

### 4.3.2. Spatial distribution and biomasses

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The data obtained during the joint Russian-Norwegian ecosystem survey in the second half of August-early September 2012 showed that the highest biomasses of zooplankton were formed in the northern and eastern Barents Sea as in the previous years (Figure 4.3.2.1). In contrast to previous years, high biomass ( $>10\text{ g m}^{-2}$ ) was observed in the region above  $79^\circ\text{ N}$ . And though the high biomass areas ( $9\text{-}10\text{ g m}^{-2}$  dry wet) were indistinct, they widened to the northwest covering a quite big zone around Spitsbergen. In this region of the Barents Sea, the most abundant copepod species were the Arctic *C. glacialis*, *Pseudocalanus minutus*, *M. longa*, as well as the North Atlantic *C. finmarchicus*. Also in the west at the entrance to the Barents Sea, relatively high zooplankton biomass was observed, probably reflecting the influence of the more plankton rich Atlantic water masses. Also, they were observed in the central sea part, from the north up to the Murman coast. But, as a whole, the biomass distribution was patchy.

The average mesozooplankton biomass measured in August–September 2012 ( $7.7\text{ gm}^{-2}$ ) was somewhat higher than 2011 ( $6.7\text{ gm}^{-2}$ ) but has been reasonably stable during the last five years.

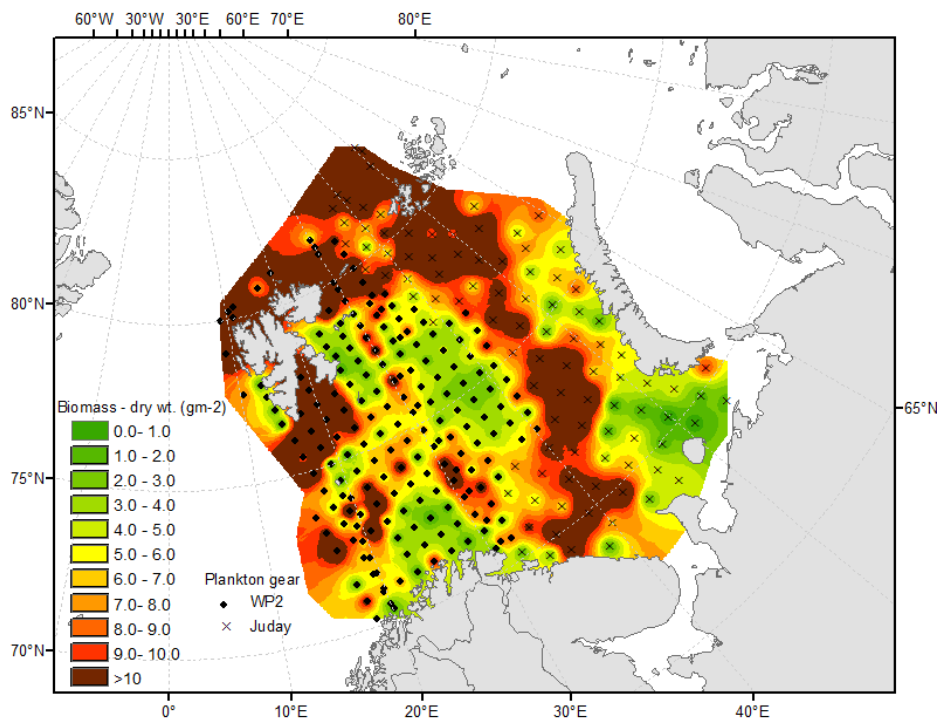


Figure 4.3.2.1. Distribution of zooplankton dry weight ( $\text{g m}^{-2}$ ) from bottom-0 m in 2012. Data based on Norwegian WP2 and Russian Juday net samples.