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3SR88

FRV "SCOTIA"

CRUISE 3/88

REPORT

2-22 March 1988

Personnel

K A Coull	HSO
J A Gauld	HSO
Miss M A Bell	SO
G I Henderson	SO
K J Peach	ASO
D S Beveridge	ASO
P Clark	ASO
W Leiper	Craftsman
T G McInnes	Princ Phot (2-5 March)
Miss W M Harrison	Visitor (NCC)

Objective

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

Narrative

"Scotia" sailed from Aberdeen at 1600 hours on 2 March and headed for stations off the north coast of Scotland. Poor weather conditions on the morning of 3 March, and continuing gale forecasts, resulted in "Scotia" proceeding to the Minch stations. Trawling operations began later the same day and the vessel then proceeded south towards the Clyde area working the inshore stations. "Scotia" then worked the south and west of the survey area, and thereafter northwards until the morning of 14 March when she arrived at Stornoway for the half landing.

"Scotia" sailed from Stornoway at 1100 hours on 15 March and resumed trawling on the Minch stations. Work continued on the northern part of the survey area until the afternoon of 18 March when poor weather halted fishing operations. On 19 March, with sampling of the survey area complete, "Scotia" proceeded to repeat stations on the north coast and Minch areas. At 1700 hours on 21 March trawling operations were completed and "Scotia" headed for Aberdeen, docking on the morning of 22 March.

Results

Of the 47 stations in the survey area, 44 were completed successfully with eight being repeated. Gear damage prevented the completion of stations No 23, 24 and 57.

The Scanmar system was used throughout the cruise to monitor headline height, wing spread and distance covered during each haul. The system was also used to monitor the Isaacs-Kidd mid-water trawl.

Catches of I group haddock and whiting are given in Figure 1 and Figure 2 respectively. In both cases, catches were well down on 1987 results.

Average numbers of herring and sprat caught per hour are given in Figure 3 and Figure 4 respectively. The biggest hauls of herring were from 45E3 (392 baskets), 46E6 (87 baskets), 44E1 (61 baskets) and 45E4 (58 baskets).

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

Otoliths taken

Cod	Haddock	Whiting	Saithe	Herring	Sprat	Mackerel	Pout
358	1236	851	137	2316	229	520	463

All cod, haddock, whiting and saithe otoliths were read at sea.

K A Coull

13 July 1988

Seen in draft: N Maciver

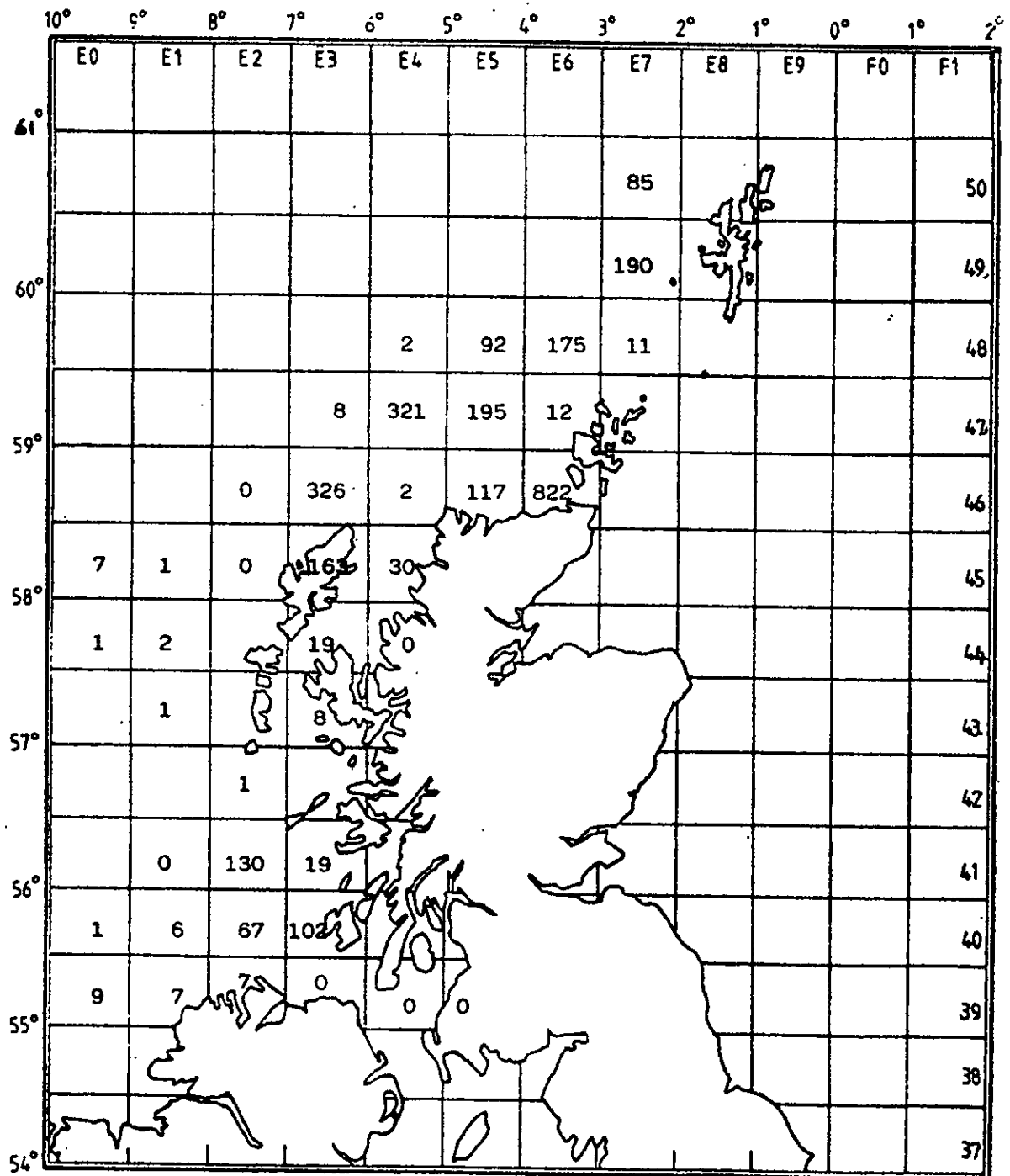


FIG 1

Haddock I-group      ave nos/hr

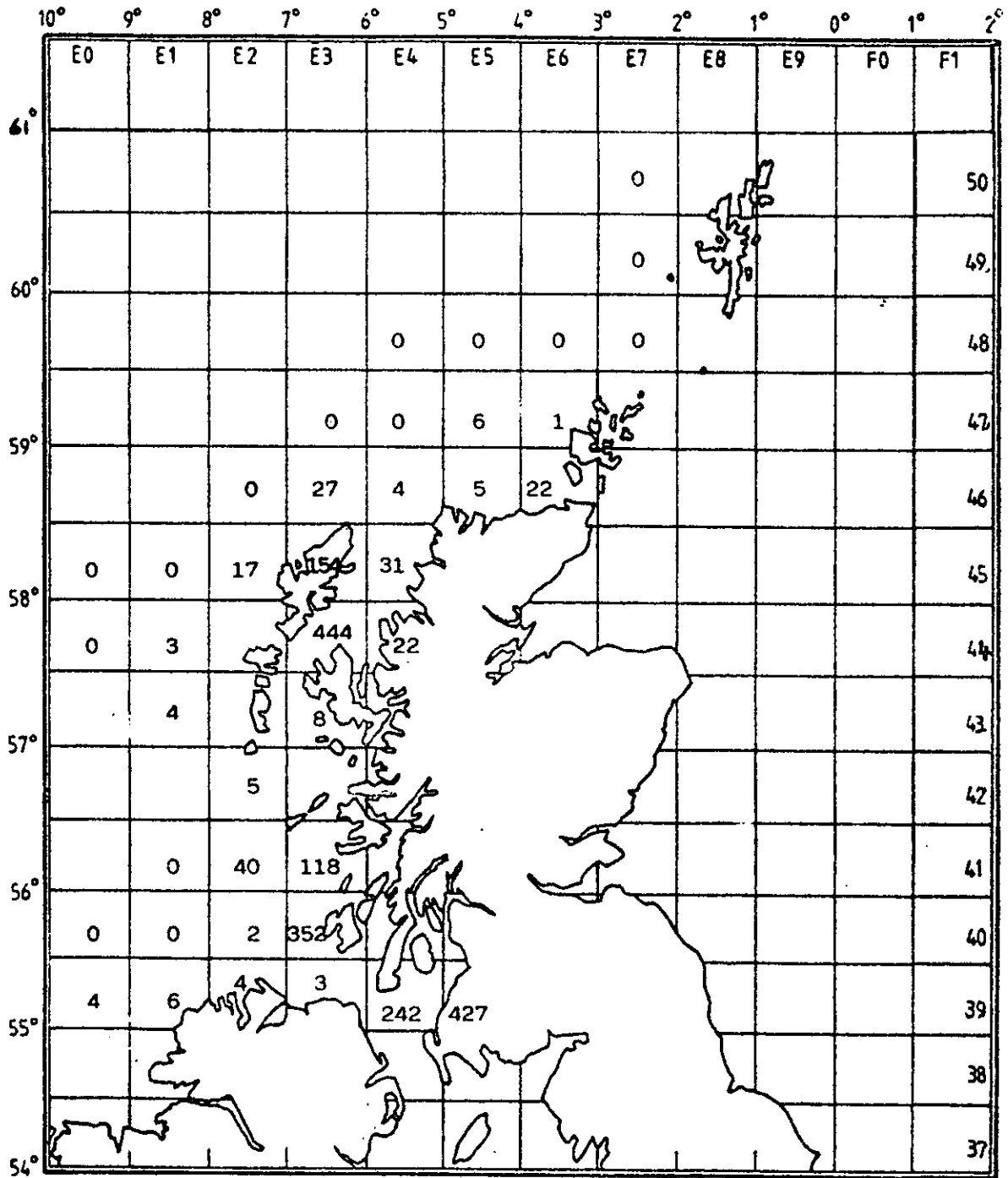


FIG 2

Whiting I-group      ave nos/hr

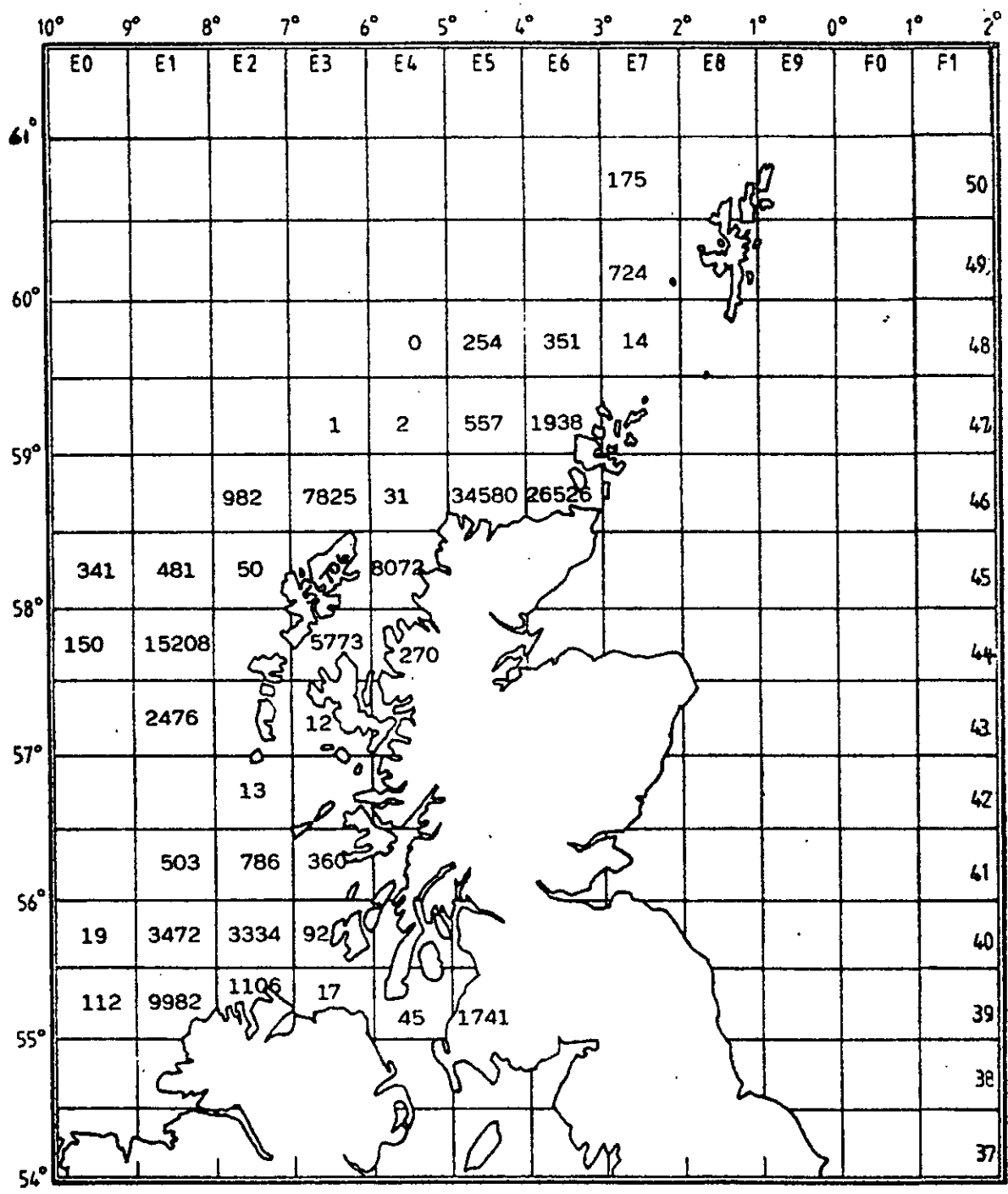


FIG 3

Herring      ave nos/hr

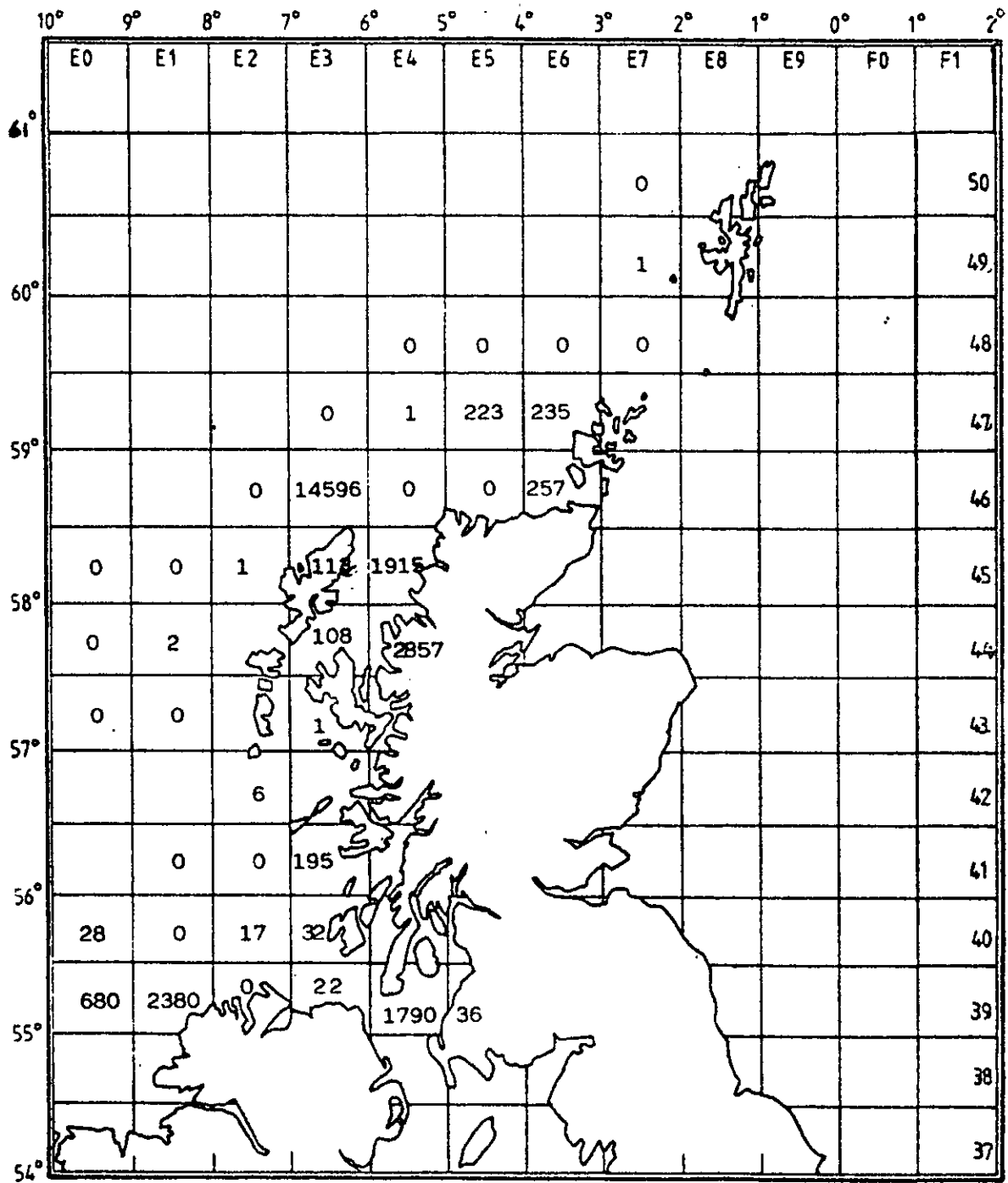


FIG 4

Sprat    ave nos/hr

Scotia 2 Mar - 22 Mar Cruise 3/88

