

Mellandsvågen  
Information sheet on Ramsar wetlands

1. Country: Norway 2. Date: 3. Ref: 7NO021
4. Name and address of compiler: Øystein R. Størkersen, Directorate for Nature Management, Tungasletta 2, N-7005 Trondheim, Norway. Tel. +47-7358 0500, fax: +47-7391 5433.
5. Name of wetland: Mellandsvågen nature reserve.
6. Date of Ramsar designation: 19/03/1996
7. Geographical coordinates: 63<sup>0</sup> 22' N, 8<sup>0</sup> 30' E
8. General location: Situated in Aure municipality, Møre og Romsdal county, near Kristiansund city.
9. Area: The nature reserve cover a total area of 98,1 ha. The reserve borders a large (ca. 1,000 ha) animal protection area.
10. Wetland type: A, D, G, U.
11. Altitude: 0-12 masl.
12. Overview: A typical coastal system of intertidal shallow waters, with extensive mudflats, wet meadows and mires, mixed with rocky outcrops.
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 county. The area has an Atlantic climate, with relatively cool summers and mild winters. Annual precipitation is relatively high exceeding 1,200mm.
14. Ecological features: Large intertidal shores with mussel and seaweed beds, saltmarsh, wet meadow, ericaceous mires. The geographic position of this wetland make it an important link for migrating birds, in particular geese, ducks and waders.
15. Land tenure/ownership of:
  - a) site: Privately.
  - b) surrounding area: Privately.
16. Conservation measures taken: Protected as a nature reserve 27 May 1988.
17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: The current reserve is planned for an extension of ca. 50 ha, which will mainly include wet meadows and

mires.

18. Current land use:

a) Site: Mainly grazing.

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

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

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

b) In the surroundings/catchment: Agricultural.

20. Hydrological and physical values:

21. Social and cultural values: Locally important for birdwatchers.

22. Noteworthy fauna: Its main function is as a feeding and resting site for migratory and wintering birds. More than 150 bird species have been noted, eg. *Clangula hyemalis* 3-4,000, *Somateria mollissima* 1,000, *Anser anser* >1,000, and common wintering birds like *Gavia immer* and *Podiceps grisegena*. *Lutra lutra* is common in the area.

23. Noteworthy flora: The area is characterised by its extensive wet meadows, with a number of interesting plant societies valuable for protection. Typical salt resistant plants dominating in the area are *Suaeda maritima*, *Puccinella maritima*, *Atriplex* spp., *Blysmus rufus* and *Carex subspathacea*.

24. Current scientific research and facilities: None.

25. Current conservation education: None.

26. Current 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. *Økoforsk Rapp.* 1986, 3A. 253 pp. *Økoforsk Rapp.* 1986, 3 B. 184 pp. (with English abstract).

30. Reasons for inclusion: 1 b, 2 b, 2c, 3 b.

31. Map of site: Enclosed.