

R1/4

IN CONFIDENCE - NOT TO BE QUOTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE LABORATORY

FRV EXPLORER

2EP82

CRUISE 2/82

REPORT:

5-25 February 1982

OBJECTIVES

To take part in the ICES Young Fish Survey in the North Sea.

NARRATIVE

'Explorer' was due to sail at 1400 hours on Friday, 5 February, but her departure was delayed until Saturday morning owing to the necessity of waiting for the replacement of a sick crew member.

Trawl stations were started off Arbroath and thence in the Firth of Forth. Taking advantage of the settled weather 'Explorer' proceeded east and worked at her allotted stations on the Dogger Bank and in the German Bight.

'Explorer' docked in Ebsjerg on the night of 12th and during the following day information and scientific samples were exchanged with the Danish Fisheries Institute and the French research vessel 'Thalassa'. 'Explorer' left Ebsjerg at 0800 on the 14th and worked stations off the Danish coast before proceeding to the Fair Isle grounds. Work continued around the Shetland Isles until SE gales forced the vessel to steam to more sheltered stations off the North coast of Scotland. Continuing gales forced 'Explorer' to anchor in the Orkneys until work could resume east of the Orkneys and in the Moray Firth. Finally, stations were worked off the Aberdeenshire coast before docking in Aberdeen on 25 February 1982.

RESULTS

Bottom trawling was carried out using a GOV trawl fitted with rubber discs for stations east of 2°E and fitted with rubber bobbins for all trawling stations west of the Greenwich meridian. The wings were flown on all occasions. A total of 39 hauls were made in 33 different squares; each haul was of 1 hour's duration and Table 1 provides a summary of the principal species (below a length selected as a probable upper delimiter of 1+ fish) occurring in each square sampled. Where more than 1 haul was made in a particular square the results were averaged to produce a 'per hour' figure.

Using the Issac-Kidd midwater trawl (IKMT), 2 night hauls for pre-metamorphosis herring larvae were made in 28 of the statistical squares in which bottom trawling took place. Malfunctioning equipment prevented the IKMT being used in all the squares trawled by 'Explorer'.

During the cruise 1764 cod, haddock, whiting and saithe were sexed and aged.

Preliminary data was exchanged with 'Tridens' on a regular basis during the duration of the cruise.

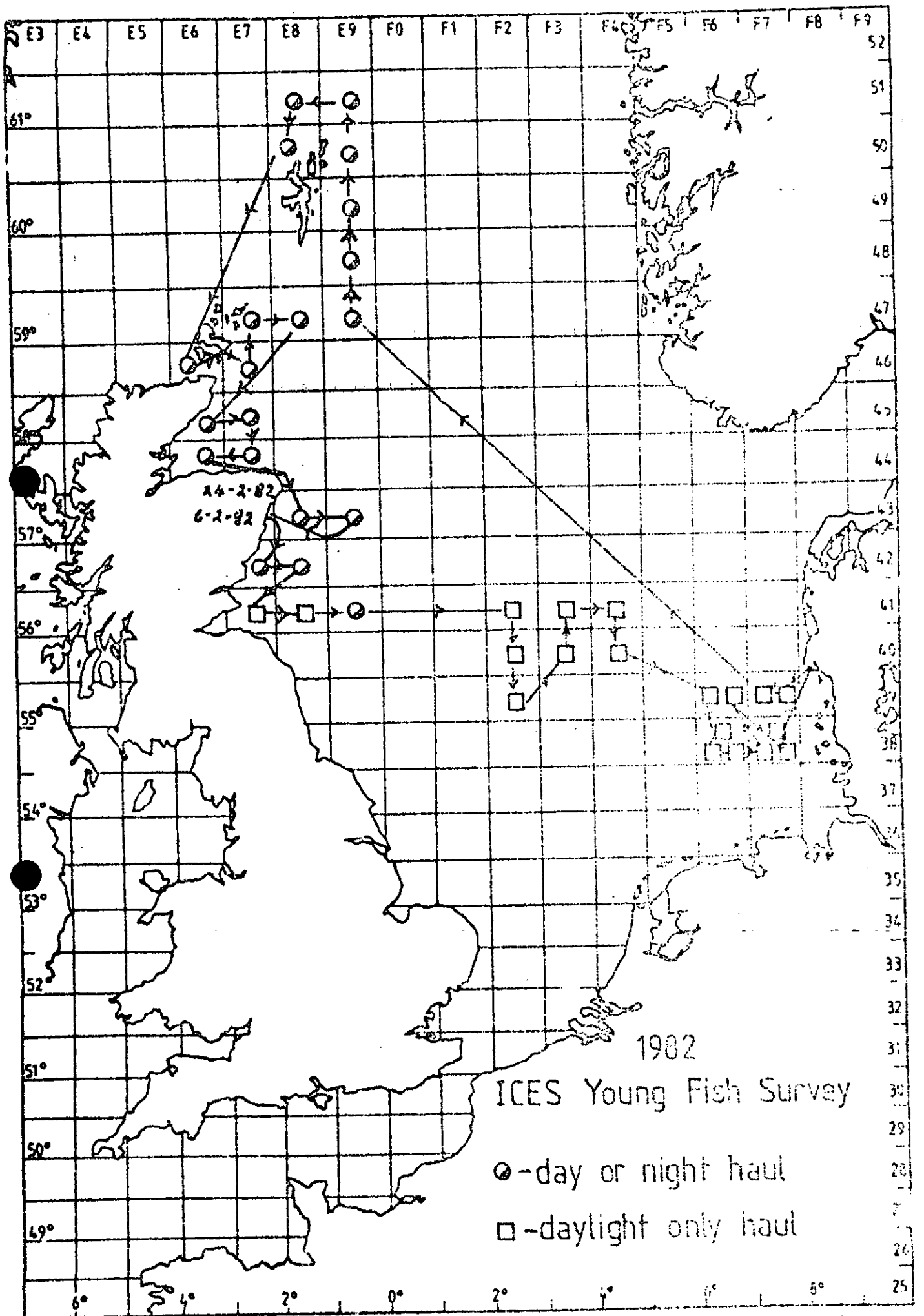
A.W. NEWTON
4 March 1982

Seen in draft: T.H. Henderson

TABLE 1

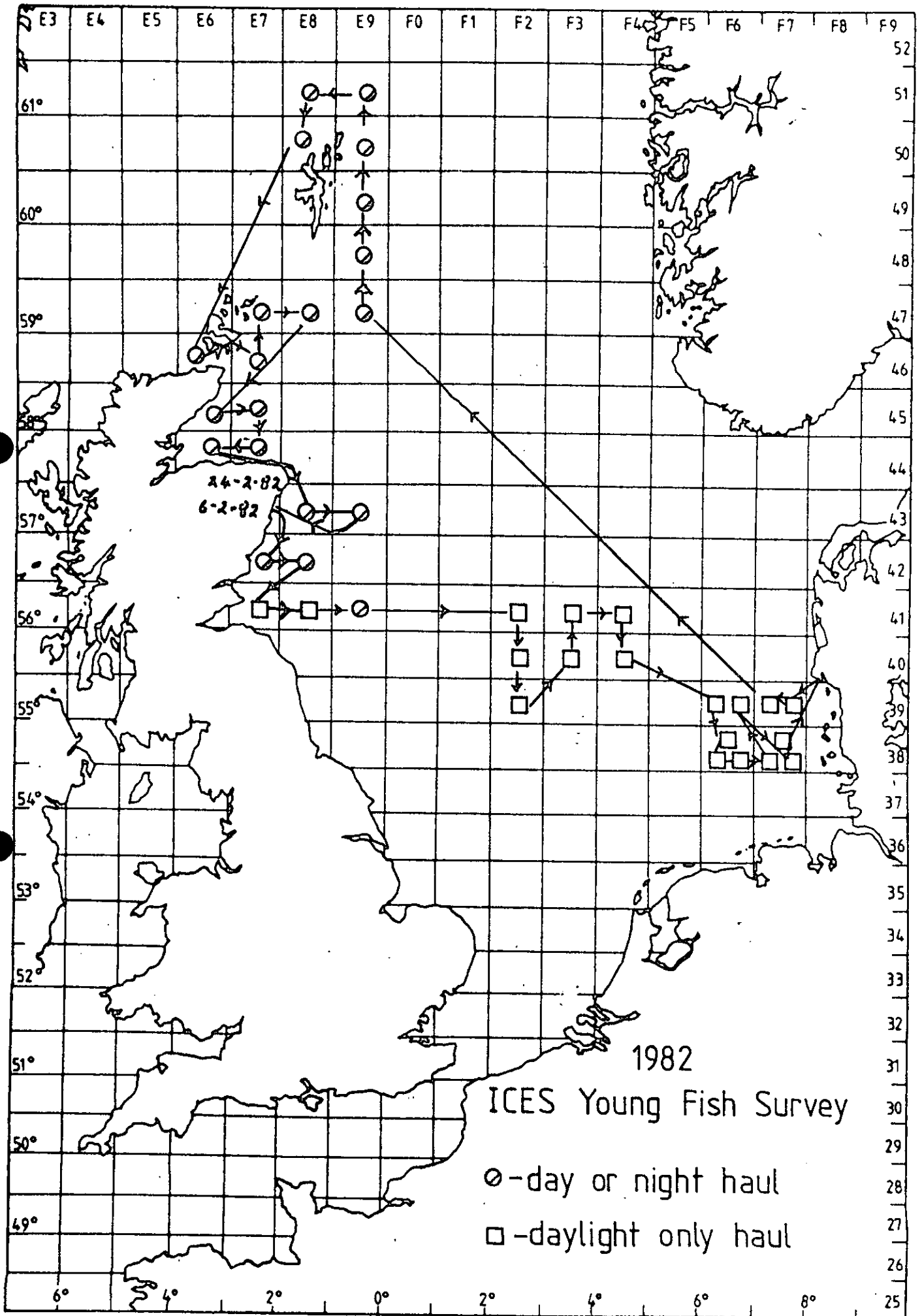
Catches in numbers per hour

	Square	Herring <20 cms	Cod <25 cms	Haddock <20 cms	Whiting <20 cms	N.Pout <15 cms
<u>Dogger Bank</u>	41F2	12	4	646	142	134
	40F2	201	11	23	36	80
	39F2	896	2	1	115	0
	40F3	51	4	4	83	0
	41F3	117	3	6	30	6
	41F4	35	0	0	54	1
	40F4	1	0	0	8	1
<u>German Bight</u>	39F6	5536	10	3	562	0
	38F6	1950	11	2	17	0
	38F7	134	3	0	13	0
	39F7	208	4	0	18	0
<u>Shetland</u>	47E9	0	0	230	1	242
	48E9	0	0	727	20	1056
	49E9	0	0	416	4	4109
	50E9	0	3	425	10	37
	51E9	0	0	338	0	33078
	51E8	0	0	263	0	7207
	50E8	0	2	23	1	2746
<u>Orkney</u>	46E6	26	0	2	28	279
	46E7	35	1	239	48	0
	47E7	0	3	35	18	0
<u>Moray Firth</u>	45E6	667	0	2	11	1
	45E7	3	0	16	23	1
	44E7	75	0	52	157	136
	44E6	139	0	2	215	47
<u>East Coast (Scotland)</u>	43E8	6	0	8	0	12
	43E9	84	0	32	18	47
	42E7	634	7	8	2068	978
	42E8	31	0	6	19	32
	41E7	27	1	417	489	4
	41E8	91	0	45	138	671
	41E9	29	0	21	15	22



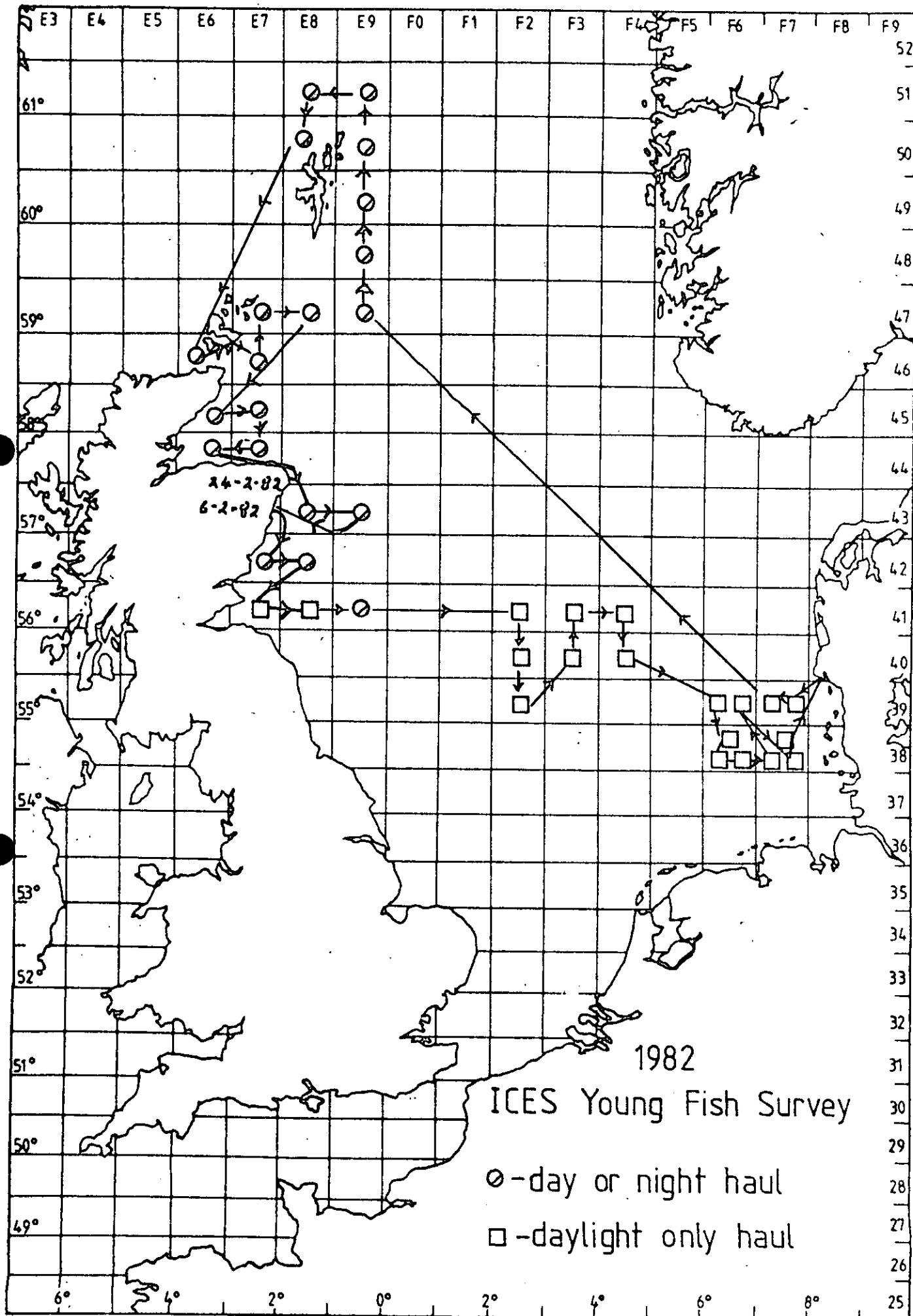
FR.V. Explorer 6/2 — 25/2/82

2ER82



F.R.V. Explorer 6/2 — 25/2/82

2ER82



1982

ICES Young Fish Survey

○ - day or night haul

□ - daylight only haul