

4.3.3. Biomass indices and distribution of krill and amphipods

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In 2014 the krill and amphipods were species identified on board the Norwegian vessels at 80% of all stations. In 2014 krill were distributed in the western, central areas and north for Svalbard/Spitsbergen (Figure 4.3.3.1). In 2013 the highest catches were mostly distributed in the central area, while in the western area in 2014. The night catches, with average of 4.85 gram per m², were lower in 2014 than in 2013 (13.2 gram per m²). The number of the night stations was half of the day stations during the survey (Table 4.3.3.1). During the night most of krill migrate to upper water layer, and therefore better available for the capturing.

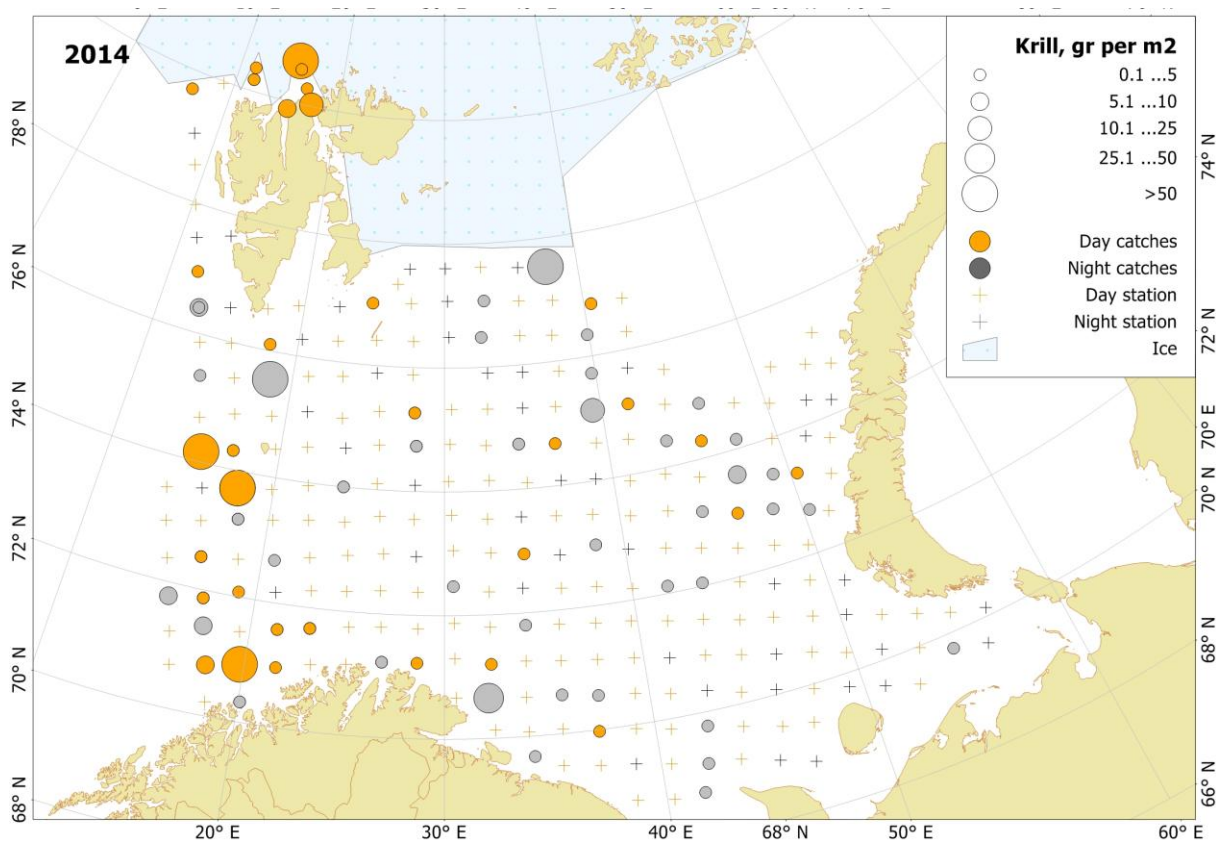


Figure 4.3.3.1. Krill distribution, based on trawl stations covering 0-60m, in the Barents Sea in August-September 2014.

In 2014 the krill were species identified on board the Norwegian vessels at 80% of all stations. *Meganyctiphanes norvegica* were mostly observed in the western and central area, while *Thysanoessa inermis* in the central and northern areas. Outside of continental slope in the western track of surveyed area NEMATOSCELIS were observed at one station (71°48' N and 15°31'E), and Thysanopoda were observed at one station (75°25' N and 15°17'E).

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Table 4.3.3.1. Day and night catches (gram per m²) of krill taken by the pelagic trawl within 0-60 m.

Year	Day			Night		
	N	Mean gm-2	Std Dev	N	Mean gm-2	Std Dev
1980	237	1.49	11.38	90	4.86	23.96
1981	214	1.19	9.14	83	7.95	21.53
1982	192	0.18	1.19	69	6.29	22.57
1983	203	0.32	2.76	76	0.39	1.91
1984	217	0.15	1.64	66	1.72	9.17
1985	217	0.07	0.54	75	0.80	4.42
1986	229	3.03	11.70	76	11.90	37.82
1987	200	4.90	22.44	88	3.82	13.08
1988	207	2.69	30.16	81	11.84	55.84
1989	296	1.99	8.45	129	3.71	13.01
1990	283	0.11	0.76	115	1.18	6.32
1991	284	0.03	0.33	124	7.03	25.11
1992	229	0.11	1.18	77	0.92	2.92
1993	194	1.21	6.69	79	2.23	7.36
1994	175	3.01	10.23	72	7.27	18.78
1995	166	4.86	18.86	80	9.13	34.46
1996	282	4.34	26.62	118	9.32	21.53
1997	102	4.12	22.71	167	3.58	12.94
1998	176	2.24	16.00	185	5.68	23.95
1999	140	1.50	9.64	90	4.64	13.09
2000	202	1.52	9.53	67	3.54	11.49
2001	212	0.07	0.63	66	5.77	19.60
2003	203	1.26	9.54	74	2.84	11.23
2004	229	0.34	2.94	80	6.49	22.47
2005	314	3.50	30.53	86	9.02	24.78
2006	227	1.23	6.66	103	9.66	31.54
2007	192	1.79	10.93	112	9.04	39.29
2008	199	0.11	1.02	77	16.92	43.57
2009	241	0.42	2.56	131	10.29	25.02
2010	198	1.76	13.00	105	14.98	43.35
2011	212	0.13	0.69	95	19.46	77.70
2012	243	4.00	12.35	84	11.48	34.21
2013	222	0.11	0.88	83	13.23	42.16
2014	196	4.16	27.85	98	4.85	27.36
1980-2014	216	1.70		94	7.11	

In 2014 the biomass of krill was lower than long term mean (8.7 million tonnes) and was 6.0 million tonnes after the heavy feeding summer season. In 2014 the biomass of krill continued to decrease since 2008.

In 2014, amphipods were found in the western area and north for Svalbard/Spitsbergen (Figure 4.3.3.2). The highest catches were taken north for Svalbard/Spitsbergen, and were

mostly represented by *Themisto libebula*, while *Themisto com* were mostly found in small catches near the Norwegian coast. In 2014 the mean catches taken during the day were higher than night catches, and were 5.8 and 0.3 gram per m². In 2012 and 2013 no catches of amphipods were taken.

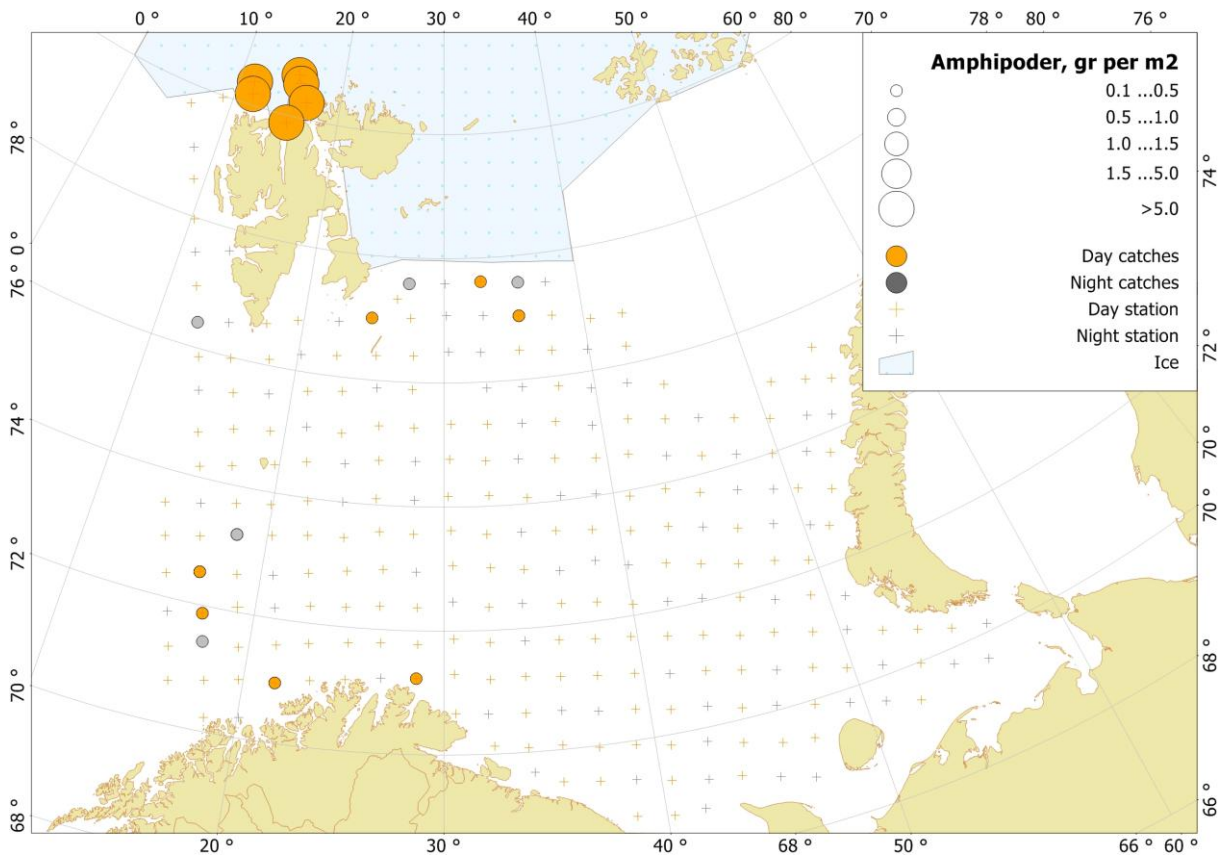


Figure 4.3.3.2. Amphipods distribution, based on trawl stations covering 0-60m, in the Barents Sea in August-September 2014.