Kasai Marine Park

Tidal Flat

Geographical Coordinates: 35°38'N, 139°51'E / Altitude: -4 - +4m / Area: 367ha / Major Type of Wetland: G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats / Designation: Special Protection Zone of National Wildlife Protection Area / Municipalities Involved: Edogawa-Ward, Tokyo / Ramsar Designation: October 2018 / Ramsar Criteria: 4,5,6

Aerial view of Kasai Marine Park from the southeast

Greater Scaup in winter

People enjoy recreational activities at Nishi Nagisa

General Overview:

Kasai Marine Park is located in an estuary of the Arakawa River and the Kyu-Edogawa River at the innermost part of the Tokyo Bay. This area used to be an extensive tidal flat that prospered with laver aquaculture and coastal fishing for clam, goby etc. However, development activities such as land reclamation, led to the loss of the tidal flat, except for small remnant shallows, called Sanmaizu.

Kasai Marine Park was opened in 1989 as a site for conservation and restoration of the bountiful natural environment and as a place to enjoy nature observation and recreational activities on the seashore. To protect the remaining tidal flat, U-shaped training dikes were placed and two artificial beaches, Nishi Nagisa (west beach) and Higashi Nagisa (east beach), were constructed.

Pit sand was deposited to Nishi Nagisa and dredged mud and sand were deposited to Higashi Nagisa. Higashi Nagisa is connected to Sanmaizu, a natural tidal flat which is also included in the Ramsar site.

Nishi Nagisa is designated as a beach for recreation, and Higashi Nagisa is designated as a habitat for species including birds and fish.

Kasai Marine Park is also internationally important for biodiversity conservation in a highly developed urban city and as a role model of coexistence between the urban and natural environments.

A Center of Biodiversity Conservation on the Coast of Tokyo Bay:

More than 100 species of birds have been identified here. During the low tide, this area becomes an extensive tidal flat with water less than 4m deep. It is a habitat for plenty of organisms such as bivalves, crustaceans, and polychaetes. The shallow tidal flat has an important role as spawning and nursery grounds for fish. Located at an estuary, this site is a home of freshwater fish species such as Pacific Redfin and Japanese Barbel, as well as migratory fish species, such as Japanese Sea Bass and Ayu fish. Arboreous plants, such as *Rosa luciae* and coastal vegetation, such as *Fimbristylis ferruginea* have been identified along the coast.

Wintering Site for Migratory Birds:

Kasai Marine Park is an important wintering site for migratory birds because large flocks of migratory birds visit the site for feeding, resting and roosting. Especially regarding Greater Scaup and Great Crested Grebe, more than 1% of their regional population in Asia visit here. Other Anatidae species, such as Mallard, Eurasian Wigeon, and Tufted Duck, are found here. This site is also an essential habitat for Little Tern (rated Vulnerable on the Red List of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan).

People's entry is restricted at Higashi Nagisa as an important protected area for birds and fish.

Urban Wetland:

As Kasai Marine Park is easily accessible by public transportation from the center of Tokyo, it is a place for many people to appreciate marine nature and experience marine activities. At Nishi Nagisa, people can enjoy various recreational activities, such as dry laver making, sea bathing and fishing as well as watching birds, fish, and other organisms in the tidal flat.

Contact Information:

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