

Shinji-ko

Brackish Lake

Geographical Coordinates: 35°26'N, 132°57'E / Altitude: 0.3m / Area: 7652ha / Major Type of Wetland: Brackish lake / Designation: Special Protection Area of National Wildlife Protection Area / Municipalities Involved: Matsue City and Izumo City, Shimane Prefecture / Ramsar Designation: November 2005 / Ramsar Criteria: 5, 6, 7, 8



Shinji-ko viewed from the west

General Overview:

Lake Shinji-ko and lake Nakaumi are located at the border of Shimane and Tottori prefecture on the coast of the Japan Sea, in the southern part of Honshu, the largest island of the Japanese Archipelago. They are brackish lagoons situated in the estuary of Hii River and linked with each other by the 7km long Ohashi River.

The upstream lagoon Shinji-ko is the seventh largest lake in Japan and covers an area of approximately 8200ha with an average depth of 4.5m and a maximum depth of 6m.

The salinity of Shinji-ko is only 1/10 of that of seawater, while that of Nakaumi, the downstream lagoon, reaches as high as 1/2 of that of seawater. Although both of them belong to the same river system, each lagoon has very different characteristics and unique biodiversity.

Rich Biodiversity in Brackish Water Ecosystem:

Shinji-ko offers an essential habitat for approximately 80 brackish water species of fish and shellfish, including Japan's endemic Shinji-ko Goby, Japanese Seaperch, Eel, Icefish and Corbicula Clam. Shinji-ko is blessed with the largest catch of Corbicula Clams in Japan.

Shinji-ko is also home to 200 species of migratory birds. Especially, more than

20,000 Tufted Ducks and 5000 Scaups are sighted among over 40,000 wild ducks and geese. The lake regularly supports more than 1% of world population of White-fronted Goose, Tufted Duck and Greater Scaup and it is the southernmost wintering spot for Tundra Swans along with Nakaumi.

The Beautiful Sunset:

Yomegashima Island, located at the eastern shore of Shinji-ko, is a small and flat island with a shoreline of only 240m. The silhouette of the island at sunset is famous as one of the Best 100 Sunset Landscape in Japan, attracting many tourists year round.

[Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*] It is a species of sea duck with a body length of 40cm. The adult male has black head, back, rump and wings contrasting to the white flanks and belly. It has a gray bill and a tuft on the back of its head. It breeds in northern Eurasia and it is a winter visitor in Japan. It is a common diving duck found in Shinji-ko from October to March.

Contact Information:

Matsue City Office

<http://www.city.matsue.shimane.jp/>

Izumo City Office

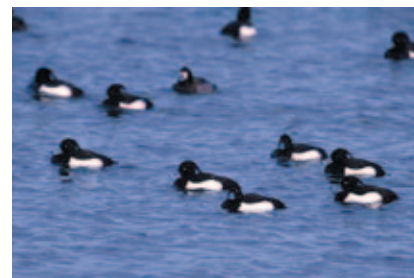
<http://www.city.izumo.shimane.jp/>

Shimane Pref. Govt. Office

<http://www.pref.shimane.lg.jp/>



Clam fishing



Tufted ducks

