Template for Submission of Scientific Information to Describe Areas Meeting Scientific Criteria for Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas

Title/Name of the area: *Trondheimsfjord and Froan*

Abstract (*in less than 150 words)*
An important breeding and staging area for seabirds and waterbirds in the region, with total numbers exceeding 125,000 individuals. The site contains significant congregations of 12 species of seabirds and waterbirds throughout the year, including the Vulnerable Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* and Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*, as well as almost the entire Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus.*

Introduction
(To include: feature type(s) presented, geographic description, depth range, oceanography, general information data reported, availability of models)
Trondheimsfjord and Froan is an important breeding and staging ground for numerous seabirds and waterbirds, including the Vulnerable Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* (1,800-2,600 individuals) and Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* (1,100-1,700 individuals). The Velvet Scoter is estimated to have undergone a population decline of 30-49% over the last three generations (BirdLife International, 2019g). Almost the entire Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* (70,000-80,000) stage at the site in April and May before continuing their migration to the breeding grounds. Internationally significant numbers of the Near Threatened Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*, as well as large numbers of Eurasian Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* and Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, are breeding. The site encompasses six areas classified as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas by BirdLife International (BirdLife International 2019a-f): Stjørdalsfjord, Ørlandet, Været, Froan, Tautra & Svaet, and Inner Trondheimsfjord.

Location
(Indicate the geographic location of the area/feature. This should include a location map.)
Trondheimsfjord and Froan is located in Trøndelag, Norway (63.83N/8.40E) (Figure 1)

Feature description of the proposed area
(This should include information about the characteristics of the feature to be proposed, e.g. in terms of physical description (water column feature, benthic feature, or both), biological communities, role in ecosystem function, and then refer to the data/information that is available to support the proposal and whether models are available in the absence of data. This needs to be supported where possible with maps, models, reference to analysis, or the level of research in the area)

Feature condition and future outlook of the proposed area
(Description of the current condition of the area – is this static, declining, improving, what are the particular vulnerabilities? Any planned research/programmes/investigations?)

Assessment of the area against CBD EBSA Criteria
(Discuss the area in relation to each of the CBD criteria and relate the best available science. Note that a proposed area for EBSA description may qualify on the basis of one or more of the criteria, and that the polygons of the EBSA need not be defined with exact precision. And modeling may be used to estimate the presence of EBSA attributes. Please note where there are significant information gaps)

CBD EBSA Criteria (Annex I to decision IX/20)	**Description** (Annex I to decision IX/20)	**Ranking of criterion relevance** (please mark one column with an X)			
		No information	**Low**	**Medium**	**High**
Uniqueness or rarity	Area contains either (i) unique ("the only one of its kind"), rare (occurs only in few locations) or endemic species, populations or communities, and/or (ii) unique, rare or distinct, habitats or	X			

	ecosystems; and/or (iii) unique or unusual geomorphological or oceanographic features.				
Explanation for ranking (must be accompanied by relevant sources of scientific articles, reports or documents)					
Special importance for life-history stages of species	Areas that are required for a population to survive and thrive.				X
Explanation for ranking (must be accompanied by relevant sources of scientific articles, reports or documents) *Trondheimsfjord and Froan* is an important breeding and staging ground for numerous seabirds and waterbirds, including the Vulnerable Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* (1,800-2,600 individuals) and Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* (1,100-1,700 individuals). Almost the entire Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* (70,000-80,000) stage at the site in April and May before continuing their migration to the breeding grounds. It is also an internationally important breeding ground for the Near Threatened Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* (5,000 breeding pairs) as well as large numbers of Eurasian Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* and Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*.					
Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats	Area containing habitat for the survival and recovery of endangered, threatened, declining species or area with significant assemblages of such species.				X
Explanation for ranking (must be accompanied by relevant sources of scientific articles, reports or documents) This site contains globally important numbers of two Vulnerable and declining species: Long-tailed Duck, and Velvet Scoter. It is also important for the Near Threatened Common Eider (BirdLife International 2019g).					
Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery	Areas that contain a relatively high proportion of sensitive habitats, biotopes or species that are functionally fragile (highly susceptible to degradation or depletion by human activity or by natural events) or with slow recovery.				X
Explanation for ranking (must be accompanied by relevant sources of scientific articles, reports or documents) The area is of high importance to Long-tailed Duck and Velvet Scoter, species listed as Vulnerable because of rapid population declines (BirdLife International 2019g). The Velvet Scoter is threatened by bycatch in fishing gear, occurring particularly in wintering grounds because their foraging ecology puts them at high risk of entanglement (e.g., Dagys 2017). During moulting and winter aggregations the species is also highly susceptible to oil spills and other marine pollutants (Kear 2005). The Long-tailed Duck is also highly susceptible to gillnet mortality, and the effects of chronic oil pollution. The species is still hunted across the majority of its range (Hearn *et al*. 2015, Carboneras and Kirwan 2017).					
Biological productivity	Area containing species, populations or communities with comparatively higher natural biological productivity.	x			
Explanation for ranking (must be accompanied by relevant sources of scientific articles, reports or documents)					
Biological	Area contains comparatively higher diversity of	x			

diversity	ecosystems, habitats, communities, or species, or has higher genetic diversity.				
Explanation for ranking (must be accompanied by relevant sources of scientific articles, reports or documents)					
Naturalness	Area with a comparatively higher degree of naturalness as a result of the lack of or low level of human-induced disturbance or degradation.	x			
Explanation for ranking (must be accompanied by relevant sources of scientific articles, reports or documents)					

Sharing experiences and information applying other criteria (Optional)

Other Criteria	**Description**	**Ranking of criterion relevance** (please mark one column with an X)			
		Don't Know	**Low**	**Medium**	**High**
Add relevant criteria		x			
Explanation for ranking (must be accompanied by relevant sources of scientific articles, reports or documents)					

References

(e.g. relevant documents and publications, including URL where available; relevant data sets, including where these are located; information pertaining to other relevant material, models, etc.)

BirdLife International (2019a) Important Bird Areas factsheet: Stjørdalsfjord. Downloaded from http://www.birdlife.org on 27/08/2019.

BirdLife International (2019b) Important Bird Areas factsheet: Ørlandet. Downloaded from http://www.birdlife.org on 27/08/2019

BirdLife International (2019c) Important Bird Areas factsheet: Været. Downloaded from http://www.birdlife.org on 27/08/2019

BirdLife International (2019d) Important Bird Areas factsheet: Froan. Downloaded from http://www.birdlife.org on 27/08/2019

BirdLife International (2019e) Important Bird Areas factsheet: Tautra & Svaet. Downloaded from http://www.birdlife.org on 27/08/2019

BirdLife International (2019f) Important Bird Areas factsheet: Inner Trondheimsfjord. Downloaded from http://www.birdlife.org on 27/08/2019

BirdLife International (2019g) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from http://www.birdlife.org on 30/08/2019.

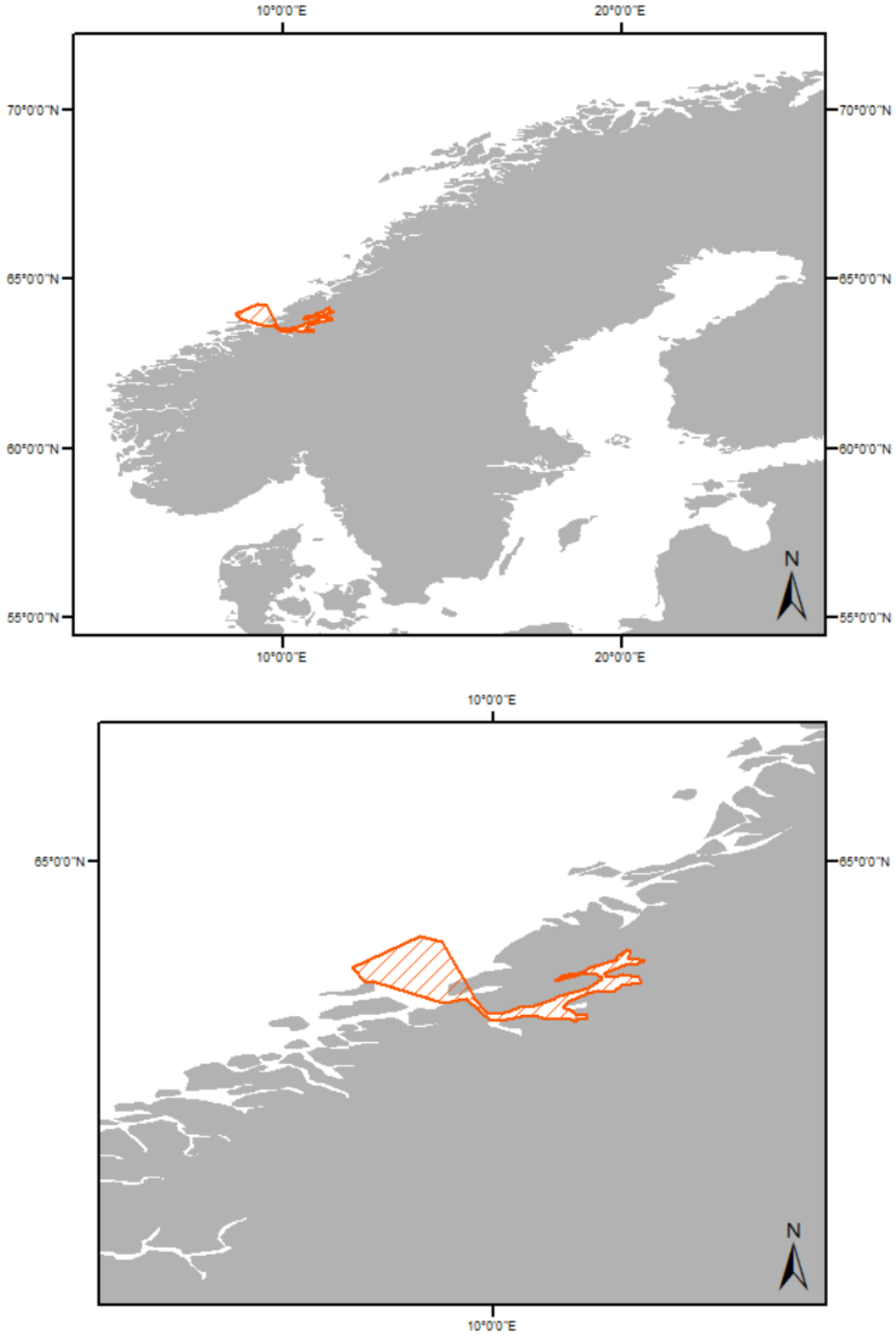
Carboneras, C. & Kirwan, G.M. 2017. Long-tailed Duck (Clangula hyemalis). In: : del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. & de Juana, E. (ed.), *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*, Lynx Edicions, Barcelona, Barcelona.

Dagys, M. 2017. *Species Status Report for Velvet Scoter Melanitta fusca. Western Siberia & Northern Europe/NW Europe Population*.

Hearn, R.D., A.L. Harrison, Cranswick, P.A. 2015. International Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of the Long-tailed Duck Clangula hyemalis, 2016–2025. *AEWA Technical Series* .

Kear, J. 2005. *Ducks, geese and swans volume 2: species accounts (*Cairina *to* Mergus*)*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, U.K.

Maps and Figures



Location of *Trondheimsfjord and Froan*, more details at:
Stjørdalsfjord: http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/3179
Ørlandet: http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/3164
Været: http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/32084
Froan: http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/froan-iba-norway
Tautra & Svaet: http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/32093
Inner Trondheimsfjord: http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/3181

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