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your References

our References

Date
2024-03-14

Announcement of German research activity in the NAFO regulatory area

Dear Madam or Sir,

We hereby would like to announce research activity to be conducted by our German research vessel 'Walther Herwig III' in the NAFO regulatory area in June/July 2024. Below you will find further information on the research activity:

Research plan

(A) Vessel information

Name of research ship: *FRV "Walther Herwig III" - Cruise No. 479*

Dates of cruise: *from 06 June 2024 to 08 July 2024*

Operating Authority: *Federal Office for Agriculture and Food
Unit 533
Haubachstrasse 86
22765 Hamburg (Germany)
Telephone +49 (0)228 6845 5534
Telefax +49 (0)30 1810 6845 5555
Email: fischereiforschung@ble.de*

Owner: *Federal Republic of Germany*

Particulars of ship:

Name	<i>FRV "Walther Herwig III"</i>
Nationality	<i>Federal Republic of Germany</i>
Overall length (metres)	<i>63.18</i>
Maximum draught (metres)	<i>6.20</i>
Net tonnage	<i>639</i>

Method of propulsion	<i>Diesel/Diesel Electric</i>
Port of registration and call sign	<i>Bremerhaven (Germany), DBFR</i>
Inmarsat Fleet Broadband	<i>+870 773 236 187</i>
Crew:	
Name of Master	<i>Captain Stefan Meier or deputy</i>
Number of Crew	<i>23</i>
Number of Scientists	<i>11</i>

(B) Purpose

The vessel is conducting pelagic trawling and acoustic measurements to assess the stock sizes of shallow and deep pelagic beaked redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) from 06 June to 08 July 2024. Walther Herwig III will carry out the International Deep Pelagic Ecosystem Survey (IDEEPS) together with a research vessel from Iceland. IDEEPS is coordinated by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the survey aims to provide ICES assessment and science groups with consistent and standardized data for examining spatial and temporal changes in (a) the distribution and relative abundance of pelagic beaked redfish; and (b) of the biological parameters for stock assessment purposes. The secondary objective is to collect additional information of the state of the ecosystem in the waters inhabited by beaked redfish, by measuring hydrological and biological conditions.

(C) Summary of scientific methods and procedures

- Pelagic trawl fishing will be performed by a GLORIA-type pelagic trawl (1024) with an attached multi-sampler. Approximately 25 fishing stations at depths from 200 to 900 m are planned.
- Hydroacoustic measurements will be conducted by an EK60 sounder
- Water samples will be obtained by a SBE 32 Carousel Water Sampler or a similar device.

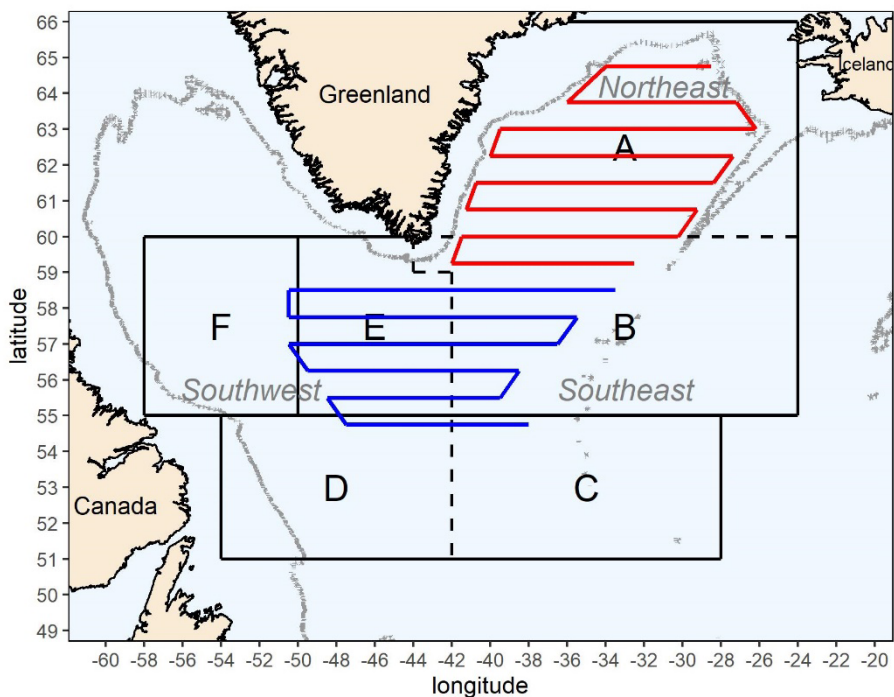
For more detailed information on survey methods and procedures, please refer to the official survey manual:

https://ices-library.figshare.com/articles/report/SISP_11_-_Manual_for_the_International_Deep_Pelagic_Ecosystem_Survey_in_the_Irminger_Sea_and_Adjacent_Waters_Version_1/19050851

(D) Location and dates of research activity

The dates for the survey are from 6 June to 8 July 2024 (start and end of the survey is the port of Bremerhaven (Germany)), with research activity in the survey area from approximately 13 June to 2 July 2024).

The research work is carried out in international waters of the Irminger Sea; East, South and West off Greenland and in the exclusive economic zones of Canada, Greenland and Iceland (between 52° - 65°N and 20° - 55°W) . The map below shows the planned cruise tracks of the 2024 (red: Icelandic research vessel (RV) *Árni Friðriksson*; blue German RV *Walther Herwig III*).



(E) Principal investigator

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(F) Information on catches

A pelagic trawl will be used to sample the pelagic redfish stocks (*Sebastes mentella*), of which only few scientific samples will be retained on board (< 100 kg). None of the samples retained on board will be marketed.

The expected research catch of the target species (*S. mentella*) is 300 to 500 kg wet weight. It is not planned to have an observer on board, but observers of the coastal state are welcome provided the availability of accommodation space.

(G) Research results, data handling and reporting

The cruise summary report will be made available through official channels and will be published on the webpage of ICES (<https://www.ices.dk/Pages/default.aspx>). An English summary will be available approximately 6 weeks after the end of the survey.

The data will be made available from the ICES database at <http://www.ices.dk/data/data-portals/Pages/default.aspx>.

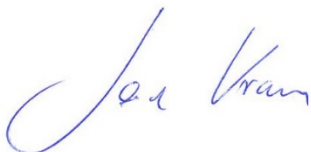
The final report of the ICES Working Group on International Deep Pelagic Ecosystem Surveys (WGIDEEPS) will be available from around September 2024. From this point onwards, the research results can be presented at any time to the NAFO Scientific Council.

(H) Miscellaneous

There are no requests for derogation from the provisions in paragraph 3(c) NCEM.

This planned research activity is part of a standard ICES survey that has been conducted in the area indicated on the map above since 1982.

Sincerely yours



Dr. G. Kraus

(Director Thünen Institute of Sea Fisheries)