

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

Country: Sweden

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Name of wetland: Ånnsjön

Date of Ramsar designation: 5 December 1974

Geographical coordinates: 63°16'N 12°33'E

General location: Located about 80 km due west of Lake Storsjön in the county of Sämtland.

Area: 11,000 ha

Wetland type: L M O U W

Altitude: Minimum 526 m and maximum 571 m

Overview: The mires around the lake are good examples of oceanically influenced types and have a diverse flora. The lake itself is notably richer of vascular plants than lakes further downstream. Ånnsjön is very important as a resting station for wetland birds that breed further north.

Physical features: Lake Ånnsjön is a very shallow, oligotrophic lake in the upper part of the Indal River drainage system and is surrounded by extensive mires. At the western end, the confluence of two rivers has formed the Handöl Delta. There are also deltas in the north-west (Harå) and south-east (Järpå). Calciferous sediments are transported to the lake. About half the lakeshore is marshy ground, with one sandy section about 2 km long in the east forming a high narrow ridge. Some sections of the lakeshore are eroded peat in steps 3-4 m high. The lower course of the River Handölan has many canyon features including torrent areas and magnificent waterfalls.

Ecological features: The lake Ånnsjön is surrounded by extensive mires. The lake itself has 35 species of vascular plants making it notably richer than lakes further down-stream.

Land tenure/ownership of

a) **site:** privately owned.

b) **surrounding area:** no information supplied.

Conservation measures taken: Listed as site of national importance to nature conservation. There are two Bird-Sanctuaries, Enadeltat (1029 ha) and Halsnäset (230 ha), both

established 7 January 1976.

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: no information supplied.

Current land use: principal human activities in

a) site: Fishing; Recreation; Bird-Sanctuaries

b) surroundings/catchment: In the south-west there is an area with stone-pits and former copper mines. In the surroundings there are also military exercise areas. The mountains are mainly used for recreation and rein-deer farming.

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

a) at the site: *Anser erythropus* used to breed at the lake occasionally. In sensitive areas canoeing and motorboat traffic should be restricted.

b) in the surroundings/catchment: no information supplied.

Hydrological and physical values: no information supplied.

Social and cultural values: no information supplied.

Noteworthy fauna: Breeding: *Anas penelope*, *Melanitta nigra*, *M. fusca*, *Clangula hyemalis*, *anas acuta*, *Gavia stellata* (10 pairs), *anser fabalis*, *Limicola falcinellus*, *Phalaropus lobatus*, *Calidris temminckii*, *Numenius arquata*, *Gavia arctica* (5 pairs), *Sterna paradisaea* (35 pairs), *Numerius phaeopus*.
Regular visitors: *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Buteo lagopus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Falco columbarius*.

Noteworthy flora: no information supplied.

Current scientific research and facilities: Limnological studies were carried out in 1964 and 1966. there is a field station.

Current conservation education: There are observation towers at the northern and western parts of the lake. Ånnsjön has also got hides. Birdwatching tours for tourists are organized regularly.

Current recreation and tourism: The lake is used for fishing and recreation. The land is managed by the landowner himself.

Management authority: The land is managed by the landowner himself.

Jurisdiction: Territorial and functional: County Administration of Jämtland.

Bibliographical references:

- Grimmett, R.F.A. & Jones, T.A. (1989). Important Bird Areas of Europe. ICBP.
- Svenska våtmarker av internationell betydelse (1989). Swedish EPA information. (English summary).
- Persson, C. (1943). Fåglar vid Ånnsjön (Birds at Lake Ånnsjön).

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

Map of site: enclosed