Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 14 June 2024
Update version, previously published on : 8 November 2005

Japan

Notsuke-hanto and Notsuke-wan

Designation date	8 November 2005
Site number	1552
Coordinates	43°34'46"N 145°15'49"E
Area	6 053,00 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

Notsuke-hanto and Notsuke-wan are located in Shibetsu Town, Shibetsu-gun and Betsukai Town, Notsuke-gun, right in the middle of Nemuro Peninsula and Shiretoko Peninsula in eastern Hokkaido. Notsuke-hanto is the largest fishhook-shaped sand spit, jutting out like a fish hook into the Nemuro Strait for 26 km, and separates Notsuke-wan from the open sea. Notsuke-wan is a shallow bay with a maximum depth of 4 m. The vast tidal flat formed within is home to the largest Zostera beds in Japan. The Zostera beds serve as spawning ground for many living creatures such as the Hokkai shrimp (Pandalus latirostris). To protect the beds from disturbance, traditional Utaseami fishing have been practiced since the Meiji era.
(*Utaseami : traditional trawl net fishing operated by a sailing boat)

In its seaside area, vegetation is poorly developed. The Leymus mollis community dominates with relatively low coverage, and Salsola komarovi, Glehnia littoralis, Merlensia maritima, Artemisia stelleriana and Ixeris repens are scattered. In the sand dune area, the shrub layer is dominated by Rosa rugosa and the herb layer by Thermopsis lupinoides, Agorostis gigantea, Arabis stelleri var. japonica and Trifolium repens. Vegetation in the tidal flats can be affected by water level, salinity and other factors, which is comprised by the Triglochin asiatica-Salicornia europaea-Lysimachia maritima community and the Argentina anserina-Carex ramenskii community.

The Site is a large stopover for migratory waterfowls and is regularly visited by more than 20,000 waterbird individuals including, whooper swan (Cygnus cygnus), brent goose (Brenta bernicla) and greater scaup (Aythya marila). In particular, more than 8,000 brent geese were observed during the fall season in 2018, making it the largest migratory stopover of the species in East Asia. The Site is also a breeding habitat for red-crowned crane (Grus japonensis) and white-tailed Eagle (Haliaeetus albicilla).More than 270 species of birds have been observed in this area. Among mammals, Cervus Nippon yesoensis (Hokkaido Sika Deer), Vulpes vulpes schrencki (Red Fox), Tamias sibiricus lineatus (Siberian Chipmunk), Lepus timidus ainu (Mountain Hare) and Mustela nivalis (Least Weasel) have been confirmed to inhabit the area.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	Kushiro Nature Conservation Office, Ministry of the Environment
Postal address	4F, Kushiro Regional Joint Government Building, Saiwai Town 10-3, Kushiro City, Hokkaido, 085-8639

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment
Postal address	1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo Japan

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2014
To year	2022

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Notsuke-hanto and Notsuke-wan

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary	Yes ○ No ◉
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	No change to area
(Update) For secretariat only: This update is an extension	☐

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?	Yes (likely)
(Update) Are the changes	Positive ○ Negative ◉ Positive & Negative ○
(Update) No information available	☑
(Update) Changes resulting from causes operating within the existing boundaries?	☑
(Update) Changes resulting from causes operating beyond the site's boundaries?	☐
(Update) Changes consequent upon site boundary reduction alone (e.g., the exclusion of some wetland types formerly included within the site)?	☐
(Update) Changes consequent upon site boundary increase alone (e.g., the inclusion of different wetland types in the site)?	☐

(Update) Please describe any changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar Site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site.

It has been estimated that some terrestrial and saline vegetation near the shoreline has been lost due to land subsidence and shoreline erosion.

(Update) Is the change in ecological character negative, human-induced AND a significant change (above the limit of acceptable change)	Yes ○

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0

Boundaries description

Notsuke-hanto and Notsuke-wan is located at 43°34' North latitude and at 145°16' East longitude.

Notsuke-hanto is a long and narrow peninsula located in the Shibetsu Town of Shibetsu-gun and the Betsukai Town of Notsuke-gun in Hokkaido. It is the largest sand spit in Japan (26 km long) formed with sand deposited by tidal currents moving southward through the Nemuro Straits between the peninsula and Kunashiri Island on the opposite shore. The area at the base of the peninsula belongs to the Shibetsu Town while most of the rest of the peninsula belongs to the Betsukai Town. Although there are some houses near the base of the peninsula, there are almost no houses on the tip of the peninsula, which belongs to the Betsukai Town. The Notsuke-hanto Nature Center is located at the entrance to the walking trail to Todowara, where a forest of Yezo spruce (Aies sachalinensis and Picea jezoensis) stands lifeless due to subsidence and seawater wash around the peninsula, at the tip of the Notsuke-hanto.

Notsuke-wan is the bay facing the Nemuro Straits in eastern Hokkaido. It is surrounded by the main island of Hokkaido and the Notsuke-hanto (peninsula). The Site extends from the main island and opens to the south connected to the Nemuro Bay. It is also called "Odaito," and belongs to the Notsuke-Furen Provincial Natural Park (11,692 ha).

Notsuke-hanto and Notsuke-wan is bounded by Hokkaido Prefectural Road 950 from north to southeast and National Route 244 from north to south.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie? Hokkaido Prefecture

b) What is the nearest town or population centre? Shibetsu Town and Betsukai Town

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes ○ No ◉

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes ○ No ◉

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 6053

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 6342.745

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW)	Cold Temperate Northwest Pacific, Oyashio Current

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

☑ Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Other reasons: It has the following representative wetland types of the biogeographic region: permanent shallow marine waters, intertidal marshes (salt marshes) and marine subtidal aquatic beds (seagrass/seaweed beds).

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

☑ Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers: 27,565

Start year: 2017

End year: 2021

Source of data: Monitoring Sites 1000 Anatidae Survey & Shorebirds Survey (2015/16-2020/21), Ministry of the Environment, Japan

Optional text box to provide further information:

2015.4-2016.5 : 35,865,
2016.4-2017.5 : 23,157,
2017.4-2018.5 : 29,508,
2018.4-2019.5 : 33,088,
2019.4-2020.5 : 21,769,
2020.4-2021.5 : 25,895

6 years average (2015.4 - 2021.5): 28,214

4 years average (2017.4 - 2021.5): 27,565

☑ Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Plantae								
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	*Phyllospadix iwatensis*	☑	☐	☐	VU	☐		

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Birds																	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas acuta*	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	3405	2017-2021	1.4	LC	☐	☐		Criterion 6: E & SE Asia, 1% Pop. Threshold = 2,400
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas clypeata*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	102	2017-2021		LC	☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas penelope*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	5336	2017-2021		LC	☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anser fabalis serrirostris*	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	1241	2017-2021	41.4		☐	☐		Criterion 6: serrirostris, Japan (non-bre), 1% Pop. Threshold = 30
CHORDATA / AVES	*Arenaria interpres*	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	670	2017-2021	2.2	LC	☐	☐		Criterion 6: interpres, Pacific & SE Asia (non-bre), 1% Pop. Threshold = 300
CHORDATA / AVES	*Aythya marila*	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	5883	2017-2021	2.5	LC	☐	☐		Criterion 6: nearctica, E Asia, 1% Pop. Threshold = 2,400
CHORDATA / AVES	*Branta bernicla*	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	5477	2017-2021	219	LC	☐	☐	VU-National Red List;	Criterion 6: nigricans, Japan (non-bre), 1% Pop. Threshold = 25
CHORDATA / AVES	*Bucephala clangula*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	668	2017-2021		LC	☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Calidris alpina*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	186	2017-2021		LC	☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Calidris ruficollis*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	426	2017-2021		NT	☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Charadrius mongolus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	200	2017-2021		LC	☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Cygnus cygnus*	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	903	2017-2021	1.6	LC	☐	☐		Criterion 6: E Asia, 1% Pop. Threshold = 580
CHORDATA / AVES	*Fulica atra*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	23	2017-2021		LC	☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Grus japonensis*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				VU	☑	☑	VU-National Red List. Designated as National Endangered Species under the Species Conservation Law	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Haliaeetus albicilla*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☑	☑	VU-National Red List. Designated as National Endangered Species under Species Conservation Law,	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Haliaeetus pelagicus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				VU	☐	☑	VU-National Red List Designated as National Endangered Species under Species Conservation Law,	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Melanitta nigra americana*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	349	2017-2021			☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Mergus merganser*	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	1011	2017-2021	1.4	LC	☐	☐		Criterion 6: merganser, E Asia (non-bre), 1% Pop. Threshold = 710
CHORDATA / AVES	*Mergus serrator*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	195	2017-2021		LC	☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Podiceps nigricollis*	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	1065	2017-2021	1.1	LC	☐	☐		Criterion 6: nigricollis, E Asia (non-bre), 1% of Pop. Threshold = 1,000
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tringa brevipes*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	429	2017-2021		NT	☐	☐		

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Monitoring site 1000 (The Report for Anadidae Survey & Shorebirds Census) 2017-2022
Bird Migration Research Ministry of the Environment 2017-2022
1. Anser fabalis serriostris: 3,000(2017.9-2018.5), 1,620(2018.9-2019.5), 35(2019.9-2020.5), 309(2020.9-2021.5)
2. Anas acuta: 3,635(2017.9-2018.5), 2,130(2018.9-2019.5), 2,176(2019.9-2020.5), 5,678(2020.9-2021.5)
3. Anas clypeata: 70(2017.9-2018.5), 104(2018.9-2019.5), 122(2019.9-2020.5), 111(2020.9-2021.5)
4. Anas penelope: 4,378(2017.9-2018.5), 6,051(2018.9-2019.5), 6,344(2019.9-2020.5), 4,572(2020.9-2021.5)
5. Aythya marila: 6,742(2017.9-2018.5), 10,573(2018.9-2019.5), 2,768(2019.9-2020.5), 3,448(2020.9-2021.5)
6. Branta bernicla: 3,930(2017.9-2018.5), 6,324(2018.9-2019.5), 4,771(2019.9-2020.5), 6,882(2020.9-2021.5)
7. Bucephala clangula: 690(2017.9-2018.5), 1,052(2018.9-2019.5), 637(2019.9-2020.5), 292(2020.9-2021.5)
8. Cygnus cygnus: 915(2017.9-2018.5), 694(2018.9-2019.5), 1,108(2019.9-2020.5), 896(2020.9-2021.5)
9. Fulica atra: 36(2017.9-2018.5), 10(2018.9-2019.5), 38(2019.9-2020.5), 7(2020.9-2021.5)
10. Melanita americana: 199(2017.9-2018.5), 195(2018.9-2019.5), 391(2019.9-2020.5), 610(2020.9-2021.5)
11. Mergus merganser: 2,068(2017.9-2018.5), 927(2018.9-2019.5), 847(2019.9-2020.5), 200(2020.9-2021.5)
12. Mergus serrator: 467(2017.9-2018.5), 43(2018.9-2019.5), 180(2019.9-2020.5), 89(2020.9-2021.5)
13. Podiceps nigricollis: 1,262(2017.9-2018.5), 568(2018.9-2019.5), 1,202(2019.9-2020.5), 1,226(2020.9-2021.5)
14. Calidris alpina: 80(2017.9-2018.5), 213(2018.9-2019.5), 303(2019.9-2020.5), 150(2020.9-2021.5)
15. Calidris ruficollis: 661(2017.9-2018.5), 492(2018.9-2019.5), 200(2019.9-2020.5), 350(2020.9-2021.5)
16. Charadrius mongolus: 183(2017.9-2018.5), 357(2018.9-2019.5), 50(2019.9-2020.5), 209(2020.9-2021.5)
17. Tringa brevipes: 718(2017.9-2018.5), 421(2018.9-2019.5), 200(2019.9-2020.5), 376(2020.9-2021.5)
18. Arenaria interpres: 474(2017.9-2018.5), 1,314(2018.9-2019.5), 400(2019.9-2020.5), 490(2020.9-2021.5)
19. Grus japonensis: 2(2017.9-2018.5), 4(2018.9-2019.5), 3(2019.9-2020.5), 2(2020.9-2021.5)
20. Haliaeetus albicilla : 17(2017.9-2018.5), 10(2018.9-2019.5), 7(2019.9-2020.5), 5(2020.9-2021.5)
21. Haliaeetus pelagicus: 72(2017.9-2018.5), 85(2018.9-2019.5), 79(2019.9-2020.5), 10(2020.9-2021.5)

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Argentina anserina - Carex ramenskii	☐	The tidal flat vegetation consists of Argentina anserina and Carex ramenskii.	
Triglochin asiaticum - Salicornia europaea	☐	The tidal flat vegetation consists of Triglochin asiaticum and Salicornia europaea.	
Leymus mollis	☐	The shore area of the Site is mainly composed of Leymus mollis communities consisting of Salsola komarovii, Glehnia littoralis, Mertensia maritima, Linaria japonica, Artemisia stelleriana, and Ixeris repens populations.	

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

In contrast to the straight contour of the outer sea area, the coast of Notsuke-hanto facing the inner bay holds a number of prominent tidal flats of various shapes, with salt marshlands on the shoreline and a large population of crustaceans, shellfishes, fishes and cockles.

Most of the bay area is shallow with less than 1 meter in depth, but the maximum depth is 4 meters at the mouth of the bay. The bay has one of the largest seagrass beds of Eelgrass (Zestera marina) in Japan, which provide good spawning and nursery ground for various fish and shellfish. Shrimp fishing is conducted in a traditional way using small fishing boats at the Site, where the major catch in the seagrass bed area is the Hokkai shrimp (Pandalus latirostris). There is also an area with dense seagrass and seaweed communities of Zostera marina and Eisenia arborea, which provide important habitat for various marine life.

The diverse natural wetland environment makes the Site an important stopover for ～ 20,000 migratory birds every spring and autumn. Notsuke-hanto has been confirmed as a breeding ground for white-tailed sea eagle (Haliaeetus albicilla) and a wintering ground for Steller's sea eagle (Haliaeetus pelagicus), as well as Japan's largest stopover for Brent Goose (Branta bernicla).

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
A: Permanent shallow marine waters		1		Representative
B: Marine subtidal aquatic beds (Underwater vegetation)		1		Representative
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores		4		
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats		2		
H: Intertidal marshes		3		Representative

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non-forested peatlands		4		

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Agrostis gigantea*	Dominant species
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Arabis stelleri*	Dominant species
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Carex ramenskii*	EN-National Red List
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Rosa rugosa*	Dominant species
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Salicornia europaea*	VU-National Red List
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Thermopsis lanceolata*	Dominant species
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Trifolium repens*	Dominant species
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Triglochin maritima*	NT-National Red List
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Zostera marina*	IUCN：LC

Invasive alien plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Cirsium vulgare*	Potential	unknown
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Taraxacum officinale*	Potential	unknown

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	%occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	*Bombus cryptarum*				DD-National Red List
ARTHROPODA/MALACOSTRACA	*Pandalus latirostris*				Endmic species
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	*Pungitius tymensis*				VU-National Red List
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	*Tamias sibiricus lineatus*				DD-National Red List
CHORDATA/AVES	*Cepphus carbo*				VU-National Red List

Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	*Bombus terrestris*	Actual (minor impacts)	unknown

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
D: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with cold winters	Dfb: Humid continental (Humid with severe winter, no dry season, warm summer)

Shibetsu Town: Annual precipitation is 2304.1 mm. Annual mean temperature is 6.47 degrees Celsius, and monthly mean-temperature fluctuations are -5.5 to +16.1 degrees Celsius
Betsukai Town: Annual precipitation is 2296.1 mm. Annual mean temperature is 6.13 degrees Celsius, and monthly mean-temperature fluctuations are -6.7 to +18.1 degrees Celsius
(Average of Shibetsu from 1991 to 2020).

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres): 0

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 10

- Entire river basin ☐
- Upper part of river basin ☐
- Middle part of river basin ☐
- Lower part of river basin ☐
- More than one river basin ☐
- Not in river basin ☑
- Coastal ☑

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

Sea of Okhotsk

4.4.3 - Soil

- Mineral ☑
  - (Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○
- Organic ☑
  - (Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○
- No available information ☐

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes ○ No ◉

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

Soil type: muddy soil and sandy soil

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Marine water	☐	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Marine	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Sediment regime unknown ☐

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

Erosion along the shoreline of the Nemuro Strait in the Okhotsk Sea is of concern.

4.4.6 - Water pH

Alkaline (pH>7.4) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

Please provide further information on pH (optional):

pH= Summer: 8.4-8.7

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

(ECD) Dissolved gases in water

DO= Summer: 130%-160% on fine day, Winter: 40%-50% under frozen water surface.

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Mesotrophic ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

Please provide further information on dissolved or suspended nutrients (optional):

Nutrients, which tend to increase in summer, include phosphoric acid and silicic acid dissolved in seawater in Notsuke-wan bay.

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar ○ ii) significantly different ◉

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development ☑

Surrounding area has higher human population density ☐

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use ☑

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types ☐

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

Agricultural land, urban area

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	Medium

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention	Medium
Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution	Medium
Hazard reduction	Coastal shoreline and river bank stabilization and storm protection	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Medium
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	Medium

Within the site: 150,000

Outside the site: 20,000

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes ○ No ○ Unknown ◉

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland ☐

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland ☐

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples ☐

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland ☐

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	☑	☑
Provincial/region/state government	☑	☑
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	☐	☑

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	☑	☑

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

(a) In the Ramsar Site:
National land (publicly owned waterbody): 5408 ha
Notsuke-hanto: National land (National Forest, Ministry of Finance): 608 ha
Prefectural land (Hokkaido Prefecture): 21 ha
Private land: 16 ha
Total: 6053 ha

(b) Surrounding area:
National, Prefectural, Town-owned, and Private land

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site: Kushiro Nature Conservation Office, Ministry of the Environment

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland: Takahiro Okano, Director

Postal address: 4F, Kushiro Regional Joint Government Building, Saiwai Town 10-3, Kushiro City, Hokkaido, 085-8639, JAPAN

E-mail address: kushiro_yasei@env.go.jp

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Unspecified/others	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☐	unknown

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	unknown	☑	unknown

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Erosion along the shoreline of the Nemuro Strait in the Okhotsk Sea is of concern.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National Wildlife Protection Area NWPA			whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

Ia Strict Nature Reserve ☐

Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection ☐

II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation ☐

III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features ☐

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention ☑

V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation ☐

VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems ☐

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Harvest controls/poaching enforcement	Implemented

Other:

Under the Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law, the capture of wildlife is prohibited in principle. Permission from the Minister of the Environment is required for new construction, renovation and extension of structures, reclamation of water surfaces, and felling of trees in the area.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes ○ No ◉

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes ○ No ◉

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

Notsuke Peninsula Nature Center

URL of site-related webpage (if relevant): http://notsuke.jp/

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No need identified

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Birds	Implemented

Scientific research:
1) National Survey on the Natural Environment (Ministry of the Environment)
2) Survey on the state of wildlife of Notsuke-hanto, Birds (Hokkaido Wildlife Protection Public Corporation)

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

・Notsuke-Hanto・Notsuke-wan Special Protection Area in Notsuke-hanto・Notsuke-wan National Wildlife Protection Area Designation Plan (2005), Ministry of the Environment
・The IUCN Species Survival Commission "IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2004"
・Ministry of the Environment 2002 " Threatened Wildlife of Japan –Red Data Book 2nd ed.- Volume 1, Mammalia"
・Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation Bureau 2002 "500 Important Wetlands in Japan"
・Ministry of the Environment 2002 " Threatened Wildlife of Japan –Red Data Book 2nd ed.- Volume 2, Aves"
・Environment Agency of Japan 2000 "Threatened Wildlife of Japan -Red Data Book 2nd ed.- Volume 8, Vascular Plants"
・HEIBONSYA "WILD FLOWERS OF JAPAN HERBACEOUS PLANTS"
・The Ornithological Society of Japan 2000 " Check-list of Japanese Birds Sixth Revised Edition"
・Environmental Agency of Japan 1987 "Check-list of Plants"
・Japan Wildlife Research Center "Checklist of Species of Wildlife of Japan"
・Ichthyological Society of Japan "DICTIONALY OF JAPANESE FISH NAMES AND THEIR FOREIGN EQUIVALENTS"

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)
<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)
<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory
<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports
<no file available>

v. site management plan
<no file available>

vi. other published literature
<no file available>

<no data available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:

Notsuke-hanto (*Notsuke Peninsula Nature Center, 08-10-2022*)

Notsuke-hanto and Notsuke-wan (*Notsuke Peninsula Nature Center, 08-09-2022*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<no file available>

Date of Designation	2005-11-08