

An executive summary of report on:

**INTERNATIONAL ECOSYSTEM SURVEY IN NORDIC SEA (IESNS)
in April - May 2024**

In April-May 2024, four research vessels and one hired commercial vessel participated in the International ecosystem survey in the Nordic Seas (IESNS); R/V Dana, Denmark (joint EU survey by Denmark, Germany, Ireland, The Netherlands and Sweden), R/V Jákup Sverri, Faroe Islands, R/V Árni Friðriksson, Iceland, R/V G.O. Sars, Norway and M/S Resolute, United Kingdom (UK). The aim of the survey was to cover the whole distribution area of the Norwegian Spring-spawning herring with the objective of estimating the total abundance of the herring stock, in addition to collect data on plankton and hydrographical conditions in the area. The main results were these:

- The sea temperature in 2024 was generally below the long-term mean (1995-2021) in the Norwegian Sea.
- The 2024 indices of zooplankton biomass in the Norwegian Sea and adjoining waters showed a decrease or no change from the level in 2023 in all sub-areas
- The total biomass estimate of NSSH in herring in the Norwegian Sea was 3.8 million tonnes, which is an 7% decrease from the 2023 survey estimate. The estimate of total number of NSSH was 17.7 billion, which is 7% higher than in the 2023 survey. The survey followed the pre-planned protocol and the survey group recommends using the abundance estimates in the analytical assessment.
- The 2016 year class of NSSH dominated in the survey indices both in numbers (34%) and biomass (41%). The abundance of the 2016 year-class decreased by 37% compared to last year's estimate.
- The biomass of blue whiting measured in the 2022 survey decreased by 19% from last year's survey and 38% in terms of numbers. The stock is dominated by the 2020 to 2023 year classes.

The whole report can be found here:

<https://ices->

[library.figshare.com/articles/report/Working_Group_on_Widely_Distributed_Stocks_WGWI_DE_/26993227](https://ices-library.figshare.com/articles/report/Working_Group_on_Widely_Distributed_Stocks_WGWI_DE_/26993227)