

**Report of the cruise 379 of the FRV Walther Herwig III
German Greenland groundfish survey
Oct 09 – Nov 18, 2014**

Scientist in charge: Dr. Heino O. Fock

Background

The German survey off Greenland is conducted since 1981, aiming at monitoring groundfish stocks in particular of cod and redfish, collecting environmental data and conducting ecosystem studies in the area.

Sampling

WH379 was carried out in October and November 2014.
The report contains updated figures until 2014.

Survey goals were fully accomplished. 120 stations were sampled in 2014 as compared to 101 in 2012 and 106 in 2013. The sampling area was subdivided into 9 regional strata. The new stratification was approved during the ICES North-Western Working Group in 2012 (Fig 1).

61 CTD stations were sampled (Fig. 4). Cross section across Kleine Bank displayed in Fig. 3.

West Greenland: **Stratum 1 (NAFO 1C), north of 61° N**
 Stratum 2 (NAFO 1D), north of 61° N
 Stratum 3 (NAFO 1E), partly north of 61° N
 Stratum 4 (NAFO 1F), SW Greenland

East Greenland: **Stratum 5&6 (SE Greenland), south of 63° N**
 Stratum 7 (E Greenland), north of 63° N
 Stratum 8 (E Greenland), northeast of 63° N
 Stratum 9 (E Greenland), east of 33° W

Verteiler:

TI - Seefischerei
Saßnitzer Seefischerei e. G.

per E-Mail:

BMEL, Ref. 614
BMEL, Ref. 613
Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung, Hamburg
Schiffsführung FFS "Walther Herwig III"
Präsidialbüro (Michael Welling)
Personalreferat Braunschweig
TI - Fischereiökologie
TI - Ostseefischerei Rostock
FIZ-Fischerei

TI - PR
MRI - BFEL HH, FB Fischqualität
Dr. Rohlf/SF - Reiseplanung Forschungsschiffe
Fahrtteilnehmer
Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie, Hamburg
DFFU
Mecklenburger Hochseefischerei GmbH, Rostock
Doggerbank Seefischerei GmbH, Bremerhaven
Deutscher Fischerei - Verband e. V., Hamburg
Leibniz-Institut für Meereswissenschaften IFM-GEOMAR
H. Cammann-Oehne, BSH
Deutscher Hochseefischerei-Verband e.V.

Meetings

In 2014, a workshop was held in Nuuk on Nov 10-12 to prepare data for the WKICE cod benchmark workshop in January 2015, preceded by a meeting on Nov 7, with fisheries scientists from the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources and TI-SF taking part, where first results were being discussed from both the Greenlandic and the German surveys.

Cod

Trends

Trends are given in terms of survey standard unit catches (CPUE). To compare with the historical situation, CPUEs are scaled to the long-term maximum value, which was observed in 1988 in stratum 2. This value was set to 100.

Results are given Table 1 and Figure 2.

West Greenland:

Overall, an increase was found for West Greenland, most particular in SW Greenland (stratum 4). The declining trend observed in previous years apparently ceased. As stated in 2012, this increase in cod is likely linked to a southward movement of young cod that was observed in 2012 and 2013.

East Greenland:

Opposite to previous years, cod abundance increased in SE Greenland (5&6) and Dohrnbak area (9).

Overall:

Cod abundance is comparable to the highs in 2006 (West GL) and 2007 (East GL).

Age Distribution of Cod

In East Greenland, ages > 6 were dominating in stratum 5&6 and strata 7 and 9. Still, with sizes mainly between 80 and 100 cm. These cod are likely to constitute an important component of the spawning stock of the so-called bank cod, whose offspring is then drifted to SE and W Greenland.

In West Greenland in the areas analysed so far, mainly younger cod were encountered. The size distribution indicates that this in the year class 2009 with an average size of about 60 cm.

0-groups were hardly encountered. However, it must be noted, that the catchability of cod younger than 3 years old is low with the nets deployed during the survey.

Evaluation of survey results and assessment for cod

(1)

East GL cod has recovered despite fisheries except for the closure at Kleine Bank. The increase in East GL cod observed in the Greenlandic survey is reflected in the German survey.

(2)

In West GL, the increase in cod is likely linked to a southward movement of young cod that was also observed in 2012 and 2013.

(3)

As pointed out in the last reports, the distribution of the year class 2009 off West Greenland shows (a) the relevance of a significant spawning stock off East Greenland, and (b) a potentially new strong year class incoming.

Redfish (*S. mentella* and *S. marinus*)

Survey trends

High abundance for *S. mentella* formerly encountered in stratum 8 of the German survey has disappeared. Catch rates for *Sebastes mentella* declined sharply in stratum 8, after opening the fisheries in 2010. The CPUE declined in this area for 98 % from 2009 to 2014 (Table 2). This strong negative trend has been stated in this report since 2011.

Golden redfish *Sebastes marinus* is by-caught in the *S. mentella* fisheries and CPUE is also declining until 2012 (Table 3). Since then, golden redfish has increased, in particular for East Greenland. In 2013 and 2014, CPUE for golden redfish now clearly exceeds CPUE for *S. mentella* in relative and absolute terms.

Evaluation of survey results

(a)

Present catch rates are not likely to maintain the redfish population on the stock. The demersal *S. mentella* fisheries on the shelf is likely not sustainable.

(b)

The survey results indicate trends of redfish above 400 m depth only. The deeper part of the stock is not covered by the survey, but is considered in the ICES advice.

Cruise participants

Name and function

Dr. Heino Fock	Cruise leader	TI_SF, Hamburg
Karin Krüger	Oceanography & IT	TI_SF, Hamburg
Jörg Appel	Fisheries biology	TI_SF, Hamburg
Wolfgang Brenoe	Fisheries biology	TI_SF, Hamburg
Lars Christiansen	Fisheries biology	TI_SF, Hamburg
Farzaneh Kazemi	Fisheries biology	TI_SF, Hamburg
Eric Wurz	Fisheries biology	TI_SF, Hamburg
Steffen Fock	Fisheries biology	TI_SF, Hamburg
Luc Badji	Fisheries biology	Univ. Dakar
Dominic Bahlburg	Benthos	Univ. Oldenburg
Sven Mattern	Fisheries biology	TI_SF, Hamburg

TI_SF Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut, Thünen-Institut für Seefischerei

Dr. Heino O. Fock



Tables and Figures

Table 1: Trends for standard unit catches (CPUE) for cod in the German offshore survey in Greenland waters by stratum, 1982 to 2014. Values scaled to maximum value in 1988, stratum 2 (=100%); - = no data.

Year	West Greenland					East Greenland		
	Stratum1	Stratum2	Stratum3	Stratum4	Strat5&6	Stratum7	Stratum8	Stratum9
1982	0	16	9	10	1	2	1	2
1983	0	7	10	7	1	1	1	4
1984	0	2	2	3	1	1	0	0
1985	0	4	4	2	1	3	1	2
1986	1	6	9	6	1	4	1	1
1987	27	70	49	9	3	4	2	1
1988	9	100	14	18	3	2	1	2
1989	0	6	98	24	23	16	3	0
1990	0	1	2	6	2	6	2	1
1991	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2
1992	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1993	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1994	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1995	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1996	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1997	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
2001	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
2002	0	0	0	1	0	7	0	2
2003	0	0	0	0	0	19	1	3
2004	0	0	0	1	0	5	1	3
2005	0	0	1	5	4	16	1	5
2006	0	19	1	14	0	17	2	10
2007	0	1	4	32	3	0	2	6
2008	0	0	6	8	4	0	1	9
2009	0	0	0	0	1	48	2	11
2010	0	1	2	2	0	25	2	8
2011	0	0	1	5	3	8	2	13
2012	8	2	5	13	5	12	2	19
2013	1	3	4	29	3	9	2	3
2014	2	15	2	51	15	2	2	21

Table 2: Trends for standard unit catches (CPUE) for deep-sea redfish *Sebastes mentella* in the German offshore survey in Greenland waters by stratum, 1996 to 2014. Values scaled to maximum value in 2009, stratum 8 (=100%); - = no data.

Year	Str1	Str2	Str3	Str4	Str5&6	Str7	Str8	Str9
1996	0	0	0	0	2	0	32	1
1997	0	0	0	0	1	0	63	1
1998	0	0	0	0	2	0	36	0
1999	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	0
2000	0	0	0	0	3	1	7	0
2001	0	0	0	0	2	2	11	1
2002	0	0	0	0	2	0	17	4
2003	0	0	0	0	1	0	54	4
2004	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	8
2005	0	0	0	0	1	0	83	1
2006	0	0	0	0	0	1	47	2
2007	0	0	0	0	3	1	68	1
2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	0
2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0
2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	0
2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
2012	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0
2013	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
2014	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0

Table 3: Trends for standard unit catches (CPUE) for golden redfish *Sebastes marinus* in the German offshore survey in Greenland waters by stratum, 1996 to 2014. Values scaled to maximum value in 2009, stratum 8 (=100%); - = no data.

	Str1	Str2	Str3	Str4	Str5&6	Str7	Str8	Str9
1996	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
1997	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
1999	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0
2000	0	0	0	0	1	12	5	1
2001	0	0	0	0	4	5	2	2
2002	0	0	0	0	1	0	18	15
2003	0	0	0	0	1	0	13	2
2004	0	0	0	1	0	6	17	8
2005	0	0	0	1	1	5	36	7
2006	0	0	0	3	0	3	15	24
2007	0	0	0	3	73	6	77	24
2008	0	0	0	1	3	2	67	9
2009	0	0	0	1	32	5	100	4
2010	0	0	1	3	0	1	67	19
2011	0	0	0	2	13	0	41	19
2012	0	0	1	2	22	0	54	9
2013	0	0	2	6	45	0	62	32
2014	0	0	4	3	125	17	38	51

Fig. 1: New stratification scheme for the German Greenland survey, introduced in 2012 and applied since.

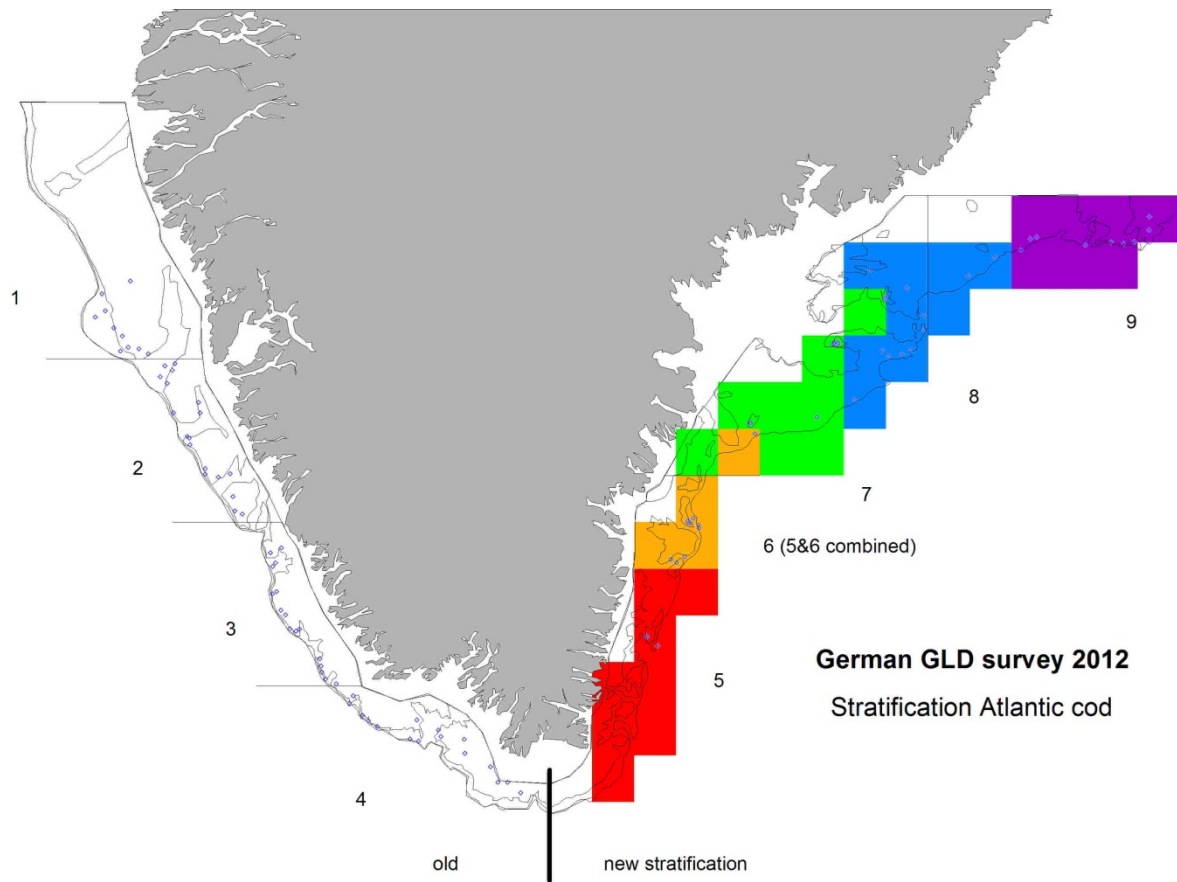
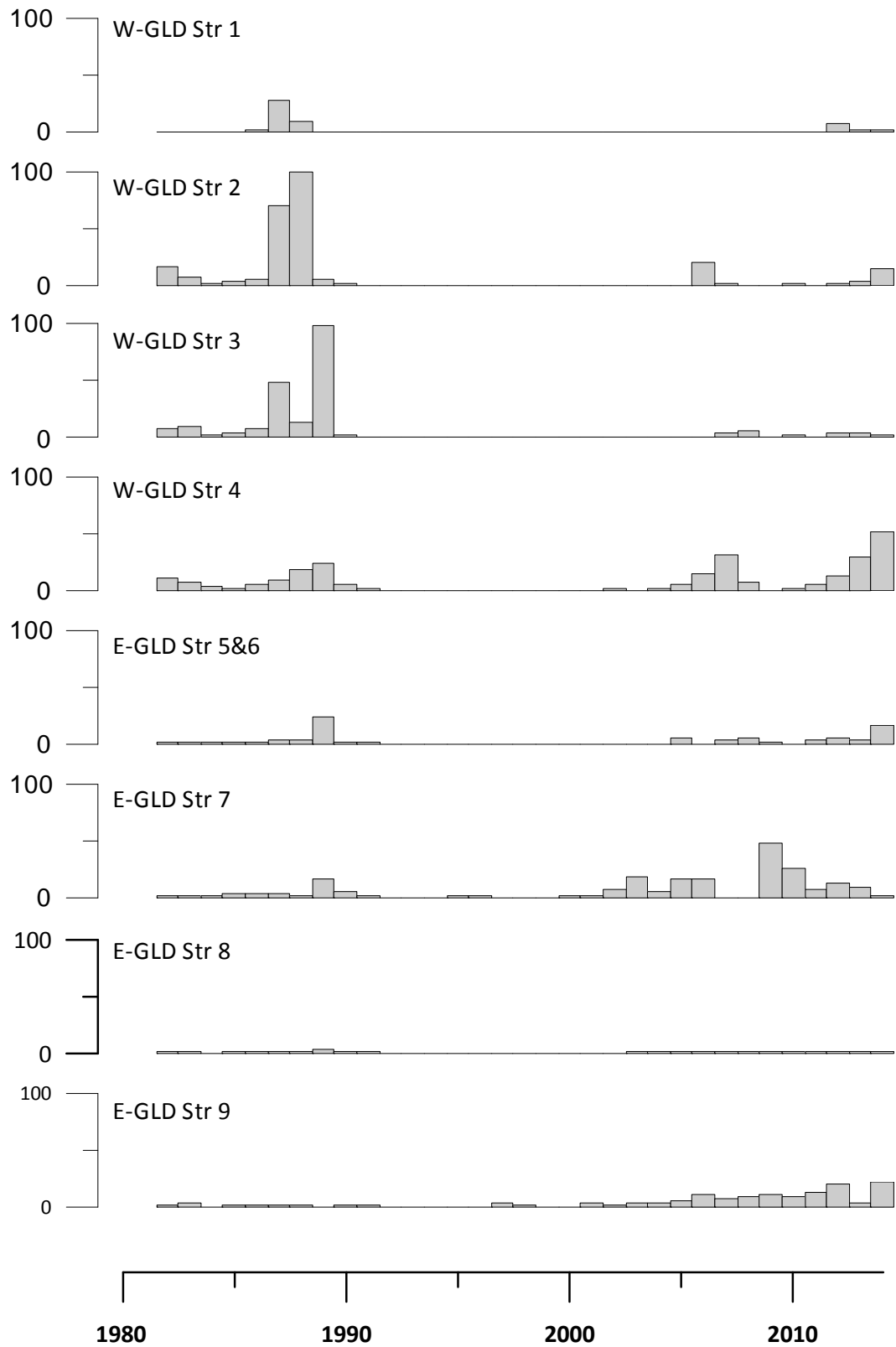


Figure 2: Trends for CPUE for cod from the German offshore survey off Greenland. Stratum affiliation see Table 1. Stratum 1 not sampled in 2011.



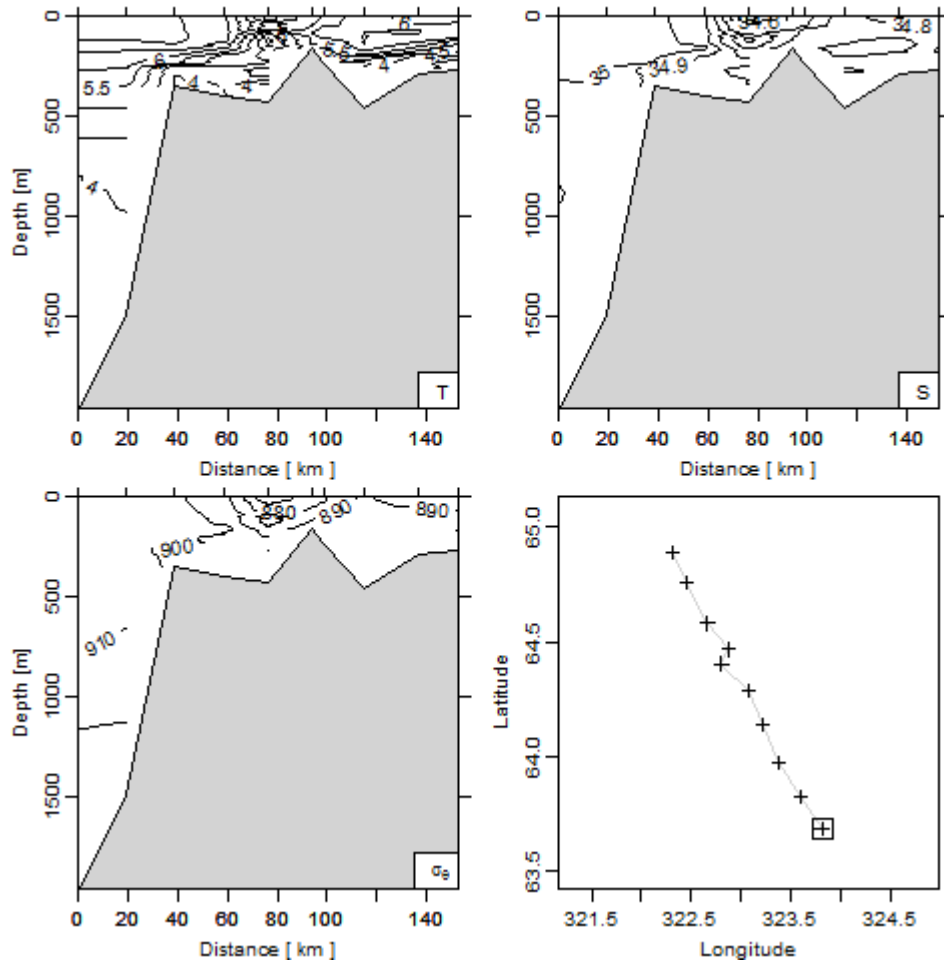


Fig 3: Oceanographic section across Kleine Bank, 2014

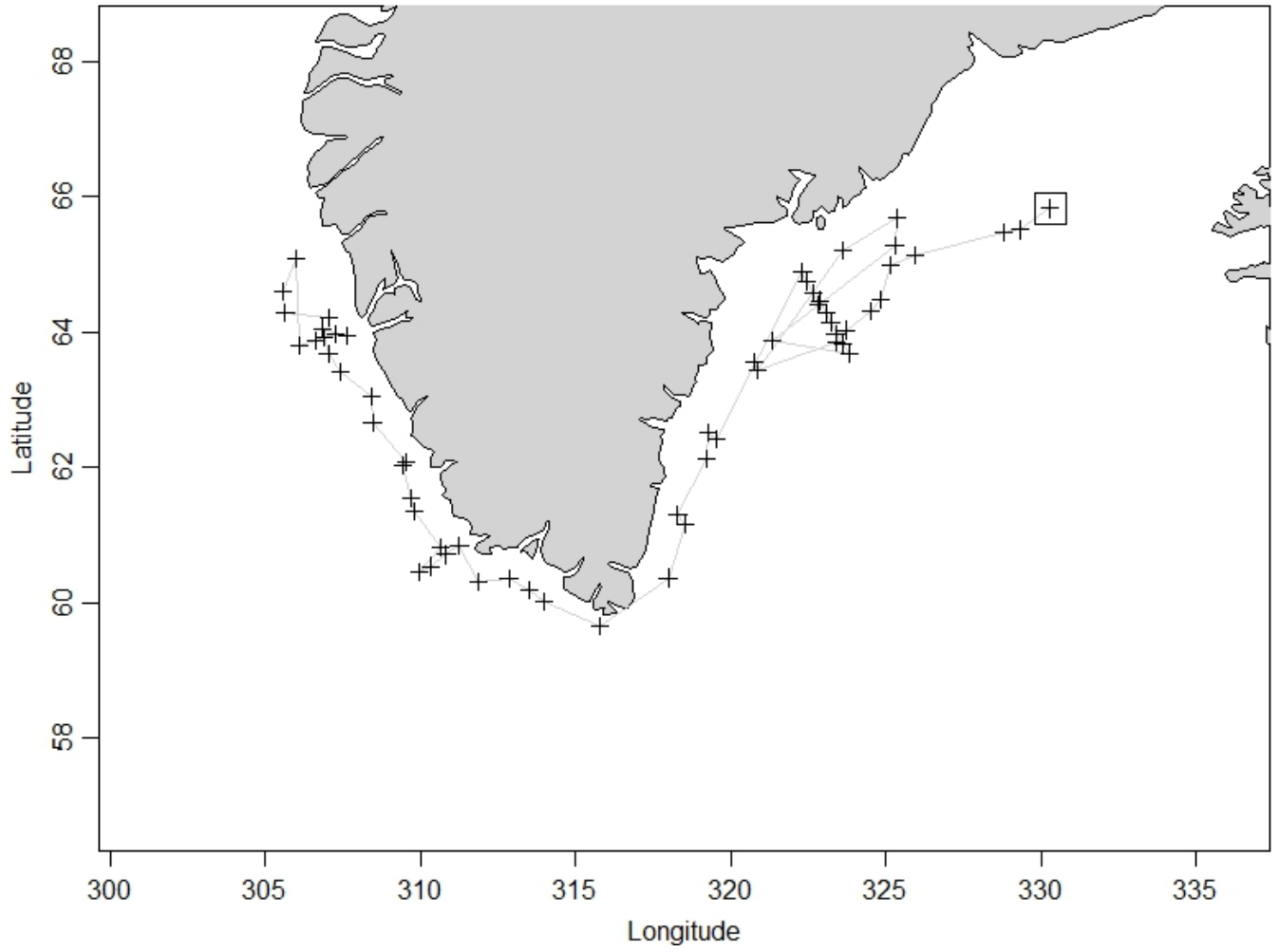


Fig. 4: CTD stations 2014, box indicates starting position