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HAFRANNSÓKNASTOFNUN

Rannsókná- og ráðgjafarstofnun hafs og vatna

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A short report on the Research Survey A5-2019

Pelagic fish off east Iceland and the western Norwegian Sea 6 – 22 May 2019

*Part of the joint Northeast Atlantic Pelagic Ecosystem Surveys in 2019
(see ICES WGIPS report, January 2020)*

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

Captain: Ingvi Friðriksson

Cruise leader: Guðmundur J. Óskarsson

The vessel started the research in the survey area on the 8th 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 43 nmi. Hydrographical research (CTD) and zooplankton collection (WP-2 net) were undertaken at around 60 nmi intervals, 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 22st May. The total distance covered during these 17 days was around 3510 nautical miles, where around 2320 nautical miles were undertaken on the survey area.

Table 1. Overview of number of the different stations in the different areas in the survey A5-2019 on RV Árni Friðriksson.

Station type	Icelandic waters	Faroese waters	International waters	Jan Mayen waters	Total
Pelagic trawling	8	0	4	1	13
CTD	16	0	7	12	35
WP-2	16	0	6	12	34
Krill trawl haul	1	0	1	0	2
Bongo plankton net	1	0	2	1	4
Total	42	0	20	26	88

The main results of this survey on RV Árni Friðriksson was that Norwegian spring-spawning herring was found in similar abundance as in the previous year. Herring was in the largest density and quantity in the southwestern part of the survey domain, while also observed in the northeaster part. The older age groups dominated in the catch samples in the westerly areas while the 2013 year class in the northeast. Blue whiting was only found in low density east of

the cold East Iceland Current of the survey domain. The fish-, hydrographical- and ecological data from this survey have been combined with data from other nations that participate in this International survey for more thoroughly quantitative analyses. The preliminary report can be found here: https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/files/preliminary-iesns_survey_report2019.pdf. These combined results will be presented and used 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 2019.

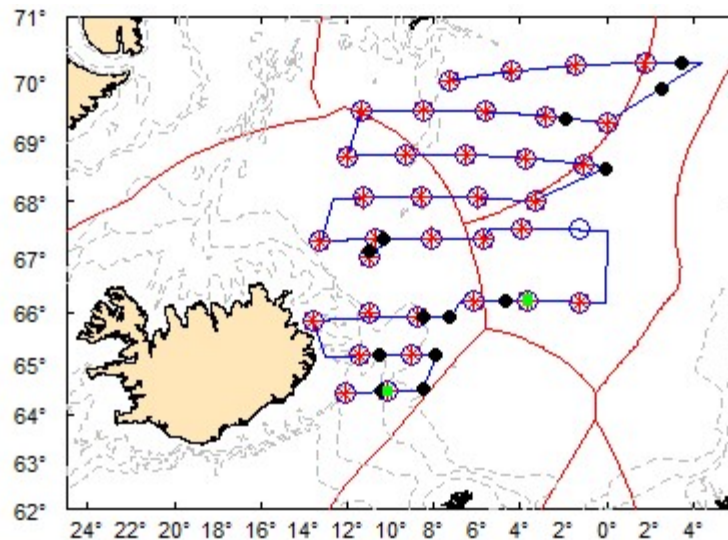


Figure 1. The survey track and locations of CTD (open blue circles), WP2 (red stars), krill trawl hauls (green dots), and trawl stations (black dots) taken in the May survey 2019 by RV Árne Friðriksson.