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## **A short preliminary report on the Research Survey A6-2009**

### **Pelagic fish off W- S- and SE-Iceland and the western Norwegian Sea 27 April - 19 May 2009**

*Part of the joint Northeast Atlantic Pelagic Ecosystem Surveys in 2009  
(see ICES PGNAPES report, August 2009)*

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

Captain: Guðmundur Bjarnason

Cruise leaders: Sveinn Sveinbjörnsson (first part) and Guðmundur J. Óskarsson (latter part)

In order to assess blue whiting concentrations west and south of Iceland, the survey began on 27 April at the shelf edge west of Iceland and from there continued south at and on either side of the shelf break to the Reykjanes Ridge. South of the Reykjanes promontory (SW-Iceland) the general course was eastwards, running along and just off and in over the outer shelf. From SE-Iceland the southern part of the Iceland-Faroese ridge was covered south towards 61°40N. Then the vessel sailed east to Torshavn in the Faroese where a 10 hrs intermission was taken from the survey while taking on fuel. From Torshavn, the survey continued by taking the first E/W transect in the survey on 62°46N. During the following days, it was continued northwards along E/W transects spaced at about 30-50 n.m. intervals. The western boundary was generally about 12°W, or the continental shelf of Iceland. The eastern limits were generally around 07°W but increased gradually to 04°W between 65 and 67°50N, and all the way to 0°W at 68°N. On 17 May at 69°42N and 8°25W, the vessel headed towards Reykjavik, where it was on 19 May.

The main results of this survey were that practically no blue whiting were recorded west off Iceland and very little around the continental edge south off Iceland. Some small concentrations were along the Iceland-Faroese ridge. The distribution of Norwegian spring-spawning herring was similar to the last two years distributions or more westerly and southerly than in most recent decades. Herring was observed more or less continuously from around 63°40N and east of 12°W north to 68°30N. North of 66°50N, the distribution was more easterly with westerly limits changing from 9°W to 6°W as the vessel went further north. The total amount of herring measured acoustically in the survey was 2.5 million tons. Around 1.4 million tons were within Icelandic waters, 0.4 in international waters, 0.6 in Jan Mayen waters, and less than 0.1 in Faroese waters. The data from this survey will be combined with data from other nations that participate in this International survey for more thoroughly analyses and the results will be presented within ICES.