

RACE Seminar Series

February 18, 2014, 10–11 a.m.

Traynor Seminar Room

Bldg 4, Rm 2076



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Patrick Ressler

Acoustic surveys of euphausiids and the distribution of baleen whales in the Barents Sea

As in many high latitude ecosystems, euphausiids ('krill') play a key role in the Barents Sea by channeling food from primary producers to fish and other zooplankton predators. We used multifrequency acoustic data from recent multidisciplinary research cruises in 2010, 2011, and 2012 to describe the spatial distribution of euphausiids.

These high-resolution, large-scale observations were then incorporated into multiple regression models of baleen (fin, humpback, and minke) whale distribution to test the hypothesis that these animals aggregated where euphausiids were abundant, after the physical environment. Alternative prey was not accounted for and we found that fin humpback densities associated with high acoustic backscatter, but density of minke was not. These results will be further discussed in my talk.

