

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2006-2008 version

Available for download from [http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key\\_ris\\_index.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm).

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).*

## Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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### 1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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Anders Larsson, County Administrative Board,  
Kungsgatan 13, 205 15 Malmö, Sweden

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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### 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

February 2009

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### 3. Country:

Sweden

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### 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.

Falsterbo – (Bay of) Foteviken

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### 5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

- a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or  
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

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### 6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

- a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged:

or

**If the site boundary has changed:**

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ; or
- ii) the boundary has been extended ; or
- iii) the boundary has been restricted\*\*

and/or

**If the site area has changed:**

- i) the area has been measured more accurately ; or
- ii) the area has been extended ; or
- iii) the area has been reduced\*\*

\*\* **Important note:** If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

**b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:**

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#### 7. Map of site:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

**a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:**

- i) a hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ;
- ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ;
- iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables .

**b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:**

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park, etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

**In the sea:** The 3 metres depth. **In the northeast:** The line between wet grassland and cultivated land. **Others:** It follows existing protected sites, roads or urban areas.

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#### 8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):

Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

55°25'N, 12°55'E

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#### 9. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s) the site lies and the location of the nearest large town.

The Falsterbo-Foteviken site is situated in the extreme southwest of Sweden about 30 km south of the city of Malmö, in the county of Skåne (population 1 200 000), municipalities of Vellinge (population 32 565) and Malmö (population 280 801).

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**10. Elevation:** (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

Min.–max. 0–2 metres

**11. Area:** (in hectares)

7 530 hectares

**12. General overview of the site:**

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland. The Falsterbo-Foteviken site is comprised of a complex of shallow coastal waters, sandbanks, lagoons, sand and shingle beaches, grazed and ungrazed coastal meadows (some of marshland type), *Calluna/Erica* moors, damp heaths and some limited cultivated land. The coastline is practically unspoiled and has geomorphological value. The site supports rare flora and is an important area for breeding seals and rare amphibians and breeding, as well as resting and wintering waterbirds. It is one of the most important gathering points in northern Europe for migrating shorebirds and raptors during autumn migration. About 500 million birds are believed to leave southern Sweden each autumn and a significant proportion passes through the site.

**13. Ramsar Criteria:**

Tick the box under each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1	•	2	•	3	•	4	•	5	•	6	•	7	•	8	•	9
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

**14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:**

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

1. The site contains a unique natural or near-natural wetland within the continental region due to its geomorphological character and the flora and fauna richness of the site. The site is comprised of a complex of shallow coastal waters, sandbanks, lagoons, sand and shingle beaches, grazed and ungrazed coastal meadows (some of marshland type), *Calluna/Erica* moors, damp heaths and some limited cultivated land.

2. The site supports a number of nationally redlisted species, as well as species included in Annex 1 of the EU Birds Directive and Annexes 2 and 4 of the EU Habitats Directive (see points 21-22 below)

3. The site supports populations of both plant and animal species important to the biological diversity of the continental region (see points 21-22 below) by containing the range of biological diversity (including habitat types) occurring in the region.

4. The site supports significant numbers of seals (harbour seal and grey seal) and birds during the breeding period and it constitutes due to its geographical location a key area for migrating birds as a stop-over site from a European perspective. It is one of the most important gathering points in northern Europe for migrating shorebirds and raptors during autumn

migration (see point 22 below). The site is important for breeding rare amphibians (green toad, natterjack toad, great crested newt).

5. The site regularly supports more than 20 000 waterbirds (see point 22 below)

6. The site regularly supports 1% of the individuals of *Branta leucopsis*, *Branta bernicla* and *Somateria molissima* waterbird populations (see point 22 below).

8. The site holds important spawning grounds and nursery areas for particularly eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) and flatfish.

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**15. Biogeography** (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

**a) biogeographic region:**

Continental

**b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation):

European Environment Agency. 2003. Europe's environment: the third assessment, p 231.

Environmental assessment report No 10. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

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**16. Physical features of the site:**

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

The Falsterbo-Foteviken site is comprised of a complex of shallow coastal waters, sandbanks, lagoons, sand and shingle beaches, grazed and ungrazed coastal meadows (some of marshland type), *Calluna/Erica* moors, damp heaths and limited cultivated land. The coastline is practically unspoiled and has geomorphological value. Due to water currents the bottom material is subject to constant movements, resulting in abrasion and accumulation of sand material.

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**17. Physical features of the catchment area:**

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

The catchment area comprises of shallow coastal waters, sandbanks, lagoons, sand and shingle beaches and cultivated land. Soils are mainly sand, moraine clay and coastal meadow peat. The processes of erosion and deposition are continually changing the coastline also outside the site.

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**18. Hydrological values:**

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

There are no specific hydrological values. The site, however, offers interesting studies in shoreline movements.

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**19. Wetland Types**

**a) presence:**

Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar "Classification System for Wetland Type" present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines*.

Marine/coastal: A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • Zk(a)

Inland: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp Ts • U • Va •  
Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)

Human-made: 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • Zk(c)

**b) dominance:**

List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

A, E, H, U, 4

**20. General ecological features:**

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

**21. Noteworthy flora:**

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

The site supports nationally red-listed species (marked with *EN/VU/NT*). The coastal meadows include rare plant species as little grapefern *Botrychium simplex* (EN), strigose sicklegrass *Parapholis strigosa* (EN), common scurvygrass *Cochlearia officinalis* ssp *anglica* (NT), common sea-lavender *Limonium vulgare* (NT), madwort *Asperugo procumbens* (NT), seashore iris *Iris spuria* (VU) and chaffweed *Anagallis minima* (VU). In dunes very rare species are sea holly *Eryngium maritimum* (EN) and *Cerastium subtetrandum* (VU). In the wet heaths bog hair-grass *Deschampsia setacea* (VU), northern eyebright) *Euphrasia micrantha* (VU) and Marsh Gentian *Gentiana pneumonanthe* (VU) are found.

**22. Noteworthy fauna:**

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Significant numbers of raptor, geese and duck species are observed during migration or stop-over at the peninsula, some of them in very large numbers (yearly totals 2000-2008 indicated; national red-list categories marked with *EN/VU/NT*). Among regularly occurring species honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*, 2 000-7 000, EN, EU Birds Directive Annex 1), hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*, 200-300, EU Birds Directive Annex 1), Montagu´s harrier (*Circus pygargus*, 3-9, EN, EU Birds Directive Annex 1), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*, 200-500, EU Birds Directive Annex 1), red kite (*Milvus milvus*, EU Birds Directive Annex 1), merlin (*Falco columbarius*, EU Birds Directive Annex 1), and peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*, 20-90, VU, EU Birds Directive Annex 1) can be mentioned. Other species include barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*, 7 000-88 000, EU Birds Directive Annex 1), brent goose (*Branta bernicla*, 5 000-35 000), eiderduck (*Somateria mollissima*, 56 000-155 000), and golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*, 500-1 800, EU Birds Directive Annex 1).

Many redlisted wetland species breed in the area, such as southern dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*, EN, EU Birds Directive Annex 1), little tern (*Sterna albifrons*, VU, EU Birds Directive Annex 1), sandwich tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*, VU, EU Birds Directive Annex 1), and occasionally kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*, RE, EU Birds Directive Annex 1).

Resting number of wetland birds frequently exceeds 20 000. Common species are mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*), teal (*Anas crecca*), widgeon (*Anas penelope*), mute swan (*Cygnus olor*), greylag goose (*Anser anser*) and coot (*Fulica atra*).

The site regularly supports populations of harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*, 110-125 individuals, EU Habitats Directive Annex 2) and grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*, 75-100, EU Habitats Directive Annex 2).

Redlisted amphibians include green toad (*Bufo viridis*, EU Habitats Directive Annex 4), natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*, EU Habitats Directive Annex 4) and great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*, EU Habitats Directive Annexes 2, 4)

Among the beetle fauna, *Dytiscus latissimus* (EU Habitats Directive Annexes 2, 4) can be mentioned.

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### 23. Social and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values:

The area is quite well known to the public and primarily the beaches attract many visitors during the summer. The shallow waters are important as nursery areas for fish, particularly for eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) and various thin-bodied species ("flatfish") and parts of the area are classified as being of national interest for fishery.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

If Yes, tick the box  and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide 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) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where 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:

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### 24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site:

The site is partly privately owned, partly owned by the municipality. Only small parts of the area are state-owned.

b) in the surrounding area:

Privately owned or owned by the municipality.

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**25. Current land (including water) use:**

a) within the Ramsar site:

The wetland is used for agriculture, livestock grazing (cattle), fishing, and recreational activities. There are several golf courses in the area.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

The northern part of the designated site is surrounded by arable land. To the south of the site are the residential communities of Skanör, Ljunghusen and Höllviksnäs.

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**26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:**

a) within the Ramsar site:

The meadows are subject to adverse changes in vegetation as a consequence of reduced grazing. There is some disturbance from recreational activities, including water sports and golf. A new road on the border of the Ramsar site, occupying part (<1%) of the site, was constructed in the beginning of the 1990s.

b) in the surrounding area:

Extraction of sand may affect part of the site.

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**27. Conservation measures taken:**

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

The site is listed as being of national importance for nature conservation, and more than 75 percent of the area is also classified as an EU Special Protection Area (SPA). Nearly the whole Ramsar site has been included in the Natura 2000 network:

- SE0430002 Falsterbo-Foteviken (41 618 ha) – SPA
- SE0430095 Falsterbohalvön (41 635 ha) – SCI
- SE0430111 Falsterbo skjutfält (69 ha) – SCI
- SE0430150 Vellinge ängar (395 ha) – SCI

It includes (parts of) nine nature reserves, protecting about 81 percent of the site:

- Flommen Nature Reserve – total area 865 hectares, thereof 250 hectares on land. About 560 ha consists of shallow marine areas. The reserve was established in 1981. It is in mixed ownership between the state and private landowners. An approved management plan exists. The area is managed by the Regional Forestry Board.
- Måkläppen Nature Reserve – total area 755 hectares, thereof 30 hectares on land. Protected since 1971. The larger part consists of public water. The area is allowed to develop naturally and there is no management plan. The area is managed by the Regional Forestry Board.
- Skanörs ljung Nature Reserve – total area 618 hectares, thereof 362 hectares on land. The reserve was established in 1969, and expanded in 1984. The area is owned by the municipality. An approved management plan exists. The area is managed by the municipality in consultation with the Regional Forestry Board.
- Lilla Hammars näs Nature Reserve – total area 125 hectares, thereof 70 hectares on land. The area has been legally protected since 1952, first as a bird sanctuary that was later turned into a nature reserve. An approved management plan exists. The area is managed by the County Administrative Board of Skåne.

- Eskilstorps ängar Nature Reserve – total area 285 hectares, thereof 70 hectares on land. The area has been protected under law since 1931, and was established as a nature reserve in 1972. It is privately owned. An approved management plan exists. The area is managed by the Regional Forestry Board.
- Norra Ljunghusen Nature Reserve – total area 185 hectares, thereof 22 hectares on land. Protected since 1995 and privately owned. An approved management plan exists. The area is managed by the County Administrative Board of Skåne.
- Skanör Höll Nature Reserve – total area 330 hectares, thereof 41 hectares on land. Protected since 1995 and owned by the municipality. An approved management plan exists. The area is managed by the County Administrative Board of Skåne.
- Ljungskogens och Ljunghusens strandbad Nature Reserve – total land area 110 hectares. Protected since 1987. An approved management plan exists. The area is managed by the Regional Forestry Board and the municipality, along with a few private companies and associations.
- Falsterbohalvöns havsområde Nature Reserve – total area about 2 800 hectares. Protected since 1992 and consists of public and private waters. An approved management plan exists, but the area is allowed to develop naturally. The area is managed by the County Administrative Board of Skåne.

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ; Ib ; II ; III ; IV ; V ; VI

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:  
All protected areas except one have management plans, which are being implemented.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

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**28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

Proposed Nature Reserve and management plan for almost the whole Ramsar site between the residential communities Klagshamn in the north and Höllviksnäs in the south.

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**29. Current scientific research and facilities:**

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Ringling is one of the major tasks at Falsterbo Bird Observatory, opened in 1955, and is now part of the National Environmental Monitoring Programme run by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Since 1980, trapping routines are standardized, in order to produce data that show long-term population changes. Since the start in 1947 nearly 1 million birds have been ringed and more than 350 species observed. The visible migration is counted in a standardized way yearly between 1 August and 20 November.

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**30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:**

e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

The Bird Observatory offers information to visitors including school classes. In August, since more than 15 years, the Day of the Honey Buzzard is arranged, which attracts thousands of people, watching the different raptor species leaving the peninsula for their southbound migration flight.

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**31. Current recreation and tourism:**

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

The area is very attractive for out-door recreation and the number of private boats visiting the area during the summer is high. The large number of visitor has made restriction in access necessary in parts of the area during the breeding season.

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**32. Jurisdiction:**

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

County Administrative Board of Skåne, Kungsgatan 13, 205 15 Malmö, Sweden, tel. +46 40252000

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**33. Management authority:**

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

County Administrative Board of Skåne, Kungsgatan 13, 205 15 Malmö, Sweden, tel. +46 40252000. Contact person Paul-Erik Jönsson, [Paul.Eric.Jonsson@lansstyrelsen.se](mailto:Paul.Eric.Jonsson@lansstyrelsen.se)

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**34. Bibliographical references:**

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Gärdenfors, U. (ed.) 2005. *Rödlistade arter I Sverige 2005 – The 2005 Red List of Swedish Species*. ArtDatabanken, SLU; Uppsala.

Thörnqvist, Stig 2006. Områden av riksintresse för yrkesfisket. Finfo 2006:1, Fiskeriverket informerar

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