

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

□ RIS □

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

1. **Date this sheet was completed/updated:** 3, Oct. 2002

2. **Country:** Japan

3. **Name of wetland:** □ Miyajima-numa

4. **Geographical coordinates:** 43° 20' N, 141° 43' E.

5. **Elevation:** (average and/or max. & min.) +13 meters

6. **Area:** (in hectares) 41 ha

7. **Overview:** (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

Miyajima-numa is an open and shallow freshwater lake that has suitable habitats for ANATIDAE such as Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). It is located about 500m east of the left bank of Ishikari river, in the southwestern part of Bibai-city, the middle of Hokkaido.

A lot of waterbirds, such as *Anser albifrons*, *Cygnus columbianus* use Miyajima-numa as a staging site. It is one of the most important staging sites for migratory ANATIDAE species, especially large ones, that winter in Japan.

8. **Wetland Type** (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Appendix A of the Strategic Framework.)

inland: O

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

O

9. **Ramsar Criteria:** (please circle the applicable Criteria; the *Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance* are reprinted beginning on page 11 of this document.)

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 5

10. **Map of site included? Please tick yes or no**

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

11. **Name and address of the compiler of this form:**

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12. **Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page.** (Please refer to Annex II in the Explanatory Note and Guidelines document).

Ramsar Criteria 2: The lake is visited by endangered species such as *Branta canadensis* [critically endangered species (CR)*1, Domestic Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*2], and *Anser fabalis*. [endangered species (VU)*1]. It is considered that this site supports the threatened species.

Ramsar Criteria 4: This site is one of the important staging sites for many migratory ANATIDAE species, such as *Anser albifrons*, *A. fabalis*, *Cygnus columbianus*, which migrate from breeding sites in northern hemisphere (ex.Siberia) to wintering sites in Japan. It is one of the most important staging sites, both in spring and autumn for migratory ANATIDAE species, especially *A. albifrons* in Japan. It is considered to support Anatidae species at a critical stage in their life cycles.

Ramsar Criteria 5: The number of *A. albifrons* that stops over at Miyajima-numa in spring is over 50,000 that is the largest one in Japan.

Ramsar Criteria 6: In spring, the site regularly supports at least one third of the Eastern Asian population of the Pacific White-fronted Goose *A. albifrons* which is estimated at 100,000-150,000 birds (Waterbird Population Estimates, 3rd edition).

note: *1 Red List of Threatened Wildlife of Japan. Ministry of the Environment

*2 Designated under the Law for Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Species Conservation Law)

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

It is located at southwestern part of Bibai City (population: c. 30,000, area: c. 278km²), Hokkaido prefecture. Bibai City is located about 60km northeast of Sapporo City (population: c. 1.84 million, area:c. 1,121km²), the capital of the prefecture.

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

geology, geomorphology: A fresh water lake. The surrounding area is lower peatland, covered with peat soil.

origins: natural

hydrology: Miyajima-numa is one of the group of lakes and marshes that are remains of stream of Ishikari river. It is an isolated lake and there are not inlet and outlet flows.

soil type: fine grained gley soil, peat soil

water quality: pH 8.7 – 8.8, DO 10.8 – 11.6 mg/l, COD 22.0 – 29.0 mg/l, T-N 1.86 – 2.16 mg/l, T-P 0.099 – 0.282 mg/l (reference: data of research on 25 Sep., 1995, Hokkaido Environment Science Research Center)

water depth: 2.4m deep at maximum, 1.7m on average

climate: temperate region, annual mean temperature; 6.6 degree Celsius, annual precipitation; 1,074mm, fluctuation of mean temperature in each month; -5.9-+21.2 degree Celsius (average of Iwamizawa-area from 1971 to 2000)

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc)

None.

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

Miyajima-numa is one of the group of lakes and marshes along the left bank of Ishikari river that are remains of Ishikari river. □The area is lower peatland that belong to the lower area of Ishikari river basin. Common reed and wild rice make community around the lake that takes an important role for improvement of water quality.

The lake is important as roosting, resting and feeding area for migratory water birds, such as *Anser albifrons* etc.

The vegetation around the lake is deciduous tree, such as willows (*Salix* sp.) and Japanese alder (*Alnus japonica*) etc.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc.)

None.

- 18. Noteworthy fauna:** (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

Branta canadensis lecopareia [critically endangered species (CR)*1, Nationally Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*2]

Anser albifrons frontalis [near threatened species (NT)*1]

Anser fabalis middendorffii [near threatened species (NT)*1]

Anser fabalis serrirostris [vulnerable species (VU)*1]

Haliaeetus albicilla albicilla [endangered species (EN)*1, Nationally Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*2]

Accipiter gentilis fujiyamae [vulnerable species (VU)*1, Nationally Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*2]

note: *1 Red List of Threatened Wildlife of Japan. Ministry of the Environment

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- 19. Social and cultural values:** (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

It is used as an agricultural reservoir for the surrounding farmlands.
Many bird-watchers visit the site.

- 20. Land tenure/ownership of:** (a) site (b) surrounding area

(a) Wetland: The land is owned by Japanese Government

(b) Surrounding area: Some of the area are private and others are owned by Japanese Government

- 21. Current land use:** (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

(a) Wetland: fishing rights; none, population; none

(b) Surrounding area and catchment area: great part of the areas is rice paddy. There are some forests.

- 22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:** (a) at the site (b) around the site

Although, in the past, hunting with lead shells had been practiced, that kind of hunting is not practiced now at the site.

- 23. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)**

It is designate as a Special Protection zone of National Wildlife Protection Area (41 ha) under the Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law. (come into effect in November 1, 2002)

Capture of wildlife is in principle prohibited in the area. It is required to obtain permission from the Minister of the Environment when installation of artificial structure, reclamation of the water body and tree felling.

- 24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:** (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

None.

25. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

[Scientific research]

Research for designation for National Wildlife Protection Area by Ministry of the Environment.(fiscal year 2000-2001)

Survey on Status of Anatidae habitats in Hokkaido and North Eastern region of Japan, by Ministry of the Environment (FY 2001)

Irregular monitoring of water quality by Hokkaido prefecture (Hokkaido Environment Science Research Centre)

[Scientific facilities]

None

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

Pupils of the local primary school do bird-watching and conduct a census of *Anser albifrons*.
Bird-watching activities are conducted by NGOs and Bibai City.

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

A large number of tourists visit every year in the migrant seasons of ANATIDAE species including *Anser albifrons*.

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

Territorial: Ministry of Finance

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

Functional: Ministry of the Environment (National Wildlife Protection Area)

Hokkaido Prefecture (River Area)

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

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30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Sadahiro Kusano, "table and graph for waterbirds of Miyajima-numa" (1998. Report of Miyajima-numa, Bibai city)

Sadahiro Kusano, 2001. "Marshes of Bibai, Bibai city "

Ministry of the Environment, "Reports on the Research for designation for National Wildlife Protection Area."(FY 2000-2001)

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