

B-survey at Hvannadalur, April 2025 (fallow period), Arctic Sea Farm ehf

Akvaplan-niva AS Report: APN 66615.B01



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Number of pages 21

Distribution Through customer

Customer Arctic Sea Farm ehf
Contact person Guðmundur Ólafsson

Summary

Sediment was recovered at all 20 stations (100% soft bottom). The sediments consisted primarily of clay in the whole near zone of the fish farm. Fauna was recorded to be present at all stations mainly in the form of polychaetes. No smell of H_2S was recorded at 18 sampling stations and light smell at 2 sampling stations. There were no signs of out-gassing. The substrate was light/grey colour at all 20 stations. Grab was full at all stations despite trying to slow decent rate during the last meters when lowering the grab.

Based on the classification of sediment chemistry (pH/Eh) and the sensory assessment all twenty stations received status 1 – "Very good" Overall, the index score for parameter III (sensory parameters) were comparable with the index score for the parameter II (pH/Eh) 0.00 and index score for parameter III 0.48 (higher for parameter III mainly due to full grab at all stations).

In summary, the site receives the environmental status 1 - "Very good" (average group II-III index =0.24).

Approval

Project Manager

Quality Control

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Key information

Site details and license holder information										
Site name	Hvannadalur	Site coordinates	65°39.222' N							
			24°00.894' V							
County	Vesturbyggð	Municipality	Tálknafjörður							
MTB (estimated max biomass)	7.250 tonnes	Operations Manager / Contact	Guðmundur Ólafsson							
License holder / customer	Arctic Sea Farm									

Production status on date of survey								
Biomass at site	0 tonnes	Total feed use	0 tonnes					
Farmed species	Salmon	Total biomass produced	0 tonnes					
Type/time of survey	Indicated with X	Comments						
Maximum organic load cf. chapter 7.9		Sampling during fallowing period prior to putting next generation smolt to sea. Fallowing period started 09.10.2024 (12 months).						
Follow-up survey								
Half maximum load								
Pre-stock	\boxtimes							
Required by the state administrator - baseline survey								
Other								
Last fallowing period:	October 2024 - April 2025	_						

Results from B-surve	Results from B-survey in accordance with NS 9410:2016 (main results)										
Parameter group and index	(Parameter group and status									
Gr. II. pH/Eh	0.00	Gr. II. pH/Eh	1								
Gr. III. Sensory	0.48	Gr. III. Sensory	1								
GR. II + III	0.24	GR. II+ III	1								
Date of fieldwork	10.04 2025	Date of report	14.04 2025								
Environmental status (NS 9	0410:2016):		1								

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1 Introduction

The present survey was conducted by Akvaplan-niva AS on behalf of Arctic Sea Farm in connection with the company's fish farming activities at the site Hvannadalur in Tálknafjörður municipality in Vesturbyggð county.

The purpose of a B-survey is to document the environmental status in the near zone of a fish farm by evaluating sediment condition (chemistry, sensory and presence/absence of fauna) in accordance with NS 9410:2016.

The B-survey is a tool for trend monitoring and allows to assess the status of organic enrichment beneath the net pens at different stages of the production cycle.

Figure 1 shows a map of southern part of Vestfirðir where Hvannadalur farm is located.

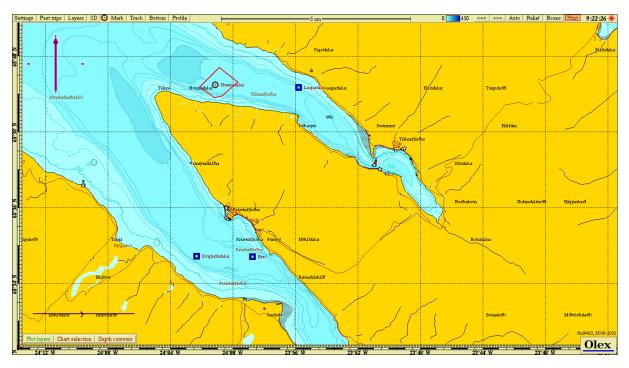


Figure 1. Overview map where Hvannadalur is marked by a read square. Other aquaculture sites in the nearest vicinity (Tálknafjörður and Patreksfjörður) are also shown with a smaller blue box and a name.

2 Methods

Monitoring of the environmental impact of fish farming activities on the seabed is standardised and regulated. All fish farming sites that are in use must be regularly assessed. This B-survey follows guidelines and methods outlined in NS 9410:2016 and ISO 12878. The Icelandic Environmental agency (Umhverfisstofnun) can also set specific requirements regarding frequency of surveys for different fish farming sites, which can overrule the above-mentioned standards.

The B survey is a trend monitoring tool with the focus on sediment condition (benthic impact) under and in the immediate vicinity of an aquaculture site. Sediment samples are taken using a grab (min. 250 cm²). Sediment condition for each sample is assessed applying three indicators: sediment chemistry (pH and redox potential), sensory evaluation (gas bubbles; smell, texture, colour of substrate and thickness of deposited sludge) and the presence or absence of fauna. The performance of these indicators against predefined thresholds allows to categorise the site into four different environmental statuses (Table 1), which are used to determine subsequent sampling frequency. The number of sampling stations is based on the site's allocated MTB, here the estimated max biomass of the current generation i.e. 7.250 ton (Personal reference, Hafsteinn Már Andersson, 2025).

Table 1. Frequency of B-survey based on environmental status at site.

Environmental status at maximum organic load (near zone)	Monitoring frequency for B survey
1-very good	At the next maximum load
2-good	Pre-stock and again at maximum load
3-poor	Pre-stock If the survey prior to restocking / end of fallowing provides: Status 1 – survey should be carried out at next maximum load. Status 2 – survey should be carried out at half the maximum load and at the next maximum load. Status 3 – survey should be carried out at half the maximum load and at maximum load. Implementation of measures to reduce impact should be planned for the next production cycle. If any surveys show the environmental status to be 4 – "very poor", the site's environmental capacity has been exceeded.
4- very poor	Environmental capacity at site is exceeded. The authorities decide further measures.

The following equipment was used in this survey:

Grab: Van Veen grab (0.1 m²) Sieve 1 mm: Akvaplan-niva

pH meter: Electrode, YSI Professional Plus Redox meter: Electrode, YSI Professional Plus

Position determination - GPS map 62s

Digital camera

3 Site, production and survey design

3.1 Site characteristics and production

Hvannadalur is located in the south-western side of Tálknafjörður, approximately 4,5 nm northwest of the town of Tálknfjörður. The fish farm is a two-frame mooring system, each frame having 6 cages, total 12 cages each with 160 m circumference. During the previous production cycle all 12 cages were used. The mooring frame is positioned in northwesterly direction (45°) from land with depths below the cages ranging from 53 to 58 m.

Previously there have been farmed two generations fish at the site. During the last production cycle all twelve cages were used. The fallow period started on the 9th of October.

Table 2 shows production and feed use for the previous and current generations.

Table 2. Production and feed use for farm site Hvannadalur. Data provided by customer.

Generation of fish (G)	Production (tonnes)	Feed use (tonnes)
Generation 2022-2024	3.241 tonnes	3.829 tonnes
Preceding generation	7.366 tonnes	9.560 tonnes

3.2 Current and past surveys

Table 3 provides an overview on results and time of sampling for the last B-surveys at site.

Table 3. Present and previously conducted B-surveys at the site.

Date of sampling	Report number	Production status	Location condition
10.04 2025	APN-66615.B01	B-survey fallow period	1
29.08 2024	APN-66085.B01	B survey max biomass	1
05.09.2022	APN 64286.B01 (Gunnarsson, 2022)	Fallow period	1
09.07.2021	APN-62907.B01 (Gunnarsson, 2021)	B survey max biomass	1
15.07.2019	APN-61376.B01 (Gustavsson, 2019)	B survey new site	1

3.3 Hydrodynamic conditions

Measurement of dispersing current was done at the site in 24th of September – 29th of October 2020 measurements at 48 m depth (Hermansen, 2020). Dominating current (48 m) is in direction southeast (135 degrees). Average current speed was measured to be 6.4 cm/s. Highest current speed is measured to be 26.3 cm/s and 4.2 % of the measurements were < 1 cm/s.

3.4 Survey design

Sampling stations were placed following an assessment of site configuration and local environmental conditions, i.e. bathymetry and hydrodynamics. An overview of the total 20 sampling stations can be found in Figure 2 with coordinates and depth provided in Table 4. Sampling stations were placed to represent the environmental conditions within the near zone and cover thus both the deeper and shallower areas. The typical depth in the local impact zone is in the range from 54-59 m but in general the bathometry under the farm is rather homogenous. Samples were collected from depths ranging from 55-58 metres. The client has stated that all cages at the site were used at some point during this production cycle (pers. Comm Hafsteinn Már Andersen). The station placement is

considered representative for an environmental survey of the farm's near-zone and in accordance with the requirements outlined in NS 9410:2016.

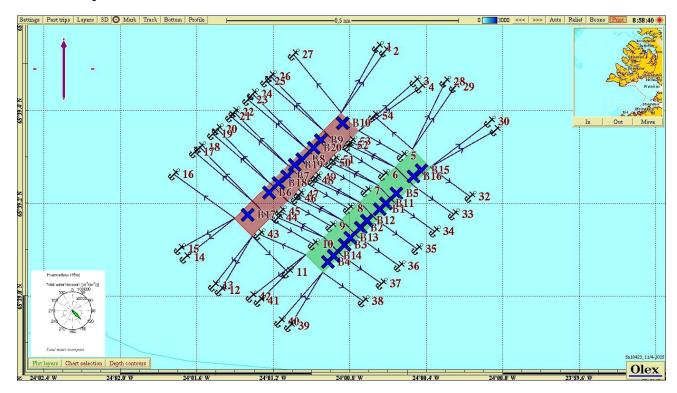


Figure 2. Overview map showing site configuration and local bathymetry at Hvannadalur. Sampling stations are marked by crosses and colour coded to visualise the environmental status at the respective station following the classification outlined in NS 9410:2016, chapter 7.11 (1 = blue, 2 = green, 3 = yellow, 4 = red). The current rose in the left corner shows the direction of water transport at dispersal depths at the site (Hermansen, 2020).

Table 4. Position and depth of the sampling stations of this survey.

Station number	Northing	Westing	Depth [m]
St 1	65°39,187	24°00,644	58
St 2	65°39,147	24°00,742	57
St 3	65°39,110	24°00,828	56
St 4	65°39,073	24°00,913	55
St 5	65°39,221	24°00,557	58
St 6	65°39,223	24°01,221	58
St 7	65°39,258	24°01,127	58
St 8	65°39,294	24°01,047	58
St 9	65°39,335	24°00,950	58
St 10	65°39,372	24°00,838	58
St 11	65°39,199	24°00,610	58
St 12	65°39,162	24°00,711	58
St 13	65°39,125	24°00,796	57
St 14	65°39,086	24°00,883	56
St 15	65°39,271	24°00,424	57
St 16	65°39,257	24°00,466	57
St 17	65°39,175	24°01,334	58
St 18	65°39,243	24°01,172	58
St 19	65°39,281	24°01,088	58
St 20	65°39,319	24°00,988	58

4 Results

Classified survey results for the different parameter categories as well as the assigned environmental status of the site are shown in Table 5. The complete survey assessment form with results and classifications for each station can be found in the attachment.

Table 5. Results from the environmental assessment of the near zone of Hvannadalur.

Parameter	Status
Group II parameters (pH/Eh)	1
Group III parameters (sensory)	1
Group II + III – parameters (mean)	1
Environmental status (site)	1

Sediment was recovered at all 20 stations (100% soft bottom). The sediments consisted primarily of clay in the whole near zone of the fish farm. Fauna was recorded to be present at all stations mainly in the form of polychaetes. No smell of H_2S was recorded at eighteen sampling stations and light smell at two sampling stations. There were no signs of out-gassing. The substrate was light/grey colour at all twenty stations. Grab was full at all stations despite trying to slow decent rate during the last meters when lowering the grab.

Based on the classification of sediment chemistry (pH/Eh) and the sensory assessment all twenty stations received status 1 – "Very good" Overall, the index score for parameter III (sensory parameters) were comparable with the index score for the parameter II (pH/Eh) 0.00 and index score for parameter III 0.48 (higher for parameter III mainly due to full grab at all stations).

In summary, the site receives the environmental status 1 - "Very good" (average group II-III index =0.24).

5 Summary

Applying the indicator thresholds and classification outlined in NS 9410:2016 it is shown that the site Hvannadalur receives overall site status of 1 – "Very good" at the time of this B survey (fallow period). Samples were collected with a Van Veen grab ($0.1~\rm{m}^2$) at 20 stations distributed around the 12 cages in use during last production cycle. Sediment was successfully collected at all the 20 stations and all stations received status 1 – "Very good".

The survey presented here was undertaken at max biomass and the results indicate relatively little organic enrichment in the whole of the local impact zone.

Previous B surveys carried out at max biomass for last generation gave the site also an overall environmental status of 1 – Very good (Gunnarsson, 2024). In the 2024 survey nine stations received condition 1 – "Very good" and one station received condition 2 – "Good". In the present survey in 2025 all twenty stations had condition 1 – "Very good". Overall, these results indicate that there is rather little organic enrichment detectable in the local impact zone at the 2025 survey at Hvannadalur. The current 6-month fallow period has rather improved the condition based on the index scores and stations conditions.

The site is given environmental status 1 – "Very good" following the criteria outlined in NS 9410:2016.

6 References

Forskrift om drift av akvakulturanlegg (akvakulturdriftsforskriften) §§ 35 og 36.

Gunnarsson, S., 2024. B survey at Hvannadalur, August 2024 (max biomass), Arctic Sea Farm ehf.. APN report. nr. 66085.B01

Gunnarsson, S., 2022. Hvannadalur, Arctic Sea Farm. B survey (post fallow), September 2022. APN report. nr. 64286.B01

Gunnarsson, S., 2021. Hvannadalur, Arctic Sea Farm B-bottom survey, April 2021 (maximum biomass survey). APN report. nr. 62907.B01

Gústavsson, A., 2019. Hvannadalur, Arctic Sea Farm. B-bottom pre-survey, July 2019. APN report nr. 61376.B01.

Hermansen, S., 2020. Arctic Sea Farm hf. Current measurements at Hvannadalur, 2020. APN report nr. 62459.02.

ISO 12878:2012. Environmental monitoring of the impacts from marine finfish farms on soft bottom.

ISO 5667-19:2004. Guidance on sampling of marine sediments.

Norsk Standard NS 9410:2016. Miljøovervåking av bunnpåvirkning fra marine akvakulturanlegg.

Personal reference. Hafsteinn Már Andersson, IT specialist, Arctic Sea Farm. 2025.

7 Attachments

7.1 Form (B.1 and B.2) NS 9410:2016

		3011	eme B.1										
		Comp	any		Ar	ctic Sea F	arm			Date:			10.04 2
		Site	:		Hvannadalur					Site no.:			iteltem.Lol
		Fieldwo	rker:		Sno	rri Gunnaı	rsson						
Pa	rameter	Point					Sample n	umber					
1 4	iranietei			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Bottom ty	pe: S (so	ft) eller H (hard)	s	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	s
An	nimals >		(0) 11 (1)				T		ı	I	ı	ı	
1m		Ye	es (0) No (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
pН			value	7,59	7,48	7,59	7,64	7,66	7,30	7,69	7,72	7,61	7,59
<u> </u>			ORP	233	206	98	143	218	199	202	215	223	219
Eh	ı (mV)			433	406	298	343	418	399	402	415	423	419
nН	l/Eh		lus ref. verdi from figure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PI.		Status s		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
				Buffer-temp	8,0	•	Sea temp	3,4		Sedime		4,3	
		pH sea	8,01	ORP sea	232,0	mV	Eh sea	432,0	mV	Reference	electrode	200,0	mV
Ga	as bubbles	V	es (4) No (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Г			ight/grey (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Co	olour		own/black (2)	U	U	-	- 0	U	-	U	U	U	U
┢		ы		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sn	nell		None (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0			Light (2)										
⊩			Strong (4)										
Co	Consistency		Solid (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Soft (2)										
┢		F	Aqueous (4)										
Gra	ab volume		v < 1/4 (0)										
(v)		1/4	4 < v < 3/4 (1)										
┡			v > 3/4 (2)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Thi	ickness of	•	t < 2 cm (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	dge (t)	2	< t < 8 cm (1)										
L		•	t > 8 cm (2)										
		Co	Sum rected ('*0,22)	2,0 0,4	2,0 0,4	2,0 0,4	2,0 0,4	2,0 0,4	2,0 0,4	2,0 0,4	2,0 0,4	2,0 0,4	2,0 0,4
	L	Status s		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		Av	erage group II & II	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2
			Status station		-,-	-,-							

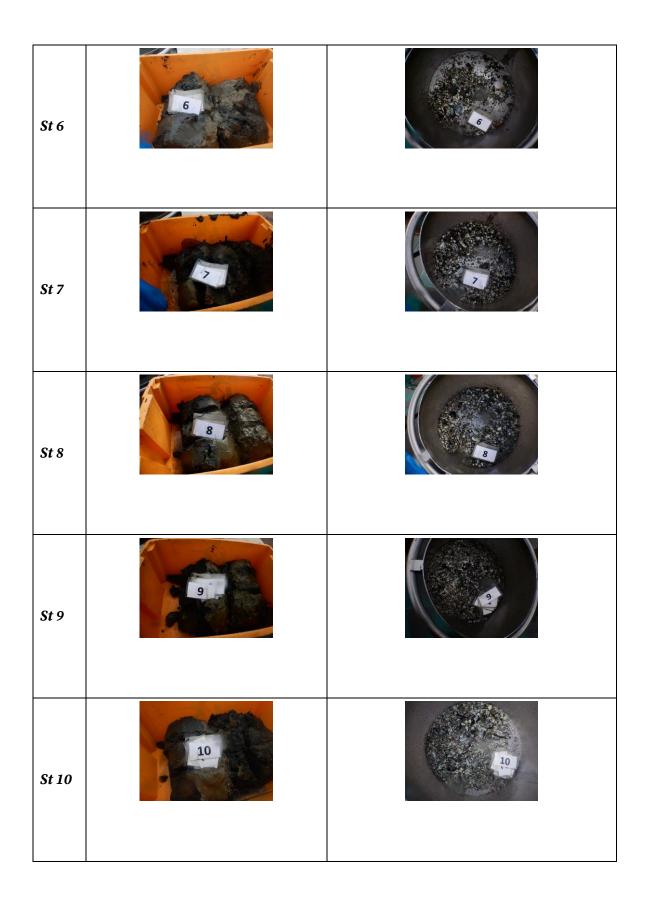
	Sample	scheme B.1												
		Company:		Arc	tic Sea F	arm			Date:			10.04 2	025	
		Site:		Н	vannadal	ur			Site no.:			eltem.Lol	calitets	
		Fieldworker:		Snoi	ri Gunnar	rsson								
Gr	Parameter	Point				Sample r	umbor	-					Index	
.	. urumotoi		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	S%	H%
	Bottom	type: S (soft) or H (hard)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	100	0
ı	Animals > 1mm	Yes (0) No (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0]	
													_	
II	рН	value	7,62	7,56	7,55	7,58	7,61	7,71	7,59	7,50	7,66	7,64		
	Eh (mV)	ORP	212	177	158	135	231	207	187	154	213	223		
	(,	plus ref. verdi	412	377	358	335	431	407	387	354	413	423		
	pH/Eh	from figure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,0	00
		Status station Status group II	1	1	1 8,0	1	1	1	1	1 Sediment	1 4,3	1		
		pH sea 8,01	1 ORP sea	Buffer temp		Eh sea	Sea temp	3,4 mV		temp		mV		
III	Gas bubbles	Yes (4) No (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
		Light/grey (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Colour	Brown/black (2)			- u			-		- U	- u			
		None (0)	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0		
	Smell	Light (2)				2				2				
		Strong (4)												
		Solid (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Consistency	Soft (2)												
		Aqueous (4)												
	0	v < 1/4 (0)												
	Grab volume (v)	1/4 < v < 3/4 (1)												
		v > 3/4 (2)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		
	Thickness of	t < 2 cm (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	slidge (t)	2 < t < 8 cm (1)												
		t > 8 cm (2)												
		Sum Corrected (*0,22)	2,0 0,4	2,0 0,4	2,0 0,4	4,0 0,9	2,0 0,4	2,0 0,4	2,0 0,4	4,0 0,9	2,0 0,4	2,0 0,4	0,4	18
		Status station	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0,	
		Status group III		1									•	
		Average group II & III	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,4	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,4	0,2	0,2	0,2	24
		Status station	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	U,2	24
		Status group II & III		1										
		pH/Eh		1										
		Corr.sum	Status											
		Index	Otatus											
		Average	4											
		< 1,1 1,1 - <2,1	2											
		2,1 - <3,1	3											
		≥3,1	4								St	atus site:	1	
	Grab ID	КЗ												
	pH / Eh ID	Ysi professional plus								page 2 of	4 pages			

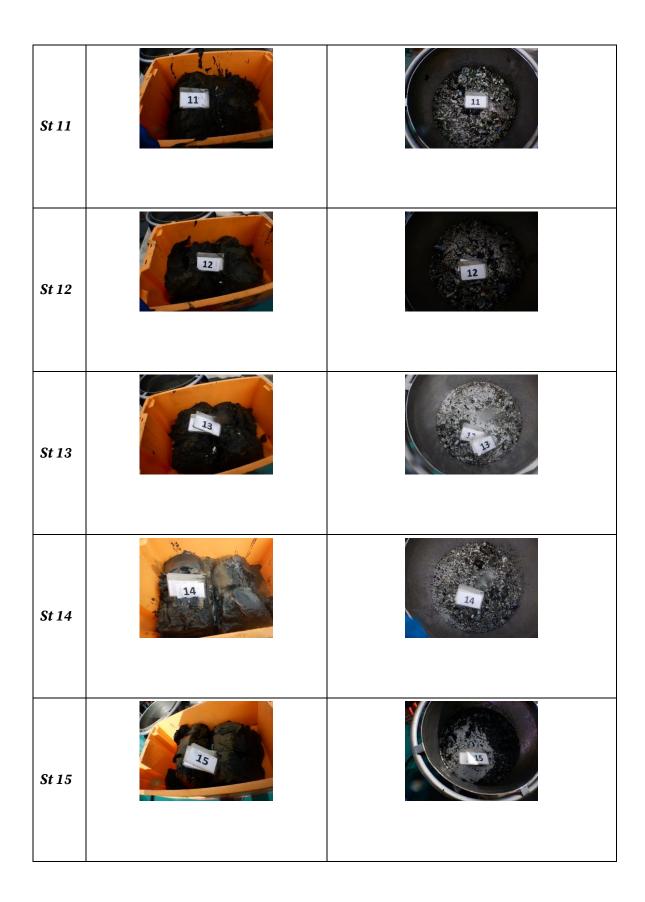
Sample scheme B.2												
Company:						Da	ıte:	1	0.04 2025			
Site:		Hvann	adalur			Site	no.:	{{SiteItem.LokalitetsID}}				
vorker:		Snorri Gu	ınnarsson									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Sample number Depth (m)		57	56	55	58	58	58	58	58	58		
Number of trials		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
le)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No		
Clay	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		
Silt												
Sand												
Gravel												
Shellsand												
es, boulders)												
t					3	1						
							32	1	7			
	>30	>40	>10	4	5	>10	5	3	>20	>10		
	Area	[m ²]	0,	1		Gra	b ID		K3			
										of 4 pages		
	coany: te: te: torker: le) Clay Silt Sand Gravel Shellsand es, boulders)	pany: te: 1 58 1 le) No Clay X Silt Sand Gravel Shellsand	pany: Arctic S te: Hvanr orker: Snorri Gu 1 2 58 57 1 1 1 1 le) No No Clay X X Silt Sand Gravel Shellsand ss, boulders)	No No No No Sand Gravel Shoulders) Sand Sand	No No No No No No No Shellsand Shell	Arctic Sea Farm	Arctic Sea Farm Bit Site	Date Site no. Date Site no. Site n	Date: 1 Site no.: ((Site lies	Date: 10.04 2025 Site no.: ((Sitetem.Lokalite no.: ((Sitetem		

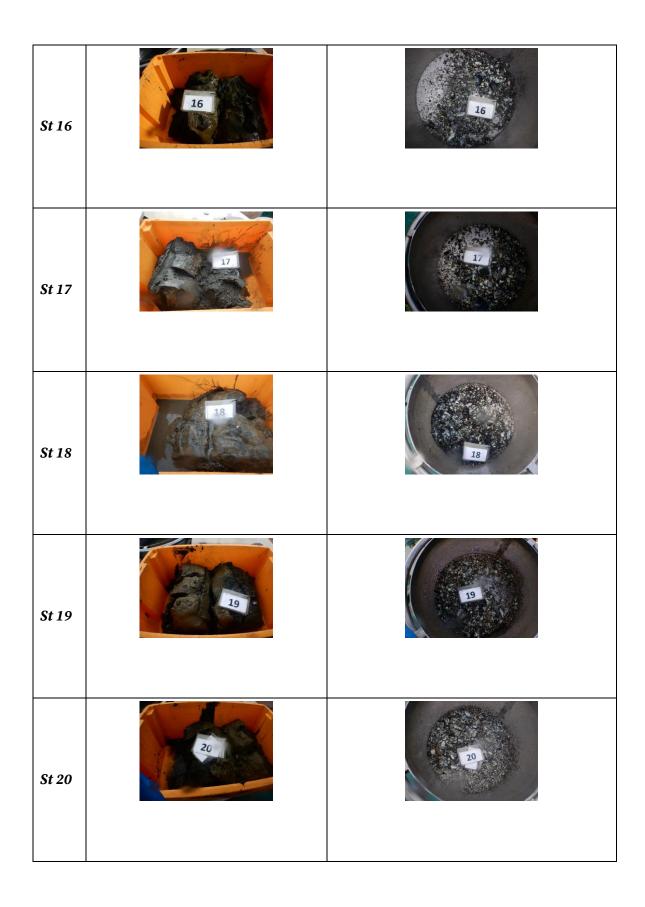
Sample number	Company:			Arctic Sea Farm Hvannadalur				Da	te:	1	0.04 2025	
Sample number								Site	Site no.:		{{SiteItem.LokalitetsID}}	
Sample number	Field	worker:	Snorri Gunnarsson									
Depth (m)	2 2											
Number of trials	Sample number		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Number of trials	Depth (m)		58	58	57	56	57	57	58	58	58	58
Clay			1		1	1	1	1	1		1	1
Clay		ple)										No
Sadiment type		Clav										X
Sand												
Gravel Shellsand	Sediment type											
Shellsand												
Reef Rocky bottom (cobbles, boulders) Echinodermata, count Crustaceans, count Molluscs, count 20 >20 >20 >10 4 >20 >20 >20 3 >10 > 20 >20 3 >10 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3												
	Poof	onensanu										
Echinodermata, count Crustaceans, count Molluscs, count >20 >20 >10 4 >20 >20 >20 3 >10 > Other animals, count		les, boulders)										
Molluscs, count												2
Polychaetes, count									_		4	
Other animals, count					40							1
Beggiatoa Feed Faeces Comments Area [m²] 0,1 Grab ID K3			>20	>20	>10	4	>20	>20	>20	3	>10	>10
Feed Faeces Comments Area [m²] 0,1 Grab ID K3	Other animals, count											
Feed Faeces Comments Area [m²] 0,1 Grab ID K3												
Feed Faeces Comments Area [m²] 0,1 Grab ID K3												
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Grab Area [m²] 0,1 Grab ID K3	Feed											
Grab Area [m²] 0,1 Grab ID K3												
	Comments											
	Grab		Area	Area [m²]		0,1		Grab ID			K3	
1/	Signature fieldworker:					1	1					

7.2 Images of samples at Hvannadalur

St	Image before sieving	Image after sieving
St 1		
St 2	2	2
St 3		3
St 4		
St 5	5	5







7.3 3D-bathymetry

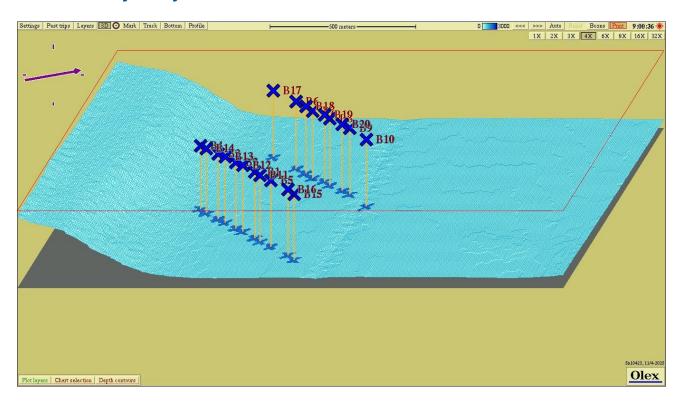


Figure 3. 3D-view of bathymetry at Hvannadalur with stations as shown in Figure 2 and Table 4.