

Status of TNASS-2015

Funding

The Faroe Islands have received approval for the requested funds for both the national and extension surveys for pilot whales. Iceland has received approval for $\frac{3}{4}$ of the requested funds for both the national and extension surveys. Norway reported that the funds are available to conduct their planned mosaic survey (the national survey) but not the extension area of Jan Mayen. Greenland will likely not have more information on funding before June 2015.

A proposal for full funding of the TNASS-2015 extension surveys will be submitted by NAMMCO to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the scheme Norområdesatsingen by the end of February 2015. The decision on funding is expected in March. Norway and Greenland expressed that it may still be possible to plan and conduct the extension surveys with this short funding notice, but that survey platforms (ships and aircraft) may not be available. The Faroe Islands and Iceland will continue as planned regardless of the late funding decision.

Survey Area

The proposed survey areas remain the same as the proposal presented previously (Fig. 1), with the exception of the blue solid block in NE Greenland, which will not be conducted.

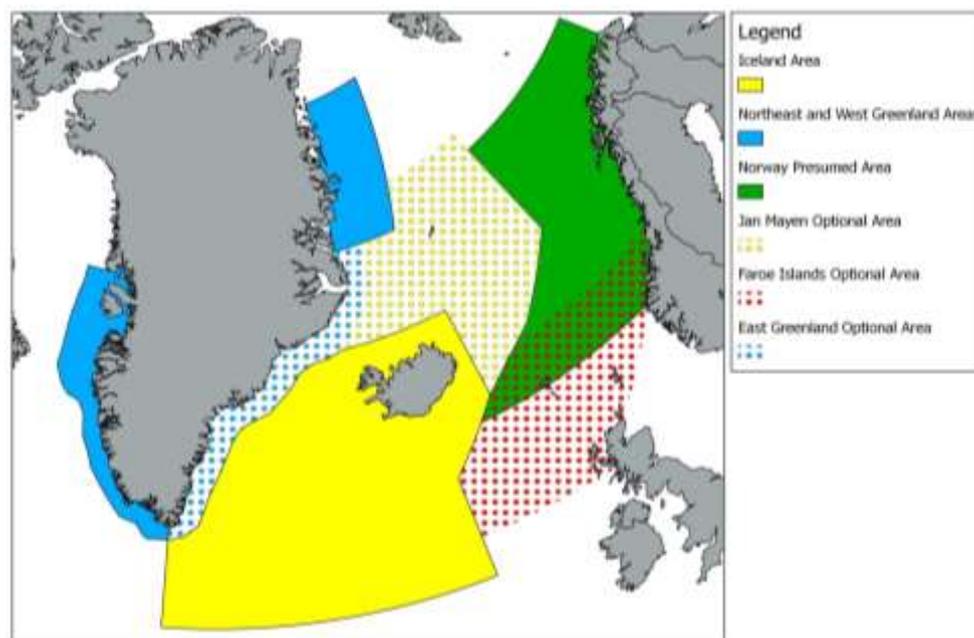


Figure 1. Extension of the TNASS2015 and associated surveys. The size of the areas is estimated to be 235,529 km² for Northeast Greenland, 726,044 km² for the Jan Mayen area, 2,860,193 km² for the Iceland area, 934,722 km² for the Norwegian area, ~768,235 km² for the Faroe Island area, 233,659 km² for the East Greenland area and 225,285 km² for West Greenland.

Equipment Purchases

A few key pieces of equipment that require time for testing have been purchased. These include 1) a drone and camera for the pilot whale surveys in the Faroes, 2) a voice and data recording system and 3) a device for measuring angles; both 3 and 4 are for the aerial surveys in Greenland and Iceland. These were purchased using the remaining 2014 funds.