

Why were Shinji-ko and Nakaumi designated as a Wetland of International Importance?

Your waterway must meet certain criteria in order to become a registered as a Wetland of International Importance under The Ramsar Convention. Both Shinji-ko and Nakaumi meet many of these criteria. Both are brackish lakes, meaning the water content is a mixture of salty sea water and fresh river water. Each lake has a different salinity, with different characteristics that make them unique.

Shinji-ko and Nakaumi are two amazing wetlands that we should be proud of!

Shinji-ko

Nakaumi

More than 3,000 greater white-fronted geese!

Shinji-ko salinity is 1/10 that of seawater.

Nakaumi salinity is 1/2 that of seawater.

More than 1,000 tundra swans!



More than 20,000 tufted ducks!



More than 20,000 common pochards!

International Criterion 5

“...regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds.”

More than 40,000 ducks and geese come to Shinji-ko and Nakaumi every year!

International Criterion 6

“... regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.”

(The population of one waterbird species is determined through calculating the estimated number of that species in that region.)

Approximately 10,000 greater scaups come to Shinji-ko and Nakaumi!

International Criterion 7

“...supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish subspecies, species or families...”

This is the habitat for **Shinji-ko-haze (Lake Shinji Goby)**!



Shinji-ko-haze

International Criterion 8

“... is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks, either within the wetland or elsewhere, depend.”

These waterways boast one of the largest catches of **Yamato-shijimi (Corbicula Clam)** in Japan. These clams are an important ingredient in the specialty dish ‘Seven Delicacies of Lake Shinji’ that celebrates the abundant supply of seafood in this lake.



Yamato-shijimi

2 Key Point

What are the criteria for becoming a registered wetland?

Criterion 1

A wetland should be considered internationally important if it contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographic region.

Criterion 2

A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.

Criterion 3

A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region.

Criterion 4

A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.

Criterion 5

A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds.

Criterion 6

A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.

Criterion 7

A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish subspecies, species or families, life-history stages, species interactions and/or populations that are representative of wetland benefits and/or values and thereby contributes to global biological diversity.

Criterion 8

A wetland should be considered internationally important if it is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks, either within the wetland or elsewhere, depend.

Criterion 9

A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of wetland-dependent nonavian animal species.

*The wording ‘fish species’ includes fish, shrimp, crab and crustaceans.