

## The Bear Island-West section

The Bear Island-West section is located north in the Norwegian Sea. It follows the  $74^{\circ} 30' N$  latitude westward from the Bear Island to  $7^{\circ}$  East. The section covers mainly Atlantic Water and water from the Barents Sea that flow west of the Bear Island. The location of the section, downstream of the bifurcation of the Norwegian Atlantic Current (NAC) with one branch into the Barents Sea and another branch northward west of the Bear Island, makes it valuable for the study of the NAC division. The section has been occupied since 1930 but only regular from the end of 1970s. At present it is occupied four times per year (March, May/June, August, November). An extended section into the Greenland Sea is taken once per year in May/June.

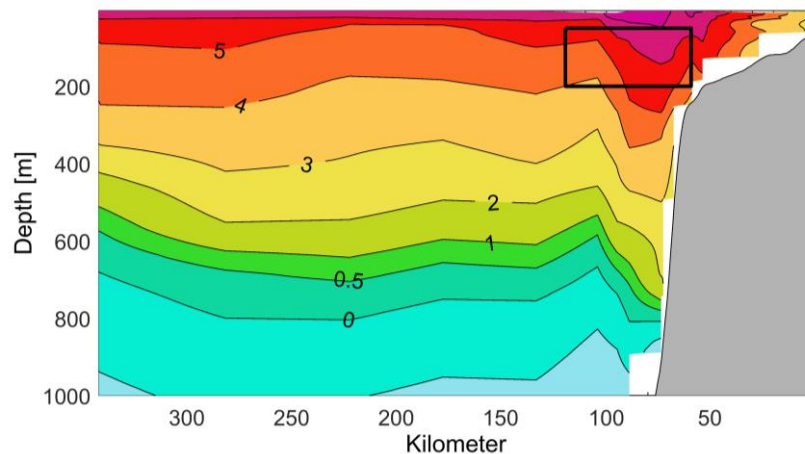


Figure 1. An example of temperature measurements in the Bear Island West section. The average area used to make the indices is shown as a rectangle with black lines.

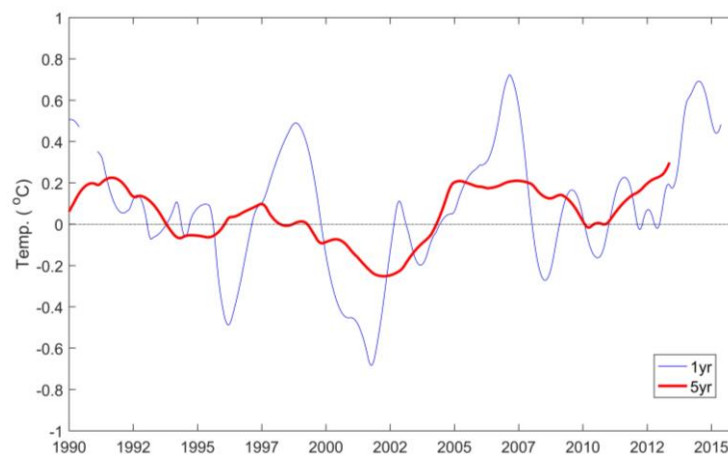


Figure 2. Yearly and five year averages of the temperature index ( $^{\circ}C$ ) in the Bear Island West section from 1990 to 2015.

### Referanse:

Blindheim, J. and Loeng, H. 1981. On the variability of Atlantic influence in the Norwegian and Barents Seas. Fiskeridirektoratets Skrevne Serie for Havundersøkelser, 17: 161-189