PROJECT SUMMARY REPORT – 2016 BAFFIN BAY

Subproject: Marine Mammal and Bird Observation and Bird Sampling of the 2016 Green-Edge Amundsen Cruise in Baffin Bay

Actual field dates: 31 May – 17. July
Field site: Canadian and Greenland Baffin Bay
Number of man-days in the field: 48

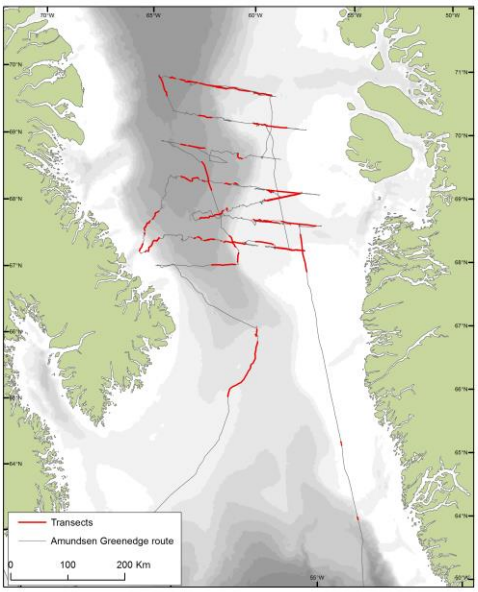

Figure 1

Summary:
We managed during the cruise to perform both systematic observations during ship transit time and effective bird sampling at stations. A total of 20 different bird species and a total of 8 different mammal species were identified. Northern Fulmar, Thick-billed murre and Little auk were the most common bird species observed. Ringed seal, Hooded seal and Harp seal were the most common seals. Long-finned pilot whale was the most common observed whale species observed. A total of 10 Polar bears were observed.
A total of 13 bird samplings were conducted from the zodiac with the result of 121 shot birds in Danish-Greenland waters as we had no permit for Canadian-Nunavat waters. All five different bird species within the Greenland permit was collected. All 121 birds were weighed on site. On 109 birds tracheal swabs were collected for later microbiological investigations. We managed to perform the necessary preparations of blood for some later paraclinical investigations of 76 birds: 1) blood smears and collaring for hemogram and blood-parasite investigations 2) Whole-blood and blood plasma was yielded for later biochemical blood parameters (BCCPs), hormones and pollutants.
Along these tasks we participated in a number of ice stations on the ice as polar bear watch /riffle man.

Photo 2


Photo 3

Photos and Figures:
Figure 1: Sampling area
Photo 2: Amundsen
Photo 3: Work from Zodiac in Baffin Bay

Participants:
AU: Field work Svend Erik Garbus (Marine Cusa)

Acknowledgements:
We would like to thank the Greenland authorities for the permit to conduct scientific bird samplings in Greenland Waters as well as the Canadian authorities for a good cooperation. We would also like to thank ARC for the co-funding of this research project. We express our sincere gratitude to the Amundsen crew and many good colleagues and technicians for their great help.