

Herring acoustic survey

Dates: August

Recurrence: Annually, since 2019

Location: Northeast of the Gulf of St. Lawrence

Vessel: *NOVUS* / *Meridian 66* (chartered)

Description

The acoustic survey carried out in NAFO divisions 4R and 4Sw aims to estimate the abundance of the two herring spawning stocks (spring and fall). It provides biomass indices from the analysis of acoustic signals. This information is published in stock status reports and scientific articles. Around 20 stations per year are chosen randomly and sampled using a semi-pelagic trawl to help separate herring from other species present and to convert acoustic signals into biomass.

Objectives

1. Systematic coverage of divisions 4R and 4Sw to record acoustic signals in accordance with a standardized methodology;
2. Carry out signal analysis, species separation and biomass assessment;
3. Divide spring and fall stocks; and
4. Collect samples to help analyze acoustic signals.

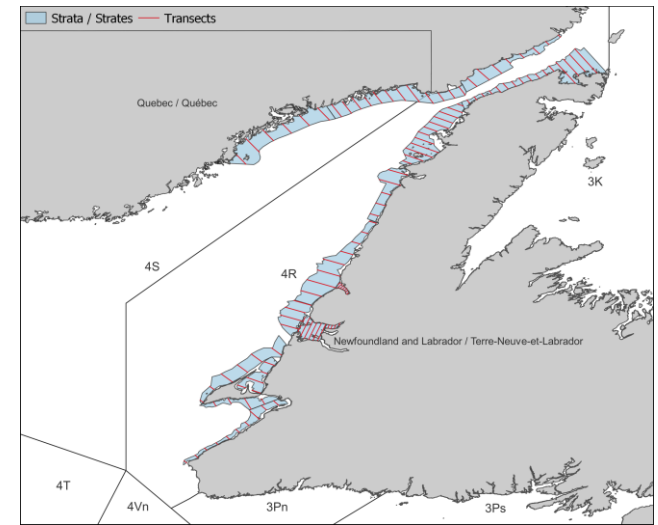
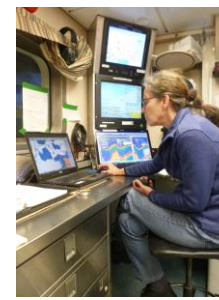


Figure 1: Spatial coverage of the herring acoustic survey in divisions 4R and 4Sw in the northeastern Gulf of St. Lawrence.

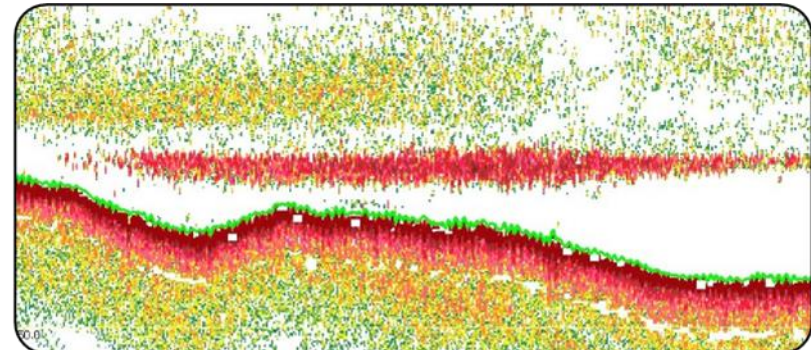


Figure 2: Example of recorded acoustic signal (38 KHz) used to determine species composition and estimate biomass.