 December 1974

Geographical coordinates: 55°25'N 12°55'E

General location: Located in the extreme South-west of Sweden in the county of Malmöhus, 30 km south of Malmö and less than 25 km from the nearest point on the Danish coast.

Area: 7,530 ha

Wetland type: A E G

Altitude: Average of 2 m above sea level.

Overview: This site at the extreme south-western coast of Sweden has no equal in northern Europe, concerning the concentrations of passage migrants. Bird ringing and bird observation take place at Falsterbö Bird Station as part of the National Environmental Monitoring programme. The site is also an important breeding area for seals.

Physical features: The site comprises of shallow coastal waters, sandbanks, lagoons, sand and shingle beaches, grazed and ungrazed coastal meadows (influenced by saltspray and partly of marshland type), heather-clad moors and damp heaths, and some cultivated land. Soils are mainly sand, moraine clay and coastal meadow peat. The coastline is being continually changed by the processes of erosion and accumulation.

Ecological features: The sandy beaches, dunes and sandbanks are covered with *Elymus arenarius*, *Ammophila arenaria* and *Rosa rugosa*. The coastal meadows contain *Scirpus*, *Triglochin*, *Salicornia*, *Suaeda*, *Aster*, *Puccinellia*, *Plantago*, *Juncus* (including *J. maritima*) and *Glaux maritima*. Where the pasture recedes, there is an abundant growth of *Vicia cracca*, *Lotus* and *Aster*. The heaths are mainly *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica tetralix* and *Myrica gale*.

Land tenure/ownership of

a) site: Ownership is part private, part local authority and small areas are state-owned.

b) surrounding area

Conservation measures taken: Listed as site of national importance for nature conservation. Parts of the designated site are protected as nature Reserves: 1) Eskilstorps islets (31 ha, 24 Jan 1931); 2) Lilla Hammars Näs (126 ha, 4 June 1952); 3) Skanörs Ljung (263 ha, 18 September 1969); 4) Flommen (865 ha, 21 April 1983); and 5) Måkläppen (505 ha, established in 1971 with a change of borderline 31 March 1984). A total of 1790 ha is protected. Skanörs Ljung and Flommen have approved management plans.

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Current land use: principal human activities in

a) site: Nature Conservation, Agriculture, Livestock grazing (cattle), Fishing, Recreational activities (golf, sunbathing, swimming, boating, bird-watching).

b) surroundings/catchment: The northern part of the designated site is surrounded by arable land. In the south the communities of Skanör, Ljunghusen and Höllviksnäs consist of low houses and cottages.

Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects

a) at the site: There has been a decline in the number of livestock grazing, in the meadows. The area is very popular for recreation, with three golf courses and considerable swimming, boating and fishing. The municipality and National Road Administration have put forward a plan to build a new road which will occupy less than 1 % of the Ramsar site. The plan has been approved by the Government and the Water Rights Court of Appeal. An application to construct a marina for pleasure craft was rejected. The road is now under construction.

b) in the surroundings/catchment: Extraction of sand and egg losses due to intensive recreational use may threaten part of the site.

Hydrological and physical values: The continually changing coastline due to the processes of erosion and accumulation is very interesting from geomorphological point of view.

Social and cultural values:

Noteworthy fauna: The concentrations of passage migrants, mainly birds of prey and waders, are without equal in northern Europe. Internationally important for wintering: *Cygnus olor*, *C. cygnus*, *Mergus merganser*, *M. oerrator*, *Anas clypeata*, *Anser anser*, *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

Breeding: *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Somateria mollissima*, *mergus serrator*, *Tadorna tadorna*, *Gallinula chloropus*, *Tringa totanus*, *Larus argentatus* (Måkläppen: 1500-2000 pairs), *L. canus*, *L. marinus*, *Sterna paradisaea*, *Philomachus pugnax* (0-5), *Anas querquedula* (3-5), *Limosa limosa* (1-2), *Motacilla flava*, *Anthus pratensis*, *Saxicola rubetra*.

Permanent populations unusual for Nordic countries:
Recurvirostra avosetta (about 200 pairs), *Charadrius alexandrinus* (10-15), *Calidris alpina* (50), *Sterna sandvicensis*, *S. alifrons* (40).

The sandy island of Målkläppen is an important breeding area for *Halichoerus gypus* and *Phoca vitulina*. Other fauna include *Bufo calamita* and *B. viridis*.

Noteworthy flora: *Eryngium maritimum*, *iris spuria*, *Parapholis strigosa* and *Juncus maritimus* are all rare species found at the site.

Current scientific research and facilities: A considerable amount of bird ringing and bird observation takes place at Falsterbo Bird Station, as part of the National Environmental Monitoring Programme.

Current conservation education: The area is visited by a large number of people including school classes. Guided tours are available.

Current recreation and tourism: The area is very popular for recreation, with three golf courses and considerable swimming, boating and fishing. Birdwatchers come here in thousands during bird-migration time.

Management authority: Lilla Hammars Näs N.R., Skanörs Ljung N.R.; Flommen N.R., and Målkläppen N.R. are managed by the County Forestry Board. Eskilstorps islets N.R. is managed by N.G.O. Outside reserves it is the landowner himself who manages the land.

Jurisdiction: Territorial and functional: County Administration of Malmöhus.

Bibliographical references:

- Grimmet, R.F.A. & Jones, T.A. (1989). Important bird areas of Europe. ICBP.
- Svenska våtmarker av internationell betydelse (1989). Swedish EPA Information. (English summary).
- Ulfstrand, S. et al. (1974). Visible bird migration at Falsterbo Station. Misc. Report of Falsterbo Bird Station.
- Management plans for Skanörs Ljung (1980) and Flommern (1981). Nature Reserves.
- A large number of scientific reports on bird ringing and bird migration.

Reasons for inclusion: 1a, 2a, 2c, 3b

Map of site: enclosed