

Sandblåst/Gaustadvågen

1. Country: Norway

3. Reference: 7NO020

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5. Name of wetlands: Sandblåst/Gaustadvågen nature reserve

7. Geographical coordinates: 62° 58'N, 7° 17'E

8. General location: Situated in Fræna municipality, Møre og Romsdal county, near Molde city.

9. Area: The reserves cover a total area of 249,8ha.

10. Wetland type: G, J

11. Altitude: 0-29 m.a.s.l.

12. Overview: A well formed estuary where three small rivers convene forming a system of sheltered brackish lagoons and intertidal mudflats with wet meadows. The area forms a transect from freshwater to brackish and finally salt water.

13. Physical features: The coastal part of Norway's western fiords is characterised by steep mountains, and coastal flat plains resulted from quaternary deposits. The plain is the result of glacial activity and is today either cultivated or covered by large atlantic mires. Huge coastal wetlands with shallow waters and intertidal systems and brackish systems is a typical feature in this country. The area has an Atlantic climate, with relatively cool summers and mild winters. Annual precipitation is relatively high exceeding 1,200mm.

14. Ecological features: Estuary with a system of brackish/freshwater lagoons with large stands of aquatic vegetation. The lagoons are surrounded by extensive flats of mud and wet shore meadows. The geographic position of these wetlands make them an important link for migrating birds, in particular geese, ducks and waders.

15. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site: Private

(b) surrounding area: Private and municipality

16. Conservation measures taken: Protected as a nature reserve 27 May 1988.

17. Conservation measures proposed, but not yet implemented: None

18. Current land use: (a) site: Nature conservation, fishing and grazing.

(b) surroundings/catchment: Principal human activities: Agricultural and hunting.

19. Threats:

(a) at the site: Possibly change in agricultural practices, ie. end of grazing by husbandry.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment: Agricultural and road construction.

20. Hydrological and physical values:

21. Social and cultural values: The area contains an archeological site and forms an important part of the cultural history of the municipality. The flat land formed by glacial activity and quaternary deposits is ideal for the study of these processes. Locally important for birdwatchers.

22. Noteworthy fauna: Due to the high biological production of the area with freshwater plants and invertebrates it supports large numbers of both migrating birds, as well as a number of wintering swans, geese, ducks and waders in particular. 250 species of birds has been recorded, eg. *Cygnus cygnus* 200, *Anserinii* spp. 500, *Anas* spp. 1,000, diving ducks 200, *Charadriidae/Scolopacidae* >2,000. The reserve includes seabird colonies of *Sterna paradisaea*, *Larus canus* and *Larus argentatus*, other breeding species are *Anas acuta*, *Calidris temminckii*, *Calidris alpina*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Limosa limosa* and *Saxicola torquata*. *Lutra lutra* is common in the area.

23. Noteworthy flora: Extensive beds of underwater plants of *Potamogeton* spp. is important for grazing waterfowl. *Zostera marina*, *Ruppia* spp., *Potamogeton filiformis* and *Potamogeton pectinatus* are characteristic species. On the wet meadows *Carex glareosa* is of special conservation value.

24. Scientific research and facilities: None

25. Conservation education: None

26. Recreation and tourism: None

27. Management authority: Fylkesmannen i Møre og Romsdal, Fylkeshuset, N-6400 Molde.

28. Jurisdiction: Dept. of Environment

29. Bibliographical references: Numerous reports and articles published in local bird journals. Fylkesmannen i Møre og Romsdal 1992: "Utkast til verneplan for våtmarksområde i Møre og Romsdal" gives an extensive list of published reports for this and other wetlands in this county. Botanical report on a survey of wet marine meadows in the county: Holten, J.I., Frisvoll, A.A. & Aune, E.I. 1986. Havstrand i Møre og Romsdal. Flora vegetasjon og verneverdier. Økosforsk Rapp. 1986, 3A. 253pp. Økoforsk Rapp. 1986, 3B. 184pp. (with English abstract).

32. Reasons for inclusion: 1b, 1d, 2b, 2c, 3b

31. Map of Site: Enclosed.