

R1/12

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FRV *SCOTIA*

Cruise 0293S

REPORT

3-22 March 1993

### Personnel

K A Coull	HSO
M Medford (Mrs)	HSO
P Copland	HSO
R Hutcheon	SO
K Peach	SO
N Collie	PTO (3-18 March)
C Davis	ASO
D Tait	ASO
N Pfeiffer	Visitor (12-18 March)
B Santos (Miss)	Visitor

### Objective

Demersal trawling survey of the grounds off the north and west coasts of Scotland.

### Narrative

*Scotia* sailed from Aberdeen at 1700 on 3 February and proceeded to the Fladens area. After carrying out one trawl to obtain samples for hydrocarbon analysis, the vessel continued to an area east of Shetland where sediment samples were collected from 20 locations.

Trawling operations commenced off the north coast of Scotland on the morning of 5 February. *Scotia* then put into Ullapool on the morning of 6 February in order to dispatch samples to the Laboratory. The vessel sailed again at 1130 and continued work on the Minch stations until the evening of 7 March, when the vessel steamed overnight to the Clyde area. With an improvement in weather conditions, trawling continued on the stations on the southern part of the survey area until the vessel docked at Stornoway on the morning of 12 March.

*Scotia* sailed at 0900 on 13 March and resumed work on the stations in the North Minch. With severe weather conditions predicted within a few days the vessel worked continuously on the stations west and north of the Hebrides. On the morning of 16 March, *Scotia* was forced to head for the sheltered waters of the Minch to repair a badly damaged net. Trawling recommenced within the Minch on 17 March until *Scotia* was directed to Scrabster to pick up scientific equipment before proceeding to an area east of Orkney to carry out sediment sampling and trawling to obtain fish samples. Severe

weather conditions prevented *Scotia* from starting on this work until the morning of 20 March. An increase in weather conditions in the early hours of 21 March prevented *Scotia* from carrying out any further trawling. The vessel returned to Aberdeen, docking at 1700 on 21 March.

## Results

A total of 45 hauls was achieved with two stations not completed due to severe weather conditions.

Average numbers of 1-group haddock and whiting caught per hour in each statistical rectangle are shown in Figures 1 and 2 respectively.

Herring was widely distributed throughout the survey area with the larger catches being in the Stanton Banks, NW Ireland, St Kilda and north coast regions. Average numbers of herring caught per hour in each statistical rectangle are shown in Figure 3.

A total of 33 sites were sampled using the Day grab to obtain bottom sediment samples. The location of these sites are indicated on Figure 4.

All otoliths collected from cod, haddock, whiting, saithe and Norway pout were aged at sea. Length frequencies, haul summary data and age length data were punched at sea and stored on magnetic disk.

The Scanmar system was used throughout the cruise to monitor headline height, wing spread and distance covered during each haul.

K A Coull  
29 April 1993

Seen in draft: P Ramsay

Haddock I-group average numbers/hour

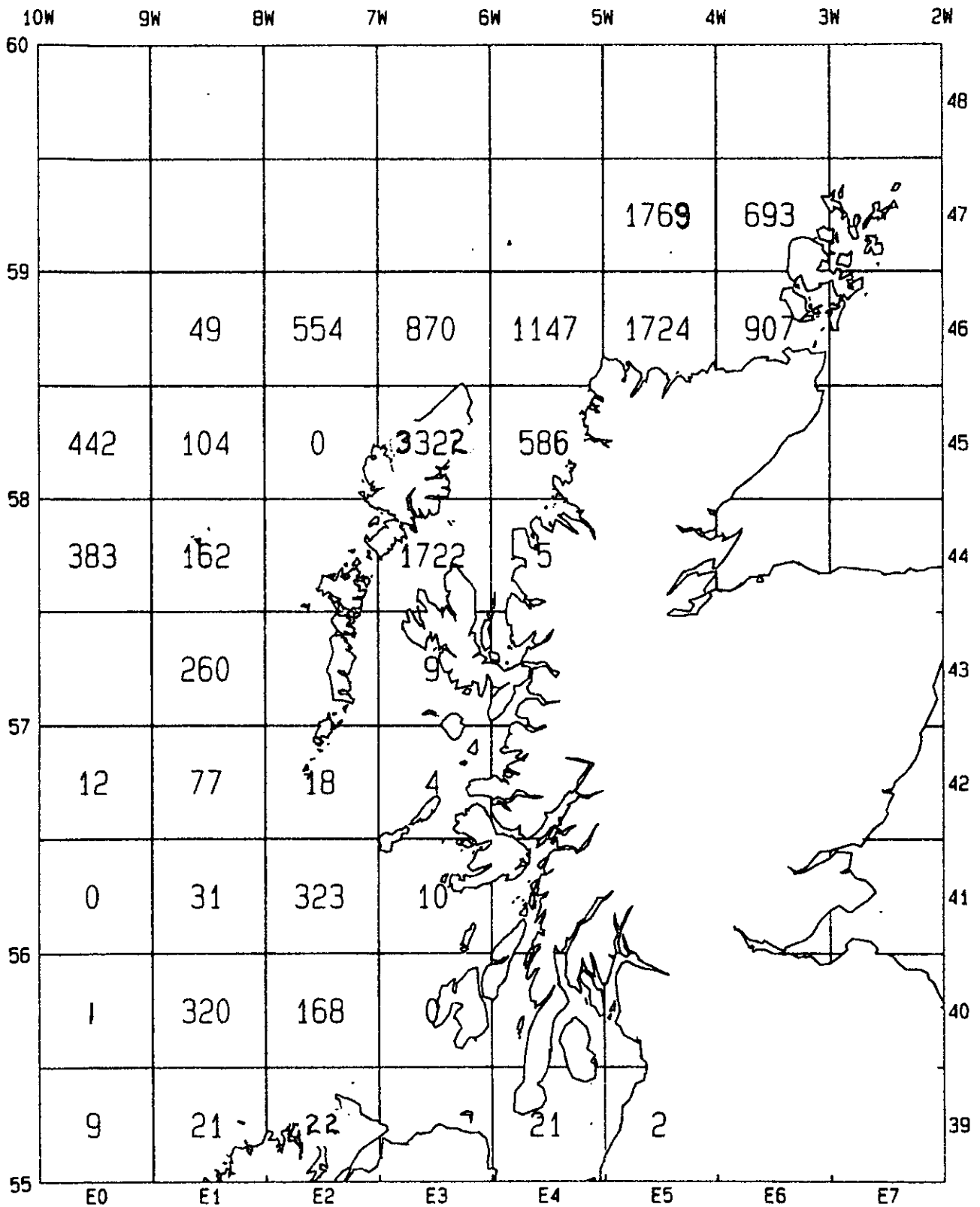


FIGURE 1

Whiting I-group average numbers/hour

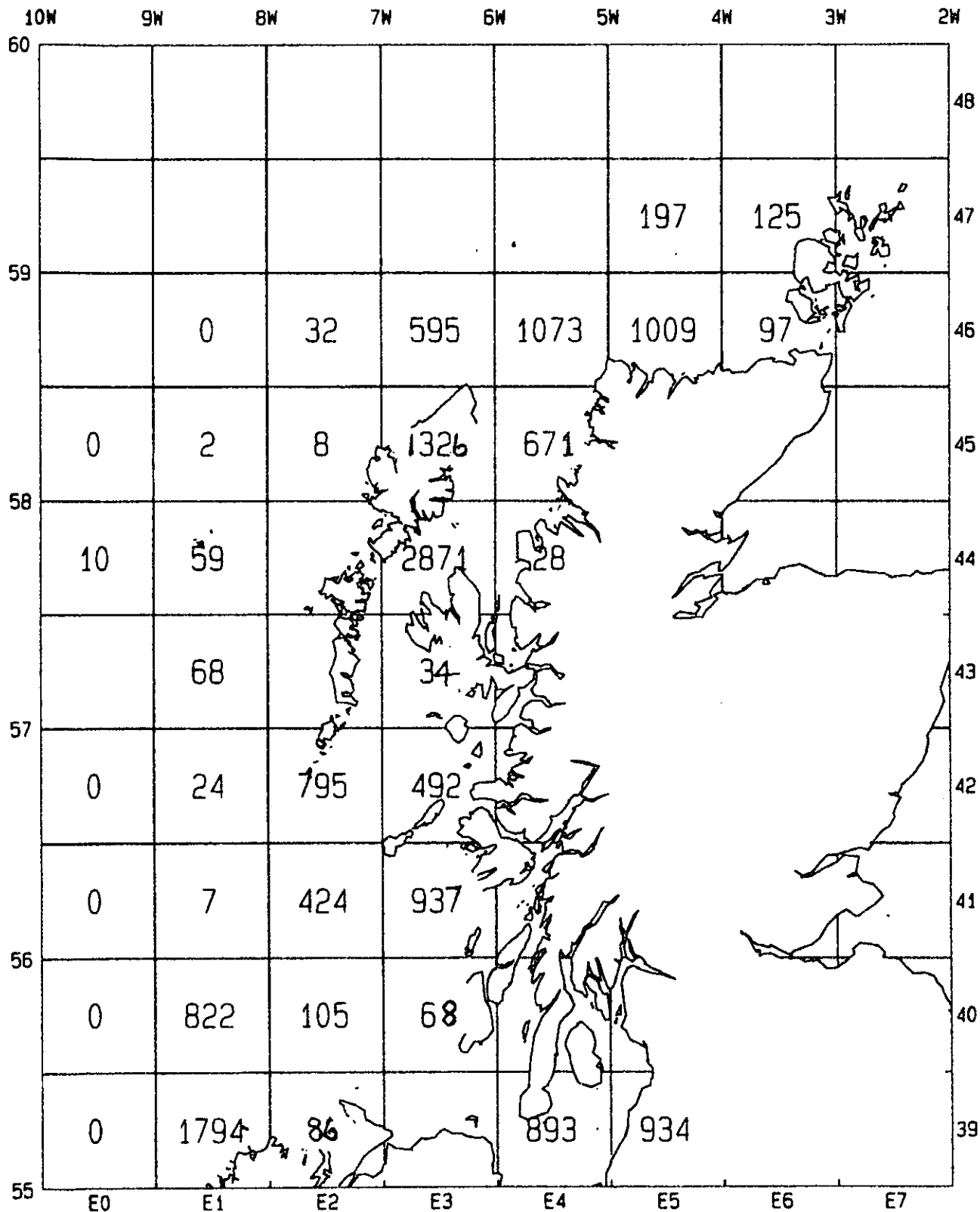


FIGURE 2

Herring average numbers/hour

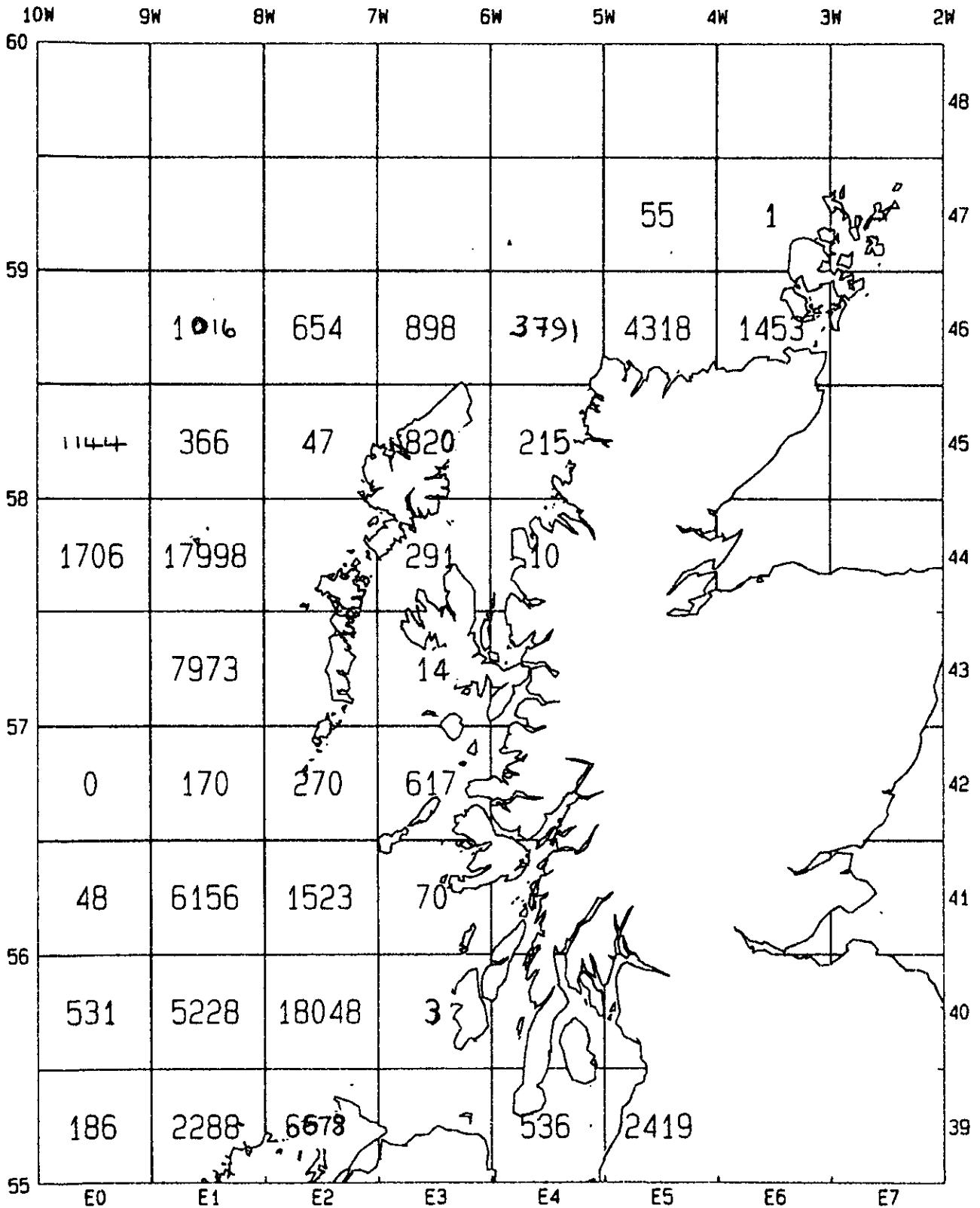


FIGURE 3

Scotia 3 - 22 March 1993 Location of Grab samples

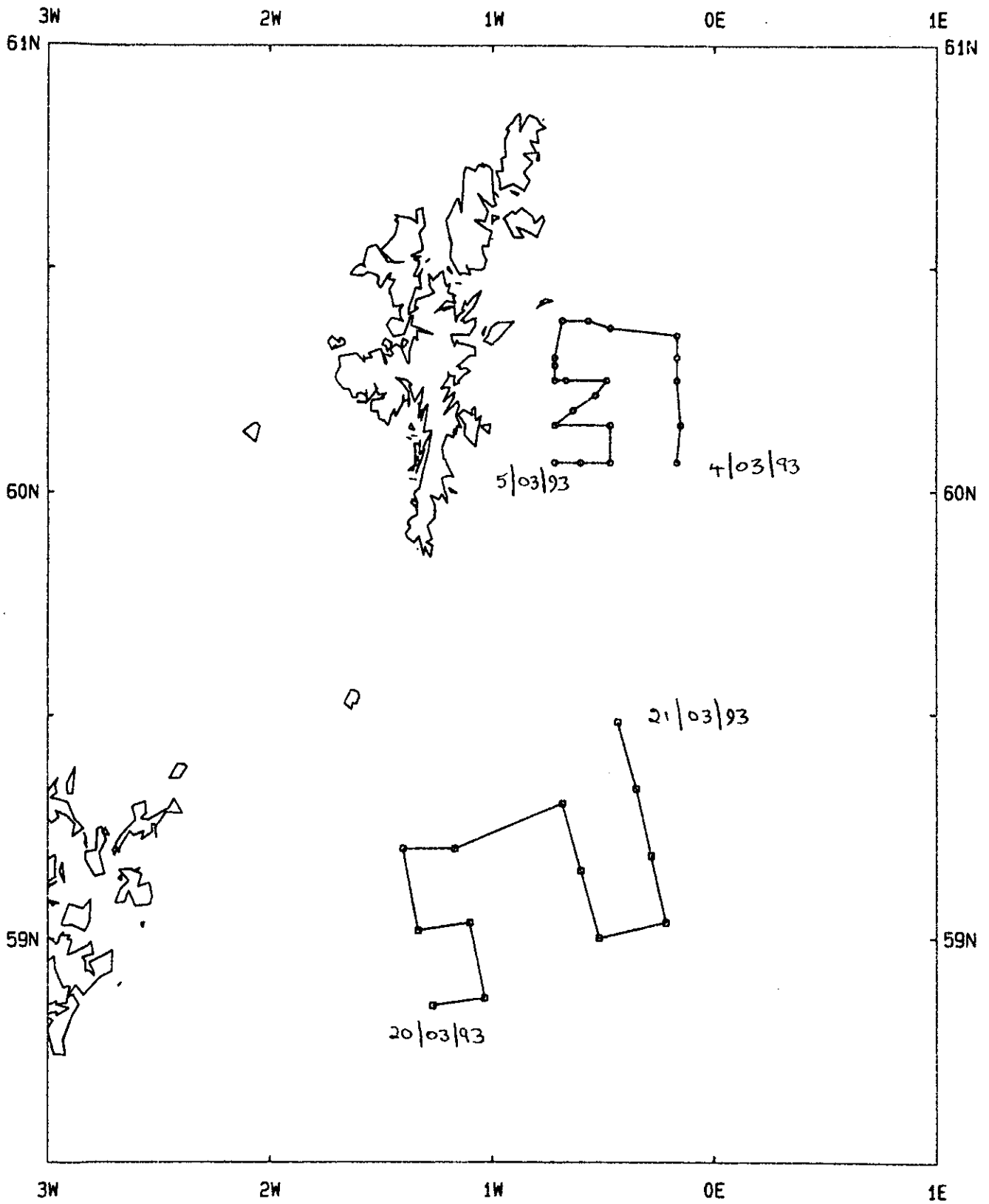


FIGURE 4

Scotia 3 - 22 March 1993 Cruise 0293s

