

Norwegian exploratory fishery for Icelandic capelin in the Jan Mayen zone in August 2014

According to an agreement with the Fishery Directorate two vessels carried out an exploratory fishery for Icelandic capelin within the Jan Mayen fishery zone in August 2014. The exploratory fishery was carried out by the two pelagic vessels 'Havglans' and 'Endre Dyrøy' from 5 August to 11 August 2014.

The searching was done within the EEZ waters of Jan Mayen, mainly in the South Western corner, where the expectations were highest of finding capelin based on experiences from the fishery which happened there in the 1980s and 1990s.

The coverage was done mostly along a set of transect lines with equal spacing set up by the Institute of Marine Research (Fig. 1).

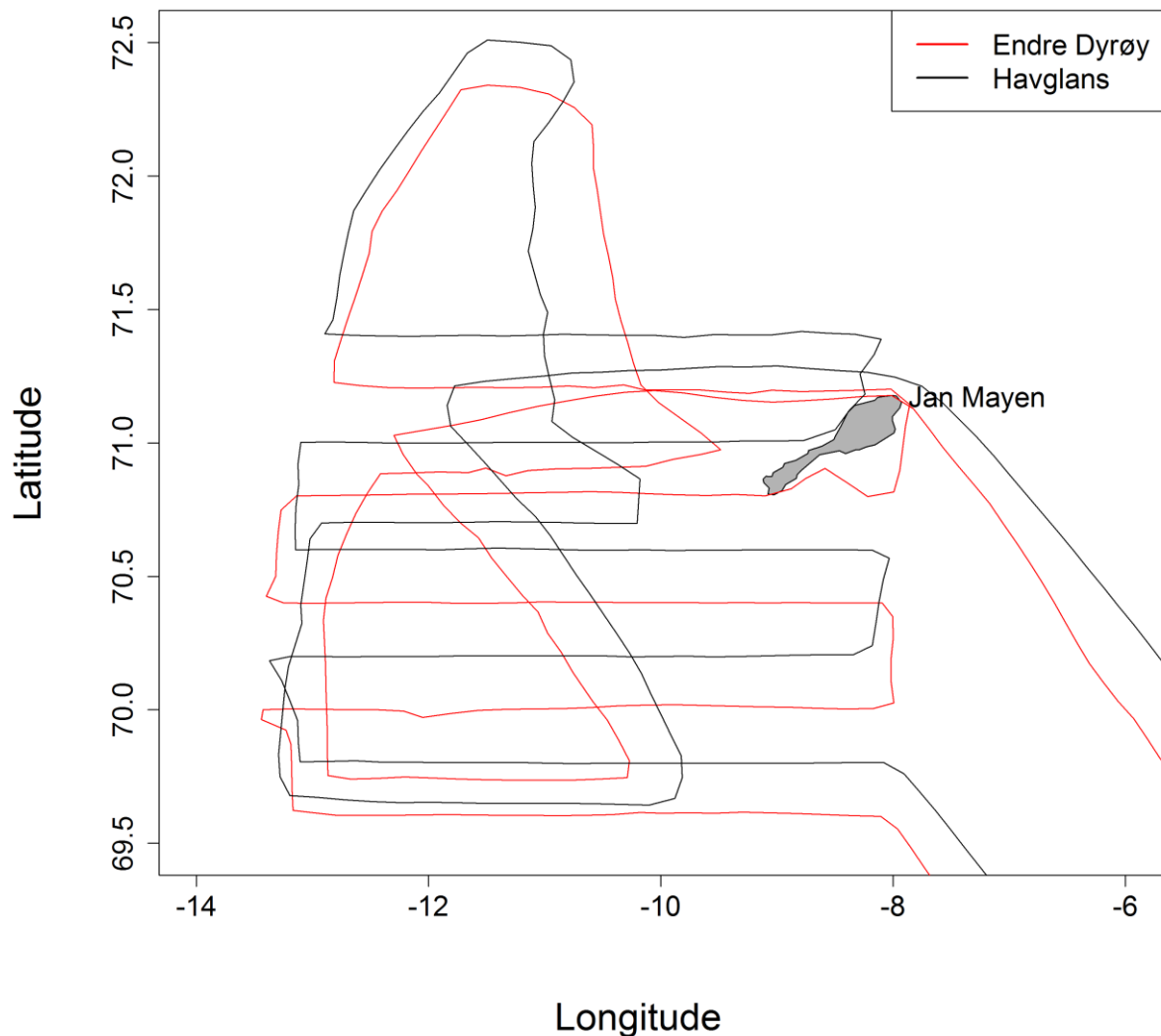


Fig. 1. The coverage of 'Havglans' and 'Endre Dyrøy' during exploratory fishing for Icelandic capelin in the Jan Mayen EEZ.

The vessels reported that acoustic registrations of small targets occurred almost continuously, but in various concentrations throughout the investigation area (Fig. 2). The concentrations were not big enough to apply purse seine or trawl. The vessels tried to fish with line and hook 5-6 times altogether in order to find out which target was recorded. They did not catch anything as they would have expected with presence of pelagic fish, and they did not interpret the acoustic recordings to be capelin. Typical recordings as appearing on the echo sounder are shown in Fig. 3. It is not easy to interpret the acoustic recordings without any biological samples and without calibrated echosounders, but some of the acoustic backscatter seems strong enough to be pelagic fish whereas other parts most likely are weaker targets like amphipods and/or krill. Herring were recorded in the area during the IMR acoustic survey in July (Fig. 4).

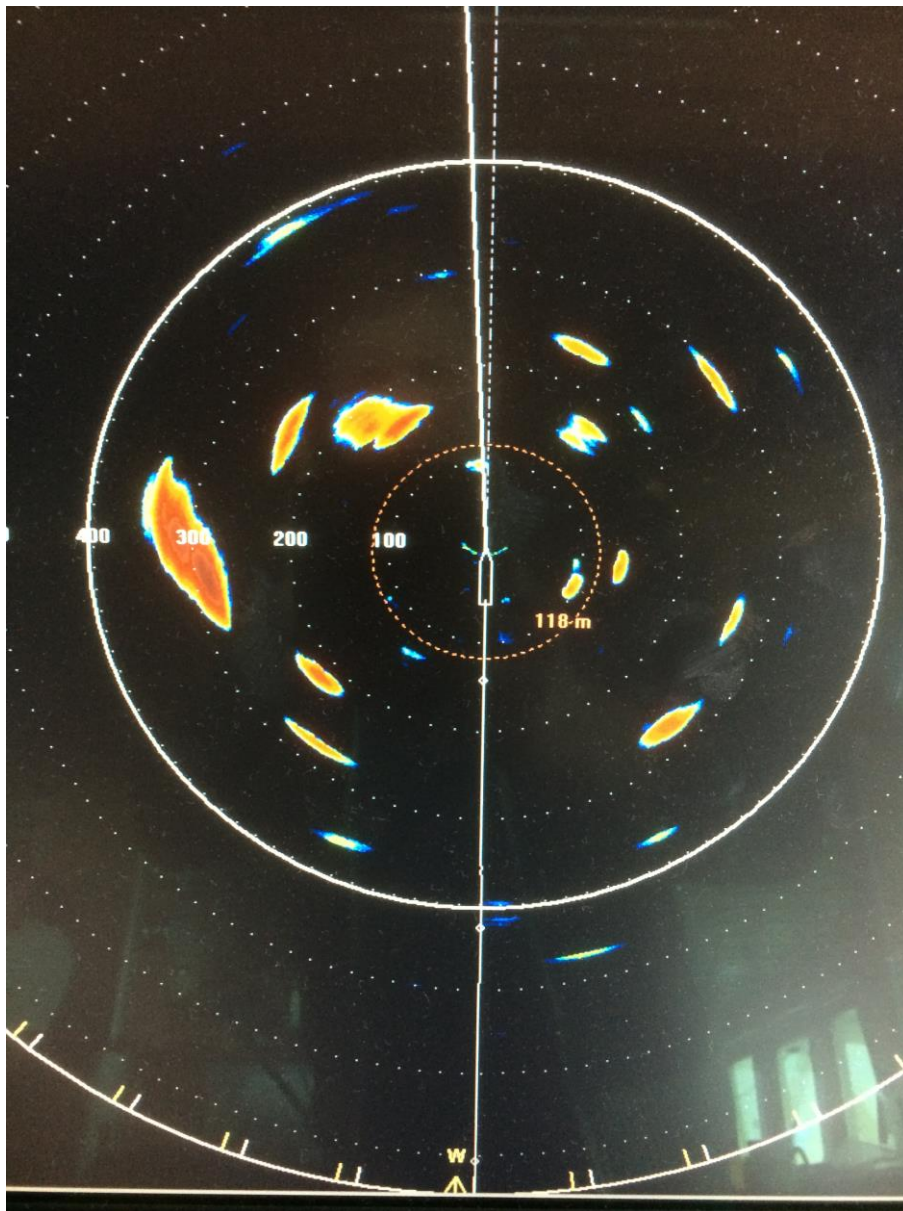


Fig. 2. Typical scanning sonar recordings made during the exploratory fishery in the Jan Mayen EEZ. The image is from 'Havglans'.

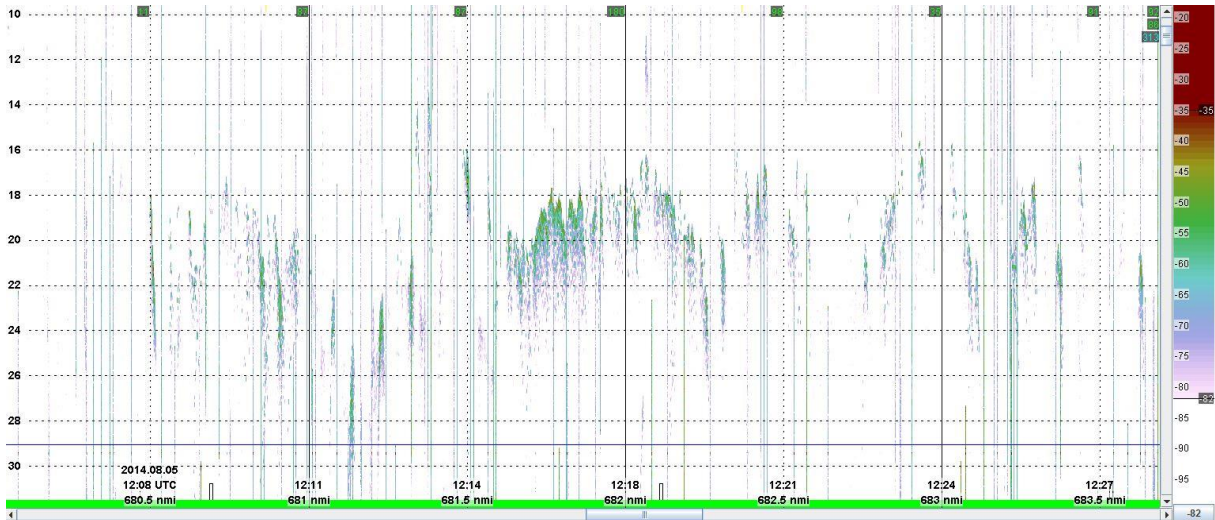


Fig. 3. Typical echosounder recording made during the exploratory fishery in the Jan Mayen EEZ. The image from 'Havglans' shows the recording from the 200 kHz transducer over ca. 3 nautical mile and 10-30 m depth range.

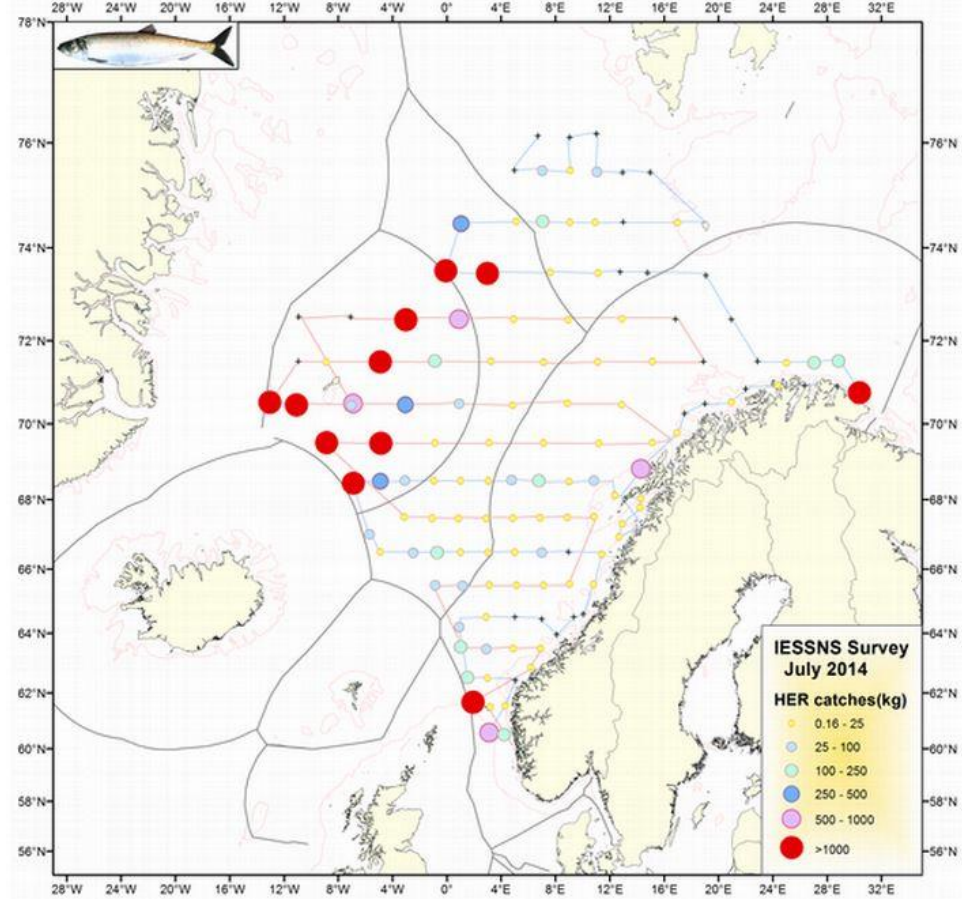


Fig. 4. Herring catches from the IMR Norwegian Sea pelagic investigations in July 2014.