

R1/12

In Confidence - Not to be quoted without prior reference to the Laboratory

FRV "Scotia"
Cruise 1/85

1SR85 MB

Report
4 January - 23 January 1985

Personnel

- R Cook
- W MacDonald
- P Kunzlik
- C Whitworth
- K Peach
- I Leaver
- P Clark

Objective

Demersal trawling survey of grounds off the North and West coasts of Scotland.

Narrative

"Scotia" sailed from Aberdeen at 17.30 hrs on the 4 January. Trawling began on the 5 January at 13.55 hrs off the North coast of Scotland. In favourable weather, fishing continued uninterrupted until the half-landing in Stornoway on the 11 January. During the first half of the cruise 35 stations to the North and West of the Hebrides, off Northern Ireland and the Clyde were completed.

At the half-landing a new GOV net was uplifted and a damaged net dispatched to Aberdeen.

Following the half-landing, the remaining 9 stations in the Minch were completed. Stations to the West of the Hebrides were then repeated. Finally with time in hand, the Minch stations were repeated before bad weather prevented any more work on the 22 January. "Scotia" returned to Aberdeen and docked at 14.00 hrs on the 23 January.

Results

The program was successfully completed with a total of 67 hauls being made. All stations were worked at least once.

Catch rates were variable but were generally less than 20 baskets. The largest haul, mainly of herring, was taken off the Shiantis and amounted to 81 baskets.

Significant catches of I-group haddock were restricted to the North Minch (see Fig 1). The largest single catch of over 1500 fish/hr was taken off the Shiantis.

I-group whiting were more widely distributed throughout the Minch and Firth of Clyde with catch rates in these areas in excess of 1000/hr. (see Fig 2).

Herring were taken in variable numbers and catches consisted mainly of fish in the range 20-30 cm. Largest catches were in the Minch (12, 265/hr) and in square 43E1 (9,552/hr). Otherwise catch rates were generally less than 200 fish/hr.

The table below shows the total number of otoliths taken for the major species. All cod, haddock and saithe otoliths were read at sea.

NUMBERS OF OTOLITHS TAKEN

Cod	Haddock	Whiting	Saithe	Herring	Mackerel
296	1252	957	127	1235	75

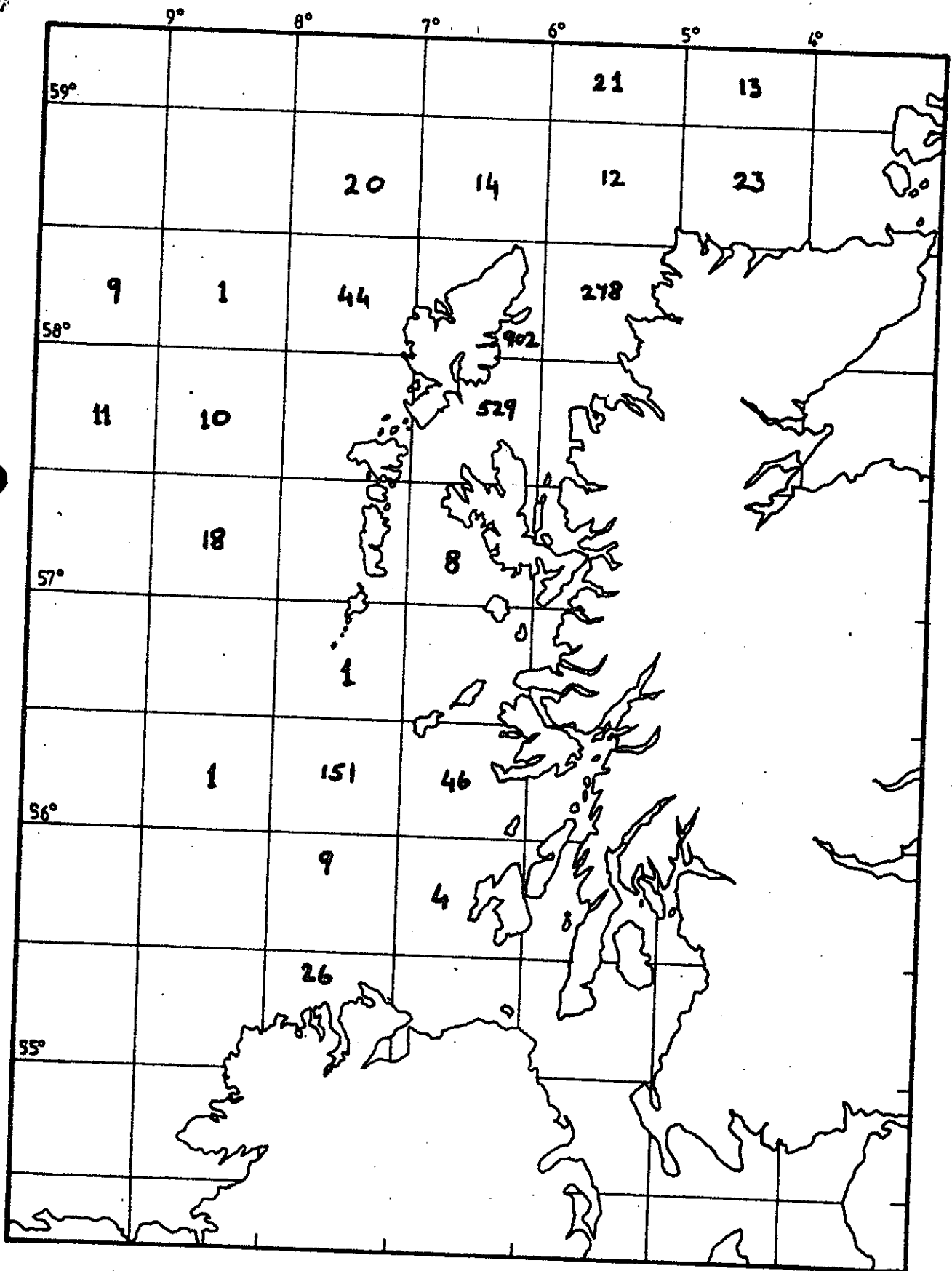
All length frequency and haul summary data were punched and stored on floppy disk using a Commodore micro-computer.

Samples of cod, herring and plaice were brought back to the laboratory for chemical analysis.

R M Cook

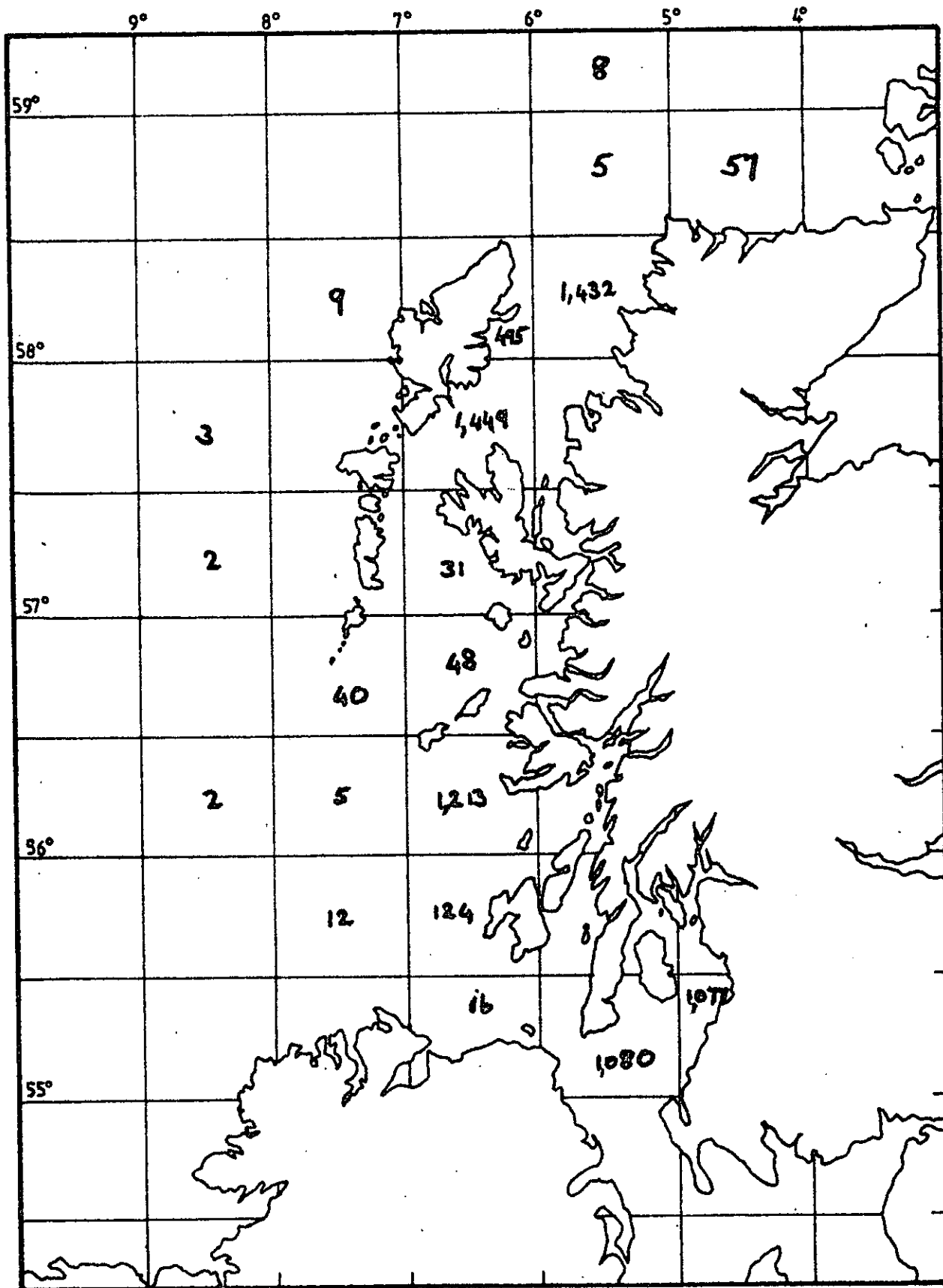
seen in draft: J W Gillon

12 February 1985



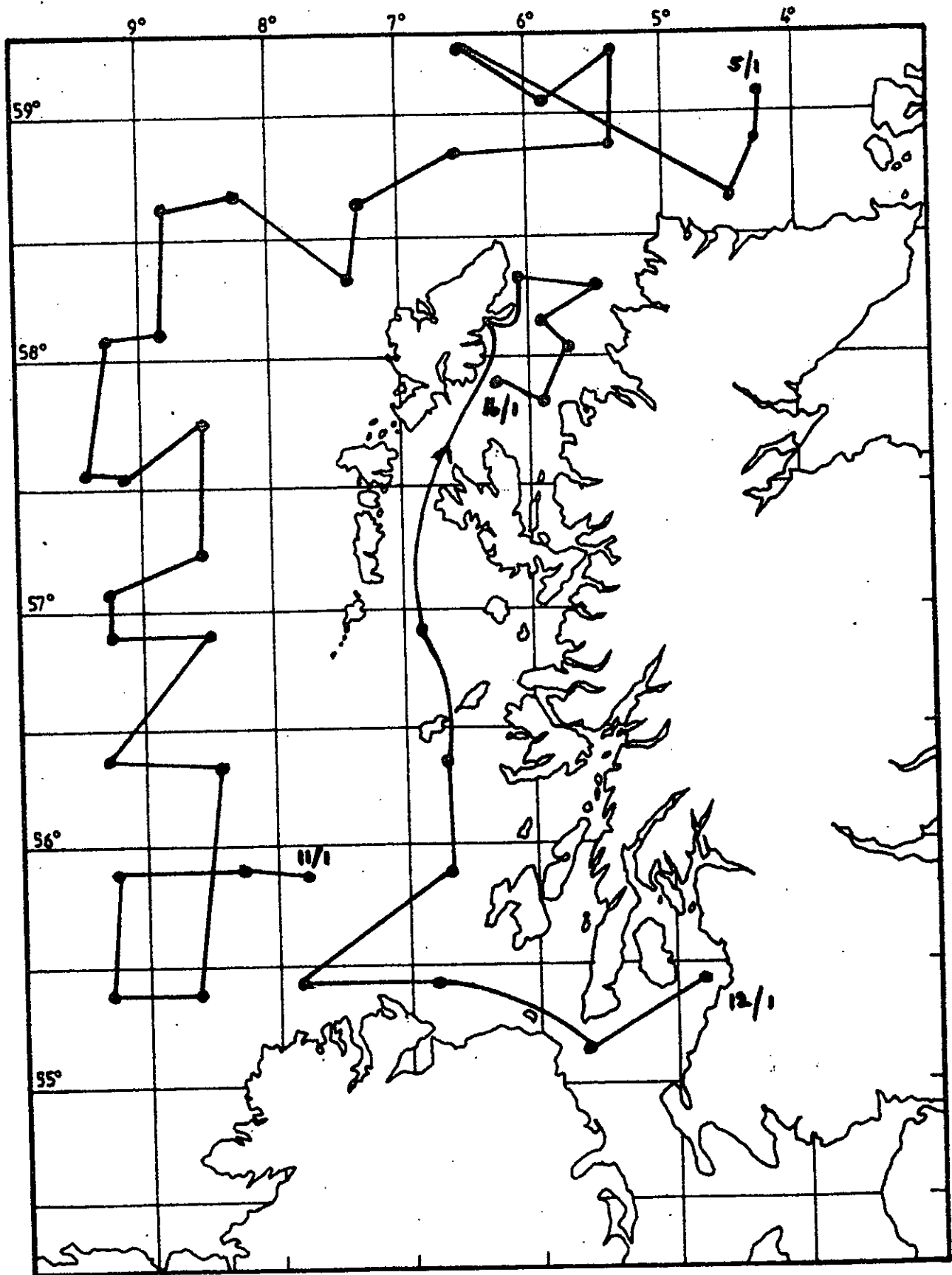
Numbers of I-group haddock/hr

Fig 1

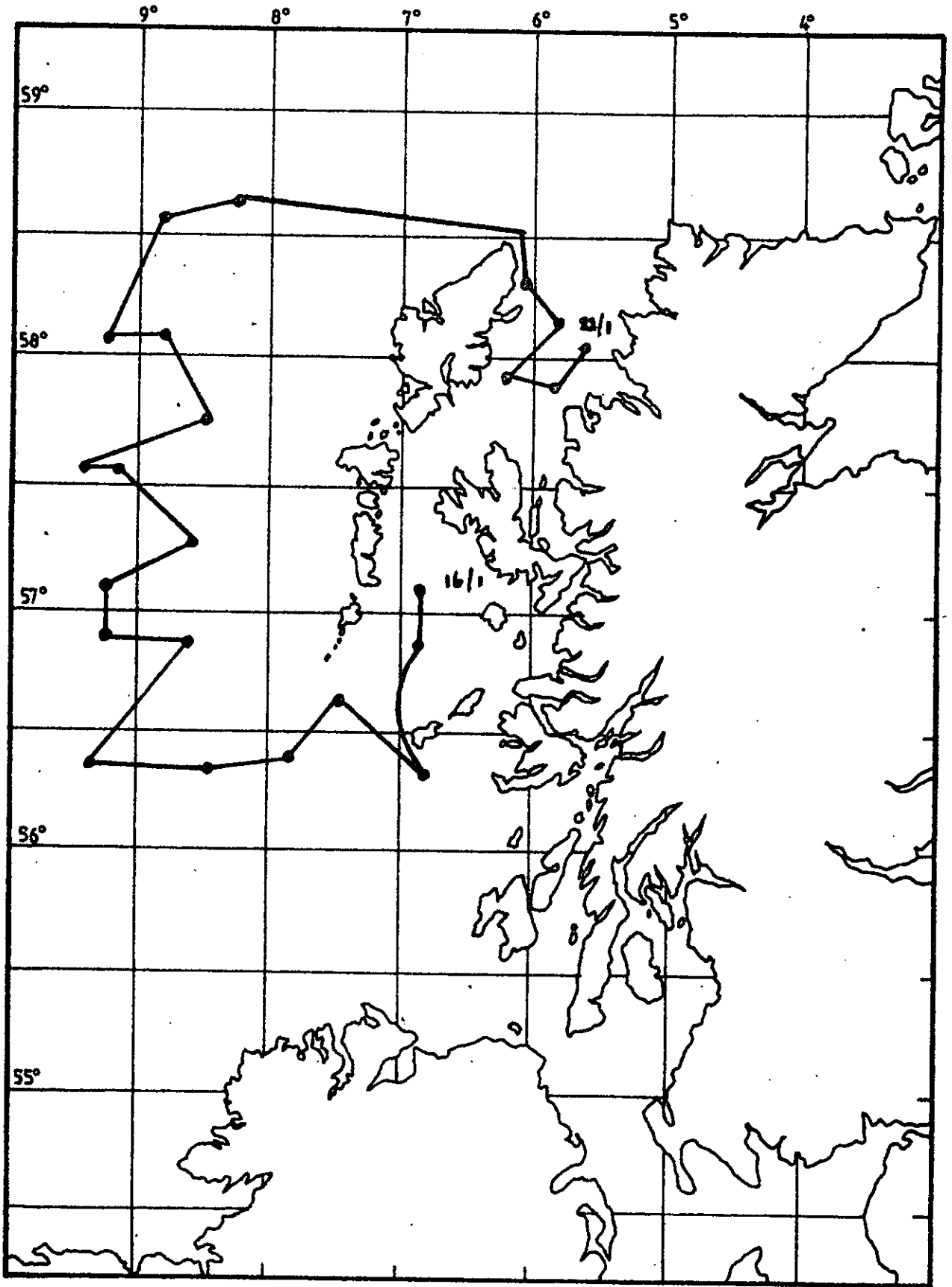


Numbers of I-group Whiting/hr

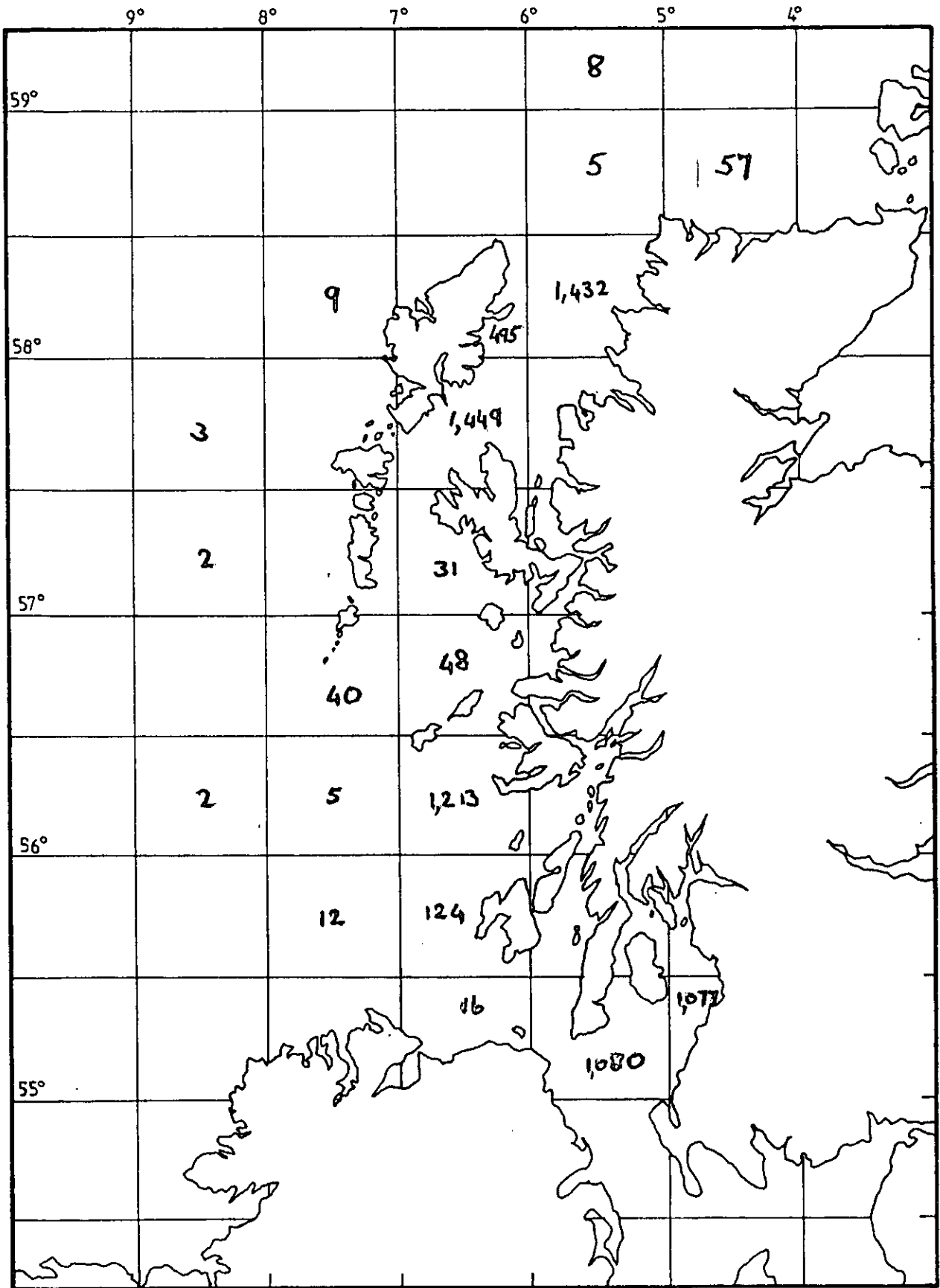
Fig 2



Scotia cruise 1/85 5/1 - 16/1

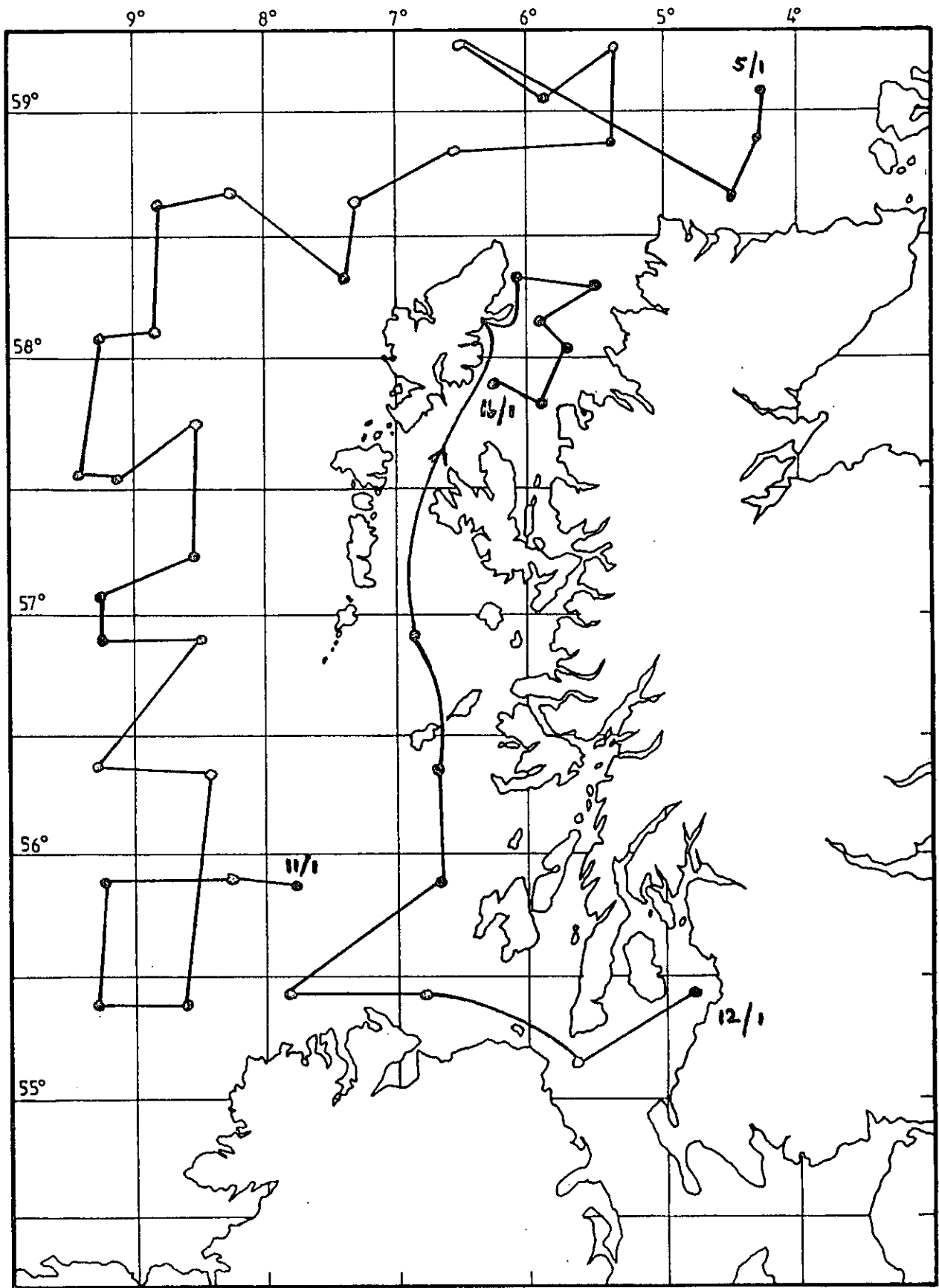


Scotia Cruise 1/85 16/1 - 22/1

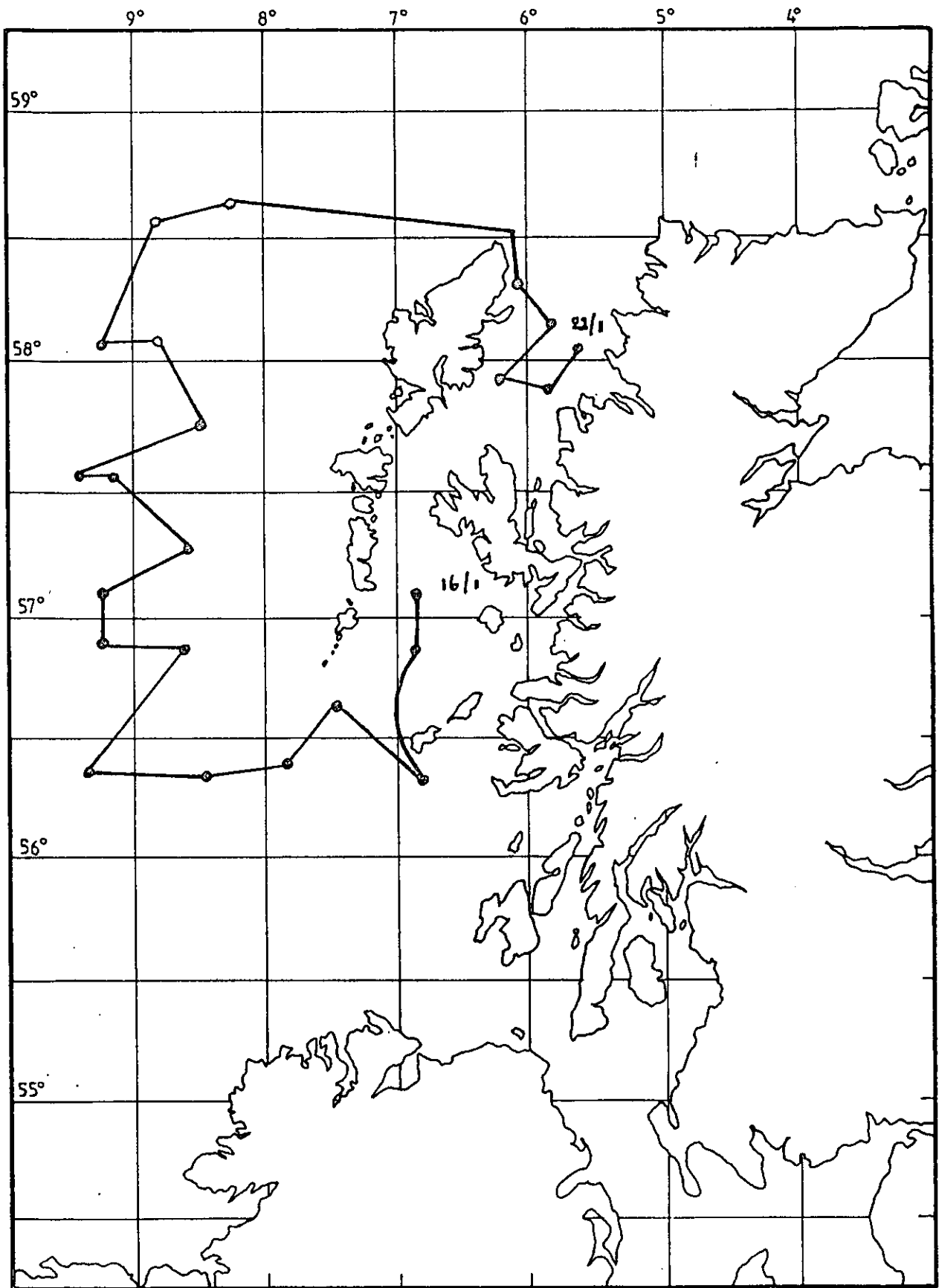


Numbers of I-group Whiting/hr

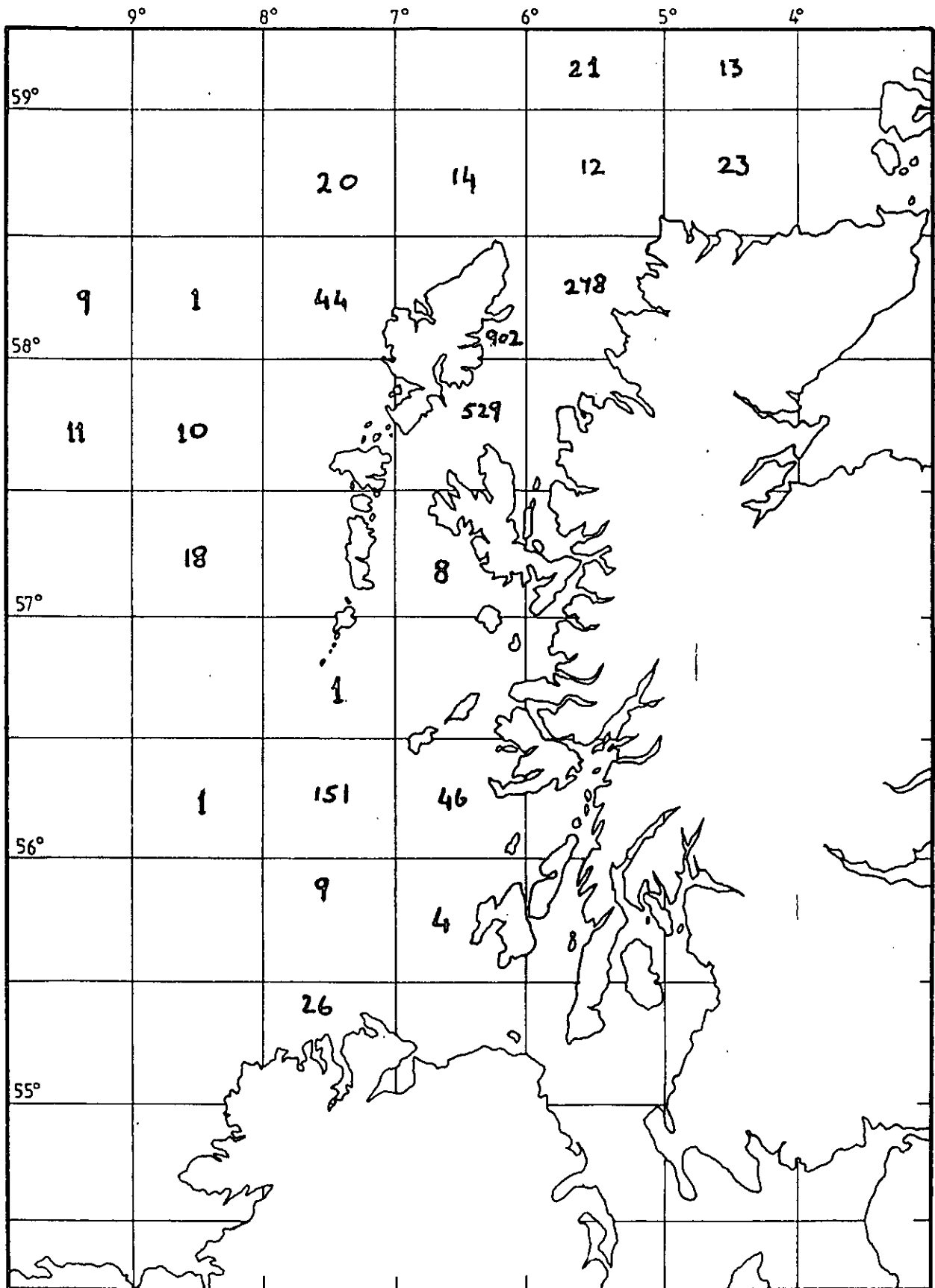
Fig 2



Scotia cruise 1/85 5/1 - 16/1

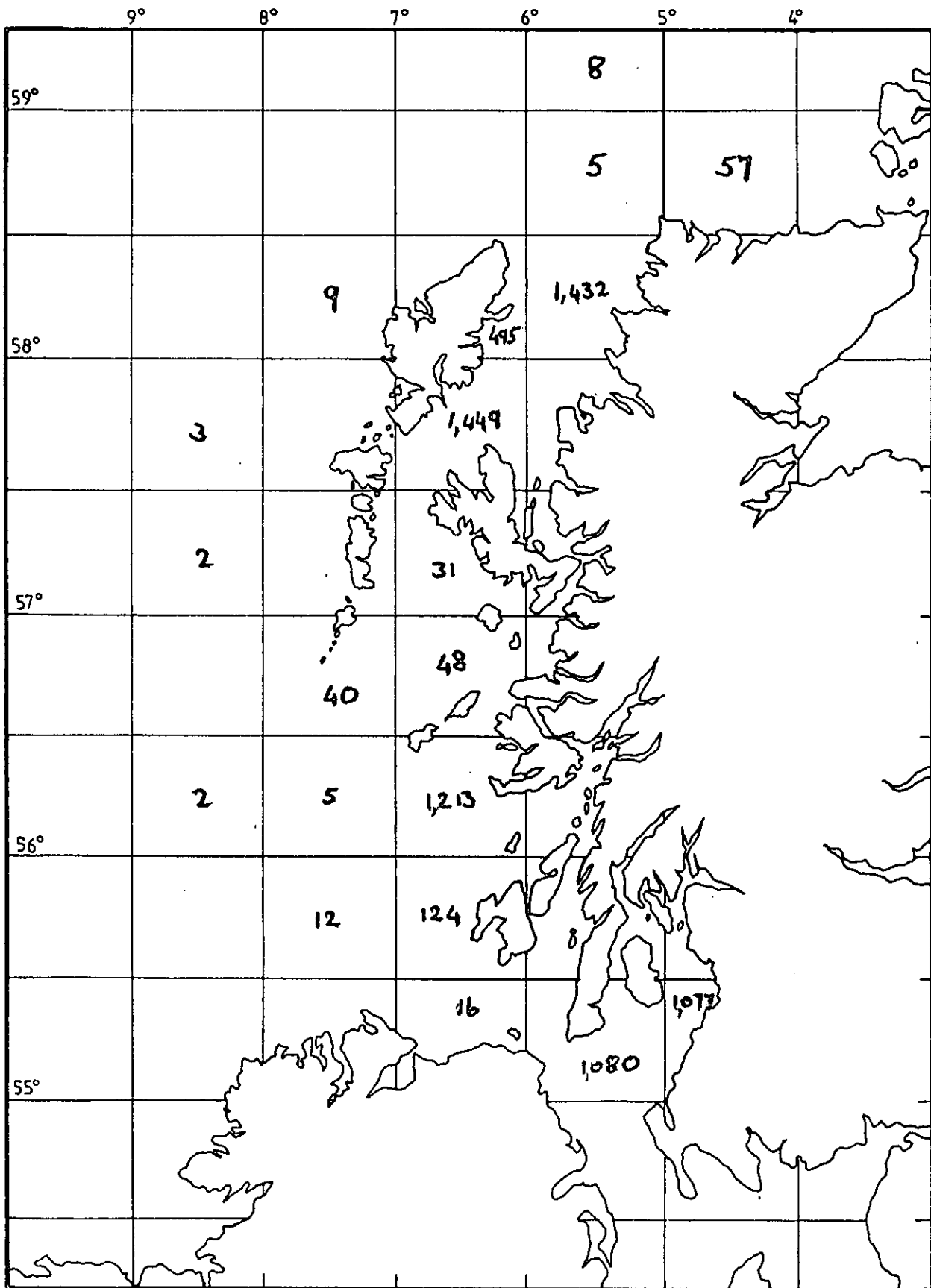


Scotia Cruise 1/85 16/1 - 22/1



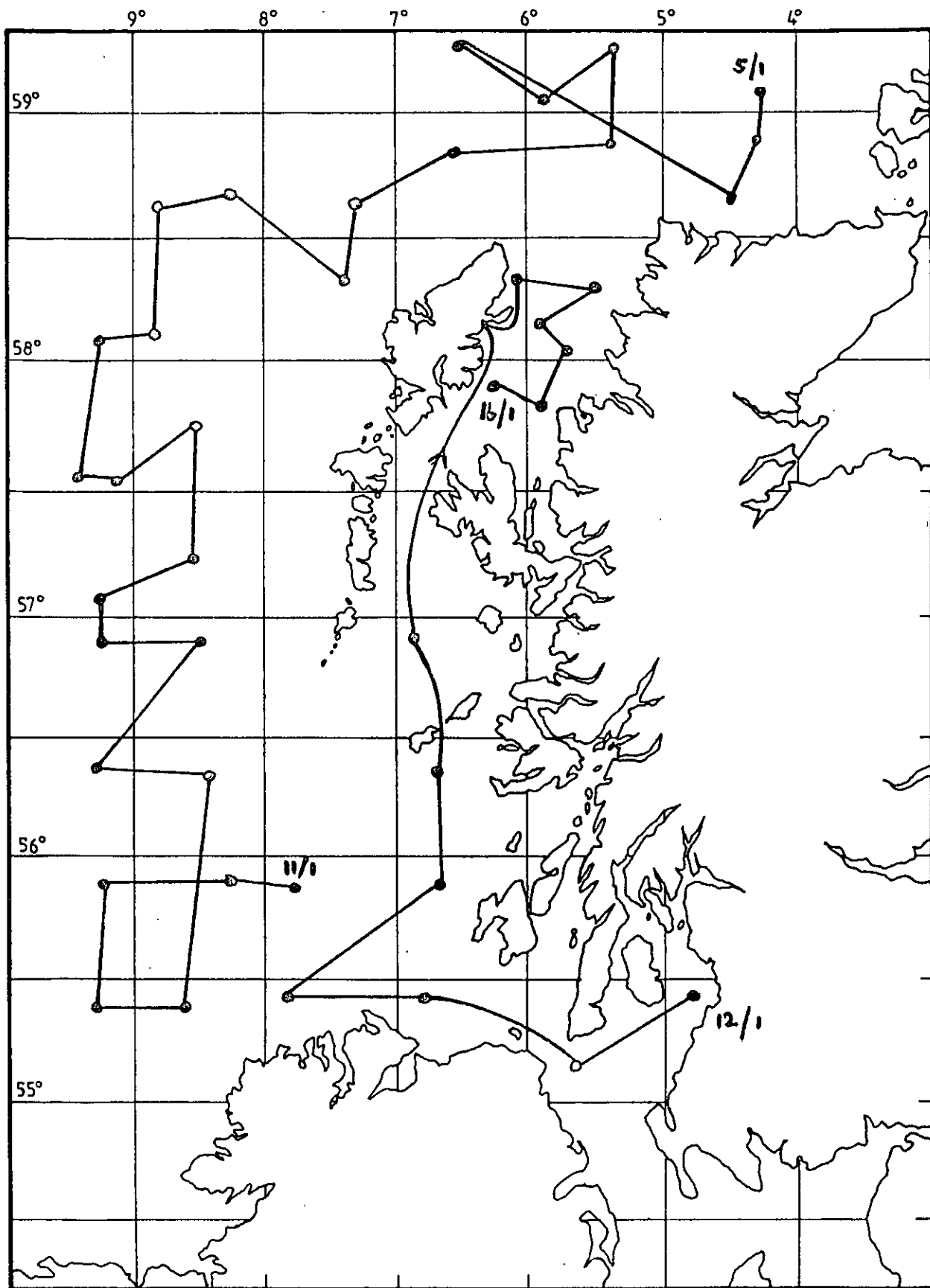
Numbers of I-group haddock/hr

Fig 1

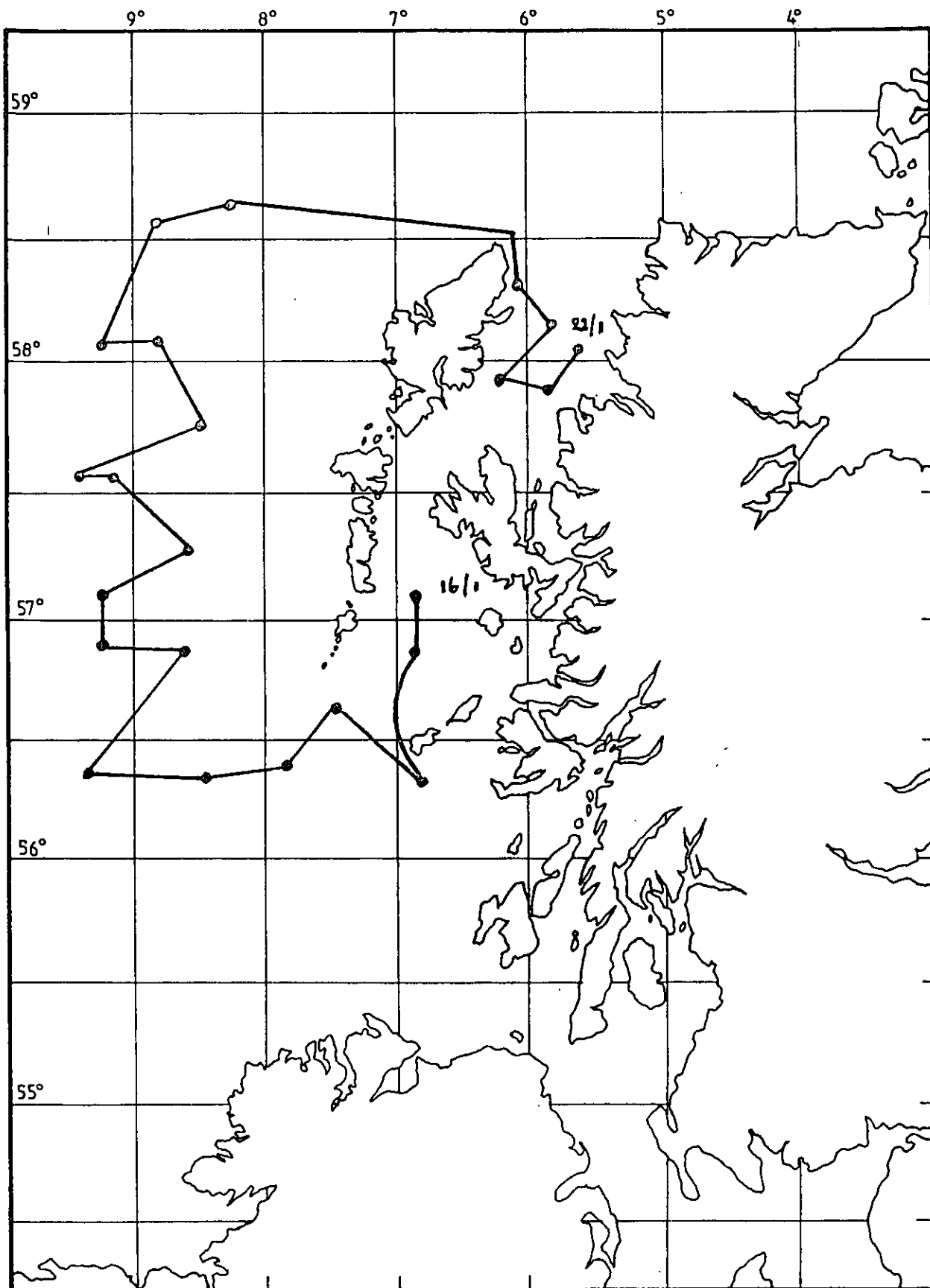


Numbers of I-group Whiting/hr

Fig 2



Scotia cruise 1/85 5/1 - 16/1



Scotia Cruise 1/85 16/1 - 22/1