

R1/3

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

FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 0401S

**REPORT**

24 February - 13 March 2001

**Half-landing:** Dublin (dates flexible)

**Personnel**

- K A Coull
- P J Copland
- M C Mathewson
- J McWilliam
- F Burns
- J Drewery
- I Penny (Part one)
- E Jones (Part two)

**Objectives**

1. Demersal trawling survey of the grounds off the north and west coasts of Scotland and Irish Sea.
2. To obtain temperature and salinity data from surface and sea bed at each trawling position.

**Out turn in days per project:** 17 days MOIT

**Narrative**

Loading of the vessel commenced at 0900 hours on 26 February in Aberdeen. With the closure of Aberdeen harbour, due to severe weather conditions, sailing was delayed until 1500 hours on 27 February. Trawling commenced the following morning on the station west of the Orkney Islands. Four stations were completed before *Scotia* called into Stornoway on the morning of 1 March to land a crewman (as had been arranged previously). *Scotia* resumed work on stations off the Butt of Lewis then proceeded working in a southerly direction, covering the stations on the outer edge of the survey area. With a deterioration in weather conditions on the evening of 4 March the vessel moved overnight to the Clyde where the two stations were completed before moving into the Irish Sea. Nine stations were completed in the Irish Sea before *Scotia* docked at Douglas in the Isle of Man on 7 March for a personnel change and a mid cruise break. The vessel sailed at 0900 hours the following morning and resumed work on stations off the Irish coast. After completing the Irish Sea stations on the evening of 9 March *Scotia* moved overnight to the Stanton Banks. Work then continued uninterrupted on the stations in the south and north

completing the survey area on the morning of 13 March. The vessel then proceeded to Aberdeen, where unloading was completed on 14 March.

## Results

All survey stations were completed with a total of 57 haul carried out with the GOV trawl (BT 137).

Average numbers of I group haddock and whiting caught per hour in each statistical rectangle are shown in Figures 1 and 2 respectively. The number of I group haddock encountered were close to the recent ten year average and numbers of I group whiting were below the average. Although the strong 1999 brood of haddock (two year olds) were still well represented in this years survey, the numbers of (two year old) whiting were relatively low.

All otoliths collected from cod, haddock, whiting, saithe, Norway pout, mackerel, herring and sprat were aged at sea. All haul summary, length frequency and age data were punched at sea and stored on floppy disk.

The ships thermosalinigraph was run continuously throughout the cruise.

The Scanmar system was used during each haul to monitor headline height, wing spread, door spread and distance covered.

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

K A Coull  
15 May 2001

Seen in draft: Captain Peter Ramsay, FRV *Scotia*

Whiting I-group average nos/hour

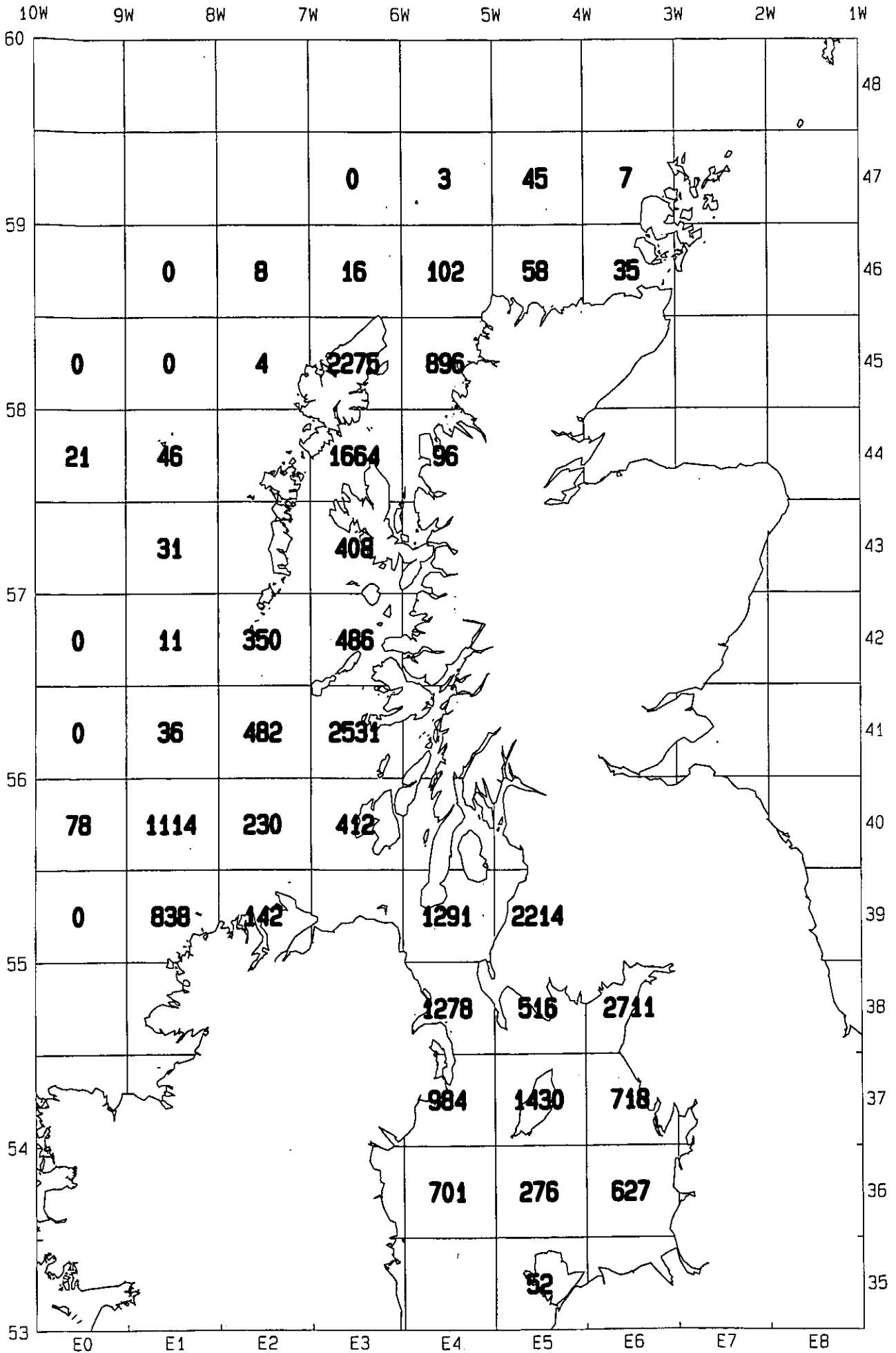


Figure 2

# West Coast Groundfish Survey - 2001

