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HAFRANNSÓKNASTOFNUN
Rannsókn- og ráðgjafarstofnun hafs og vatna
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A short report on the Research Survey A5-2022

Pelagic fish off east Iceland and the western Norwegian Sea 04 – 23 May 2022

*Part of the joint Northeast Atlantic Pelagic Ecosystem Surveys (IESNS) in 2022
(see ICES WGIPS report, January 2023)*

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

Captain: Heimir Örn Hafsteinsson

Cruise leader: Sigurvin Bjarnason

The survey began on the 4th of May as the vessel headed directly to the first transect east of Iceland (Figure 1). During the following days, the vessel continued northwards along E/W transects spaced at fixed interval of around 35 nautical miles (nmi) intervals. 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 transect of the survey finished on 21st May (Figure 1). From there, the vessel headed to Iceland and was in Hafnarfjörður harbour on the 23rd of May. The total distance covered during these 20 days was around 4200 nautical miles, where around 3013 nautical miles were undertaken on the survey area.

Table 1. Overview of number of the different stations in the different areas in the survey A5-2022 on RV Árni Friðriksson.

Station type	Icelandic waters	International waters	Jan Mayen waters	Total [‡]
Pelagic trawling	5	9	0	14
CTD	13	17	10	40
WP-2	7	16	10	34
Krill trawl haul	1	3	2	6
Total	26	45	21	93

[‡]The CTD, WP-2 and krill stations share the same station number in the database, thus the total number of stations is 54.

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 years. The herring was distributed throughout the southern area of the survey domain where the 2016-year-class was most prominent, and in the western area where older year-classes were more

prominent. It is a commonly observed pattern that the older fish are distributed in the southwest while the younger fish are found closer to the nursery areas in the Barents Sea.

There was a noticeable increase in blue whiting acoustic sightings in this year's survey. Blue whiting registrations were found 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 group report can be found here:

https://heima.hafro.is/~sigurvin/IESNS_survey_report2022.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 2022.

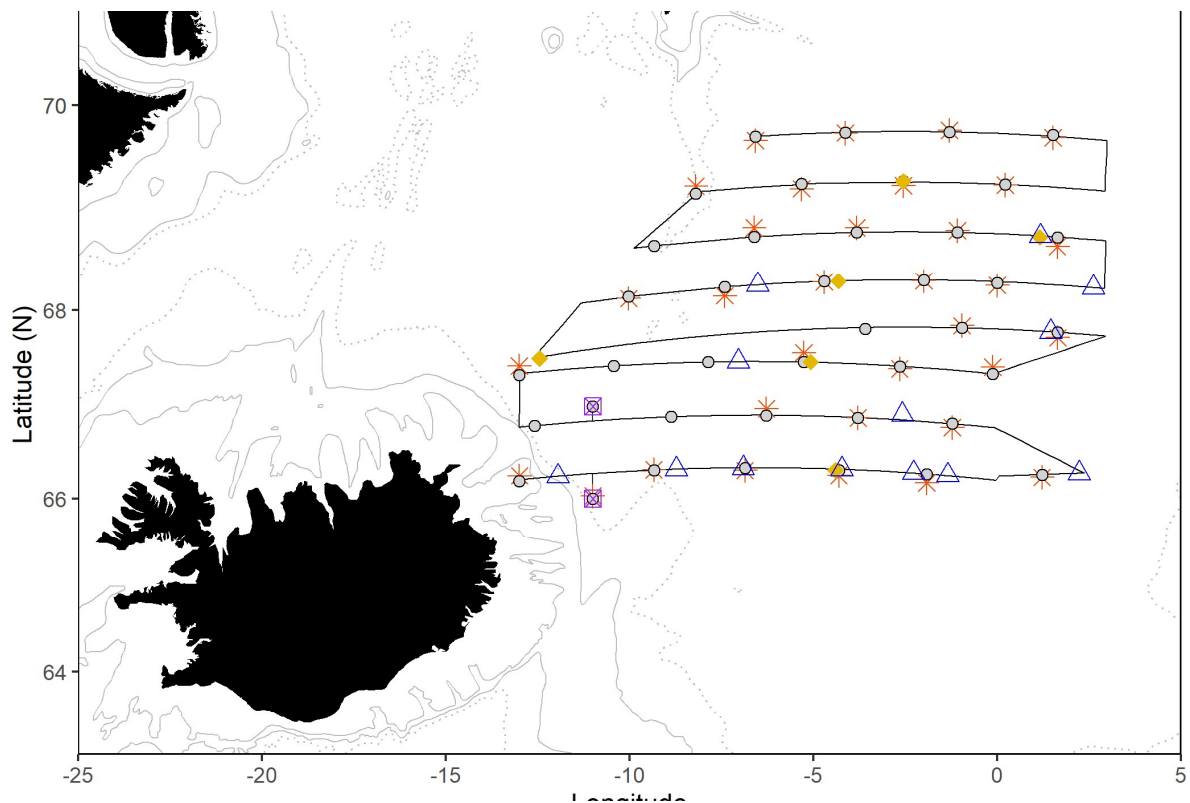


Figure 1. The number and location of the CTD (gray dot), WP-2 stations (red star), krill trawl stations (yellow diamond) and pelagic trawl stations (blue triangle) along the survey tracks of RV Árni Friðriksson in the survey A5-2022.