



FISHERY ASSESSMENT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY:	Sandeel (<i>Ammodytes marinus</i>)
LOCATION:	Northeast Atlantic - Norway
DATE OF REPORT:	24 th May 2013
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

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Issue No; 2; Issue Date; Nov 09

Report Ref:

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1. Application Details and Summary of the Assessment Outcome			
Name: Norwegian Seafood Federation			
Address:			
Country: Norway		Zip:	
Tel. No.		Fax. No.	
Email address:		Applicant Code	
Key Contact:		Title:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body: Global Trust Certification UK			
Assessor Name: Sam Peacock	Peer Reviewer: Dave Garforth	Assessment Days: 1	Initial/Surveillance/Re-certification: Surveillance
Assessment Period	May 2013		
Scope Details			
1. Scope of Assessment:		IFFO Global Standard for Responsible Supply – Issue 1	
2. Fishery		Norway Sandeel (<i>Ammodytes marinus</i>)	
3. Fishery Location		ICES Division IIIa and Subarea IV.	
4. Fishery Method		Demersal trawl	
Outcome of Assessment			
5. Overall Fishery Compliance Rating		High/medium	
6. Sub Components of Low Compliance		None	
7. Information deficiency		None	
8. Peer Review Evaluation		The reviewer agrees with the findings of the assessment and recommends continued approval of this fishery subject to annual review.	
9. Recommendation		Maintain approval	

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2. Quality of Information
Good; primarily government and ICES websites
3. Compliance Level Achieved
High/medium
Recommendation
Maintain approval
4. Guidance for On-site Assessment
Based on High Compliance Findings
Based on Medium Compliance Findings
Key Stakeholders of the Fishery

5. Assessment Determination
<p>The Norwegian sandeel fishery continues to have a sound legal and administrative basis, following the precautionary approach, considering the geographical distribution and biological characteristics of the species, and attempting to minimise the impacts of the fishery on non-target species and the physical environment.</p> <p>The only significant change since the time of the initial assessment is the full implementation of an experimental area-based management plan in the Norwegian EEZ. This management plan is precautionary and somewhat more conservative than the ICES approach, and also utilises more of the available data on the stock. This has led to multiple quota recommendations for the same area, but the assessment team consider the Norwegian quota recommendations to be scientifically based and as valid as a basis for the management of the fishery as the ICES advice.</p>
HIGH COMPLIANCE
A1, A2, B1, B2, D1, D2, D3, E1, E2
MEDIUM COMPLIANCE
A3, C1

SUMMARY OF LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE					
	The Management Framework and Procedures	Stock assessment procedures and management advice	Precautionary approach	Management measures	Implementation
legal and administrative basis	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
Fisheries management should be concerned with the whole stock unit	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
Management actions should be scientifically based	Medium Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
Research in support of fisheries conservation and management should exist	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
Best scientific evidence available should be taken into account when designing conservation and management measures	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
The precautionary approach is applied in the formulation of management plans	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Medium Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
The level of fishing permitted should be set according to management advice given by research organisations	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance
Where excess fishing capacity exist, mechanisms should be in established to reduced capacity	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance
Management measures should ensure that fishing gear and fishing practices do not have a significant impact on non-target species and the physical environment	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance
A management system for fisheries control and enforcement should be established	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance
A framework for sanctions of violation of laws and regulations should be efficiently exists	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance

KEY: Low Compliance Medium Compliance High Compliance:

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6. Rationale of the Assessment Outcome

a. The Management Framework and Procedure

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	a.i. The management of the fishery must include a legal and administrative basis for the implementation of measures and controls to support the conservation of the fishery.	References	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: Fisheries management in Norway continues to be subject to an iterative, stakeholder-driven management process, led by the Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs. There is an effective legal and administrative basis for the implementation of management measures.</p> <p>The Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs is responsible for, amongst other activities, ensuring long-term, optimal exploitation of living marine resources; ensuring sound management of the marine environment; and progressing towards a profitable, self-sustained fisheries industry.</p> <p>The regulatory system for fisheries management in Norway is an interactive and iterative process based on incremental changes, and is sometimes referred to as the regulatory chain. The chain has no set start or finish, but can rather be seen as a continuous process. The chain connects ICES and Institute of Marine Research (IMR, the primary marine research agency in Norway) science, international negotiations, national fisheries management decisions, and engagement with fishery stakeholders.</p> <p>For more detail on the regulatory chain, and broader information on the fishery management process in Norway, please refer to the initial assessment.</p>	R1	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

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		a.ii. Fisheries management should be concerned with the whole stock unit over its entire area of distribution and take into account fishery removals and the biology of the species	References	Rating
LOW		<p>Determination: <i>In 2011, in response to ICES advice, management of Sandeel in ICES divisions IV and IIIa was divided into seven distinct Sandeel Areas. The management of each of these areas varies, from the level of available data to the management measures in place.</i></p> <p>Prior to 2010, ICES presented advice for this region in three units: North Sea excluding the Shetland area, the Shetland area, and the Skagerrak–Kattegat. From 2010 onward, ICES advice has been provided for seven areas to better reflect the stock structure and to enable management to take action to avoid local depletions, as has been repeatedly advised in recent years. The amount of scientific and fisheries information differs by area and so does the level of detail for each area’s advice. In response to the ICES advice the EU issued an amendment which set a separate TAC for each Sandeel Area (SA) for the first time in 2011. Since that time, ICES has continued to issue advice for seven stocks in divisions IV and IIIa, and to a large extent they are now also managed as separate stocks. Due to the variety of levels of international activity and available data in each SA, the level of compliance of the fishery in each SA varies. However, the assessment team believes it is appropriate to score all seven SAs highly compliant under this clause, to reflect the speed with which the management approach was updated in the light of the updated scientific understanding of the stocks.</p> <p>See the map below for the locations of the seven SAs.</p>	R1, R2	HIGH
MEDIUM				
HIGH				

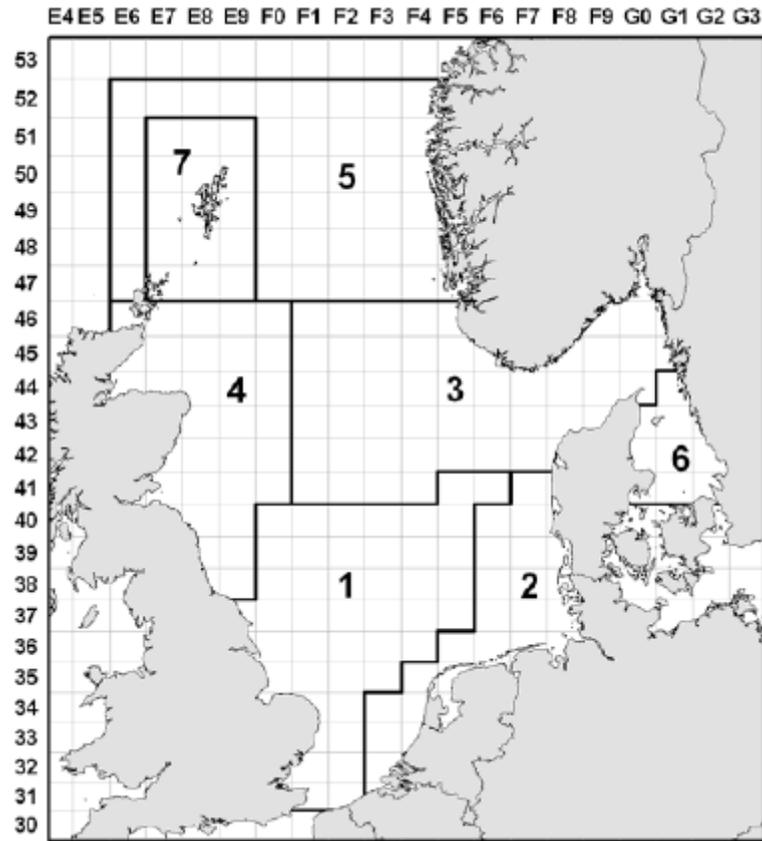
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Sandeel in Division IIIa and Subarea IV. Map of Sandeel Areas (SA). From the ICES advice May 2012 (R2)

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	a.iii .Management actions should be based on long-term conservation objectives	References	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>The initial assessment found no specific long-term management objectives for sandeel. ICES advice is based on retaining sufficient SSB to maintain the population of both sandeel and predators in the long-term using the escapement strategy. IMR advice is formulated around an experimental area-based management plan. Although efforts are being made towards developing long-term management objectives, the current lack of an internationally agreed management plan leads the assessment team to consider a rating of medium compliance remains appropriate.</i></p> <p>At present, there is no general management plan in place for the North Sea sandeel fishery. ICES has recommended the implementation of an international management plan, which would include an upper limit on effort, based on the effort applied in recent years. This plan (as recommended by ICES) would aim to ensure that SSB remains above a specific B_{pa} for each Sandeel Area, a B_{pa} which already forms the basis of the ICES advice. To this end, a long-term aim is unofficially in place as long as management actions continue to follow scientific advice; however, as there is no stated long-term conservation objective for this fishery due to the lack of a management plan, the assessment team considers a ‘medium’ rating appropriate.</p> <p>Norway has implemented an experimental management plan for the Norwegian waters of SA3, based on scientific advice provided by the IMR. The Norwegian EEZ has been divided into 6 areas, each divided into 2 sub-areas. These areas and sub-areas are opened and closed according to the results of an annual acoustic survey carried out in April-May. The stated long-term objective of the management approach is to maintain sustainable local spawning populations throughout the Norwegian zone. The plan is fully implemented but is still considered experimental, and a scientific paper evaluating its effectiveness is expected to be published in 2013.</p>	R1, R4, R7	MEDIUM
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

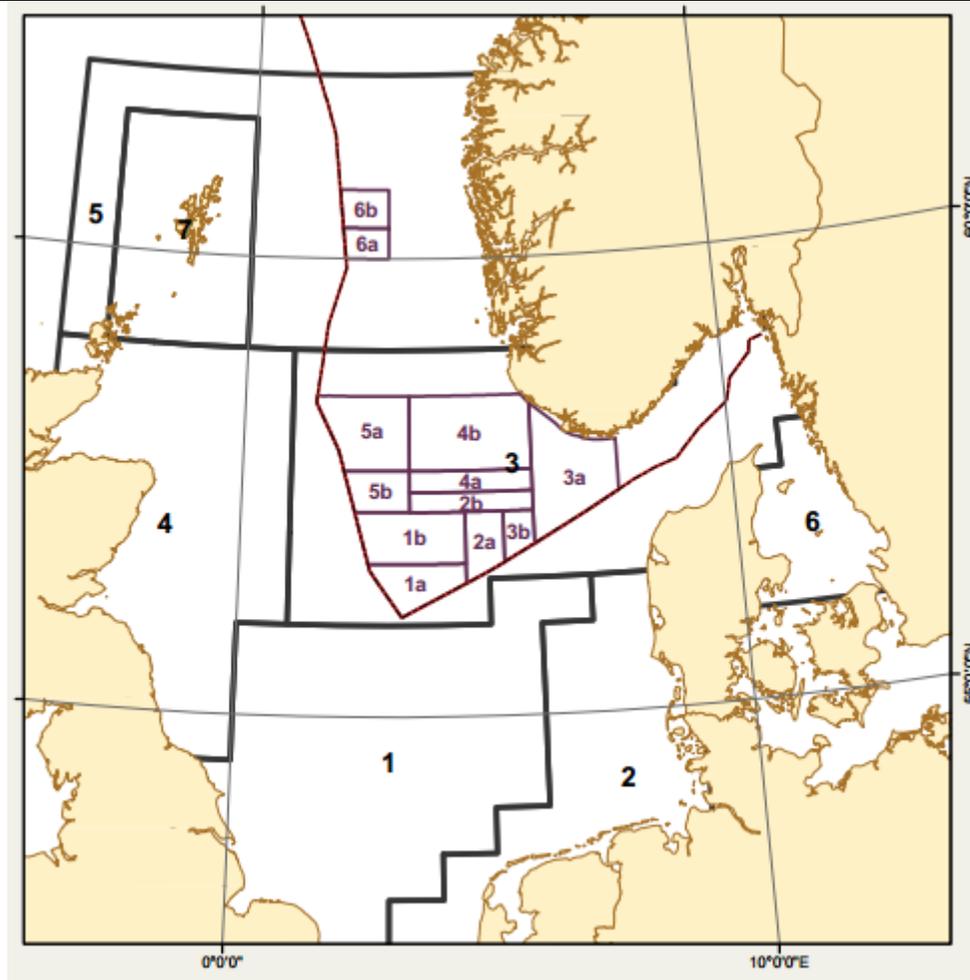
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Sandeel management areas. International areas (1-7) in black; Norwegian management plan areas (1-6) in red. From the introduction to the Norwegian management plan, R4.

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		For more information on the original compliance level decision, please refer to the initial fishery assessment.		
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b. Stock Assessment Procedures and Management Advice

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	bi. Research in support of fisheries conservation and management should exist.	References	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>The level of research conducted varies considerably between Sandeel Areas. The only significant change since the initial assessment is the full implementation of additional research and advice in the Norwegian EEZ in SA3, where the majority of Norwegian sandeel is caught.</i></p> <p>The initial assessment found research in SAs 1-4 to be sufficient, and in SAs 5 and 7 insufficient but the fisheries effectively closed. Data collection in SA6 was found to be insufficient, but the area was awarded high compliance on the condition that data collection improves in future, due to the recent change in management structure. ICES advice for SA1-3 is based on dredge surveys and fishery data; a limited amount of survey data is incorporated into advice for SA4; and advice for SA5-7 is based on trend data only. The majority of sandeel landings across the entire North Sea are historically from SA1, although in 2012 landings from SA1 were comparatively low, and a similar quantity was landed from SA3. The majority of Norwegian landings are from the Norwegian EEZ in SA3.</p> <p>The IMR provides additional scientific advice for the sandeel in SA3, based on the experimental area-based management approach described in section A3. In addition to the dredge survey and fishery data utilised by ICES, the IMR includes the results of an annual acoustic survey to generate in-year advice for each Norwegian sandeel area, plus a preliminary quota for Norwegian sandeel in the following year.</p> <p>For more information on the scientific research conducted by ICES please refer to the initial assessment report.</p>	R1 – R4	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

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LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		b.ii Best scientific evidence available should be taken into account when designing conservation and management measures	References	Rating
LOW		<p>Determination: <i>Management of the sandeel stock continues to take into account ICES and IMR scientific advice in the design of conservation and management measures.</i></p> <p>Management of North Sea sandeel in general continues to follow the advice of ICES, both in the setting of annual quotas and the closing of local fisheries in cases where stocks are found to be over-exploited. Additionally, IMR advice forms the basis for the updated management approach in the Norwegian EEZ, and for all ongoing management decisions by Norwegian fishery managers. There have been no significant changes in the relationship between management and science since the last surveillance assessment.</p> <p>For more information please refer to the initial assessment report.</p>	R1, R4, R6, R7	HIGH
MEDIUM				
HIGH				

c. The Precautionary Approach

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		c.i The precautionary approach is applied in the formulation of management plans.	References	Rating
LOW		<p>Determination: <i>EU management of sandeel in the North Sea is supported by the CFP and ICES, both of which have foundations in the implementation of the precautionary approach. Management of the Norwegian component is considered by IMR scientists to be more conservative than the ICES approach, and is also built using the precautionary approach as a foundation. There have been no major changes since the initial assessment, as so a rating of medium compliance remains appropriate.</i></p> <p>The EU CFP, which forms the basis for the management of the North Sea sandeel fishery, is based on</p>	R1, R2, R4	MEDIUM
MEDIUM				
HIGH				

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		<p>the precautionary approach. This was further strengthened in 2002 with the introduction of additional PA-based clauses. The main Norwegian fisheries management Acts also make explicit commitments to adopting the precautionary approach, and both ICES and the IMR make thorough use of the precautionary approach when carrying out research and conducting annual stock assessments.</p> <p>For more detail on the precautionary approach as applied to EU and Norwegian fisheries, please refer to the initial assessment.</p>		
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d. Management Measures

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	d.i The level of fishing permitted should be set according to management advice given by research organisations.	References	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>The level of fishing in the Norwegian EEZ is set according to IMR advice, which is based on an experimental area-based management plan. In 2012 the SA3 TAC was set in line with IMR advice within the Norwegian EEZ, and according to ICES advice in the EU fishery. Although this lead to a total TAC in SA3 which was higher than the ICES advice, the evidence provided by the IMR shows this was scientifically justifiable.</i></p>	R1 – R7	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

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LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		d.ii Where excess fishing capacity exist, mechanisms should be in established to reduced capacity to allow for the recovery of the stock to sustainable levels.	References	Rating
LOW		<p>Determination: <i>The capacity-reducing mechanisms identified in the original assessment continue to be functional and effective.</i></p> <p>The initial assessment described the licensing, quota and registration requirements used by Norwegian fisheries managers to control fishing capacity and reduce it when necessary. There have been no significant changes in these management tools since the time of the initial assessment; please refer to it for more detail.</p>	R1	HIGH
MEDIUM				
HIGH				
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		d.iii Management measures should ensure that fishing gear and fishing practices do not have a significant impact on non-target species and the physical environment.	References	Rating
LOW		<p>Determination: <i>The initial assessment found a variety of technical measures in place to minimise the impacts of the fishery on non-target species, including closed regions, short seasons, and gear restrictions. Management of the stock recognises its significance in the broader ecosystem. As there have been no major changes since the initial assessment, the assessment team considers a rating of high compliance to remain appropriate.</i></p> <p>Sandeel is known to be an important food source for many predator species, particularly seabirds. Kittiwake and sandwich tern, both categorised as species of least concern, have been found to be affected the most significantly by sandeel fisheries, with fish and mammalian predators thought to be less vulnerable to localised sandeel depletion. In the North Sea a sandeel fishery is prohibited (April to August) in a 20,000 km² band of the North Sea off the Firth of Forth and Grampian Coast to safeguard seabird colonies. Fishing would normally continue uninterrupted from April onwards. It was agreed to stop fishing in June and July to protect food supplies for the breeding seabird population.</p>	R1, R2, R5	HIGH
MEDIUM				
HIGH				

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	<p>By-catch of other commercially exploited fish species is considered to be insignificant, and the impact of the comparatively light trawl gear used on the physical environment is considered minimal.</p> <p>For more information on the management measures in place to minimise non-target species and physical impacts, please refer to the initial fishery assessment report.</p>	
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e. Implementation

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	e.i There should be a framework for sanctions of violation of Laws and regulations.	References	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>The initial fishery assessment identified a robust system of sanctions in place for those violating laws, regulations, quotas and international agreements. There have been no major changes in the Norwegian sanctions system since that time.</i></p> <p>Norway constantly seeks to regulate its own fisheries sustainably and ensure efficient control of resources both on landing and at sea through the Coast Guard. Moreover, a number of measures have been implemented to deter Norwegian vessels from participating in IUU fishing and to prevent illegally caught fish from entering the Norwegian market. The Norwegian Government’s Plan of Action on Economic Crime has been used in order to enforce measures against Norwegian actors in IUU activities.</p> <p>There is a full list of Norwegian fisheries regulations available at: http://www.fiskeridir.no/english/fisheries/regulations</p> <p>For more information on sanctions applied by Norwegian fishery managers, please refer to the initial fishery assessment.</p>	R1	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

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LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		e.ii A management system for fisheries control and enforcement should be established.	References	Rating
LOW		<p>Determination: <i>Norway continues to maintain a robust management system for fisheries control and enforcement.</i></p> <p>Norwegian fisheries regulations are enforced at sea, when the fish is landed and when it is exported. At sea, the Coast Guard is responsible for inspecting fishing vessels and checking their catch against their log books, whereas landings and exports are monitored by the Directorate of Fisheries. In addition, so aid the management of shared fish stocks, Norway has cooperative agreements in place with Russia, Iceland, England, Ireland, Scotland, Sweden, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Canada and Poland.</p> <p>For more information on Norwegian fisheries control and enforcement, please refer to the initial assessment.</p>	R1	HIGH
MEDIUM				
HIGH				

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References

R1 – IFFO RS scheme initial assessment: Norway Sandeel Aug 2011:

<http://www.iffo.net/downloads/IFFO%20RS/Whole%20Fish/Sand%20eel%20Norway%20Fishery%20report.pdf>

R2 – ICES sandeel advice March 2012:

<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2012/2012/san-34.pdf>

R3 – ICES sandeel special advice request (real-time monitoring in Sandeel Area 1):

http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2012/Special%20Requests/EC_Sandeel_Real_Time_Monitoring_assessment.pdf

R4 – Introduction to the Norwegian area-based management plan:

http://www.imr.no/filarkiv/2011/04/ny_norsk_forvaltningsmodell_hav_.pdf/nb-no

R5 – 2012 IMR sandeel advice (SA3): http://www.imr.no/filarkiv/toktrapport_og_rad_tobis.pdf/nb-no

R6 – Sandeel hydro-acoustic survey project description:

http://www.imr.no/smassc/kopi_av_smassc/nb-no

R7 – ICES description of the Norwegian area-based management plan (p.69):

http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/acom/2010/WK_SAN/wksan_2010.pdf

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