


Reykjavik, 27.05.2016

 **MARINE RESEARCH INSTITUTE**
Skúlagata 4, 121 Reykjavik, Iceland
Telephone: +354 575 2000, Fax: +354 575 2001

A short preliminary report on the Research Survey A6-2016

Pelagic fish off W- S- and SE-Iceland and the western Norwegian Sea 3 – 23 May 2016

*Part of the joint Northeast Atlantic Pelagic Ecosystem Surveys in 2016
(see ICES WGIPS report, January 2017)*

Vessel: R/V Arni Fridriksson, TFNA (Iceland)
Captain: Guðmundur Bjarnason
Cruise leader: Guðmundur J. Óskarsson

In order to assess blue whiting concentrations south of Iceland, the survey began on 3 May at the shelf edge on the eastern side of Reykjanes Ridge and the general course was eastwards, running along and just off and in over the outer shelf edge (Figure 1). From SE-Iceland the vessel headed to the 1st IESNS survey track at 62°36N. During the following days, the survey continued northwards along E/W transects spaced at about fixed interval of around 36 nmi intervals. Hydrographical research (CTD) and zooplankton collection (WP-2 net) were undertaken at around 60 nmi interval and pelagic trawling irregularly on fish registrations on the echogram (Table 1). The final CTD and WP-2 station was taken on 22 May. After that the vessel headed towards Reykjavik and was in the harbour on 23 May. The total distance covered during these 21 days was around 3904 nautical miles, where around 3360 nautical miles were undertaken on the survey area.

Table 1. Overview of number of the different stations in the different areas in the survey A6-2016 on RV Árni Friðriksson.

Station type	Number				Total
	Icelandic waters	Faroese waters	International waters	Jan Mayen waters	
Pelagic trawling	17	4	3	6	30
CTD	26	2	2	13	43
WP-2	23	2	2	13	40
Krill trawl haul	2	0	0	5	7
Total	68	8	7	37	120

The main results of this survey were that blue whiting was observed along the whole continental shelf off south Iceland, 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 2 dominated in the area south of Iceland, while 1 and 2 years olds, but mixed with older fish, were most abundant on the Iceland-Faroes ridge and southeast of Jan Mayen area.

The distribution and abundance of Norwegian spring-spawning herring was similar as in last year, apart from more abundance in the Jan Mayen area covered by the survey. The highest density was on the eastern part of the transects east of Iceland, where mature old fish was found, but also high in the south east part of the Jan Mayen waters, where younger herring (age 3-5) were mixed with older fish. 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 ICES in the autumn 2016.

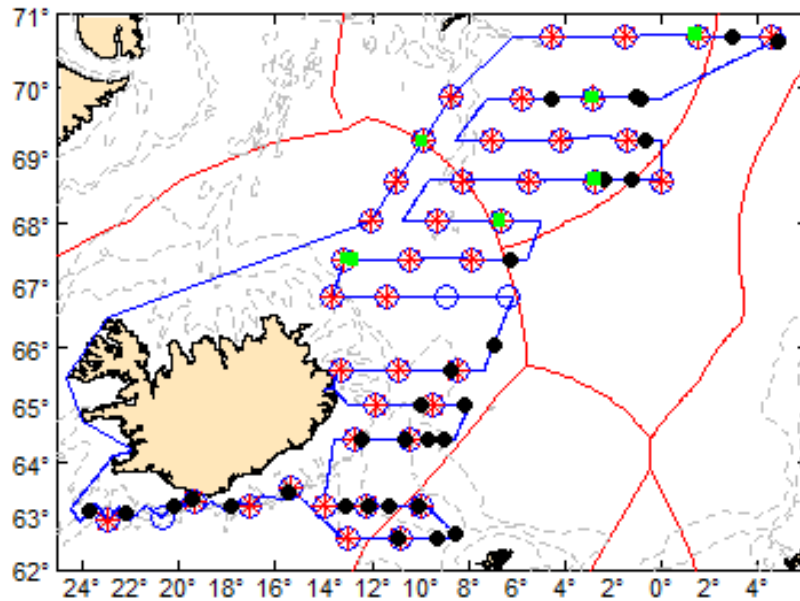


Figure 1. The survey track and locations of CTD (open blue circles), WP2 (red stars), krill trawl hauls (green dots), and trawl stations (black dots) taken in the May survey 2016 by RV Árne Friðriksson.