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HAFRANNSÓKNASTOFNUN
Rannsókn- og ráðgjafarstofnun hafs og vatna
MARINE & FRESHWATER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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

A short preliminary report on the Research Survey A7-2018

Pelagic fish off east Iceland and the western Norwegian Sea 3 – 19 May 2018

*Part of the joint Northeast Atlantic Pelagic Ecosystem Surveys in 2018
(see ICES WGIPS report, January 2019)*

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

Captain: Heimir Örn Hafsteinsson

Cruise leader: Guðmundur J. Óskarsson

The vessel started the research in the survey area on the 5th 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 19th May in Jan Mayen waters. After that the vessel headed towards Reykjavik and was in the harbour on 21st May. The total distance covered during these 18 days was around 3657 nautical miles, where around 2674 nautical miles were undertaken on the survey area.

Table 1. Overview of number of the different stations in the different areas in the survey A7-2018 on RV Árne Friðriksson.

Station type	Number of different stations				Total
	Icelandic waters	Faroese waters	International waters	Jan Mayen waters	
Pelagic trawling	11	1	5	5	22
CTD	17	3	3	11	34
WP-2	15	2	3	10	30
Krill trawl haul	5	0	3	1	9
Total	48	6	14	27	95

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 Árne Friðriksson. It is considered to reflect an earlier migration to the feeding grounds. The large yearclasses from 2004/2005 dominated in the

catch samples in this westerly areas as in past years. Younger herring was observed in considerably quantity in the International waters and easterly Jan Mayen waters. It was mainly the 2013 year class. 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 2018.

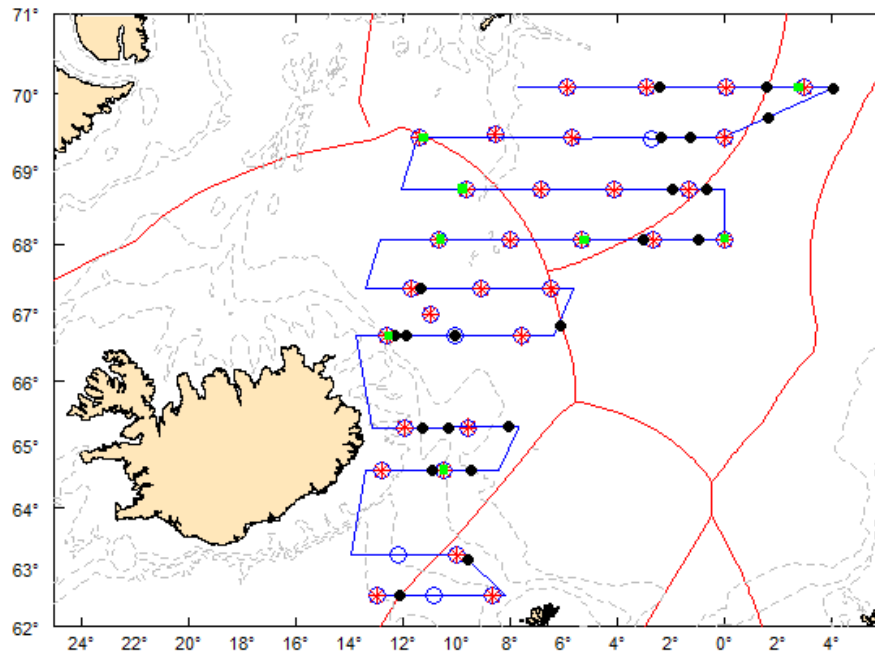


Figure 1. The survey track and locations of CTD (open blue circles), WP2 (red stars), krill trawl hauls (green dots), and trawl stations (black dots) taken in the May survey 2018 by RV Árni Friðriksson.