

### 6.2.3 Distribution of the Snow crab (*Chionoecetes opilio*)

Text by V. Pavlov, J. Sundet

Figures by P. Krivosheya and V. Pavlov

In 2014 the snow crabs were caught at 87 bottom trawl stations (Figure 6.2.3.1). It is less than in the previous year (131 stations). The highest catches of crab were found west and south of the Novaya Zemlya Archipelago.

The surveyed area in 2014 was less than in 2013, thus a comparison of the snow crab recordings in 2013 and 2014 revealed a decrease in abundance in 2014. The catches of the snow crab varied from 1 g to 66.1 kg (the average is 8.3 kg) and it is less than in previous year (from 1 g to 189.3 kg, the average is 11.6 kg).

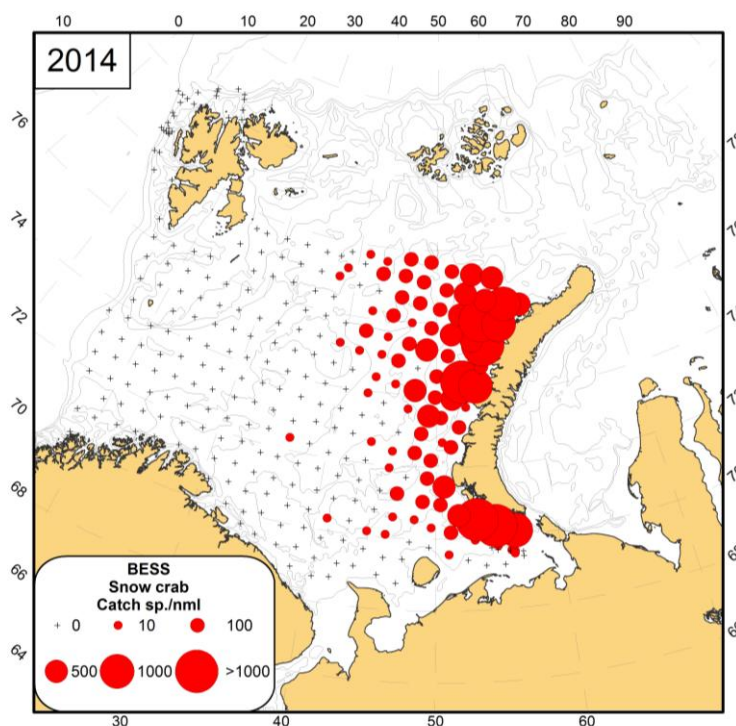


Figure 6.2.3.1 Distribution and numbers of the snow crabs per one nm in the Barents Sea during the ecosystem survey 2014

Young individuals with a carapace width less than 75 mm prevailed among both males and females (Figure 6.2.3.2), constituting approximately 94% of all individuals.

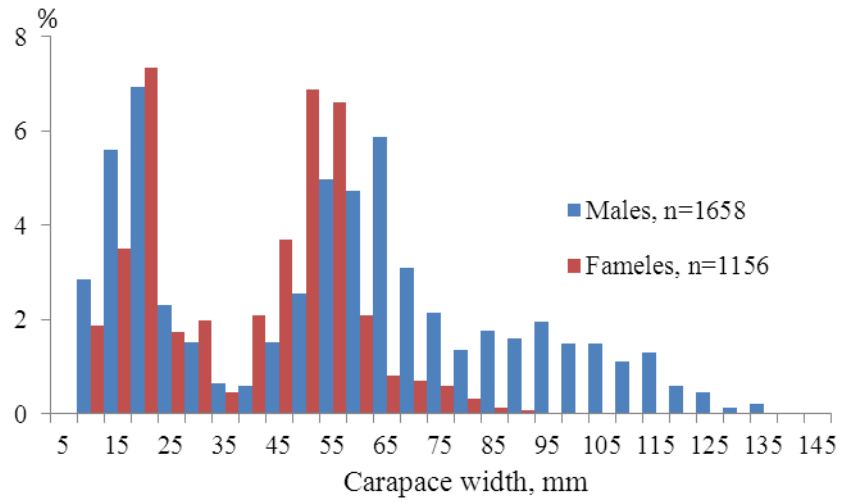


Figure 6.2.3.2 – Size distribution of the Snow crab in the Barents Sea during the ecosystem survey 2014