**Supplementary Material**

**Supplementary Methods**

**Text S1. Calculation of age-0 fish density from EK60 backscatter profiles**

The EK60 echograms were all visually inspected in Echoview version 9. The ΔMVBS120–38 range of –10 to 5 dB *re* 1 m–1 used to isolate the signal of ichthyoplankton was empirically measured for Arctic cod, a swimbladdered-fish species. To verify if this range of ΔMVBS also selects for the acoustic signal of non-swimbladdered ichthyoplankton captured during this study, we modeled their target strength (TS) at 38 and 120 kHz using the Distorted-Wave Born Approximation (DWBA)-Based Fluid-Like Deformed Cylinder model for weak scatterers (Stanton et al., 1998; details in Table S1). The models suggest that the ΔMVBS120–38 for non-swimbladdered ichthyoplankton species was 2.57 dB, which is also within the –10 to 5 dB range.We can thus assume that our density profiles calculated from acoustics comprise all age-0 fish.

**Table S1.** Details MVBS120–38 calculationsfor non-swimbladdered ichthyoplankton species

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Value** | **Reference** |
| Average length | 24.02 mm | This study |
| SD length | 5.24 mm | This study |
| Average length | 6 mm | Derived from Lawson et al. (2004) |
| Density contrast (*g*) | 1.03 | Lawson et al. (2004) |
| Sound speed contrast (*h*) | 1.03 | Lawson et al. (2004) |
| TS at 120 kHz | -80.34 dB (re 1 m-1) | Stanton et al. (1998) |
| TS at 38 kHz | -82.91 dB (re 1 m-1) | Stanton et al. (1998) |

For each station, TS-to-length relationships were used to transform the mean standard length (SL) of gadids and other fish measured from net collections into target strength values using the following equations. For gadids, TScod = 14.33 log10 (mean SL of cods) – 65.13 (Geoffroy et al., 2016). For non-swimbladdered fishes, TSother = 27.3 log10 (mean SL of other species) – 94 (Gauthier and Horne, 2004). The backscattering cross-section (σbs, m2) for each species was then calculated from its TS (Simmonds and MacLennan, 2005) and a mean backscattering cross-section for all fish was calculated based on the relative abundance and σbs of each fish species. The mean volume backscattering coefficient (sv in m–1) for each 5 m depth strata between 14.5 m and 100 m and 5 nautical miles around each station (i.e., 2.5 miles before and after the station) was then divided by the mean backscattering cross-section for all age-0 fish at that station to obtain the abundance profiles at that station.

**Text S2. Calculation of mesozooplankton density from WBAT backscatter profiles**

The WBAT acoustic data were post-processed in the computer program LSSS (Large Scale Survey System; Korneliussen et al., 2006). The volume backscattering strength (Sv) was exported for each echo-integration cell. The signal of mesozooplankton was extracted by applying a Sv minimum threshold of –90 dB *re* 1 m–1. An upper threshold of –55 dB *re* 1 m–1 was further applied to discard the potential signal of adult fish and artefact noise. The depth of the WBAT was obtained by synchronizing the time with the CTD, and Sv values were adjusted based on depth-dependent absorption coefficients. The Sv values at each depth were then averaged between 5 m to 90 m from the transducer (horizontally).

A single echo detection algorithm (Ona, 1999) in LSSS was used to detect single echoes from 0.5-20 m away from the WBAT (see Møller et al. (2019) for settings). A frequency of 200 kHz has a wavelength of approximately 7.5 mm (at a sound speed of 1500 m s–1). Hence, single individuals of smaller mesozooplankton (< 3 mm) were believed to be difficult to detect, whereas larger mesozooplankton, such as *Calanus* spp. (> 3 mm) could be detected. We included single targets with TS values between –83 dB and –110 dB *re* 1 m2which were anticipated to comprise individuals of *Calanus* spp. The TS range was based on previous acoustic measurements of individual 6-mm *Calanus hyperboreus* females at 200 kHz, which resulted in TS values between approximately –80 and –100 dB with an average TS of –90 dB (E. Ona, unpublished data). Furthermore, model estimates of a 3-mm long *C. finmarchicus* gave TSs between approximately –98 and –110 dB at 200 kHz (Stanton and Chu, 2000). Stronger targets > –83 dB, likely macrozooplankton, were removed manually.TS measurements of single targets from each station were exported and the σbs for each target was calculated.

To obtain mesozooplankton abundance profiles (ind. m–3) at each station, in order to have similar units as from multinet estimates, average Sv values (in the linear form sv m2 m–3) were divided by the average σbs at that station (Simmonds and MacLennan, 2005). The WBAT likely provided conservative abundance estimates of zooplankton because we have applied an average σbs only including larger mesozooplankton (> 3 mm), while Sv values also included the backscattering from smaller mesozooplankton species. Nonetheless, this approach provides information on the high-resolution vertical distribution of the mesozooplankton community to be related to the distribution of fish larvae.

**Supplementary Results**

**Table S2.** Summary of barcoding results for the Gadidae collected in the Greenland Sea in August–September 2017, with number of fish genetically identified as *Boreogadus saida* and *Arctogadus glacialis*, and number of fish for which genotyping failed (no sequence).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Barcoding results | | | Gadidae not analysed | n Gadidae | % genotyped | % *A. glacialis* of genotyped |
| Stn | *A. glacialis* | *B. saida* | no sequence |
| 3 | - | 25 | 1 | 31 | 57 | 46 | 0 |
| 6 | - | - | - | 86 | 86 | 0 | - |
| 9 | - | - | - | 137 | 137 | 0 | - |
| 12 | - | 3 | - | - | 3 | 100 | 0 |
| 15 | 1 | 22 | 2 | 20 | 45 | 56 | 4 |
| 18 | - | - | - | 14 | 14 | 0 | - |
| 20 | - | - | - | 34 | 34 | 0 | - |
| 23 | - | 10 | - | - | 10 | 100 | 0 |
| 27 | - | 14 | - | - | 14 | 100 | 0 |
| 29 | - | - | - | 6 | 6 | 0 | - |
| 36 | - | 2 | - | - | 2 | 100 | 0 |
| 38 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 2 | 100 | 50 |
| 41 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 100 | 100 |
| 45 | 3 | 4 | - | - | 7 | 100 | 43 |
| 54 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 100 | 100 |
| 57 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 100 | 100 |
| 61 | - | 2 | - | - | 2 | 100 | 0 |
| 66 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 0 | - |
| 74 | - | 21 | 4 | 1 | 26 | 96 | 0 |
| 76 | - | - | - | 5 | 5 | 0 | - |
| 80 | - | - | - | 5 | 5 | 0 | - |

**Map

Description automatically generated**

**Figure S1.** Average standard length (mm) of age-0 *Boreogadus saida* in the Greenland Sea in in August–September 2017.

**Table S3.** Median lengths of zooplankton taxa representing potential prey for age-0 fish in the Greenland Sea in August–September 2017. Prosome length for copepodites, carapace length for nauplii (µm), calculated from individuals collected between 0 and 100 m in the study area, by developmental stage. Taxa with average prosome length > 4 mm are not included. N: nauplii. C: copepodites. F: females

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Taxon | Stage | | | | | | |
| N | C1 | C2 | C3 | C4 | C5 | F |
| *Oithona similis* | 170 | 260 | 325 | 375 | 425 | 480 | 525 |
| *Pseudocalanus* spp. | 360 | 518 | 670 | 750 | 850 | 960 | - |
| *Calanus* spp. | 530 | 875 | 1250 | 1725 | 2025 | - | - |
| *Calanus finmarchicus* | - | - | - | - | - | 2500 | 2975 |
| *Calanus glacialis* | - | - | - | - | - | 3475 | 3975 |
| *Calanus hyperboreus* | - | - | 2250 | 3425 | - | - | - |

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