

Marine Biological Studies Around Surtsey

by

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An initial survey was made of the bottom around Surtsey in the end of August 1966.

100 bottom-samples were collected by means of a Smith-McIntyre bottom-grab. The samples were taken from all around Surtsey out to a distance of 12 nautical miles from the island.

The bottom within a distance of about 0,4 nautical miles from the shore was mostly rocky and it was impossible to dredge here. An exception to this was the bottom to the north and north-east of the island which was covered by a layer of volcanic gravel.

Outside a distance of 0,4 nautical miles from the shore the bottom was covered by a layer of fine volcanic material.

Outside a distance of 1,0 nautical miles from the shore the deposition of volcanic ash does not seem to have been of such magnitude as to affect the fauna noteworthy.

Between 0,4 and 1,0 nautical mile from the shore the deposition of volcanic ash does not seem to have been of such magnitude as to affect the fauna noteworthy.

Between 0,4 and 1,0 nautical miles from the shore the substratum only contained a few but rather common species of animals, of which *Ophiura affinis* and *Abra nitida* has been identified. These animals have apparently settled after the formation of the new sediment-bottom. Further investigations should therefore concentrate on these bottom-areas.

The samples have only been worked up partly, but it can be mentioned that 14 species of bivalves have been found. None were new to Icelandic waters. The Polychaetes *Ditrupa arietina* and

Pectinaria sp. were very common.

It is intended to carry out another survey in May 1967 in order to follow the seral development and to obtain samples from neighbouring unaffected areas for comparative purpose.