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HAFRANNSÓKNASTOFNUN

Rannsókn- og ráðgjafarstofnun hafs og vatna

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A short preliminary report on the Research Survey A7-2017

Pelagic fish off SE-Iceland and the western Norwegian Sea 8 – 25 May 2017

*Part of the joint Northeast Atlantic Pelagic Ecosystem Surveys in 2017
(see ICES WGIPS report, January 2018)*

Vessel: R/V Arni Friðriksson, TFNA (Iceland)

Captain: Ingvi Friðriksson

Cruise leader: Guðmundur J. Óskarsson

The vessel started the research in the survey area on the 10th May between Iceland and Faroe Island (Figure 1). During the following days, the survey continued northwards along E/W transects spaced at about fixed interval of around 40 nmi. Hydrographical research (CTD) and zooplankton collection (WP-2 net) were undertaken at around 60 nmi intervals, krill trawl hauls in around every third station and pelagic trawling irregularly on fish registrations on the echogram (Table 1). The final CTD and WP-2 station was taken on 23rd May. After that the vessel headed towards Reykjavik and was in the harbour on 25th May. The total distance covered during these 18 days was around 3498 nautical miles, where around 2869 nautical miles were undertaken on the survey area.

Table 1. Overview of number of the different stations in the different areas in the survey A7-2017 on RV Árni Friðriksson.

Station type	Number				
	Icelandic waters	Faroese waters	International waters	Jan Mayen waters	Total
Pelagic trawling	13	2	2	5	22
CTD	16	4	3	10	33
WP-2	14	3	3	10	30
Krill trawl haul	3	0	1	3	7
Total	46	9	9	28	92

The main results of this survey were that blue whiting was across the western and southern part of the Iceland-Faroese Ridge, and then southeast of Jan Mayen in the warm Atlantic waters there. Blue whiting of age 3 was most abundant.

Norwegian spring-spawning herring was found further west and there in larger quantity than previously in this survey on RV Árni Friðriksson. It is considered to reflect an earlier migration to the feeding grounds. The large yearclasses from 2004/2005 dominated in the

catch samples across the whole survey area as in past years. 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 quantitative analyses and the results will be presented within International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) working group on stock assessment (Working Group on Widely Distributed Stock, WGWIDE) in the autumn 2017.

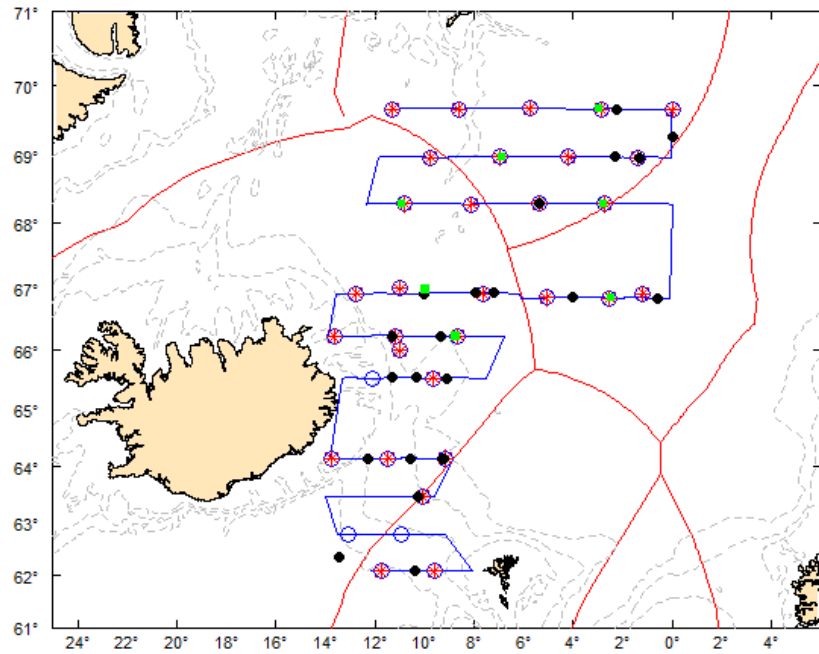


Figure 1. The survey track and locations of CTD (open blue circles), WP2 (red stars), krill trawl hauls (green dots), and trawl stations (black dots) taken in the May survey 2017 by RV Árni Friðriksson.