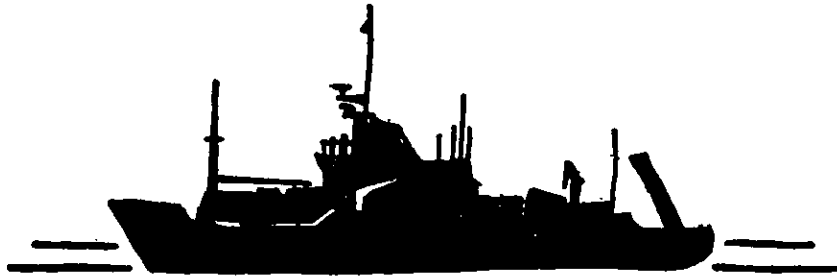


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Scottish Marine Biological Association

Dunstaffnage Marine Research Laboratory



CRUISE REPORT

R R S Frederick Russell

Cruise 13/87

19 - 27 March 1987

S.M.B.A., P.O. Box No. 3, Oban, Argyll, Scotland.

Cruise Report

RRS Frederick Russell 13/87

Duration: 19 - 27 March 1987

Location: Firth of Lorn, Firth of Clyde, North Channel, Scottish continental shelf 55°46' - 56°41'N and east of 8°45'W.

Scientific Staff:

Professor J.B.L. Matthews	SMBA Principal Scientist
Dr K.J. Jones	SMBA
Mr B.E. Grantham	SMBA
Dr P.B. Tett	University College of North Wales
Miss E Woods	University College of North Wales
Mr D. Setiapermana	University College of North Wales
Miss M. Macdonald	University College of North Wales

- Aims:
1. To obtain vertical CTD profiles in the Firth of Lorn, Firth of Clyde, North Channel and across the west Scottish continental shelf, in order to chart the distribution and record the characteristics of the main water masses.
 2. To obtain measurements of chlorophyll, nutrient levels, and light attenuation and scattering in order to assess the standing stock of phytoplankton and the conditions for primary production.
 3. a) To obtain estimates of primary production in the main water masses and relate these to physical and chemical conditions.
b) to compare physical, chemical and phytoplankton conditions at one or more sites with a time lapse of a few days in order to assess net population change for comparison with assessed phytoplankton production (carbon fixation) in the same period.
 4. To obtain samples of zooplankton for analysis of community composition near the surface in the main areas, and to estimate zooplankton grazing pressure by gut-pigment analysis.

Narrative: In order to prepare the autoanalyser in advance, Mr Grantham joined the ship in Plymouth on 16 March, as did Mr Setiapermana. The rest of the scientific personnel embarked in Campbeltown just before noon on the 19th. The ship set sail at 16.20 hrs and we were on the first station 20 minutes later. Thereafter sampling continued without interruption throughout the Clyde Sea Area as far as Loch Fyne. (Tarbert), the Firth of Clyde north of Cumbrae and the east and west Kyles of Bute. All the regular stations in the Firth of Clyde and Clyde Sea area were visited, sailing first north up Kilbrannan Sound, into /

into Loch Fyne and the West Kyle, then into the Firth of Clyde north of Cumbrae, and the East Kyle. South of Garroch Head intensive sampling was carried out in a transect across Garroch Head dumping ground to measure nutrient levels particularly in the water near the bottom. Thereafter sampling was continued at all regular stations east and south of Arran. This part of the cruise occupied three and a half days in mixed and often wintry conditions, but no delays were incurred.

The fourth day continued with stations being occupied on the transect across the North Channel from Galloway near Portpatrick to Copeland, Northern Ireland, followed by the remaining stations in the Clyde Sea Area, northwards towards Kintyre with a return visit to the position of the first station just off Campbeltown. Stations were then occupied on the second transect of the North Channel, from Mull of Kintyre to Red Bay. The ship steamed through Rathlin Sound and one station was taken in Portrush Bay where the ship hove to for a couple of hours to allow for routine maintenance of the autoanalyser. By the start of the sixth day (p.m. 24 March) stations were being taken on the transect across to Loch Indaal, Islay. There then followed the transect westwards from the Rhinns of Islay along $55^{\circ}46'N$ as far as $8^{\circ}00'W$. By the start of the seventh day the cruise had started on the "Firth of Lorn" transect starting at $56^{\circ}10'N$ $8^{\circ}45'W$ moving eastwards towards the Ross of Mull. The weather worsened, reaching gale force 9 for a time, but the sampling programme was unaffected, except that zooplankton pumping was cancelled at one station and one other station was aborted.

Once back in the calm of the Firth of Lorn (the wind was from the north) the standard stations were occupied as planned. As the weather was still unsettled and the forecast poor, the stations in the Lynn of Lorn and Sound of Mull were then occupied during the night and early morning of the eighth day, in the hope that the weather would ameliorate and allow a transect from Ardnamurchan to Barra Head to be taken without a delay.

Our hopes were not realized. In a gale and with weather charts black with isobars, we occupied the last station at the mouth of the Sound of Mull and turned back, - making the point that the Barra Head transect had always been an optional, though desirable, extra !

Results: /

Results: Data tables are provided as an appendix to this report.

Aim 1) CTD profiles were taken at all but two of the 117 stations visited on the cruise. The exceptions were two of the six stations in close proximity to each other crossing the Garroch Head sludge dumping ground where it was considered important to obtain water samples in quick succession. All data were immediately logged. Salinity and temperature measurements were made at the bottom of each dip and salinity measurements at the surface for calibration purposes.

The network and transects of stations have enabled the distribution of salinity and temperature characteristics to be charted. Plots of selected sections are presented in the accompanying figures.

In addition large water samples were taken at two stations at the N.W. end of the Sound of Mull for subsequent analysis of Caesium isotopes.

Aim 2) Chlorophyll distribution

Vertical profiles of chlorophyll concentration were made at a total of 117 stations during the cruise. Concentrations in the near-surface waters were 0.4-2.0 mg chl m⁻³ over much of the cruise area. Higher chlorophyll concentrations (c.4 mg chl m⁻³) were observed in the near-bottom water in parts of the Firth of Clyde. These were associated with high levels of phaeopigment and may have arisen due to grazing and/or sinking of an earlier phytoplankton bloom. Size fractionation of chlorophyll standing stock was carried out on samples taken from near-surface waters in the Firth of Clyde, Firth of Lorn and Outer Shelf during the cruise. In the firths phytoplankton >5 µm constituted more than 60% of the total chlorophyll and those in the 1 - 5 µm range, 20-25%. Offshore about 60% of the chlorophyll was found in the 1 - 5 µm size fraction. The proportion of chlorophyll found in the 1 µm size fraction did not vary with location.

Results of analysis of variance of log-transformed chlorophyll concentrations from stations AB30, FLO and E4, which were revisited after 6 to 10 hours, are as follows :

degrees of freedom	variance amongst repeated samples from similar depths at the same station (log ₁₀ mg chl m ⁻³ 0) ²	standard variation as a coefficient of variation
14	0.0112	28%

At AB30, in the Firth of Clyde, and E4, in the Firth of Lorn, this variability was associated with salinity variation and thus perhaps with tidal changes in estuarine circulation. In the case of FLO, the variability was related to changes in thermocline depth, perhaps reflecting a short or medium term internal wave.

Nutrient measurements

Nutrients were measured at 111 stations using a 4-channel Autoanalyzer. Some problems were experienced with the ammonia analysis caused by precipitation of magnesium hydroxide in the mixing coils, requiring regular treatment with dilute acid to clear the system. The data lost because of this amounted to 10-15% of the total. Complete coverage was obtained of the other three nutrients, nitrate, phosphate and silicate.

Irradiance measurements

The irradiance/depth probe functioned satisfactorily during the cruise with only occasional loss of communications which were attributable to displacement of sensor connectors from the main body of the sea-unit. For most of the cruise output from the irradiance probe was logged on a BBC Master microcomputer using the newly developed suite of programmes. Minor problems with the logging and data processing software were rectified during the cruise.

Aim 3) a) ^{14}C assimilation experiments were carried out in a deck incubator to determine photosynthetic characteristics for near-surface phytoplankton populations in the Firths of Clyde and Lorn and Outer Shelf. Higher rates of chlorophyll-specific carbon assimilation at sub-saturating irradiances were observed in Clyde samples than in the other two areas. Estimates of column production for the three areas using these parameters and observed phytoplankton biomass and irradiance attenuation values were $25 \text{ mg C m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$ in the Firth of Lorn, $48 \text{ mg C m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$ in the Firth of Clyde and $84 \text{ mg C m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$ on the Outer Shelf region. Normalisation of these estimates for depth suggests production levels per m^{-3} in the firths were similar during the cruise but less than those on the Outer Shelf by a factor of two.

Experiments /

Experiments were also carried out to determine relative photosynthetic activity of phytoplankton in different size-fractions in the firths and on the shelf. In the Firths of Clyde and Lorn 60% and 75% of the total carbon assimilation respectively was occurring within the $>5 \mu\text{m}$ fraction. On the Outer Shelf, however, the $>5 \mu\text{m}$ and $1 - 5 \mu\text{m}$ fractions each contributed about 40% of the total production.

b) Station AB17, at the southern entrance to Kilbrannan Sound, was visited on 19 and 24 March, with an interval of 4.3 days. Comparison of the two chlorophyll profiles gives a mean specific rate of change of -0.35 day^{-1} . Assuming the same water mass was visited on each occasion, this decline might be explained by grazing, or grazing and sinking. If this rate is applicable throughout the Firth of Clyde it points to a phytoplankton time-scale (the interval in which concentrations change by e or $1/e$) of about 3 days. Since our survey of the Clyde took about 5 days, and showed $\ln(\text{chl})$ at given depths varying by 1 to 2, we should bear in mind that observed patterns of chlorophyll distribution may be partly explained by aliasing between sampling sequence and natural change.

Aim 4) The plankton pump functioned well throughout the cruise, enabling size-fractionated samples to be taken at 10 and 30 m depth at a total of 39 stations (one station was too shallow for a 30 m sample) throughout the sample area. The samples were divided into two equal portions, one being filtered, rinsed in distilled water and frozen for subsequent analysis of consumed plant pigments, the other being fixed in formalin and preserved for subsequent specific analysis. There were clear signs of differences in species composition and in biomass within the area sampled.

Acknowledgements: The ship served us well throughout the cruise and the crew was helpful at all times. The scientists were much encouraged by the interest shown by the crew in the work being carried out. Our thanks are due to Captain Jonas, the officers and crew for their skill and assistance in making the cruise a success.

F. RUSSELL CRUISE 13/87 STATION LIST

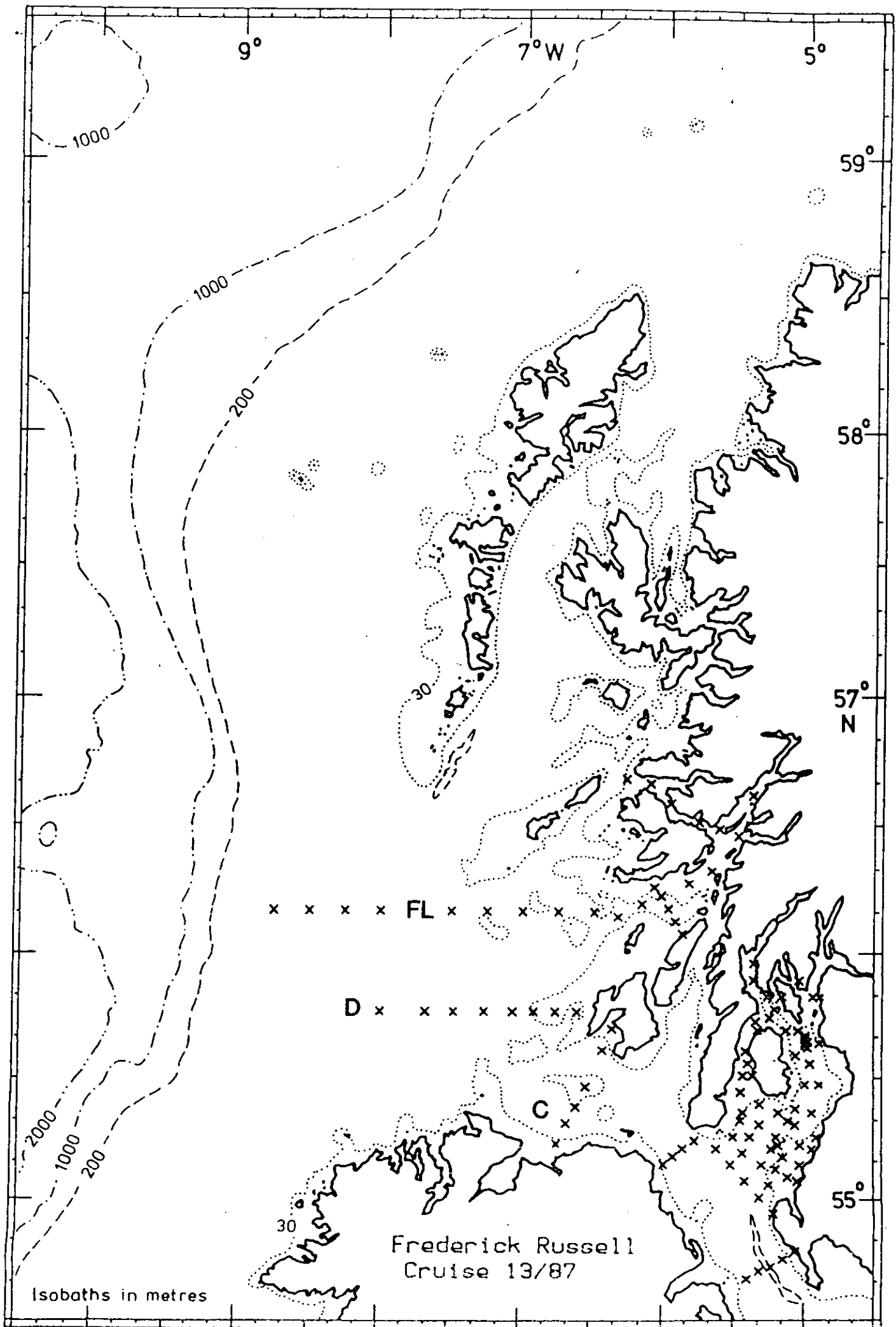
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AB48	55.310	5.230	70	2135	19/ 3	2	0	0	5	20	35	60		-
AB47	55.310	5.270	62	2235	19/ 3	3	0	0	5	20	35	50		-
AB46	55.340	5.250	106	2330	19/ 3	4	0	0	5	15	30	90		-
AB45	55.370	5.260	130	37	20/ 3	5	0	0	5	30	60	110		-
AB44	55.420	5.210	110	146	20/ 3	6	0	2	5	30	50	80		-
AB43	55.440	5.220	68	412	20/ 3	7	0	0	5	10	20	40	60	-
AB42	55.450	5.160	135	519	20/ 3	8	0	0	5	20	40	60	100	120
AB38	55.470	5.140	156	608	20/ 3	9	0	2	5	20	40	70	100	135
AB38A	55.500	5.110	59	843	20/ 3	10	1	2	5	20	30	40	50	-
AB39	55.500	5.170	156	1050	20/ 3	11	0	0	5	30	50	90	145	-
AB40	55.540	5.230	144	1205	20/ 3	12	1	2	5	30	60	90	120	-
AB41	55.580	5.230	128	1518	20/ 3	13	0	0	5	20	40	70	100	-
AB37	55.420	5.090	168	1804	20/ 3	14	0	0	5	30	60	100	150	-
AB36	55.420	5.040	76	1919	20/ 3	15	0	0	5	20	40	55	70	-
AB34	55.500	4.550	67	2058	20/ 3	16	0	2	5	10	25	40	60	-
AB35	55.500	4.580	40	2230	20/ 3	17	0	0	5	10	20	30		-
AB35A	55.540	5.040	56	2340	20/ 3	18	0	2	5	15	30	45		-
TOM1	55.408	5.010	80	247	21/ 3	19	0	0	7	17	62	72	82	-
Clyde dumping ground														
TOM2	55.403	5.010	78	318	21/ 3	20	0	0	3	13	53	63	73	-
TOM3	55.398	5.010	84	345	21/ 3	21	0	0	3	13	58	68	78	-
TOM4	55.393	5.000	99	410	21/ 3	22	0	0	5	20	75	85	95	105
TOM5	55.389	5.010	118	452	21/ 3	23	0	0	5	20	105	115	125	-
TOM6	55.384	5.010	185	620	21/ 3	24	0	0	5	50	155	175	165	-
Last of Clyde dumping ground stations.														
AB33	55.390	4.550	74	728	21/ 3	25	1	0	5	15	30	45	60	-
AB32	55.380	5.000	112	839	21/ 3	26	1	0	5	20	50	80	105	-
AB31	55.360	5.050	80	940	21/ 3	27	1	0	11	12	35	55	70	-
AB30	55.340	4.590	99	1059	21/ 3	28	1	2	5	15	30	60	90	-
AB29	55.310	4.520	74	1350	21/ 3	29	1	0	5	30	45	60		-
AB28	55.280	4.450	44	1501	21/ 3	30	1	2	5	20	35			-
AB27	55.280	4.500	60	1651	21/ 3	31	1	0	5	35	55			-
AB26	55.290	4.550	74	1802	21/ 3	32	0	0	5	30	40	65		-
AB25	55.290	5.010	102	1858	21/ 3	33	0	0	5	30	60	90		-
AB30	55.340	4.590	99	2050	21/ 3	34	0	2	5	15	30	60	90	-
AB24	55.230	5.050	68	2343	21/ 3	35	0	0	5	30	40	55		-
AB23	55.220	4.580	52	42	22/ 3	36	0	0	5	20	40			-
AB23A	55.220	4.510	42	146	22/ 3	37	0	0	5	30				-
AB22	55.160	4.560	36	248	22/ 3	38	0	2	5	30				-
AB21	55.190	5.050	52	727	22/ 3	39	1	0	5	10	20	30	42	-
AB20	55.200	5.080	56	815	22/ 3	40	1	2	5	15	30	45		-
AB19	55.220	5.120	56	1005	22/ 3	41	1	0	5	20	30	45		-
AB18	55.240	5.200	44	1125	22/ 3	42	1	0	5	20	35			-
AB14	55.190	5.200	46	1251	22/ 3	43	1	2	5	20	35			-
AB13	55.160	5.130	48	1444	22/ 3	44	1	0	5	20	40			-
AB12	55.140	5.120	48	1535	22/ 3	45	1	0	5	20	40			-
AB11	55.140	5.030	44	1636	22/ 3	46	1	0	5	15	25	40		-
AB10	55.130	4.580	30	1729	22/ 3	47	1	0	5	15	23			-
AB9	55.090	5.030	44	1855	22/ 3	48	1	0	5	20	29			-
AB8	55.110	5.100	52	1947	22/ 3	49	0	2	5	15	25	42		-
AB7	55.130	5.150	48	2110	22/ 3	50	0	0	5	15	30	40		-

F. RUSSELL CRUISE 13/87 STATION LIST

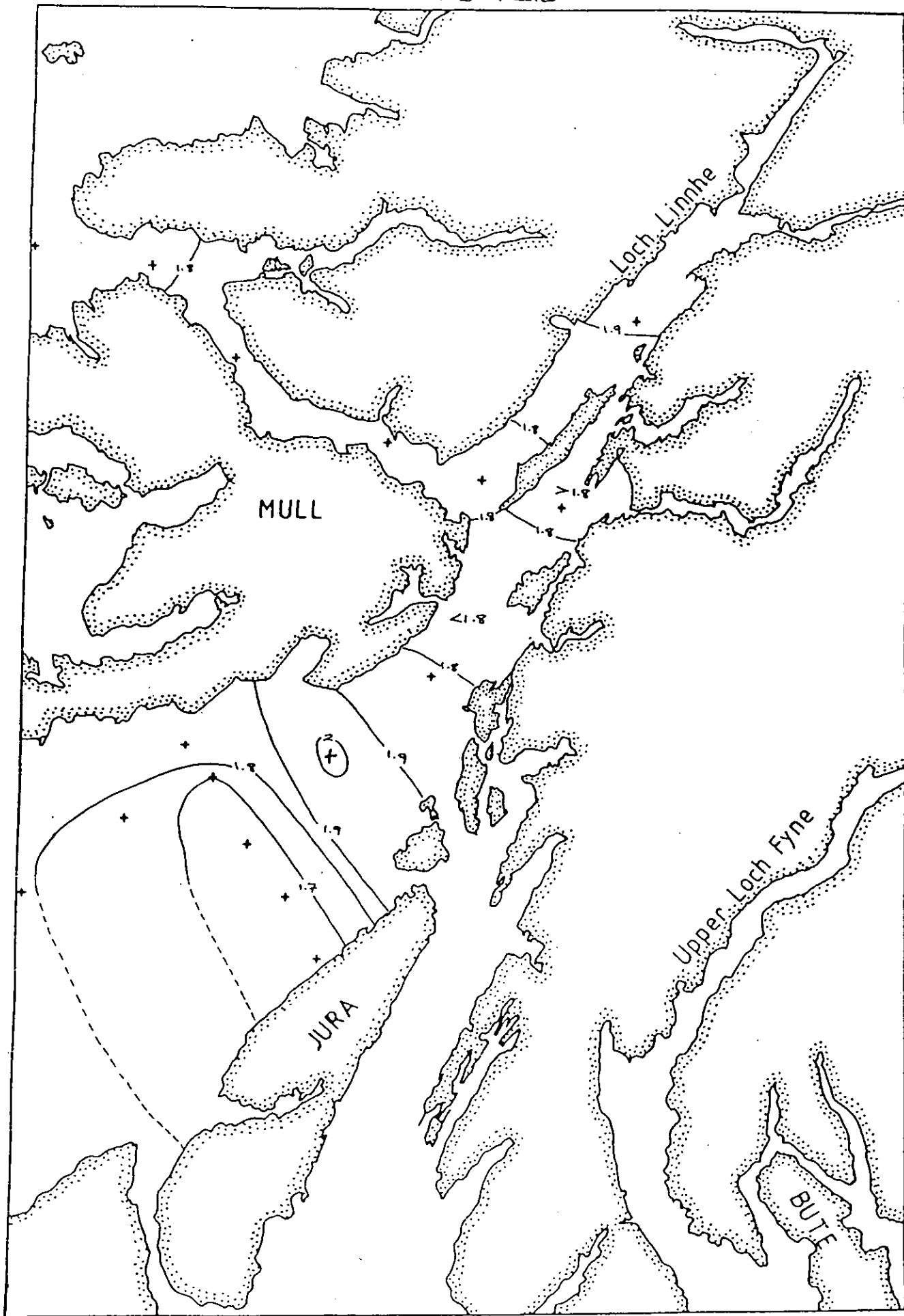
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AB5	55.120	5.270	73	2254	22/ 3	52	0	2	5	25	45	65	
AB4	55.090	5.190	60	26	23/ 3	53	0	0	5	20	50		
AB3	55.080	5.130	60	206	23/ 3	54	0	0	5	20	50		
AB2	55.060	5.080	36	249	23/ 3	55	0	0	5	30			
AB1	55.050	5.040	20	326	23/ 3	56	0	1	5	15			
AB3A	55.040	5.160	75	500	23/ 3	57	0	2	5	20	40	64	
Y1	54.570	5.140	54	725	23/ 3	58	0	2	5	15	30	47	
6Z	54.480	5.050	21	923	23/ 3	59	1	0	5	15			
5Z	54.460	5.100	132	1015	23/ 3	60	1	0	5	50	120		
4Z	54.440	5.150	253	1113	23/ 3	61	1	2	5	85	165	245	
3Z	54.430	5.200	130	1316	23/ 3	62	1	0	5	20	60	120	
2Z	54.410	5.250	92	1407	23/ 3	63	1	0	5	20	80		
2Y	55.010	5.200	112	1656	23/ 3	64	1	0	5	30	60	90	101
3Y	55.050	5.260	96	1804	23/ 3	65	0	2	5	20	70		
4Y	55.090	5.320	107	1936	23/ 3	66	0	0	5	20	40	60	93
AB5A	55.160	5.310	60	2045	23/ 3	67	0	0	5	25	40	60	
AB15	55.200	5.280	50	2154	23/ 3	68	0	2	5	20	40		
AB16	55.220	5.270	34	2306	23/ 3	69	0	0	5	28			
AB17	55.270	5.280	62	2355	23/ 3	70	0	2	5	20	50		
5Y	55.130	5.380	82	248	24/ 3	71	0	0	5	20	40	70	
A2	55.150	5.470	120	400	24/ 3	72	0	2	5	25	60	107	
A3	55.130	5.520	128	1748	24/ 3	73	0	0	5	30	70	110	
A4	55.110	5.560	137	638	24/ 3	74	1	2	5	70	126		
A5	55.090	6.000	70	843	24/ 3	75	1	0	5	30	55		
C1	55.140	6.450	22	1115	24/ 3	76	1	0	5	15			
C2	55.190	6.410	72	1528	24/ 3	77	1	0	5	20	60		
C3	55.230	6.370	80	1630	24/ 3	78	1	2	5	25	50	67	
C4	55.280	6.330	94	1810	24/ 3	79	0	0	5	25	50	73	
C5	55.280	6.330	100	19	24/ 3	80	0	2	5	45	80		
C6	55.370	6.260	66	2043	24/ 3	81	0	0	5	50			
C7	55.420	6.220	21	2135	24/ 3	82	0	0	5	15			
D7	55.460	6.370	60	2310	24/ 3	83	0	2	5	50			
D6	55.460	6.460	40	58	25/ 3	84	0	0	5	30			
D5	55.460	6.550	44	157	25/ 3	85	0	0	5	35			
D4	55.460	7.040	45	251	25/ 3	86	0	2	5	35			
D3	55.460	7.160	60	450	25/ 8	87	0	0	5	15	30	40	48
D2	55.460	7.290	52	640	25/ 3	88	0	0	5	20	36		
D1	55.460	7.410	80	800	25/ 3	89	1	0	5	30	60		
D0	55.460	8.000	101	1005	25/ 3	90	1	2	5	45	90		
FL0	56.100	8.450	124	1504	25/ 3	91	1	2	5	20	40	70	110
FL1	56.100	8.300	118	1752	25/ 3	92	0	0	5	30	75	103	
FL0	56.100	8.450	122	1945	25/ 4	93	0	0	5	30	60	80	108
FL2	56.100	8.150	110	2155	25/ 3	94	0	0	5	40	55	100	
FL3	56.100	8.000	110	2352	25/ 3	95	0	0	5	30	90		
FL5	56.100	7.300	112	220	26/ 3	96	0	0	5	50	90		
FL6	56.100	7.150	72	346	26/ 3	97	0	0	5	20	50		
FL7	56.100	7.000	64	508	26/ 3	98	0	0	5	15	25	35	48
FL8	56.100	6.450	61	635	26/ 3	99	0	0	5	25	48		
FL9	56.100	6.300	55	804	26/ 3	100	1	2	5	25	45		
FL10	56.090	6.200	70	1000	26/ 3	101	1	2	5	30	60		
FL11	56.120	6.100	73	1214	26/ 3	102	1	0	5	20	60		
FL12	56.140	6.020	75	1325	26/ 3	103	1	2	5	20	40	60	
E4	56.140	6.020	75	1325	26/ 3	103	1	2	5	20	40	60	

F. RUSSELL CRUISE 13/87 STATION LIST

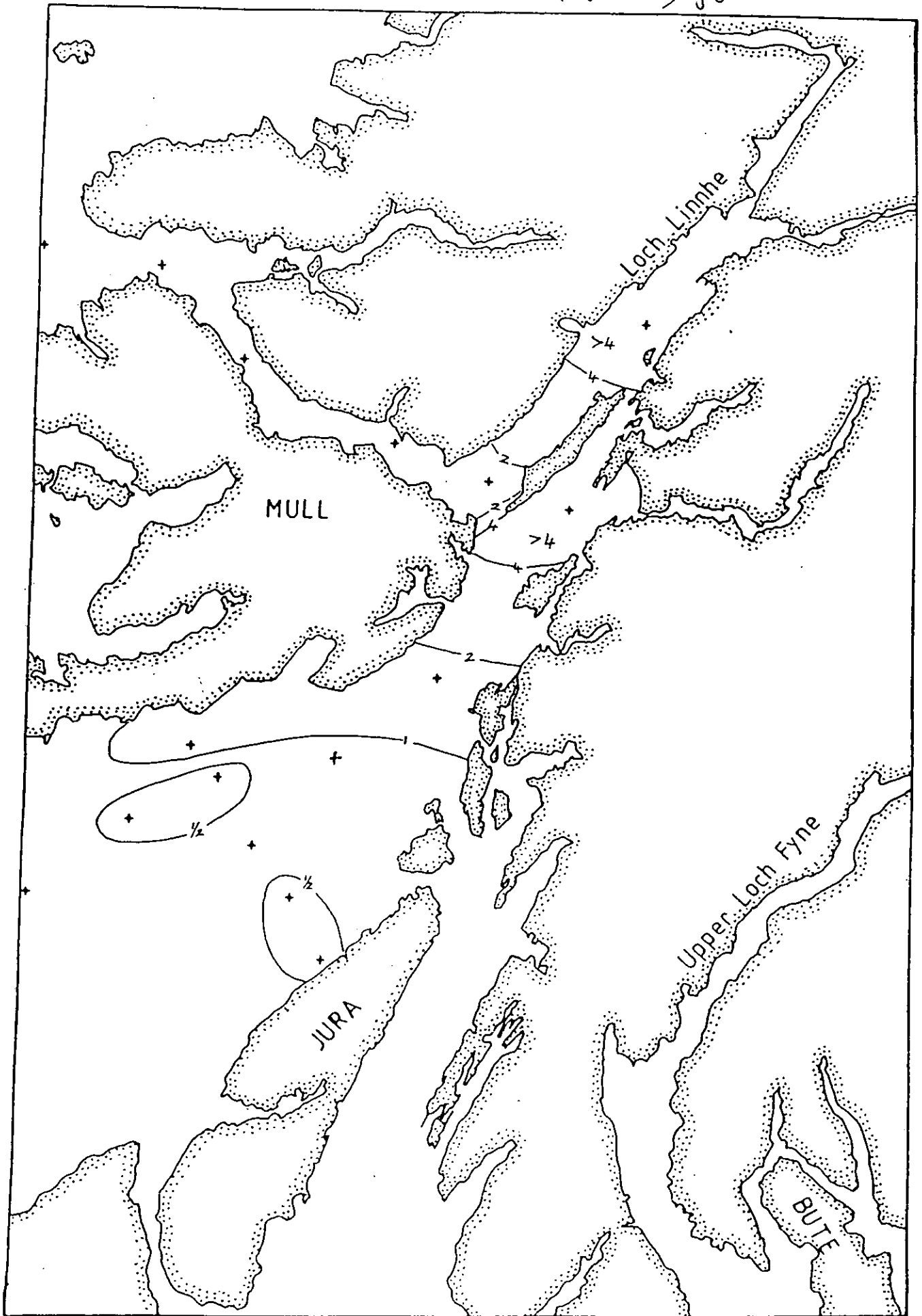
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E2	56.080	5.560	80	1627	26/	3 105	1	2	5	25	50	66		-
E1	56.050	5.530	103	1804	26/	3 106	0	0	5	30	70	84		-
E4	56.140	6.020	78	1940	26/	3 107	0	0	5	25	50	64		-
E5	56.160	6.050	70	2025	26/	3 108	0	0	5	20	40	60		-
FL13	56.170	5.504	130	2143	26/	3 109	0	2	5	35	70			-
FL14	56.200	5.410	216	2308	26/	3 110	0	0	5	20	80	140	200	-
FL15	56.280	5.300	45	53	27/	3 111	0	2	2	5	10	20	30	-
LM1	56.296	5.380	206	257	27/	3 112	0	2	5	80	160			-
LM2	56.374	5.240	90	528	27/	3 113	0	0	5	10	15	25	50	77
SM1	56.312	5.465	120	748	27/	3 114	1	2	2	5	10	50	112	-
SM2	56.354	5.585	125	952	27/	3 115	1	0	2	5	10	30	70	115
G1	56.400	6.070	76	1108	27/	3 116	1	0	5	20	35	50	65	0
G2	56.410	6.170	36	1258	27/	3 117	1	0	5	25				0



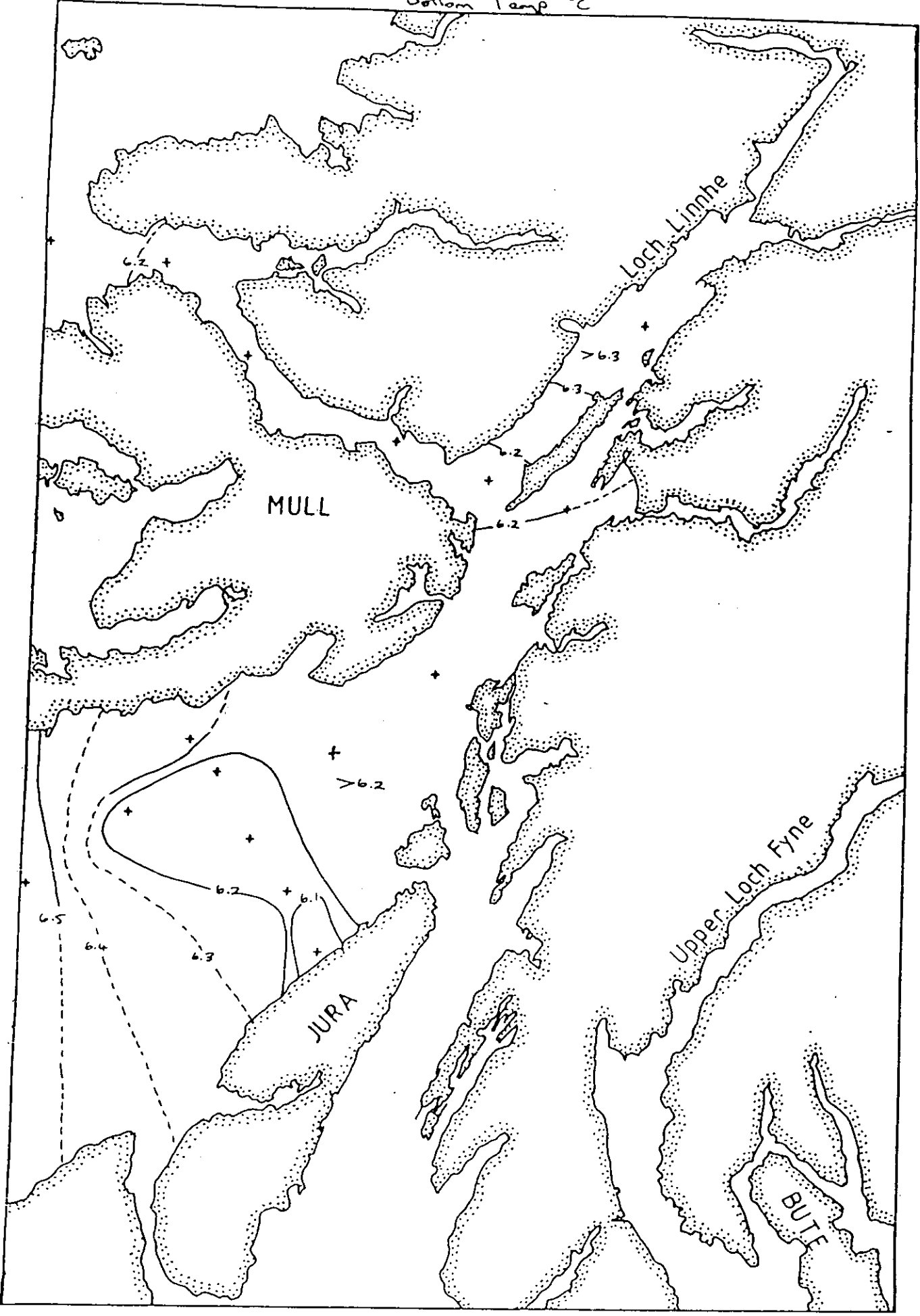
March 1987
Acid Ratio



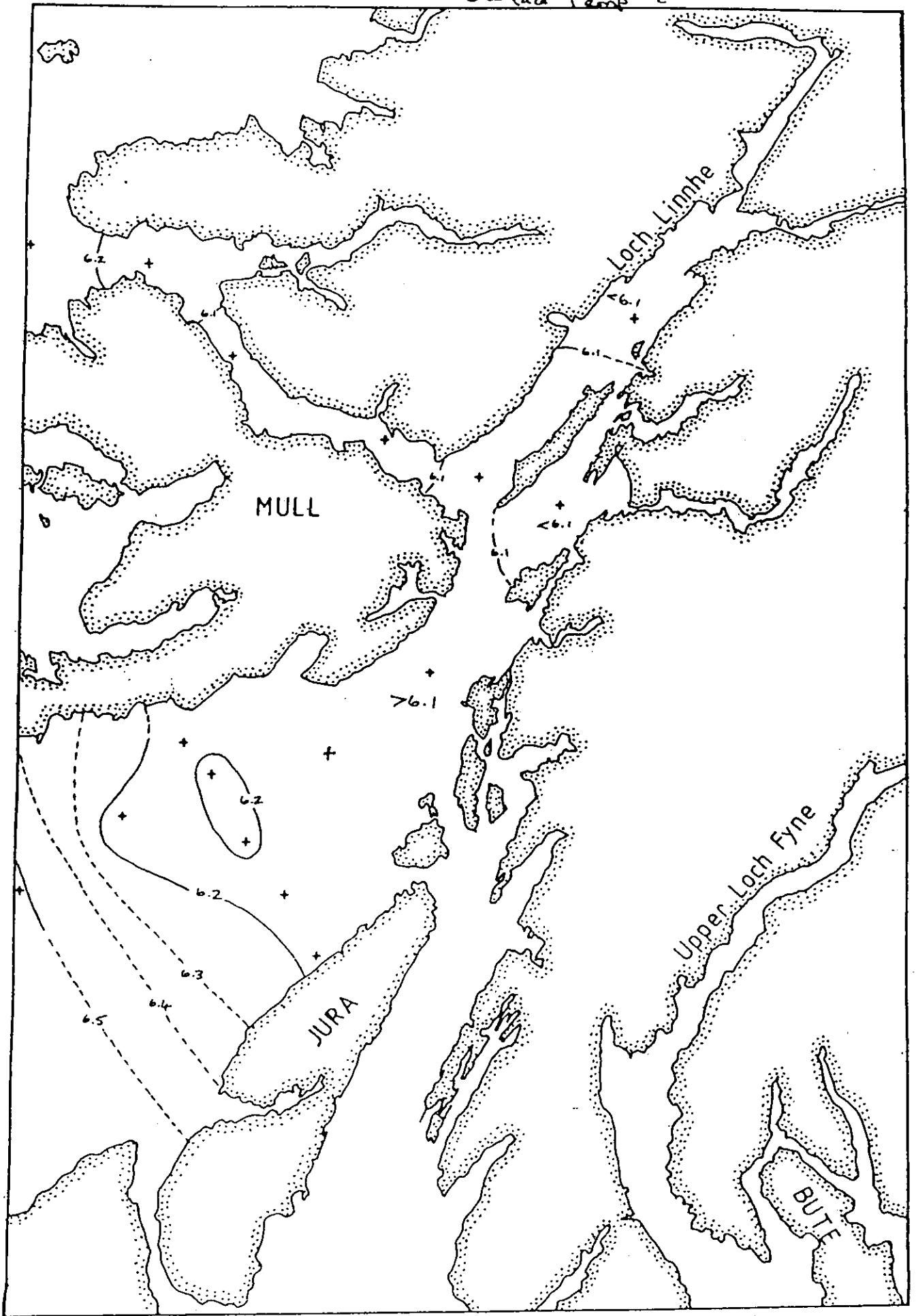
March 1987
Chlorophyll *a* $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$



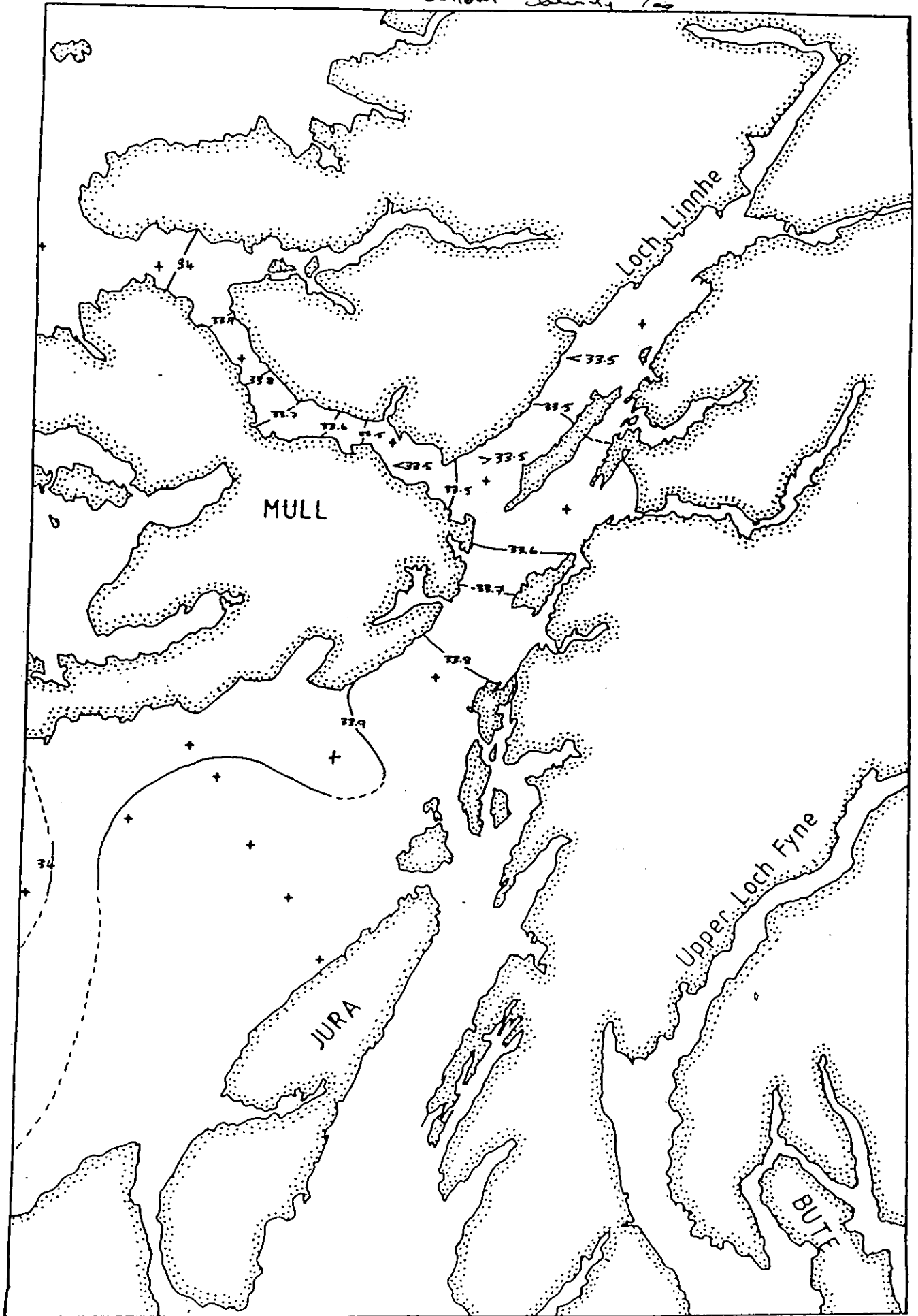
March 1987
Bottom Temp °C



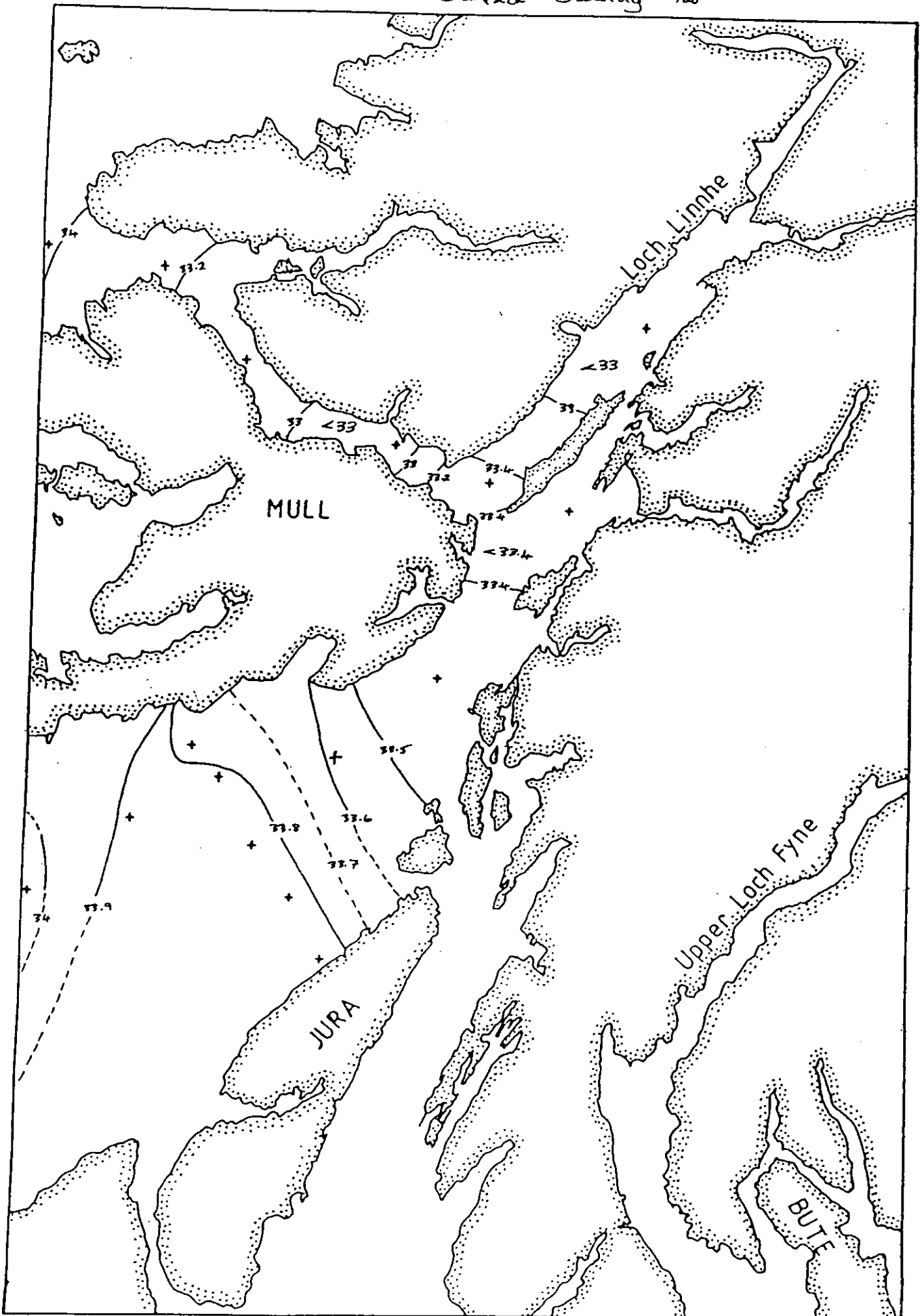
March 1987
Surface Temp -C



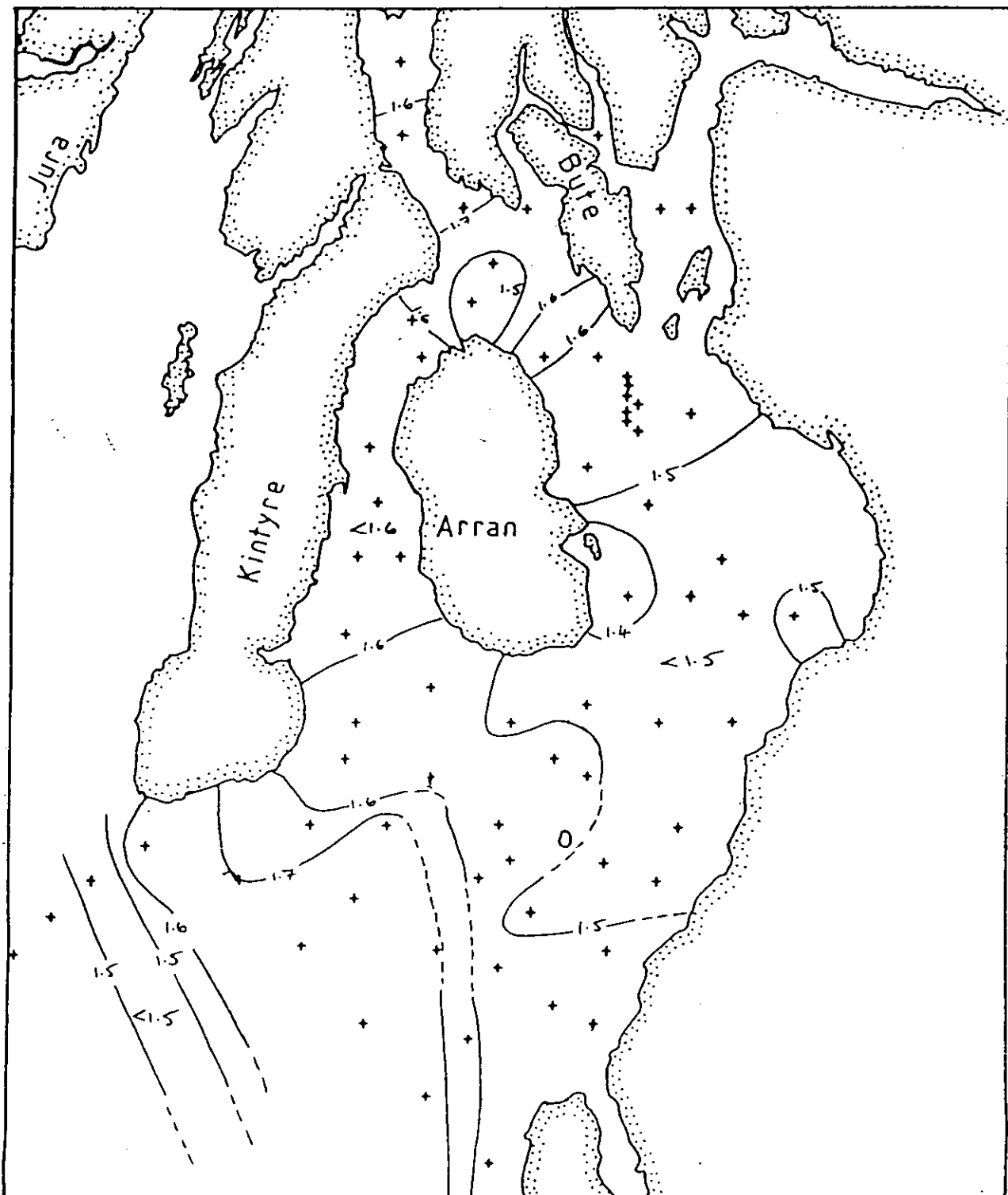
March 1987
Bottom Salinity ‰



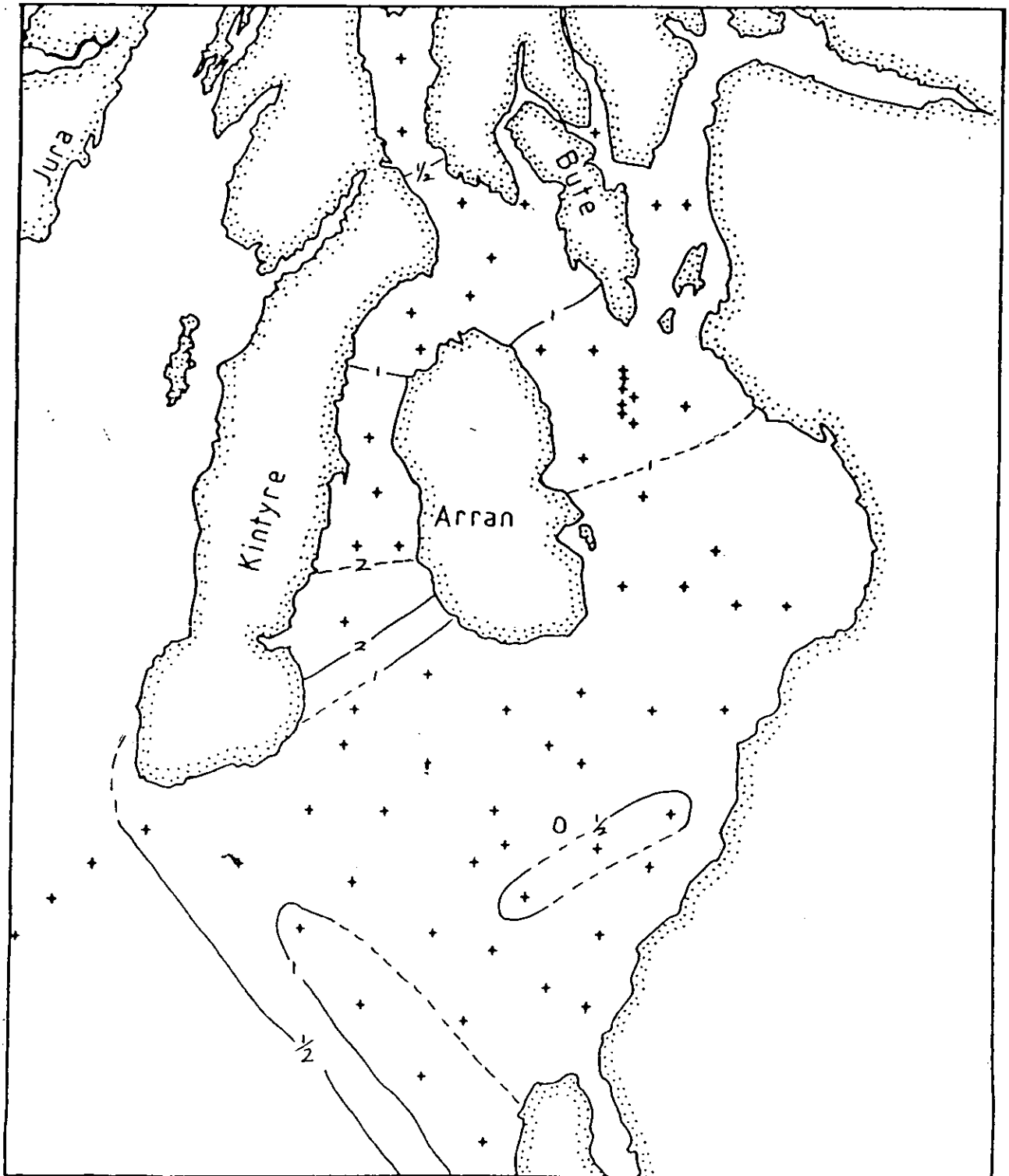
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Surface Salinity ‰



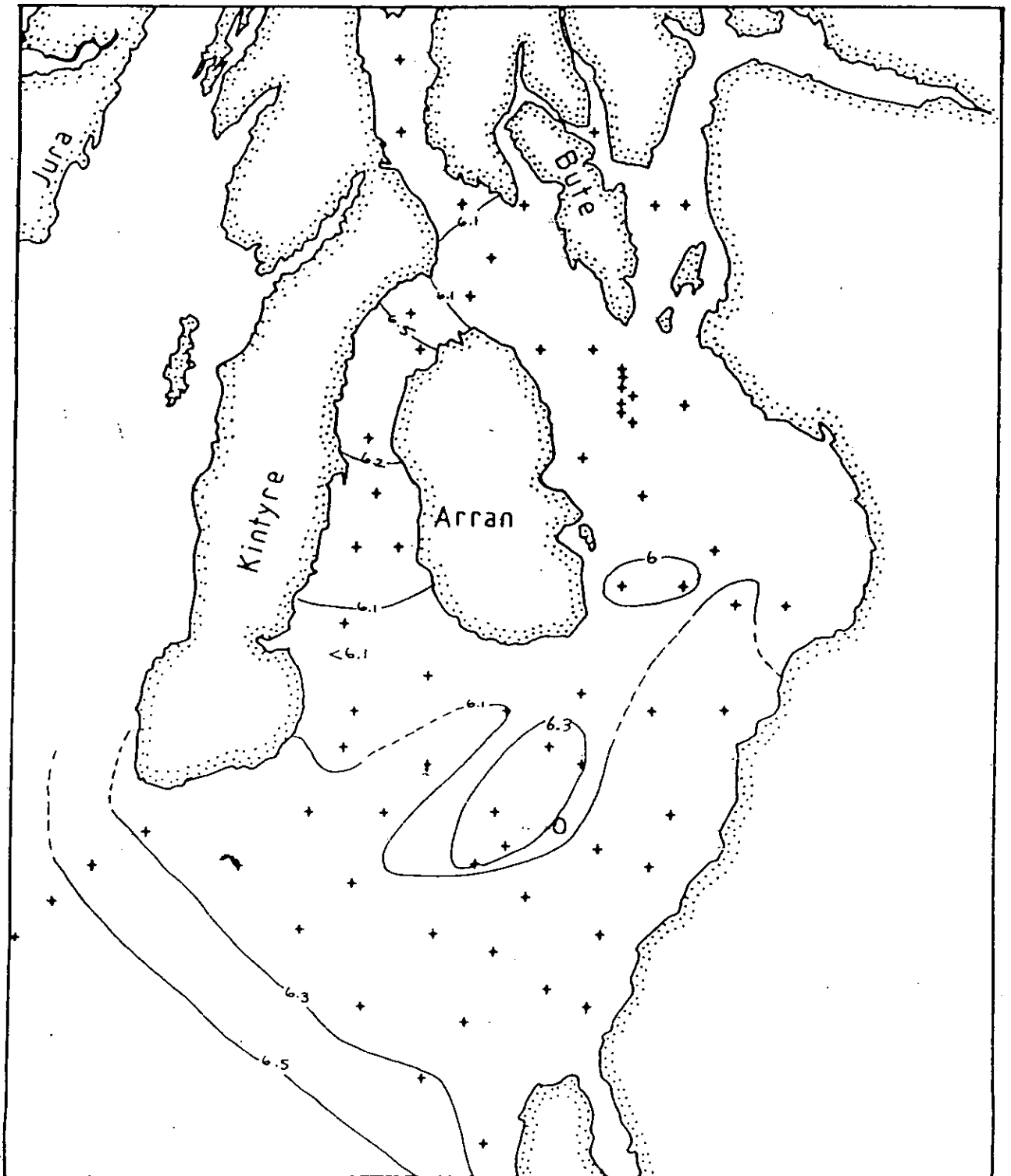
March 1987
Acid Ratio



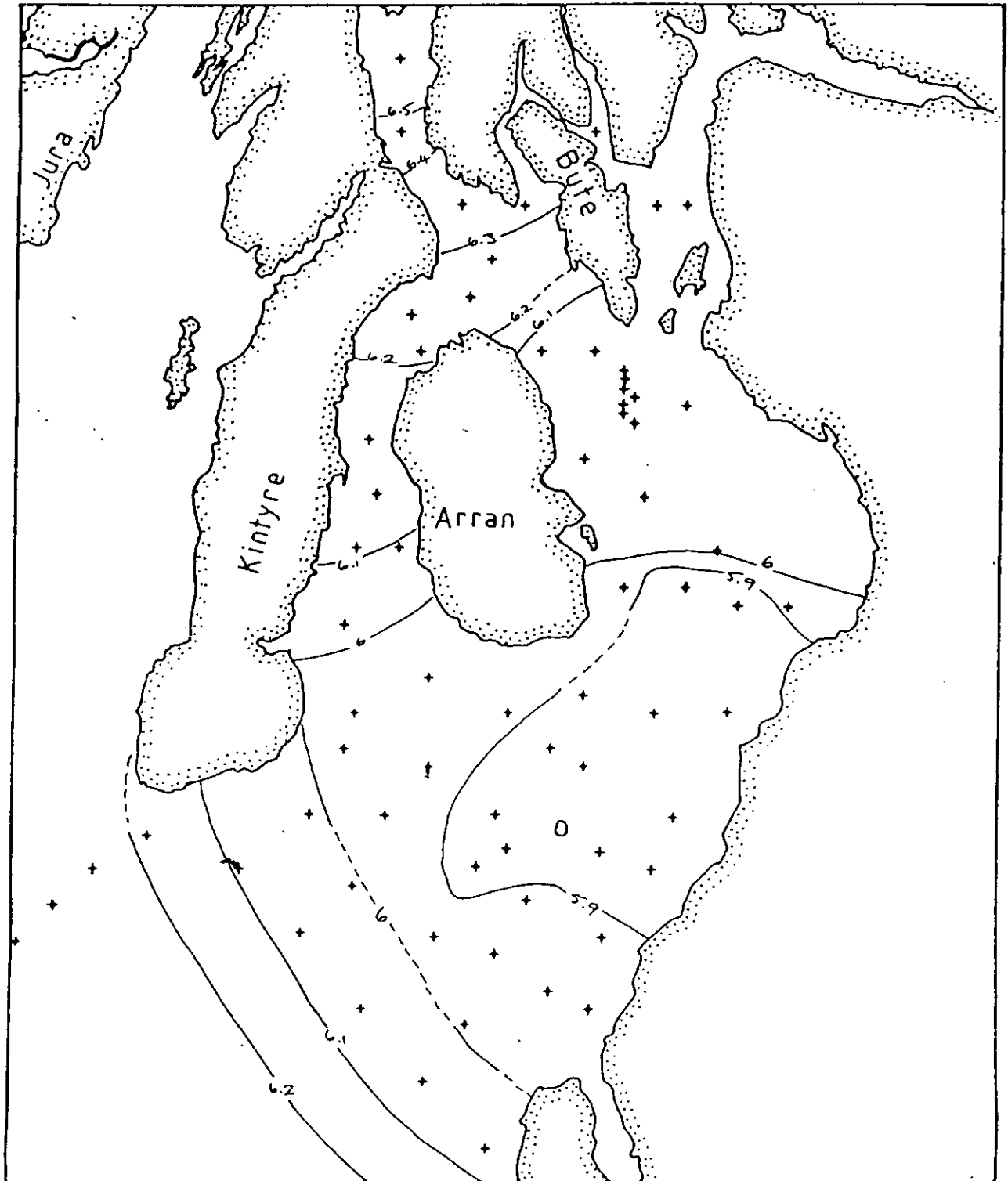
March 1987
Surface Chlorophyll a $\mu g l^{-1}$



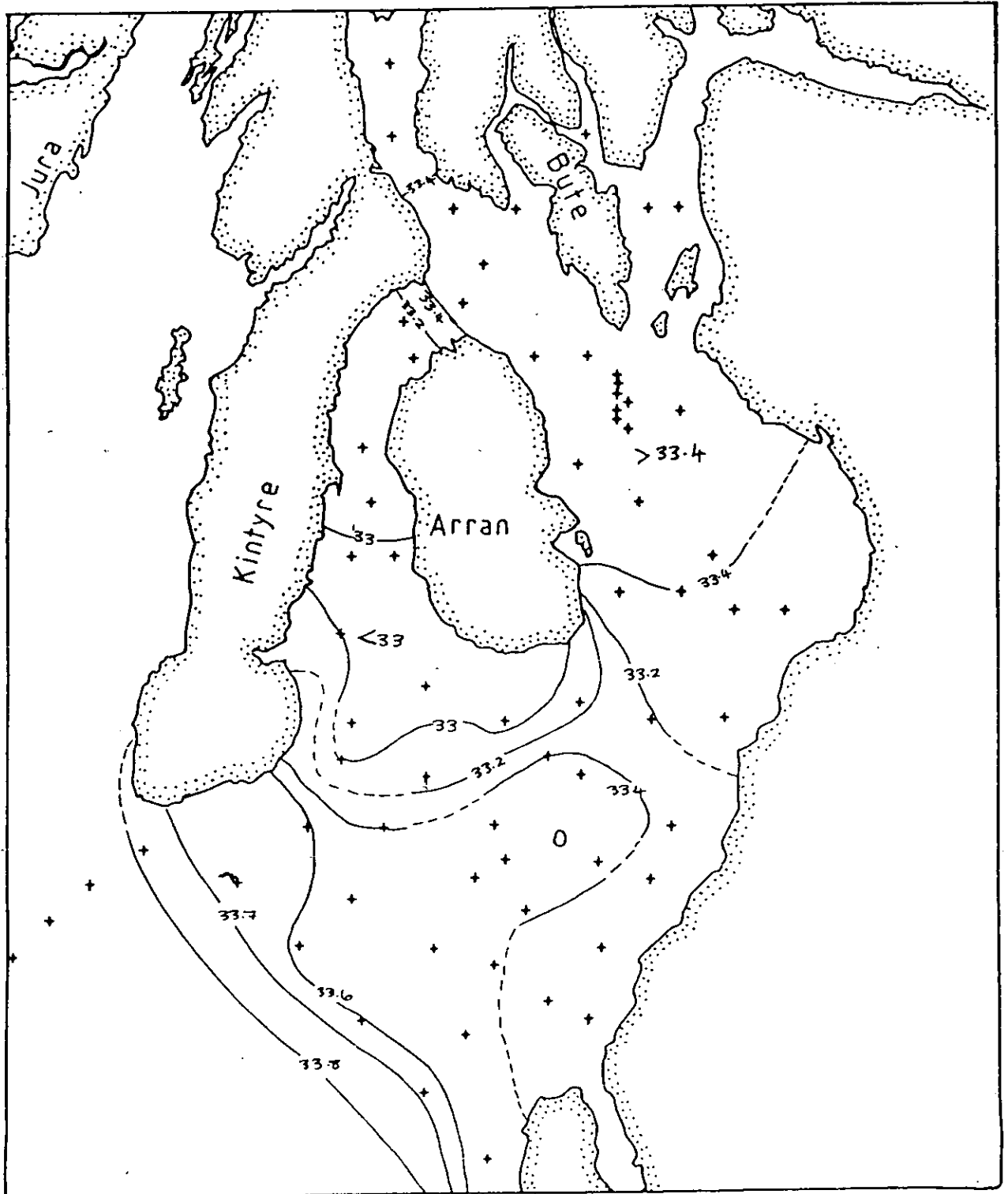
March 1987
Bottom Temp °C



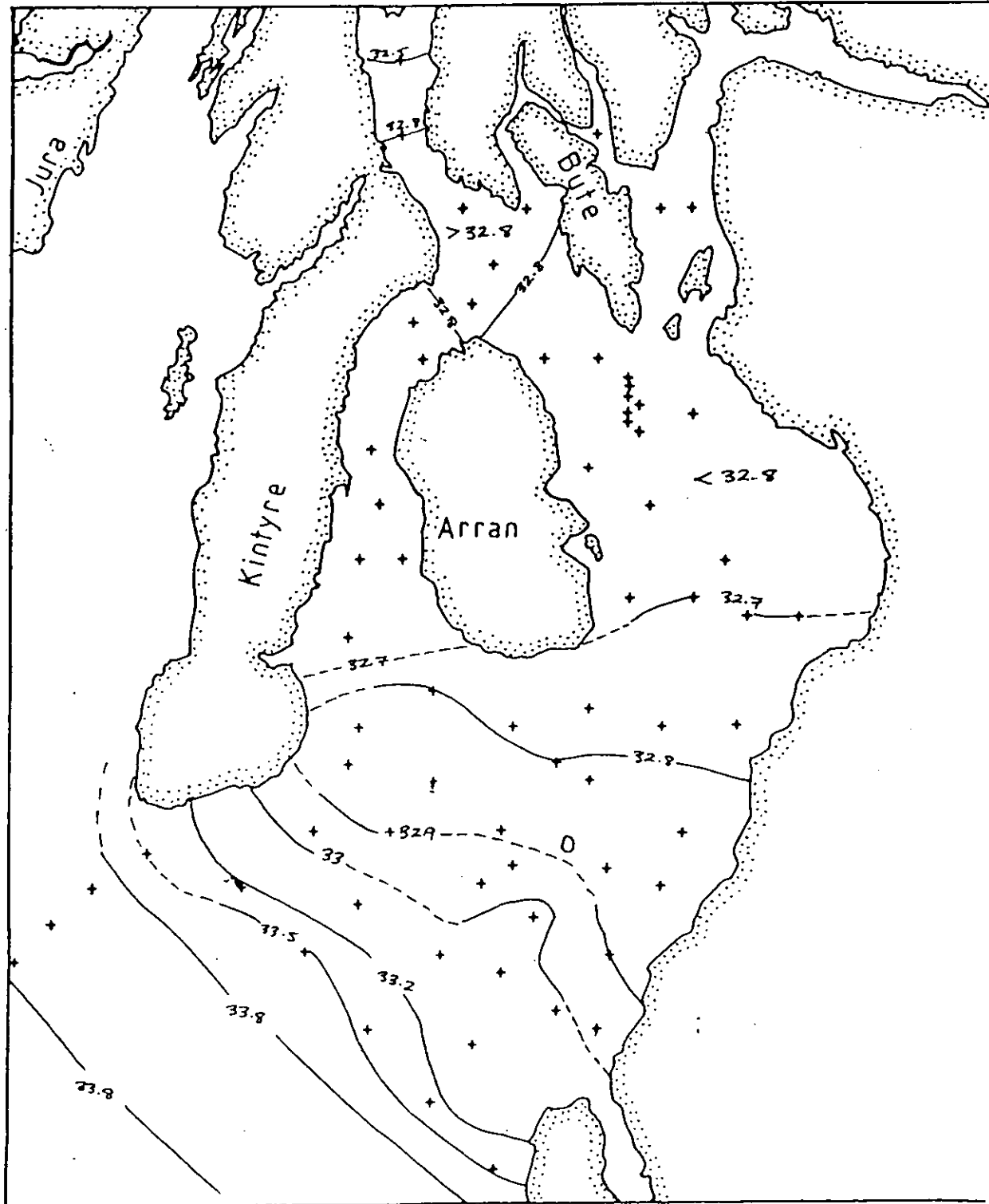
March 1987
Surface Temp. °C



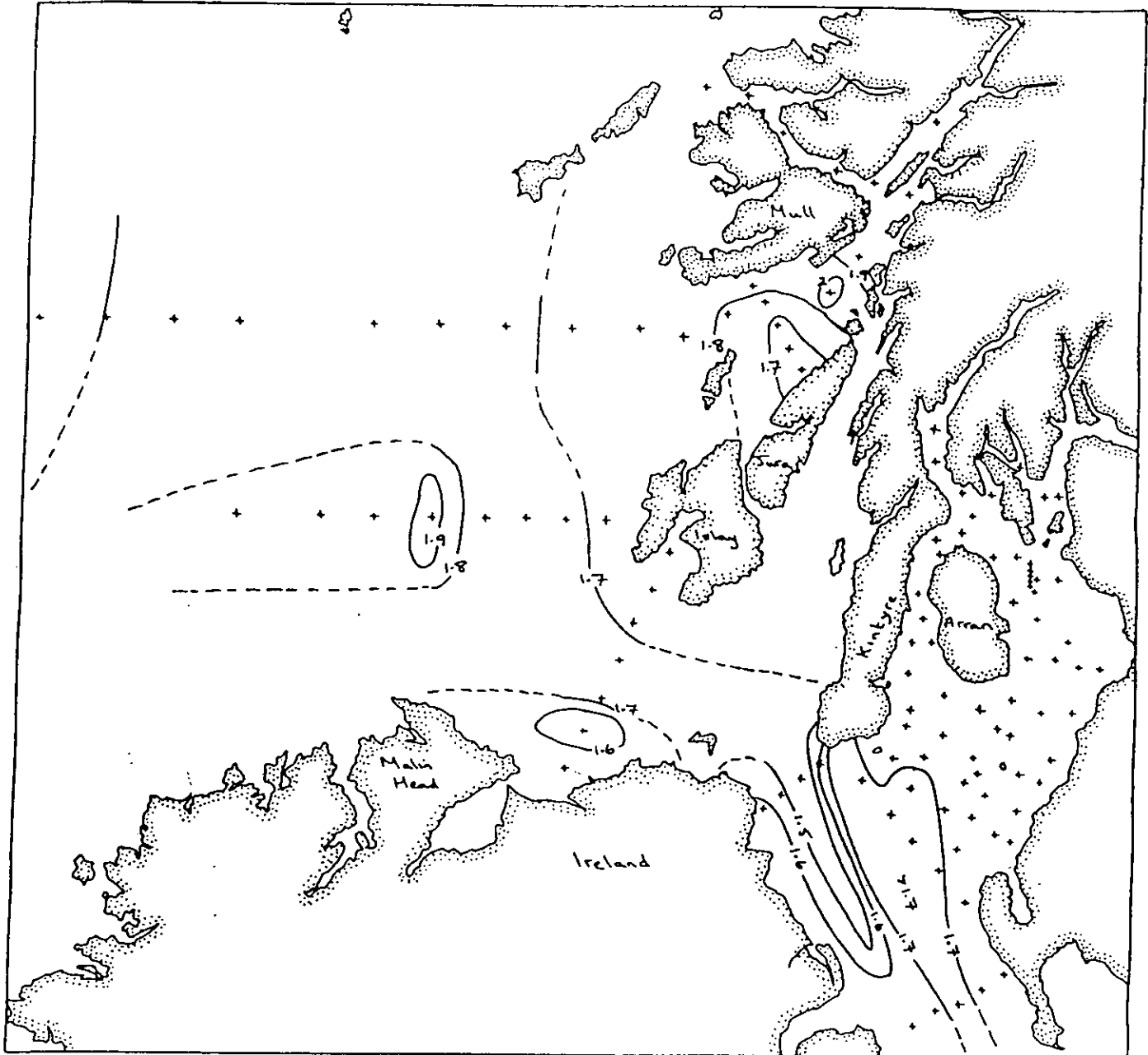
March 1987
Bottom Salinity ‰



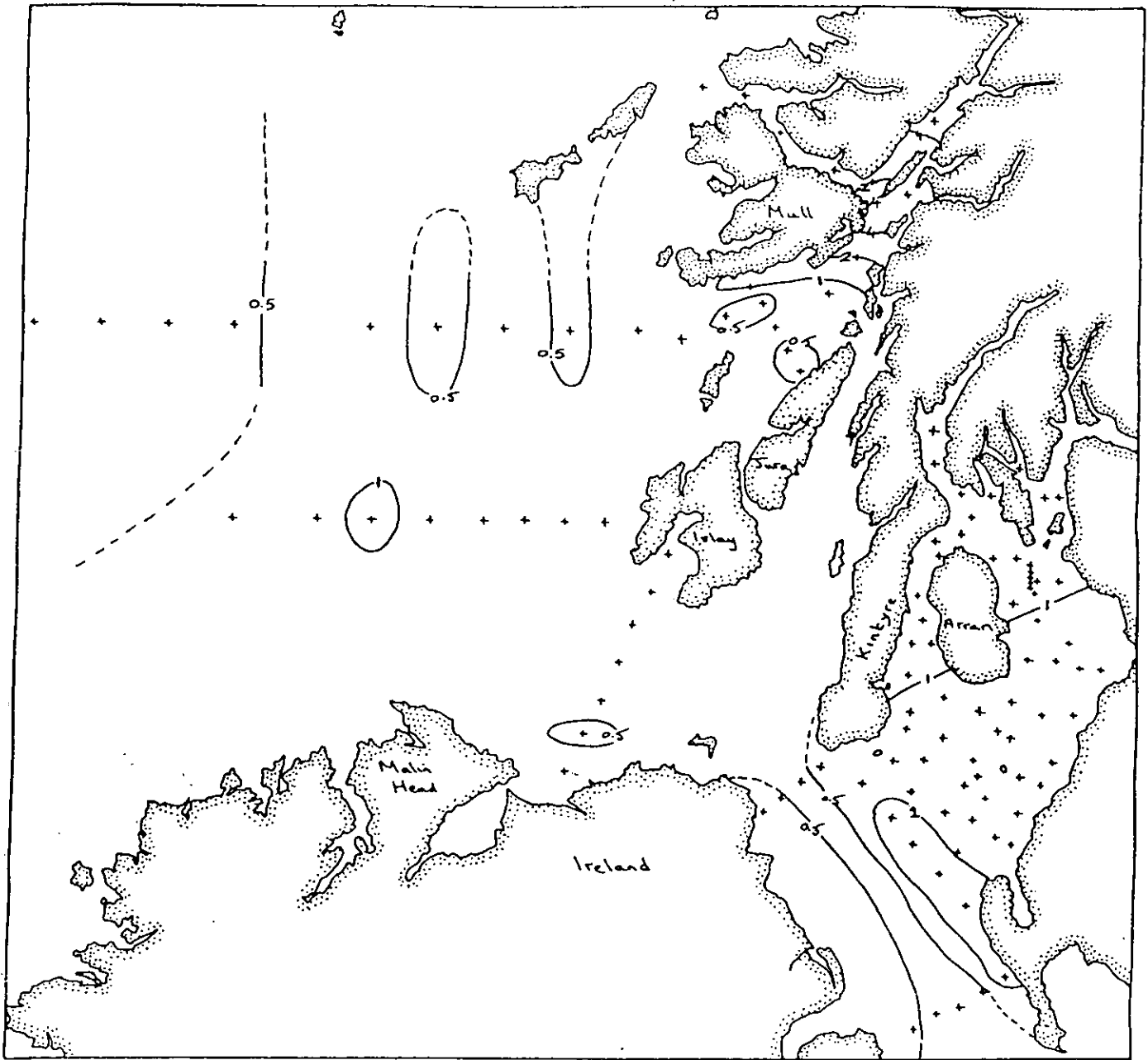
March 1987
Surface salinity ‰



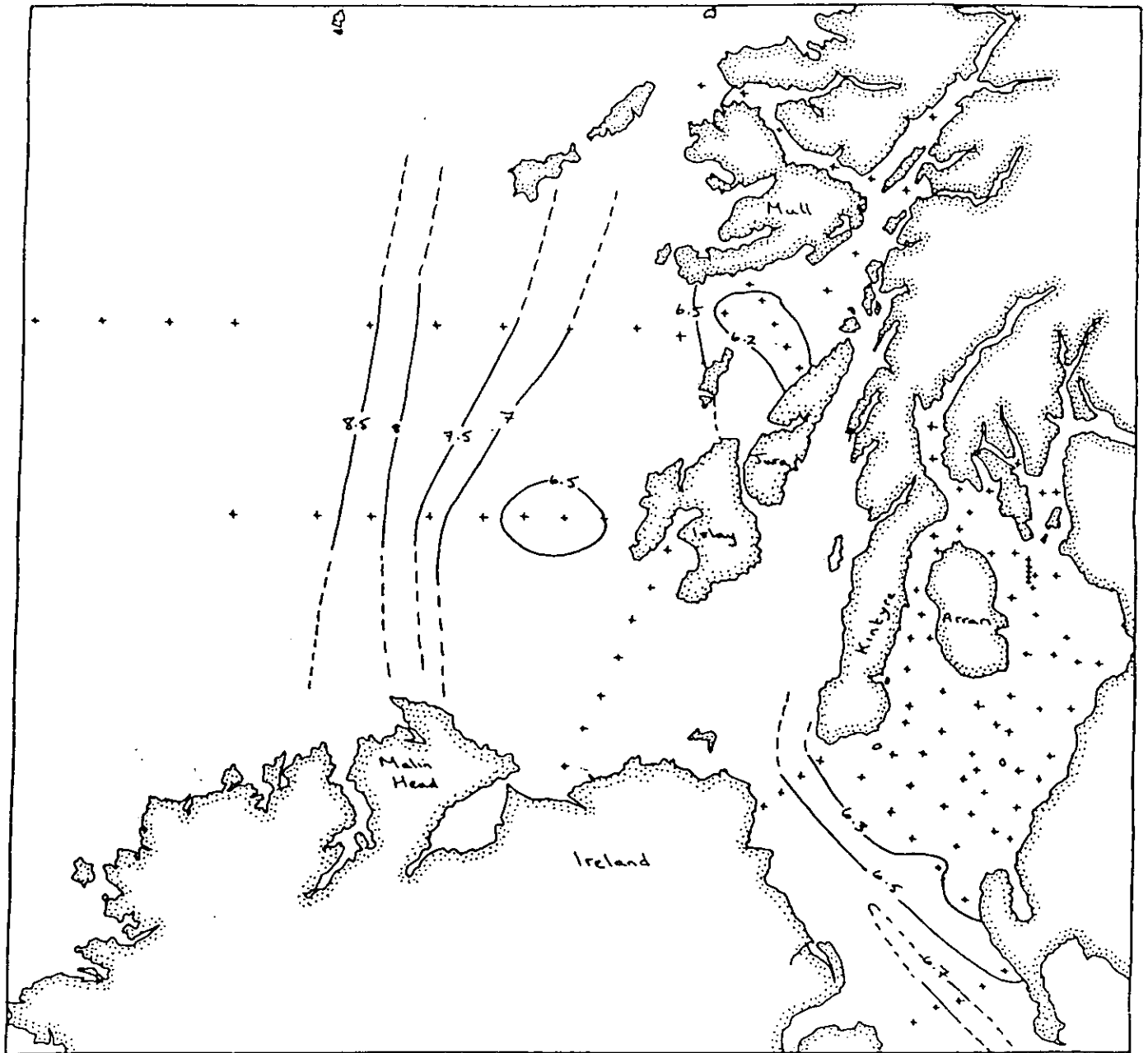
March 1987
Acid Ratio.



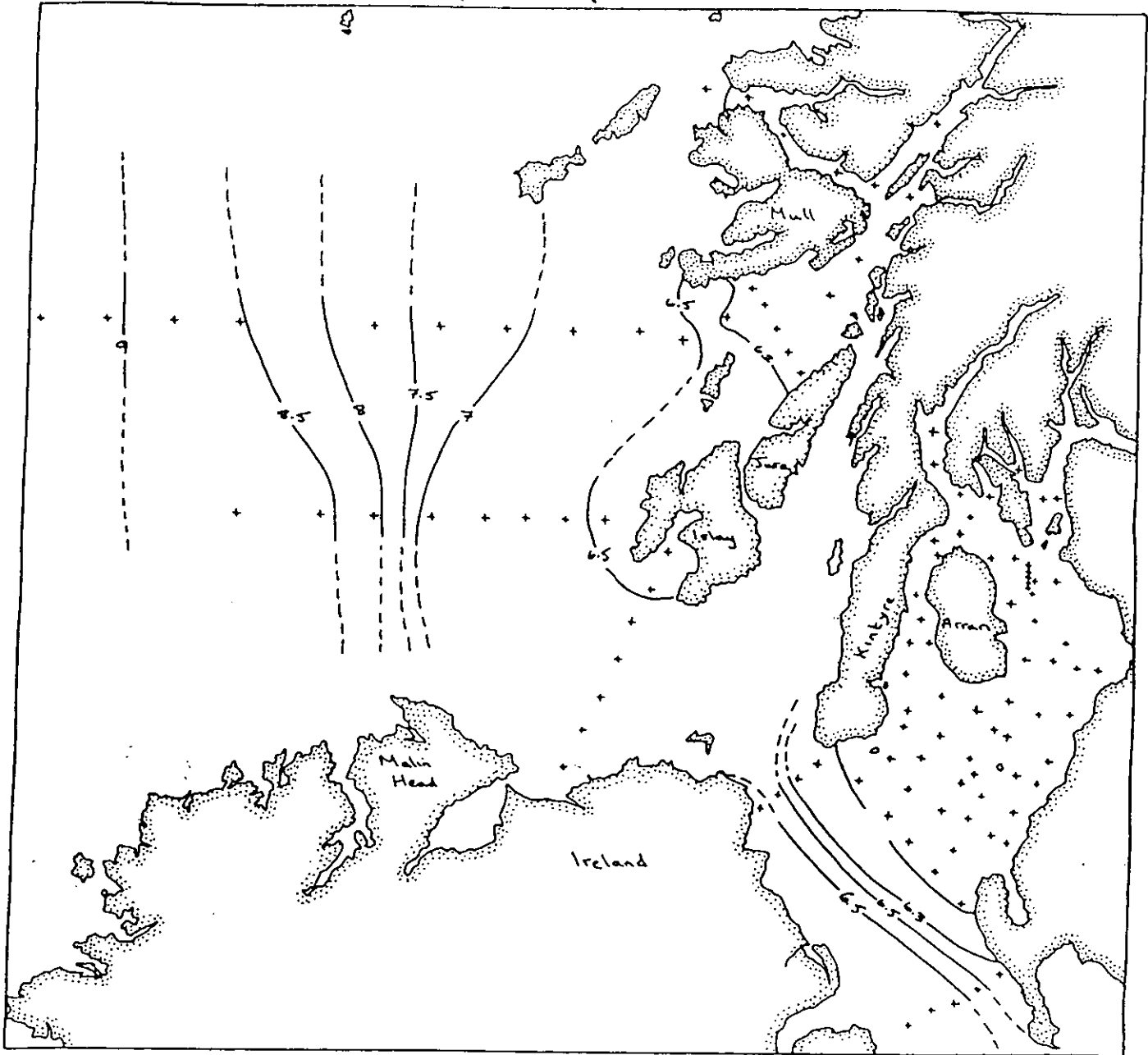
March 1987
Chl a ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$)



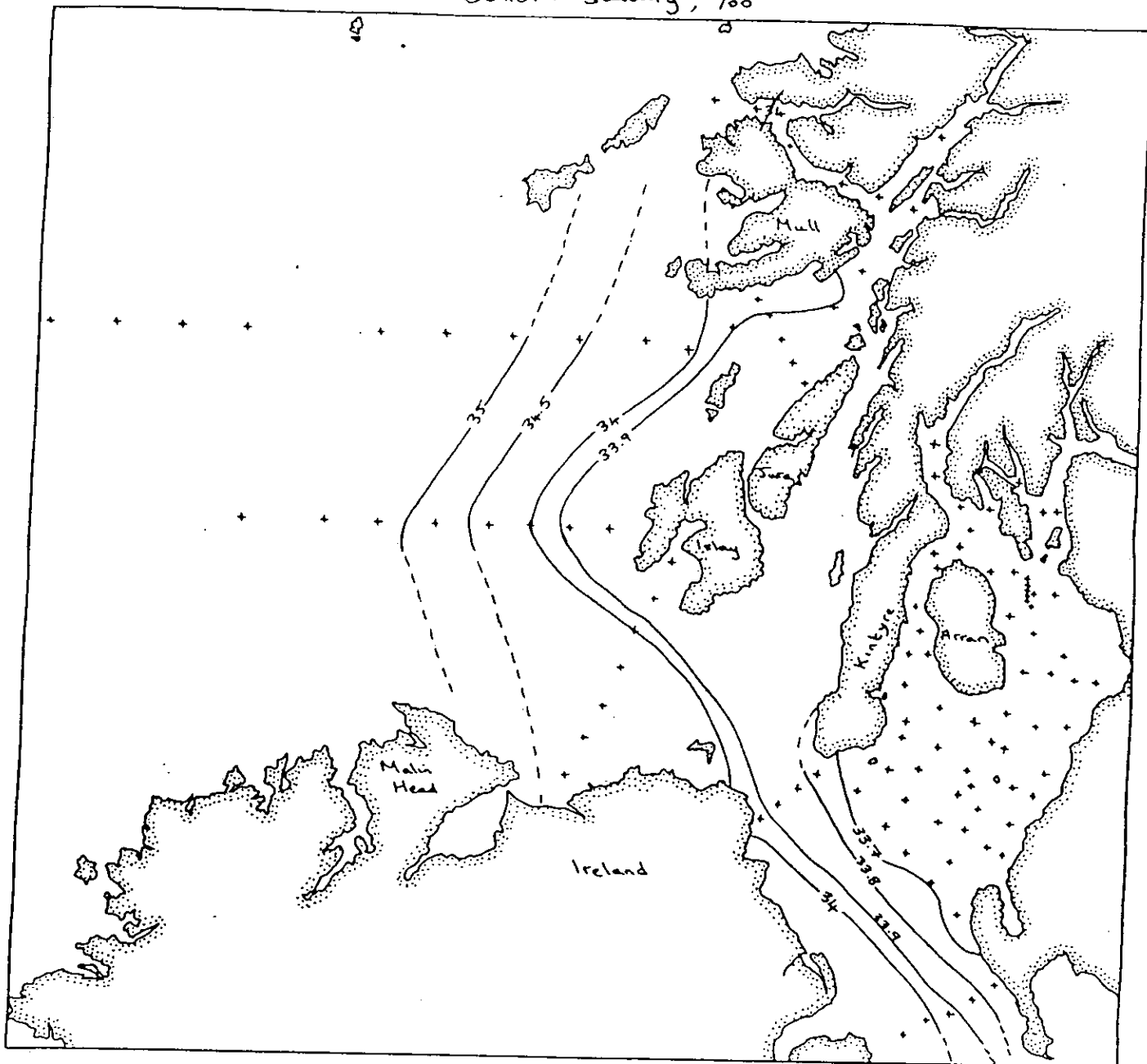
March 1987
Bottom Temp °C.



March 1987
Surface Temp. °C.



March 1987
Bottom salinity, ‰



March 1987
Surface salinity ‰

