

R1/12

Not to be cited without prior reference to the Marine Laboratory Aberdeen

FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 0400S

REPORT

2-20 March 2000

Personnel

K A Coull
D C Moore
C G Davis
M C Mathewson
R Watret
H Emmerson
F N Burns
S Halewood
K MacLeod

Objectives

1. Demersal trawling survey of the grounds off the north and west coasts of Scotland and Irish Sea.
2. To collect sea water samples at Cape Wrath for SEPA.
3. To collect 400 kg of oiled well cuttings by grab sampling at an abandoned well site in Block 13/28, off the Moray Firth.

Out turn in days per project: 19 days MO1T

Narrative

Scotia sailed from Aberdeen at 1200 hours on 2 March and proceeded to position 58°04'N 01°30'W where a series of grab sampling hauls were completed in order to obtain a quantity of oiled well cuttings. The vessel then called into Peterhead during the early hours of 3 March to allow Derek Moore to return to Aberdeen with the samples obtained.

Scotia commenced trawling later the same day and with strong winds worked along the north coast of Scotland and then into the North Minch. After completing the stations in the relatively sheltered waters of the Minch the vessel then moved onto stations in the Stanton Banks region. With severe weather conditions forecast on the evening of 7 March the opportunity was taken to work on the Clyde and Irish Sea stations before *Scotia* docked for the mid cruise break in Dublin on the morning of 11 March. *Scotia* sailed again the following morning and after completing the Irish Sea stations moved onto the uncompleted stations off Northern Ireland. Work then progressed on the western edge of the survey area and but for a short delay due to weather on 14 March, continued northwards, completing the initial survey area on the morning

of 17 March. Further work was carried out on the demersal recruitment area off the north of Scotland and North Minch before the vessel headed for Aberdeen, docking at midnight on 19 March.

Results

All survey stations were completed with a total of 66 hauls being achieved. Although 65 stations were covered for hydrography, the level of sampling at each station varied due to problems with the Seabird 25 (with automatic firing mechanism) and deployment difficulties due to adverse weather conditions.

Average numbers of one group haddock and whiting caught per hour in each statistical rectangle are shown in Figs 1 and 2 respectively. Indications are that the numbers of one group haddock caught per 10 hours fishing in area VIA are relatively high and that the numbers of whiting are significantly higher than in any of the previous surveys since 1981.

All otoliths collected from cod, haddock, whiting, saithe and Norway pout were aged at sea. Length frequencies, haul summary data and age data were punched at sea and stored on floppy disk.

The scanmar system was used throughout the cruise to monitor headline height, wing spread, door spread and distance covered during each haul.

The Simrad EM950 Multibeam Swathe Bathymetry system was operated during each haul.

K A Coull
10 April 2000

Seen in draft: Roy Walton (Captain)

Haddock I-group average nos/hour

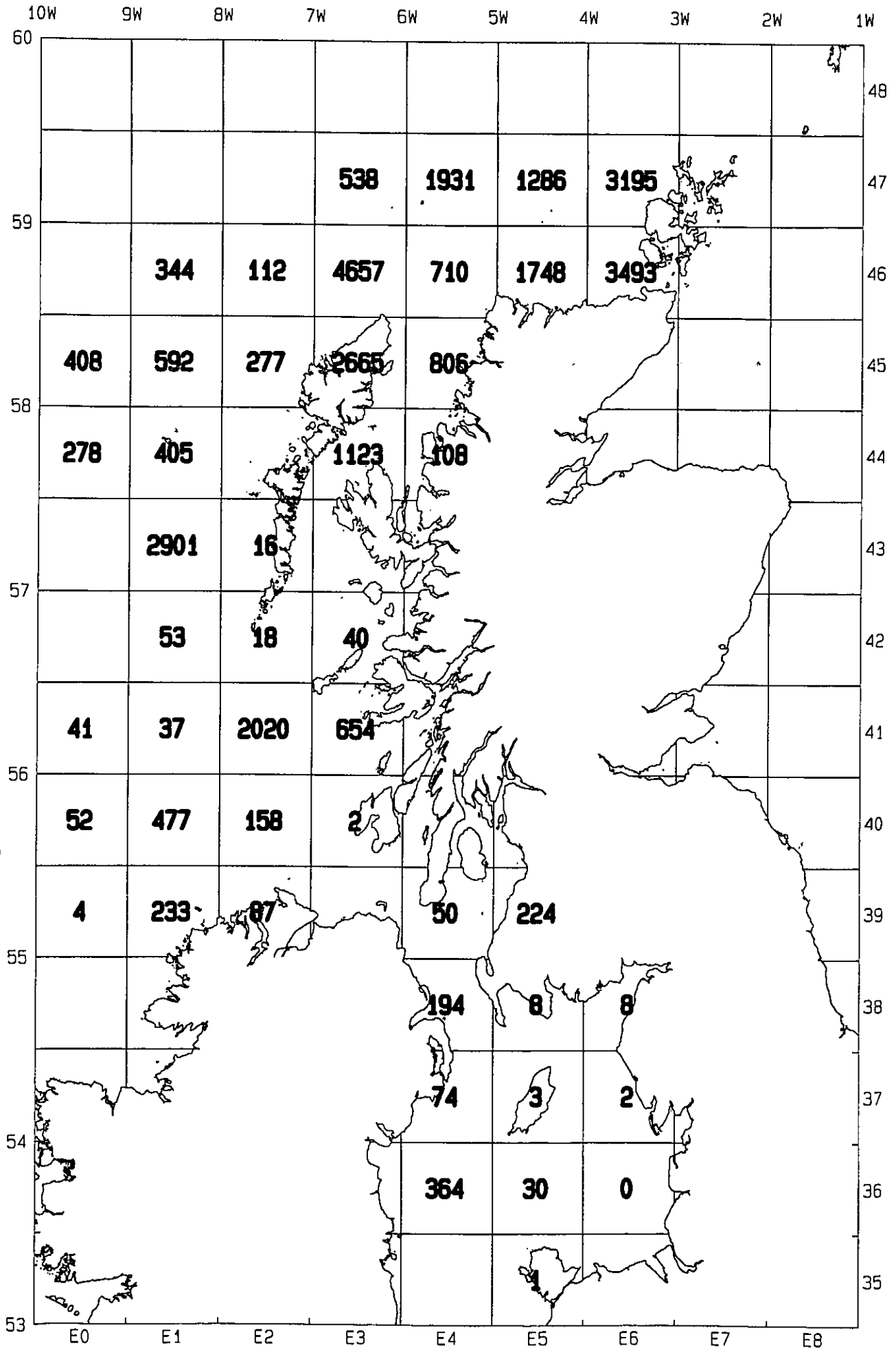


Figure 1

Whiting I-group average nos/hour

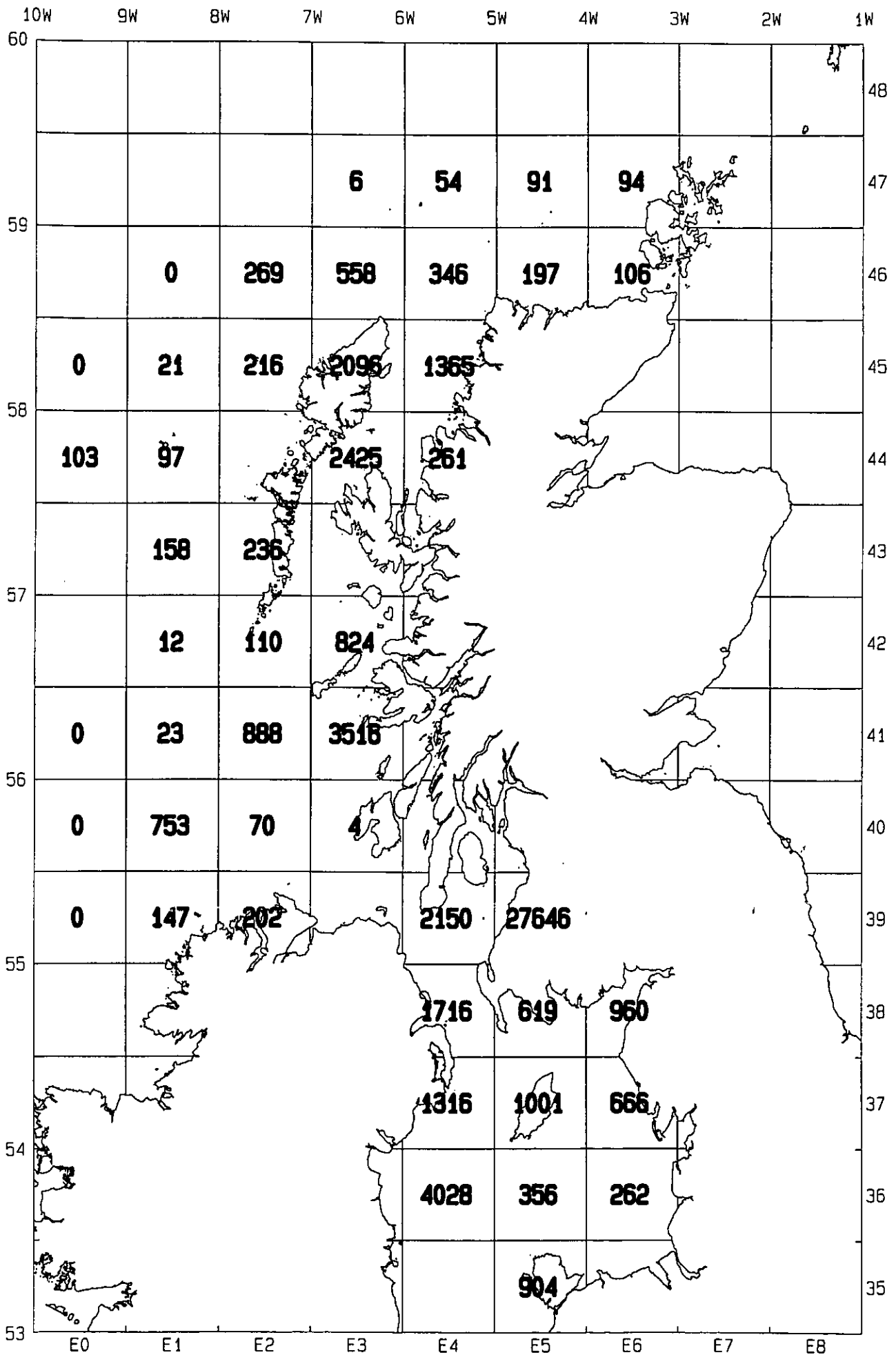


Figure 2

Scotia - West Coast Groundfish Survey
2 - 20 March 2000

