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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

1980 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV G A REAY: CRUISE 8

(Provisional: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

B W Jones (in charge)
B C Bedford
M W Easey
D Eaton
A Moule

DURATION

Left Aberdeen 1600 h 2 September
Arrived Aberdeen 1230 h 23 September
(All times Greenwich Mean Time)

LOCALITY

Northern North Sea

AIM

To make a trawl survey for Norway pout and associated by-catch species in the northern North Sea using the semi-pelagic high headline trawl.

NARRATIVE

The G A REAY left John Woods shipyard at 1600 h 2 September and transferred to the oil jetty to take fuel. The ship put to sea at 2015 h and set course for the south-western corner of the survey grid. Fishing commenced at 0600 h 3 September and continued until the night of 11 September when severe gales interrupted work and the ship sought shelter in Lerwick on the morning of 12 September. With the prospect of a moderation in the weather the G A REAY left Lerwick at 2300 h on 13 September and the survey was resumed next morning. Fishing continued without further interruption until the survey grid was completed on the evening of 21 September. 70 survey stations were fished and a track chart is attached as Fig 1. The vessel then returned to Station 9 where a further six hauls were made at four hour intervals. On termination of these hauls the ship headed for Aberdeen where she docked at 1230 h on 23 September.

RESULTS

1. 70 one-hour trawl stations on the survey grid were worked and these yielded a total fish catch of 55.4 tons which included:

Norway pout	20.4 tons
Haddock	16.5
Whiting	8
Cod	2.4
Mackerel	1.2
Herring	0.4

The catches of Norway pout, haddock and whiting at each station are shown in Figs 2-4.

2. 6 additional trawl hauls were made at the position of Station 9 at 4 hour intervals covering a single 24 hour cycle to study diurnal variation of catches. Haddock and whiting catch rates reached a maximum in the 1000 h haul and fell to a minimum at 2200 h. Norway pout catch-rates were greatest in the night hauls.
3. Otoliths were taken from cod, haddock, whiting, Norway pout and blue whiting. The samples were stratified by length and roundfish sampling area. The numbers of otoliths taken in the samples were as follows:

Sampling Area:	1W	1E	2	3	Total
Cod	82	175	197	81	535
Haddock	97	106	105	62	370
Whiting	92	132	122	135	481
Norway Pout	26	50	26	53	155
Blue whiting	8	43	-	-	51
					<hr/> 1592 <hr/>

4. Samples of cod, haddock, whiting, Norway pout and Blue whiting were examined and stomach contents and gonad condition were recorded. As for otoliths these samples were stratified by length and roundfish sampling area.
5. Samples of mackerel (Dr Lockwood) and herring (Mr Wood) were frozen for examination at Lowestoft. Large specimens of cod, haddock, ling and saithe were frozen and returned to Lowestoft for Project 1.9.3A (Mr Bedford).

GEAR

The semi-pelagic trawl sustained no damage during this cruise. However the trawl damaged on Cruise 4, 1980 needs to be returned to Lowestoft for repair. A spare set of bridles is required for the next cruise and replacements for parts damaged on Cruise 4 are required, ie 1 kite, 1 wing ground rope and 2 selvedge line extensions.

B W Jones
2 October 1980

SEEN IN DRAFT: P MacKay

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List
B W Jones
B C Bedford
M W Easey
D Eaton
A Moule
Copies for Norwegian authorities

FIGURE 1. R.V. G.A REAY CRUISE 8, 1980
TRACK CHART

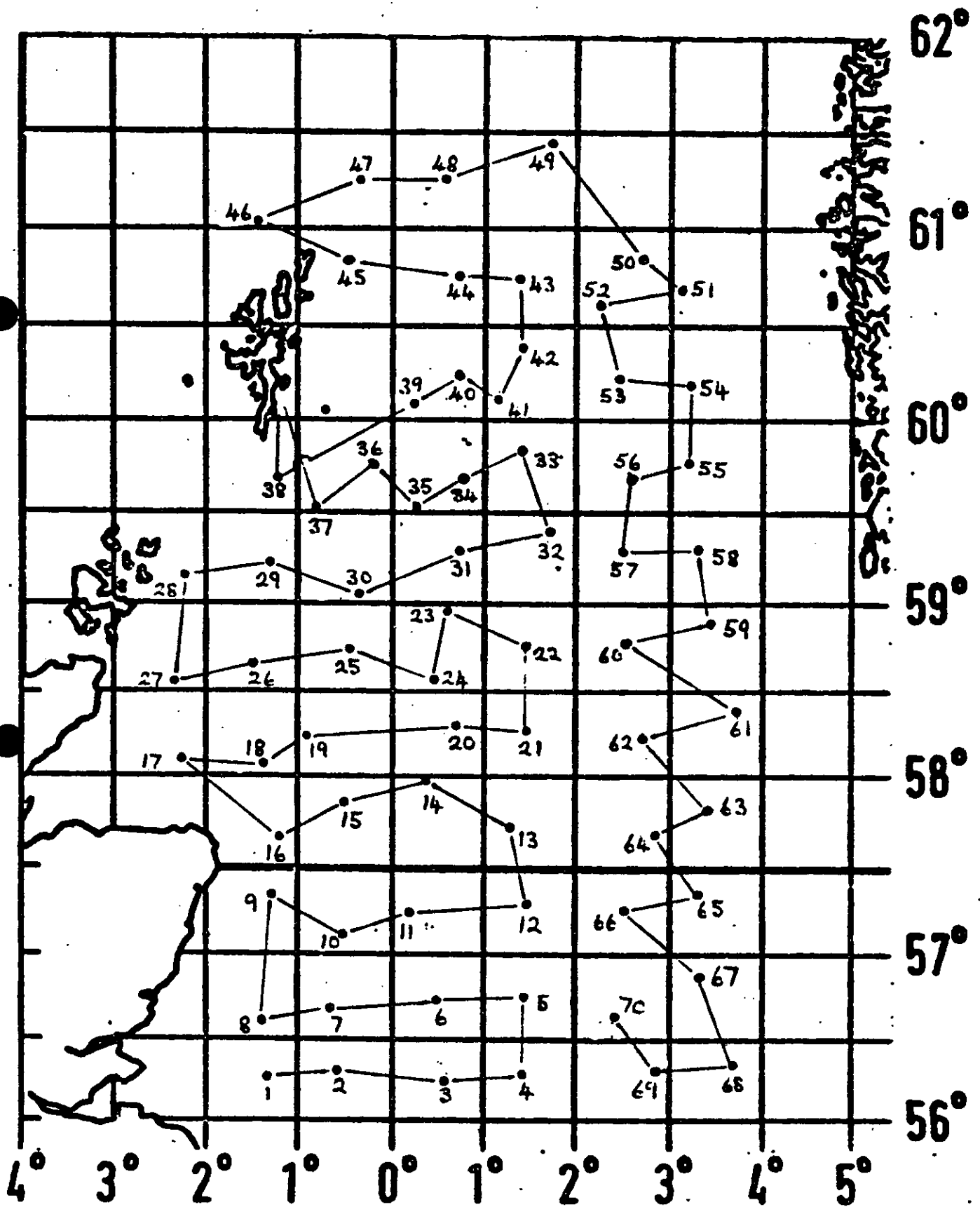


FIGURE 2. R.V. G.A. REAY CRUISE 8, 1980
 CATCHES OF NORWAY POUT Kg/h.

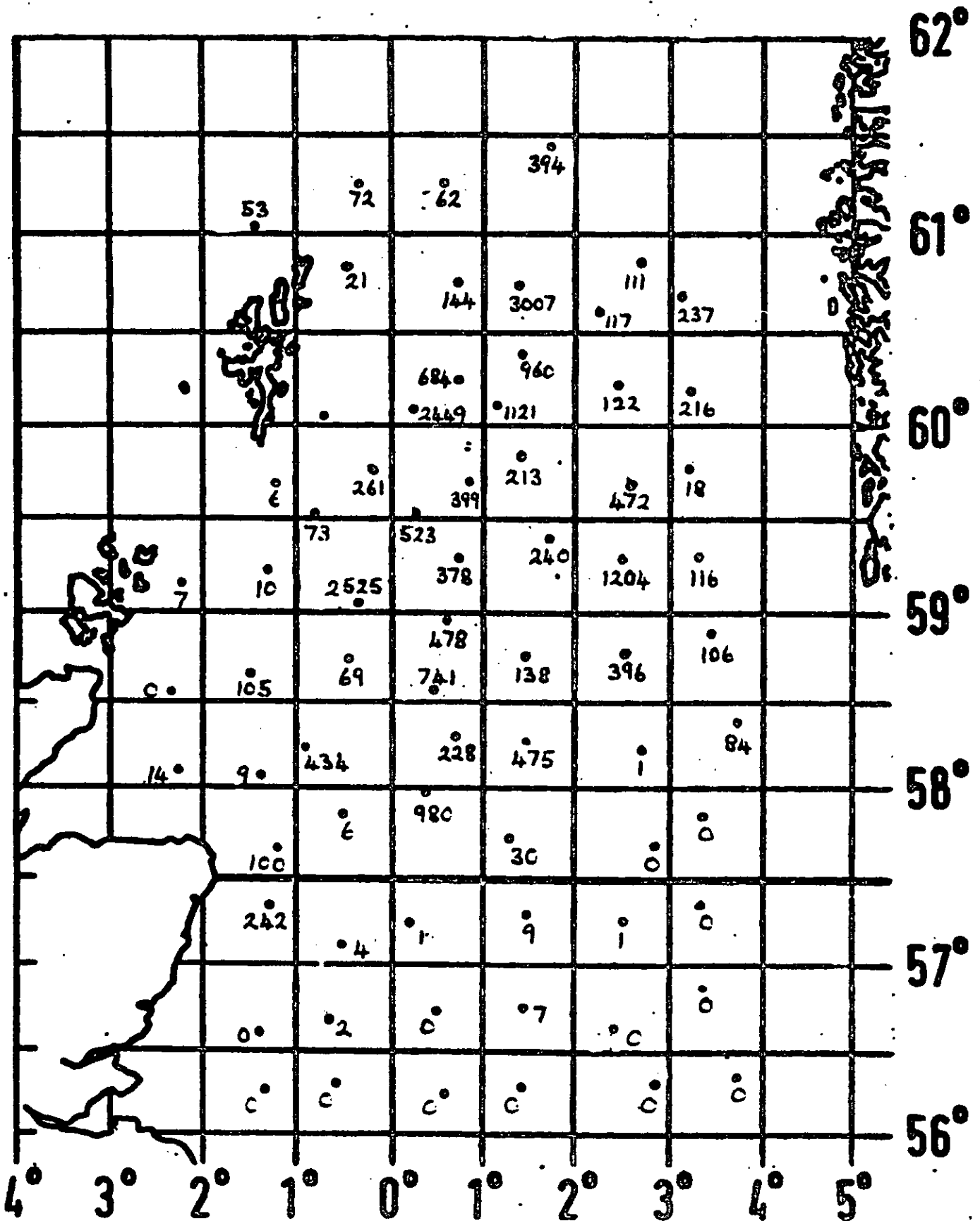


FIGURE 3 · R. V. G. A. REAY CRUISE 8, 1980
 CATCHES OF HADDOCK kg/h.

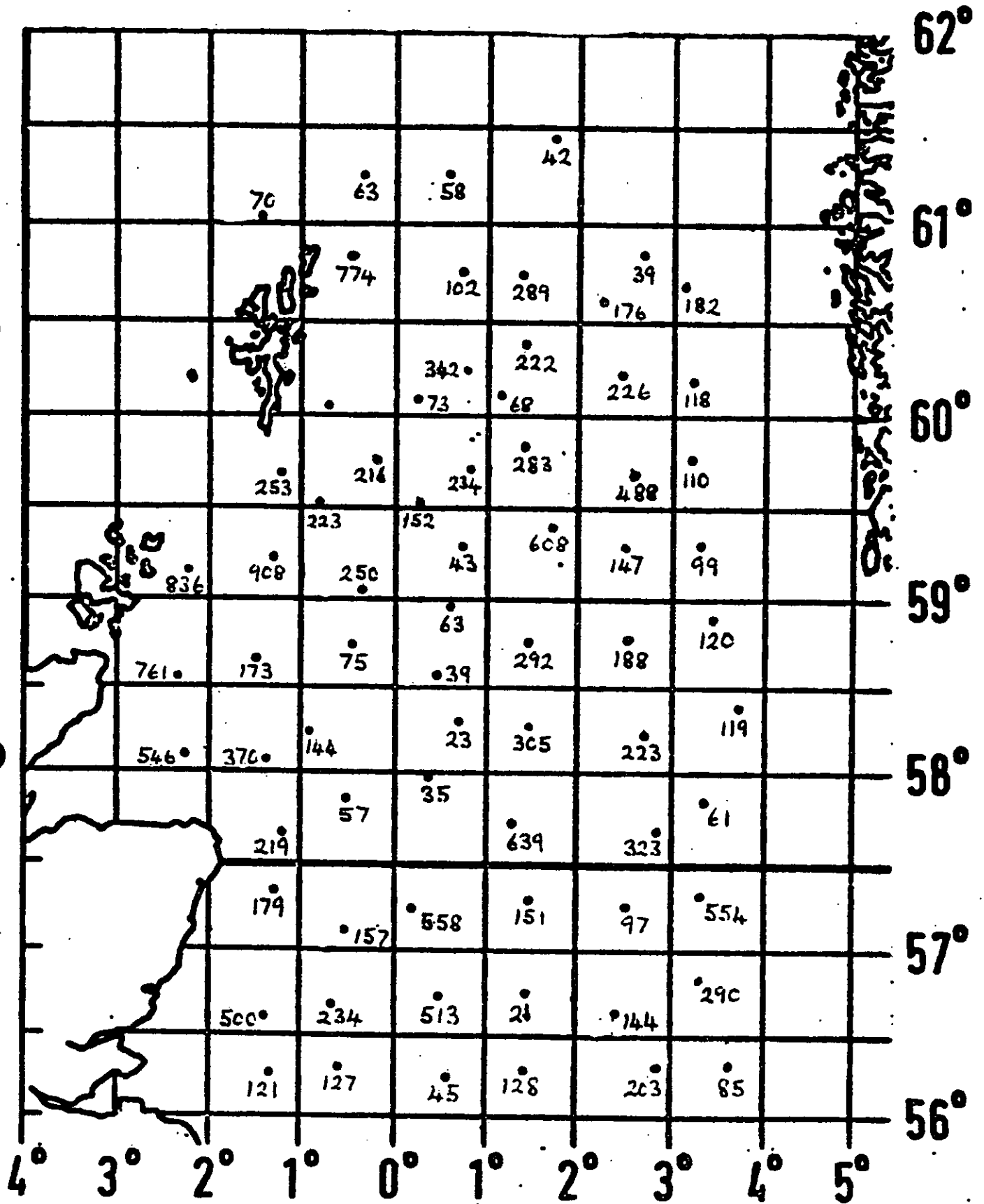


FIGURE 4. R.V. G.A. REAY CRUISE 8, 1980
 CATCHES OF WHITING Kg/h.

