Reykjavik, 28.05.2014

MARINE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Skúlagata 4, 121 Reykjavik, Iceland
Telephone: +354 575 2000, Fax: +354 575 2001

A short preliminary report on the Research Survey A5-2014

Pelagic fish off W- S- and SE-Iceland and the western Norwegian Sea 30 April - 22 May 2014

Part of the joint Northeast Atlantic Pelagic Ecosystem Surveys in 2014 (see ICES WGIPS report, December 2014)

Vessel: R/V Arni Fridriksson, TFNA (Iceland)
Captain: Guðmundur Bjarnason
Cruise leaders: Sveinn Sveinbjörnsson (first part) and Guðmundur J. Óskarsson (latter part)

In order to assess blue whiting concentrations west and south of Iceland, the survey began on 30 April at the shelf edge west of Iceland and from there continued south at and on either side of the shelf break to the Reykjanes Ridge (Figure 1). South of the Reykjanes promontory (SW-Iceland) the general course was eastwards, running along and just off and in over the outer shelf. From SE-Iceland the southern part of the Iceland-Faroese ridge was covered south towards 62°15N. Then the vessel sailed east to Torshavn in the Faroese where a 6 hrs intermission was taken from the survey while taking on fuel. From Torshavn, the survey continued northwards with a E/W transects spaced at around 41 nm intervals. The western boundary was generally about 14°W, or the continental shelf of Iceland. The eastern limits increased gradually from 8°W to 0°E at 67°50N. On 20 May at 68°27N and 12°18W, the vessel headed towards Reykjavik, where it was on 22 May.

The main results of this survey were that one year old blue whiting were recorded in considerable amount along the continental shelf west, south and southeast off Iceland. Concentrations of juveniles were also along both sides of the Iceland-Faroese ridge. The distribution of Norwegian spring-spawning herring was somewhat more southerly than in last three years' surveys. The highest density were south of 66°N, in the eastern most part of the Icelandic EEZ, compare to north of 66°N and east of 6°W in recent three years. The total amount of herring measured acoustically in the whole survey area was 1.7 million tons. Around 1.56 million tons were within Icelandic waters, 85 thousands tons in international waters, 30 thousands tons in Jan Mayen waters, and 40 thousands tons in Faroese waters. The fish-, hydrographical- and ecological data from this survey will be combined with data from other nations that participate in this International survey for more thoroughly analyses and the results will be presented within ICES.

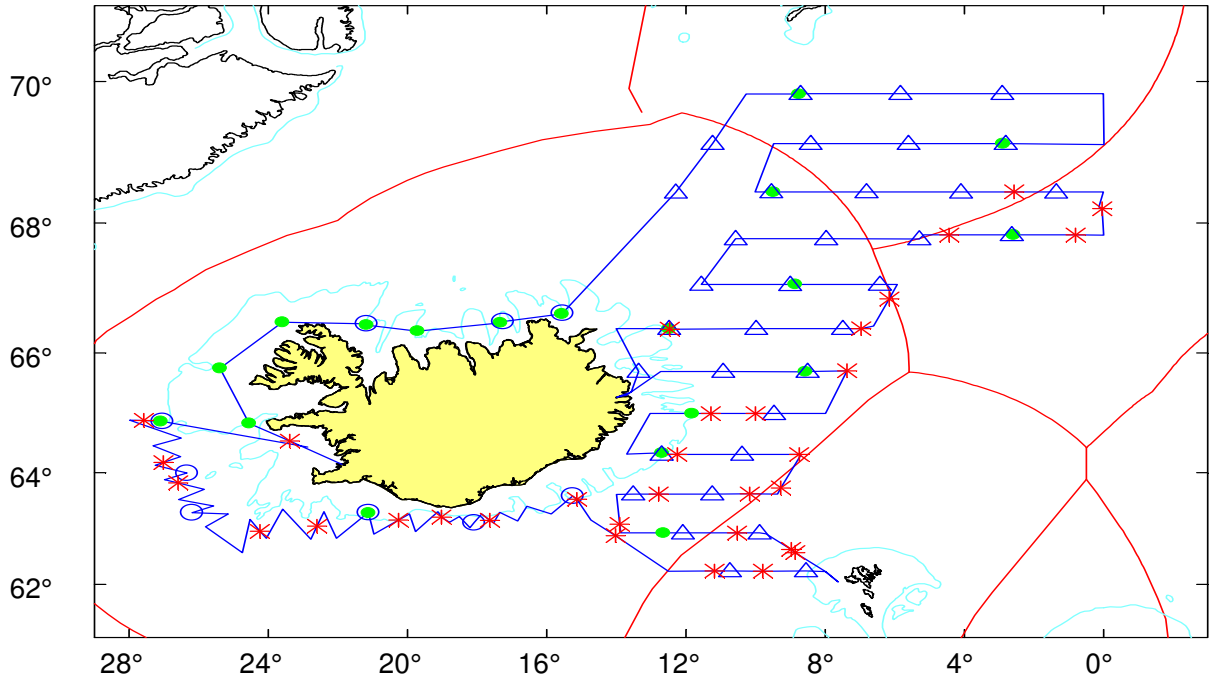

Figure 1. The survey track and locations of CTD (open blue circles), CTD and WP2 (open blue triangles), krill trawl hauls (filled green circles) and trawl stations (red stars) taken in the May survey 2014 by RV Árni Friðriksson.