



2020-09-11

Interim cruise report no: 18.12.2019, 23.03.2020-09.04.2020, Jnr. 19/19177

The final results from the Swedish UWTV (Underwater television) *Nephrops* survey in the Skagerrak & Kattegat (functional unit 3 & 4) area are not yet available. The following interim report no. **18.12.2019, 23.03.2020-09.04.2020, Jnr. 19/19177**. is part of the fulfillment of the conditions to enter Norwegian zone with the research vessel Svea given by permit "19/19177"

Final results are to be presented in the ICES working groups WGNEPS 2020 report (planned during winter 2020/2021) and the WGNSSK report 2021.

Participants

Svea skipper Martin Samuelsson and crew and from SLU Aqua: Baldvin Thorvaldsson (appointed cruise leader), Svend Koppetsch, Anders Wernbo, Filip Bohlin and Peter Wickström. The scientific officer Patrik Jonsson did not participate as planned due to Covid-19 restrictions at the time of departure.

Objectives

The cruise is part of the joint Swedish-Danish survey to cover the nephrops fishing grounds in the Skagerrak and Kattegat area. A video camera mounted on a sledge is towed along the bottom in a short segments (approx. 200 m) at about 100 station. In case of steep topography, rocky bottoms etc the sledge can be moved within 300 m to seek a more suitable bottom for towing without risking entanglements or poor bottom contact. In subsequent video analysis, the nephrops burrows are counted manually and estimated burrow density is part of the assessment and quota calculations coordinated by the ICES.

Itinerary

In 2020 Sweden was using the new research vessel Svea (call sign **SEYB**) for the first time during this cruise. Svea left Lysekil the 2020-03-28 04:53:28 travelling north and arrived again to Lysekil at 2020-03-28 04:53:28. No foreign port calls were made during the cruise but due to bad weather, Svea took shelter in Gothenburg at the 3rd of April. The five planned stations in the Norwegian EEZ where sampled during the morning of the 29th of March, but due to heavy winds, up to 20 m/s, the sampling scheme were delayed a few hours. The cruise track and visited stations are visualized in the map below.

Achievements

The Swedish part of the survey covered 103 planned stations out of which five were located in the Norwegian part of the Skagerrak. Despite some heavy winds

and a forced stop at Gothenburg all 103 stations were visited. At two stations, it was decided not to drop the sledge due to the high numbers of creels (nephrops fishing gears). At an additional five stations, the sledge tow were interrupted due either rocky bottoms or presence of creels. The final number of valid stations depends on the outcome of the video analyses.

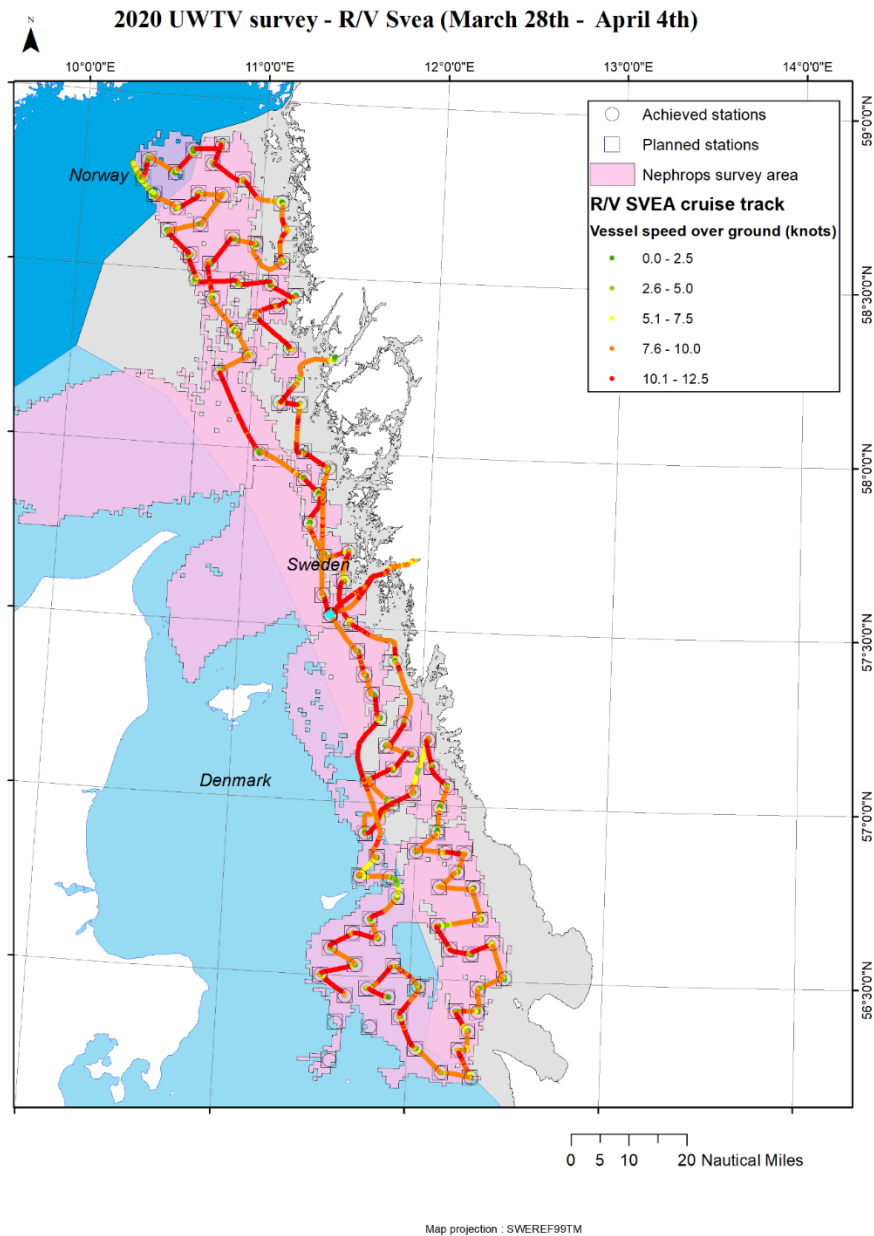


Figure. Cruise track from SVEA during the Nephrops UWTV survey (FU 3 & 4) 2020. Note that short segments of the track are missing.