

R1/3

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

MV *ARGO*

Cruise 0496H

REPORT

12 August - 6 September 1996 (excluding weekends)

### Personnel

T Howell	HSO
J Donald	ASO

### Objectives

1. To carry out a survey of scallop stocks in the North Sea.
2. To collect information on by-catches of other commercial fish and shellfish species.

**Out-turn Days Per Project:** 20 days FBA1

### Narrative

The scientific staff joined MV *Argo* at Aberdeen at 0830 on 12 August. After loading, *Argo* made for grounds in the south of Aberdeen and began sampling. Sampling continued on all the major east coast grounds following the pattern shown in Figure 1.

### Results

During the trip, 123 scallop dredge hauls were made and a total of 15,566 scallops were caught. The position of each haul is shown on the map in Figure 1. Catch rates varied considerably from a minimum of 0/hr to a maximum of 1068/hr. The age frequencies for each statistical rectangle are shown in Figure 2 and the length frequencies are shown in Figure 3. The number and length distributions of by-catch commercial fish and shellfish species were recorded. The total number of each species caught are given in Table 1.

T Howell  
28 November 1996

TABLE 1

Species	Total
<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	285
<i>Cancer pagurus</i> F	95
<i>Cancer pagurus</i> M	56
<i>Chlamys opercularis</i>	187
Lemon sole	42
<i>Lithodes maja</i> F	48
<i>Lithodes maja</i> M	44
<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	206
<i>Neptunea antiqua</i>	538
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	128
<i>Raja batis</i>	18
<i>Raja clavata</i>	20
<i>Raja naevis</i>	114
<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i>	1

Figure 1

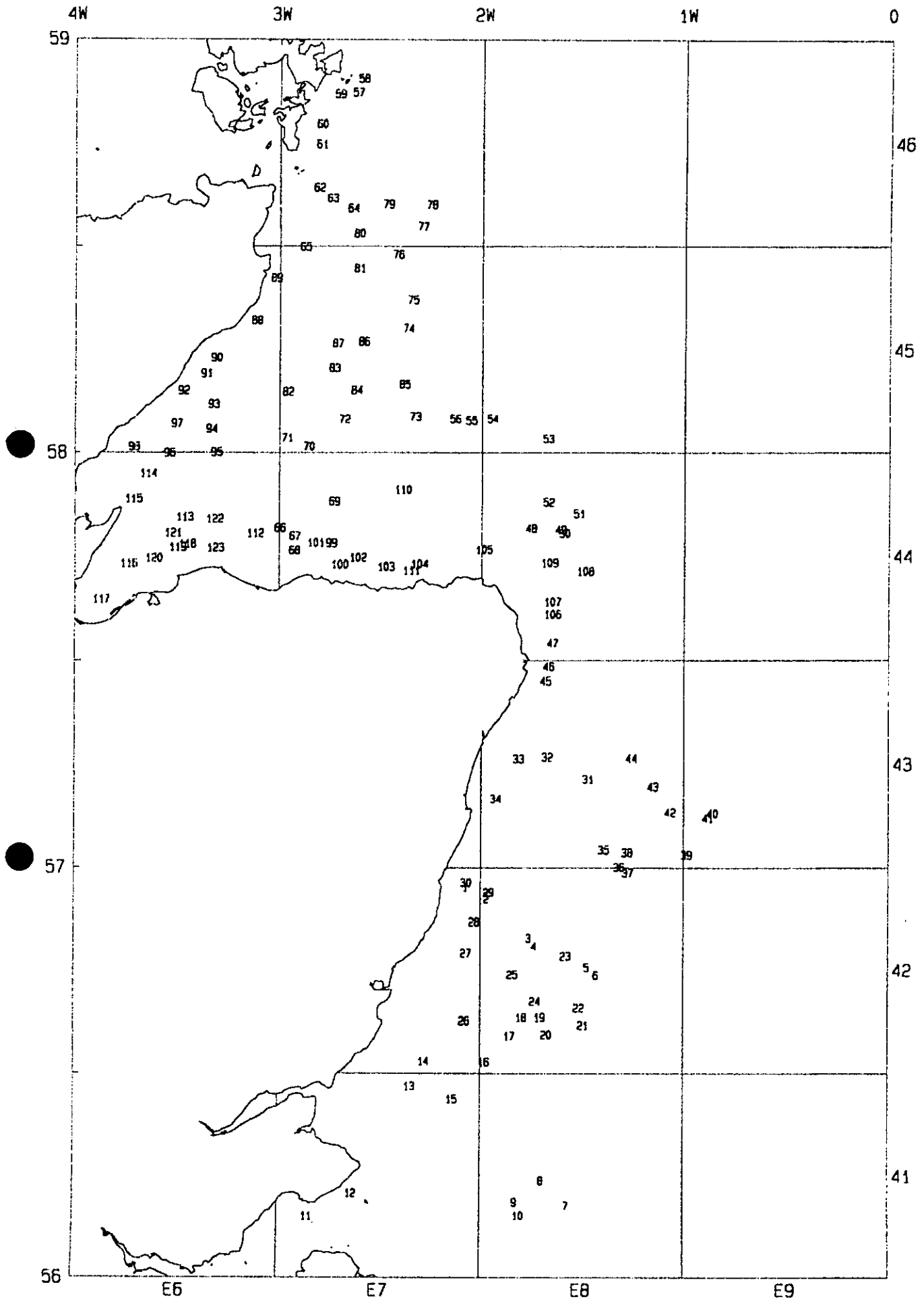




Figure 3

### East Coast Scallop Survey 1996 Numbers at size in stat squares

