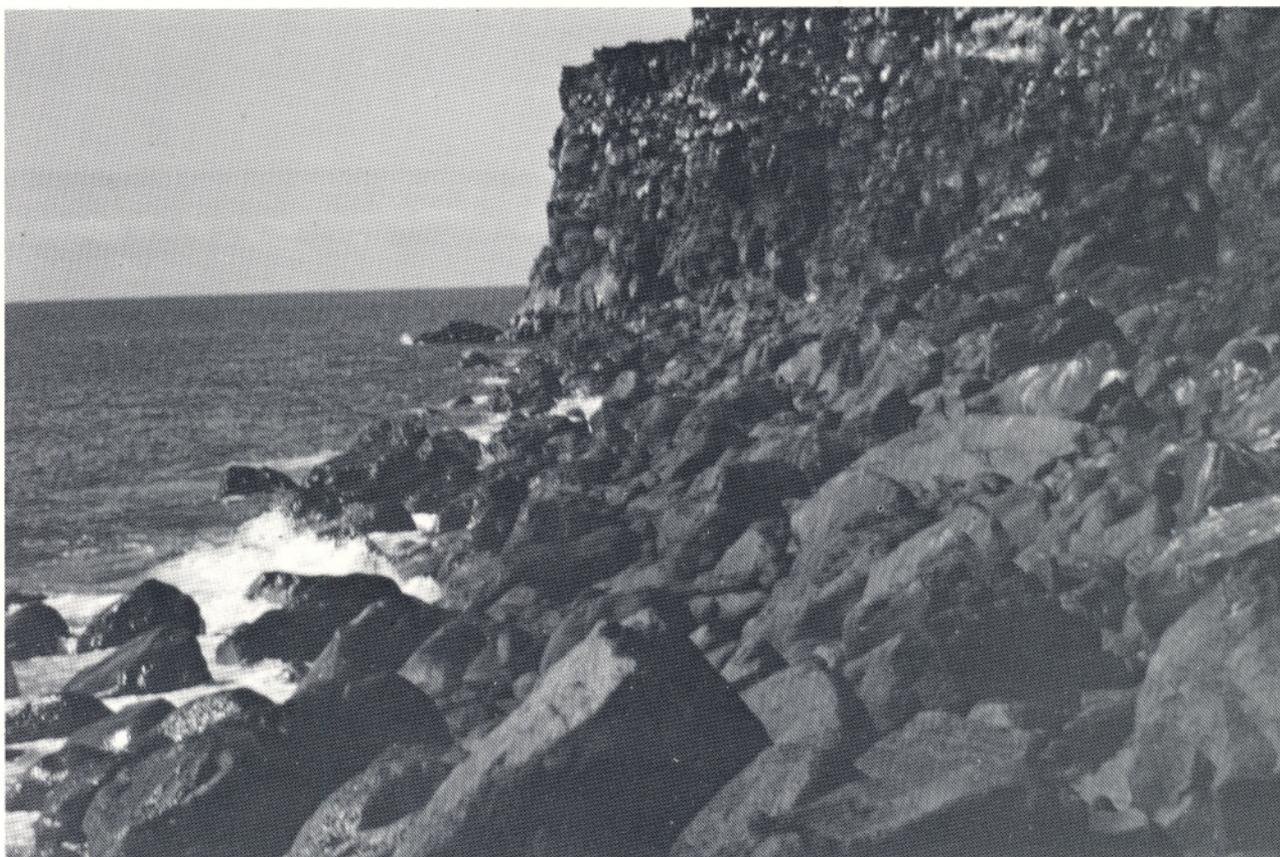


SURTSEY RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT

VIII



THE SURTSEY RESEARCH SOCIETY ● REYKJAVÍK, 1978

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VIII
1971 — 1976 FIELD SEASONS



THE SURTSEY RESEARCH SOCIETY
REYKJAVÍK, 1978

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Introduction

The Surtsey Research Society was formed in the winter of 1963—1964, shortly after the Surtsey eruption started. It is a private non-profit scientific society. The objective of the Society is to strengthen scientific work on Surtsey or related to development there. Members of the Society are Icelandic scientists. Associate members are foreign scientists, who have worked on Surtsey or taken interest in the scientific work there.

Much of the work on Surtsey has been sponsored by the Surtsey Research Society. In addition several institutions and individual scientists have done work there. In such cases the Society has coordinated the scientific work. Emphasis has been placed on collection of as many scientific progress reports as possible for the Society's biannual publication, the Surtsey Research Progress Reports. Thus a unique and most thorough account of the development of Surtsey and of life on the island is to be found in the eight Surtsey Research Progress Reports. Numerous Icelandic scientists have in collaboration with foreign colleagues contributed to that important record.

This report is the eighth in the series of Surtsey Research Progress Reports. In charge of this publication has been the following editing committee:

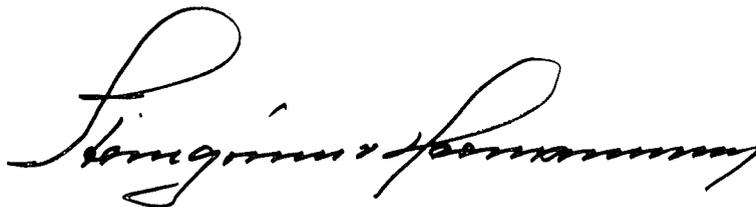
Adalsteinn Sigurdsson, marine biologist
Eythor Einarsson, botanist
Sveinn Jakobsson, geologist

This report covers primarily work on Surtsey from 1974 to 1976.

The scientific work on Surtsey has as previously received support from several sources. The Icelandic government and research institutions have given support either with financial appropriations, scientific personnel or facilities. Financial support has also been received from foreign sources especially in recent years from the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration. This is highly appreciated. Last but not least the scientific work on Surtsey would not have been possible if it were not for the unselfish work of several scientists from Iceland and from abroad.

The isle of Surtsey was created in November 1963 in a violent oceanic eruption 20 miles off the south coast of Iceland. Its evolution has been studied ever since. Although emphasis has changed somewhat from the geosciences to biology, there are still on Surtsey many interesting phenomena to be studied in both fields. Therefore the scientific work on Surtsey must continue. In order to make that possible, Surtsey has been declared a national reserve and is protected for scientific purposes. It seems to me timely to sit down and review the scientific work that has been carried out on Surtsey to date, determine what fields are of greatest interest in the near future and plan how such work shall be done.

On behalf of the Surtsey Research Society,



Steingrímur Hermannsson
Chairman