

R1/12

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FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 0402S

REPORT

2-25 March 2002

Personnel

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(Part I)

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.
3. To obtain samples for the cod biological sampling programme.

Out-turn days per project: 19 MF01T, 5 days MF0462

Narrative

Scotia sailed from Aberdeen at 1800 hours on 2 March and proceeded towards the stations off the north coast of Scotland. Trawling commenced the following morning at the station west of Orkney and four further stations were completed before poor weather conditions intervened. Work continued in the relatively sheltered waters of the North Minch with the vessel working in a southerly direction. With no prospect of work on the offshore stations, the vessel headed for the Clyde region during the night of 6 March. Work then continued into the Irish Sea where thirteen stations were completed before the vessel called into Douglas, Isle of Man on the evening of 9 March. *Scotia* sailed again the following morning but severe weather conditions delayed trawling until later that evening. During the 11 March, the opportunity was taken to carry out several additional hauls for Cod Biological Samples in the Clyde region. Work recommenced on the survey stations off the north west of Ireland the following morning and the vessel worked northwards, covering the stations west and north of the Hebrides. *Scotia* called into Stornoway on 16 March for the mid cruise break and departed from there the following morning.

After completing a station off the Summer Isles, the vessel then called into Ullapool to pick up scientific equipment and for one of the scientific staff to return to Aberdeen. The vessel then continued on the stations in the South Minch and Stanton Banks region and completed

the initial survey area on the evening of 18 March. Several hauls were completed on the edge of the Shelf, west of the Hebrides before *Scotia* moved on to a 24 hour trawling pattern in an attempt to obtain Cod Biological Samples. A total of 39 hauls were carried out in the area from west of the Butt of Lewis to the west of Orkney. With the combination of damage to the trawl and very few cod in the catches, the survey was completed around midday on 24 March. The vessel then proceeded towards Aberdeen, docking in the early hours of 25 March.

Results

The survey areas was successfully covered with a total of 61 valid hauls being done on the routine survey stations. An additional four hauls were completed to the west and south of St Kilda to provide information on species composition at different depths. A total of 43 hauls were carried out to obtain samples for the cod biological sampling programme. Temperature and salinity data were collected at each of the routine trawling stations and at selected sites where trawling took place in relation to the cod biological sampling programme.

Average numbers of one group haddock and whiting caught per hour in each statistical rectangle are shown in Figures 1 and 2 respectively. The numbers of one group haddock and whiting encountered were generally lower than the recent 10 year average. The strong 1999 brood of haddock (three year olds) were well represented in the survey with the numbers encountered being the highest since the survey series commenced. Average numbers of herring caught per hour in each rectangle shown in Figure 3.

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

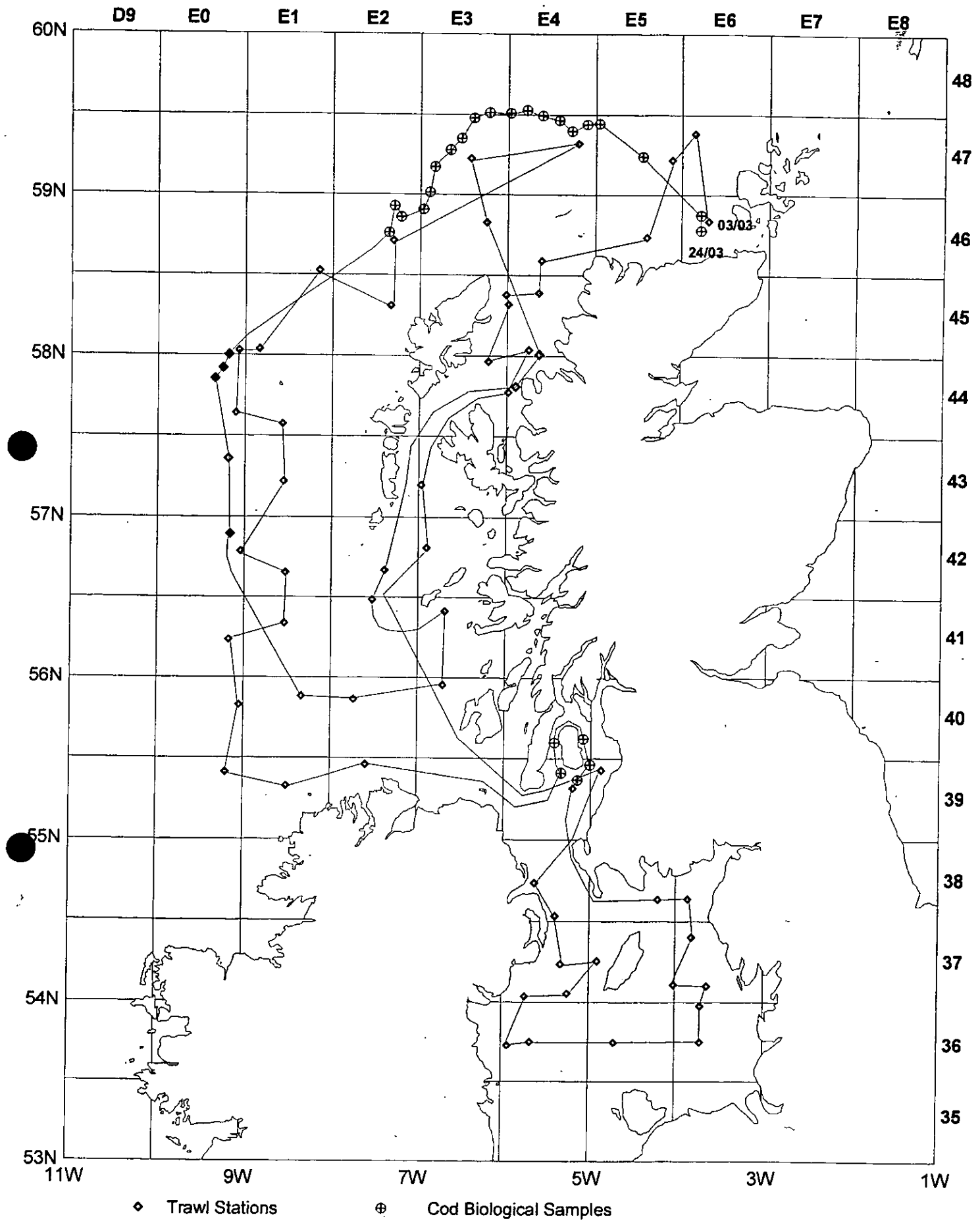
The Scanmar system was used during each haul to monitor headline height, wing spread, door spread and distance covered.

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

K A Coull
19 June 2002

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

West Coast Groundfish Survey - 2002 Station Positions



West Coast Survey 2002 - number per hour 1+ haddock

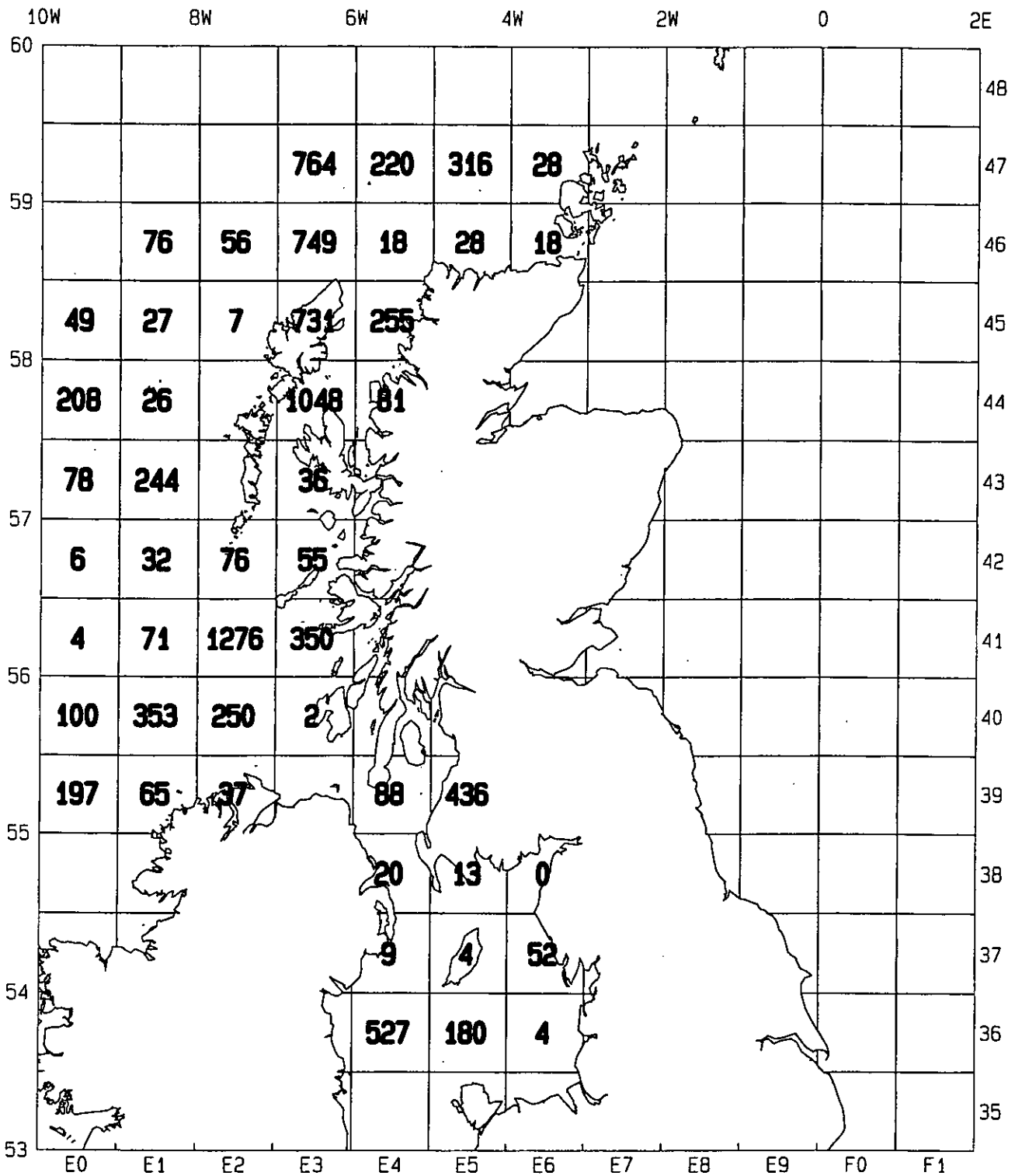


Figure 1

West Coast Survey 2002 - number per hour 1+ whiting

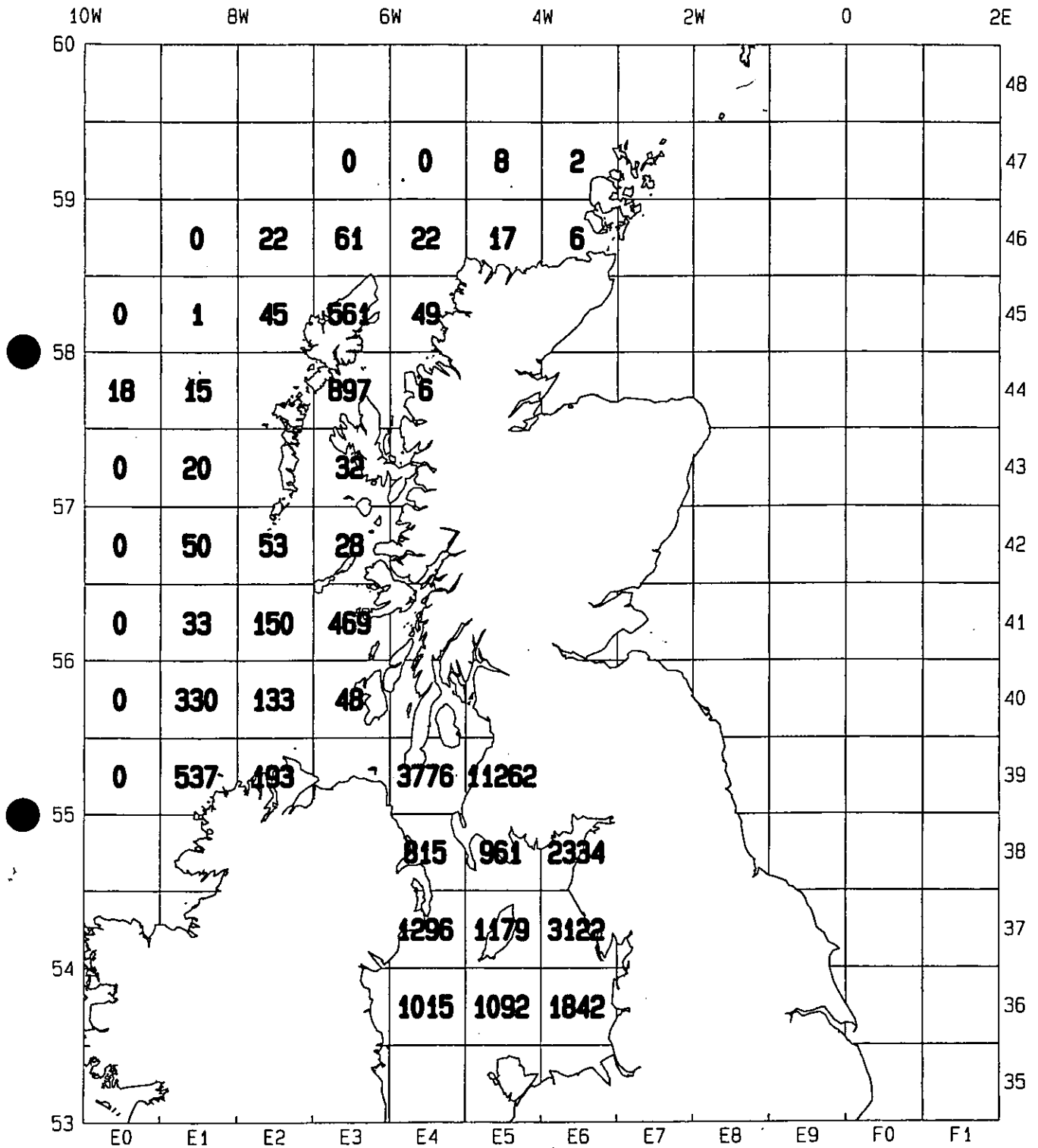


Figure 2

West Coast Survey 2002 - numer per hour - herring

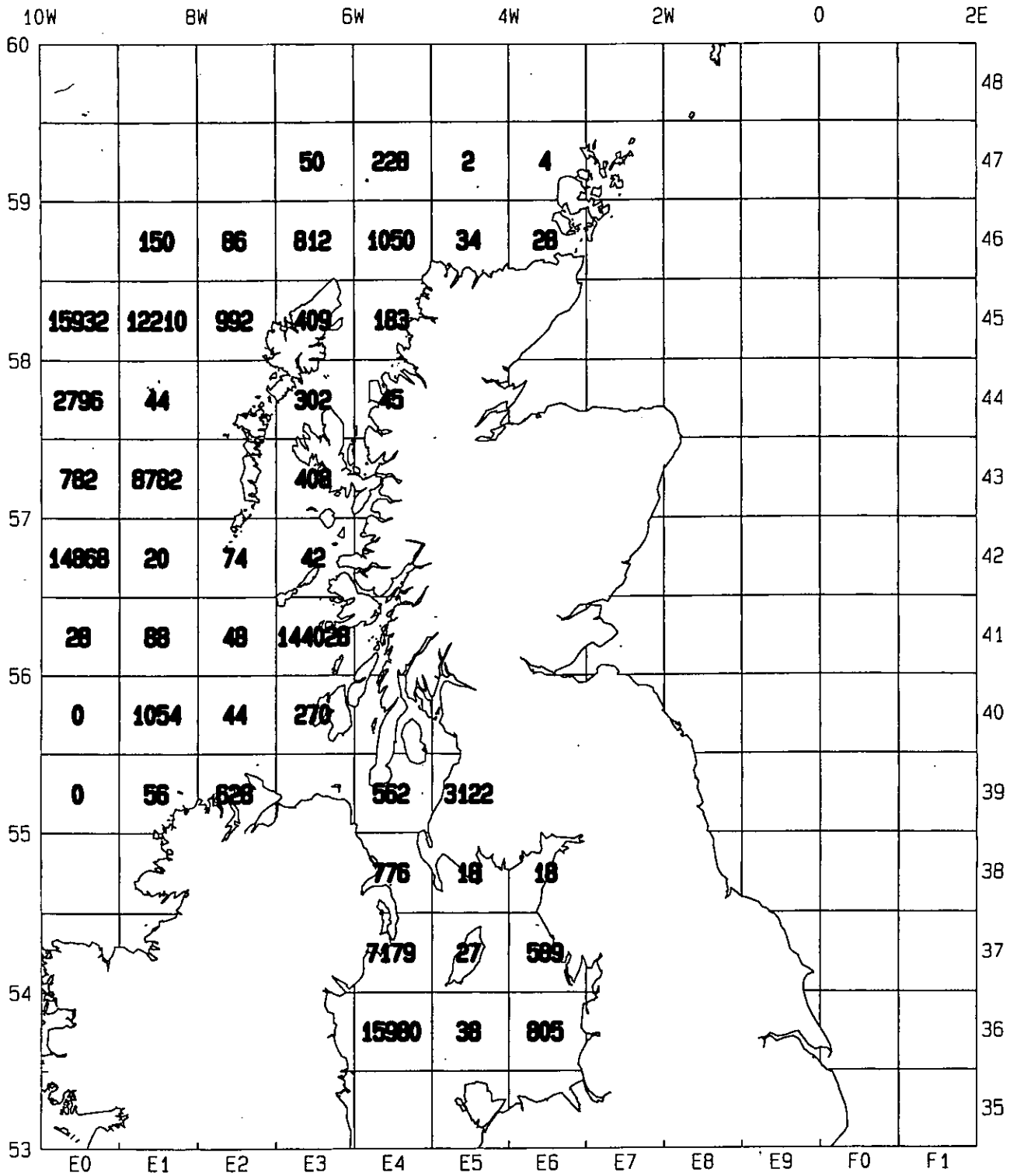


Figure 3