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R1/12

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FRV *Scotia*

3SR89

Cruise 3/89

Report

2-23 March 1989

Personnel

K A Coull	HSO (in charge)
D C Emslie	HSO
R D Galbraith	HSO
A P Robb	HSO
C D Hall	HSO
D S Beveridge	SO
K J Peach	ASO
P Clark	ASO
N S Collie	PTO (13-23 March)
J Leiper	Storeman (2-13 March)
Miss C Yau	PhD student
D Henuing	PhD student (2-13 March)

Objective

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

Narrative

*Scotia* sailed from Aberdeen on the morning of 2 March and headed for the north coast of Scotland. Trawling operations commenced at 0800 on 3 March and continued in the Butt of Lewis and Flannans area until weather conditions deteriorated the following day. With little prospect of working the outer stations, *Scotia* proceeded into the North Minch. Work continued in the Minch and north coast areas until the night of 7 March when *Scotia* headed for the Clyde to work on the southern stations.

While working off Tory Island, the net, including Scanmar system, and the starboard door were lost. The trawl gear, except for the door, was successfully recovered the following afternoon. With severe gales forecast for 12 March, the opportunity was taken to repeat stations in the Minch and test two new transponders.

*Scotia* docked for the half landing on the morning of 13 March and sailed for the stations off Barra Head the following morning.

After completing the southern stations, *Scotia* worked northwards, covering the stations on the western edge of the survey area. Severe gales forced *Scotia* to seek shelter in North Sound on 20 March. With a moderation in the weather, the last 2 days were spent working the stations off the west of Shetland and Orkney. *Scotia* docked at Aberdeen on the morning of 23 March.

### Results

A total of 46 valid hauls was achieved with only 2 stations being left undone due to poor weather conditions.

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

Catch rates were very variable, with the largest hauls being 195 and 137 baskets (mainly herring and mackerel) from the St Kilda area and 130 baskets (horse mackerel) from 40 miles NW of Tory Island.

Catch rates of 1-group haddock were low (see Fig. 1) with the highest being 108/hour (Shiants) and 110/hour (south of St Kilda).

For 1-group whiting (Fig. 2) catches were also poor with only Shiants (1117/hour), Holburn Head (977/hour) and Clyde stations (462/hour and 341/hour) producing significant quantities.

### Otoliths taken

Number of otoliths taken are tabulated below:

Cod	Haddock	Whiting	Saithe	Sprat	Herring	Pout
314	004	693	105	301	1,356	250

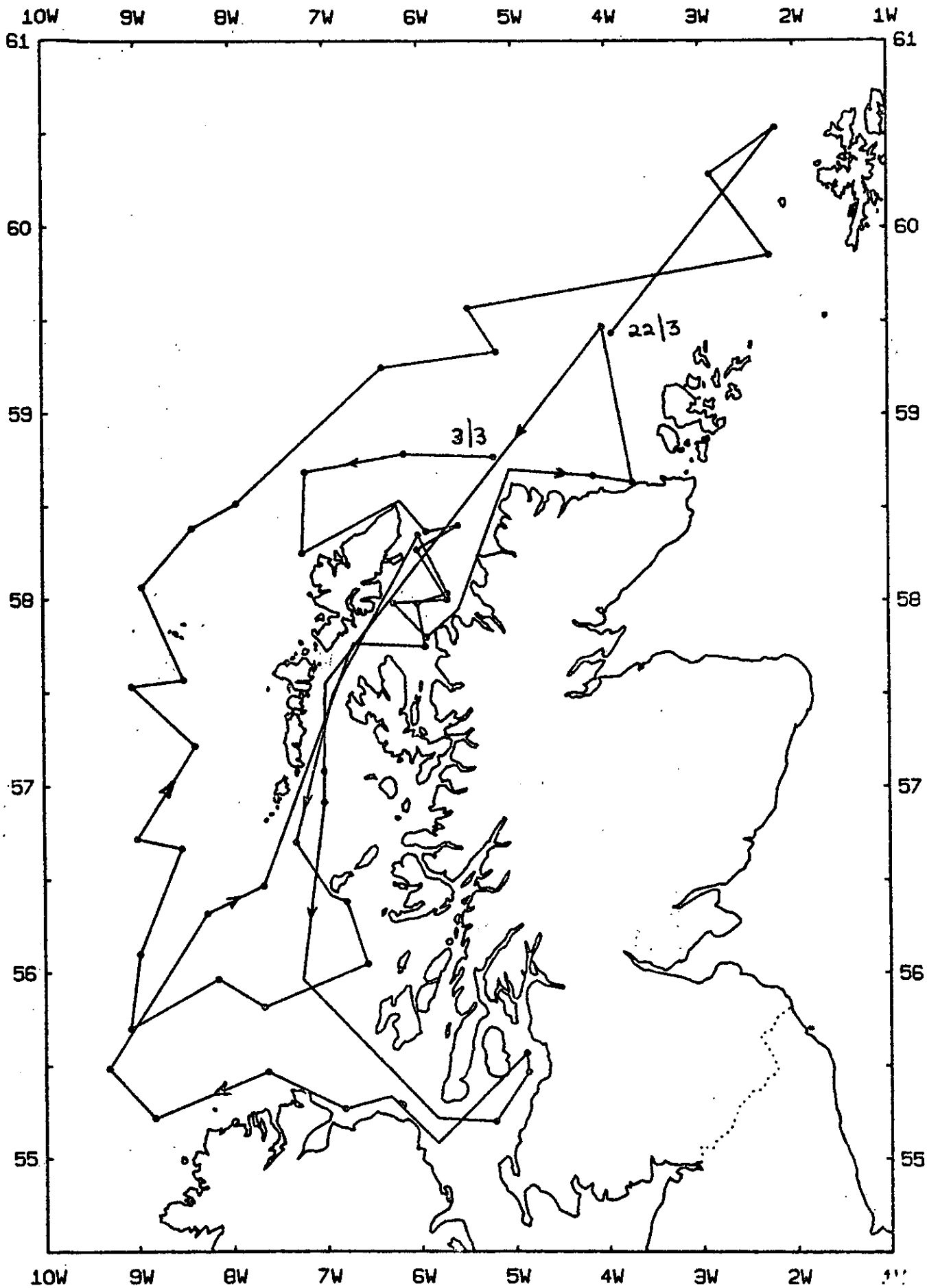
All cod, haddock, whiting and saithe otoliths were read at sea.

Haul summary and age/length data were punched at sea and stored on floppy disc using a BBC microcomputer.

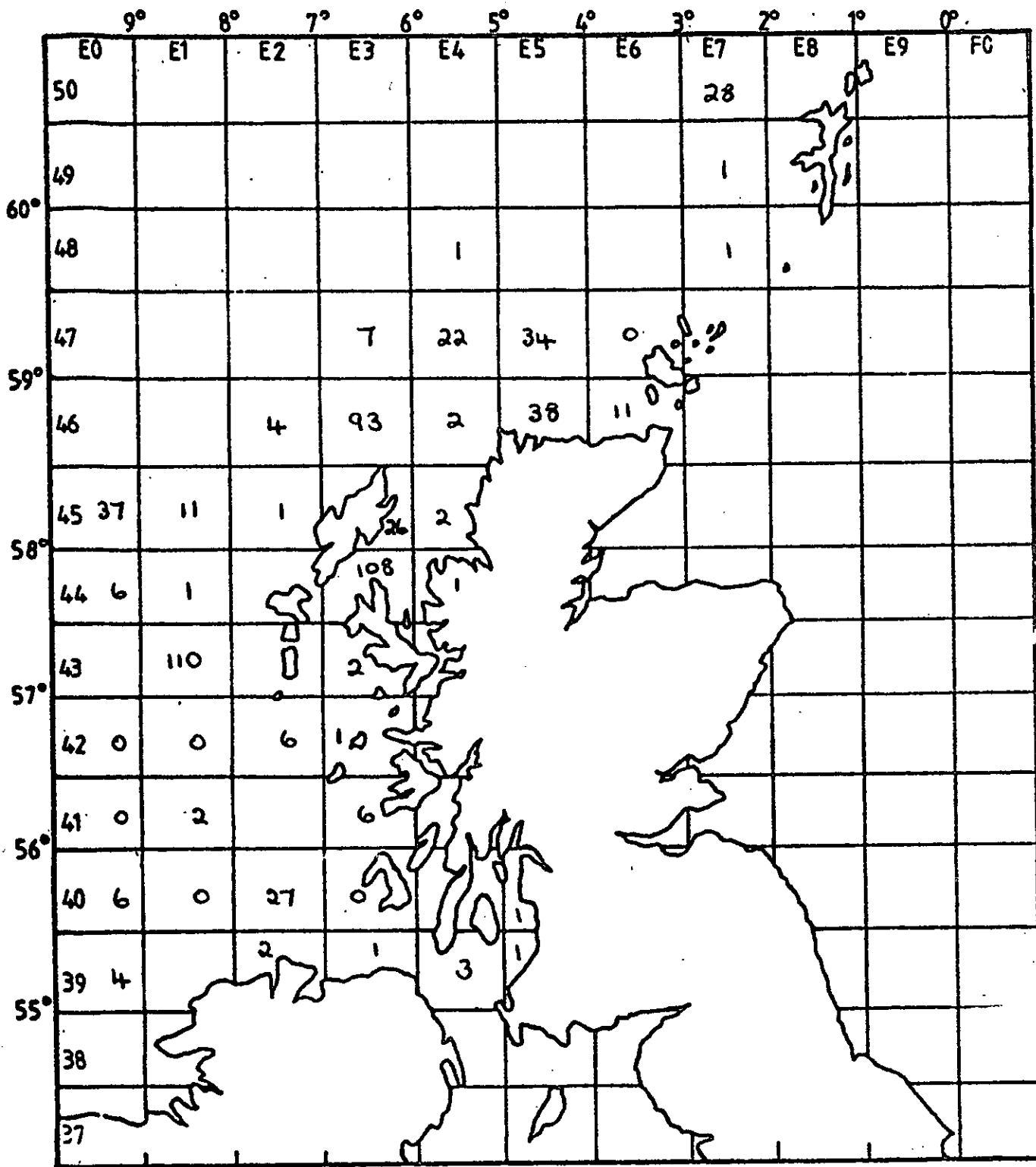
K A Coull  
18 July 1989

Seen in draft: N E McInnes, CO

Scotia 2 - 23 Mar Cruise 3/89



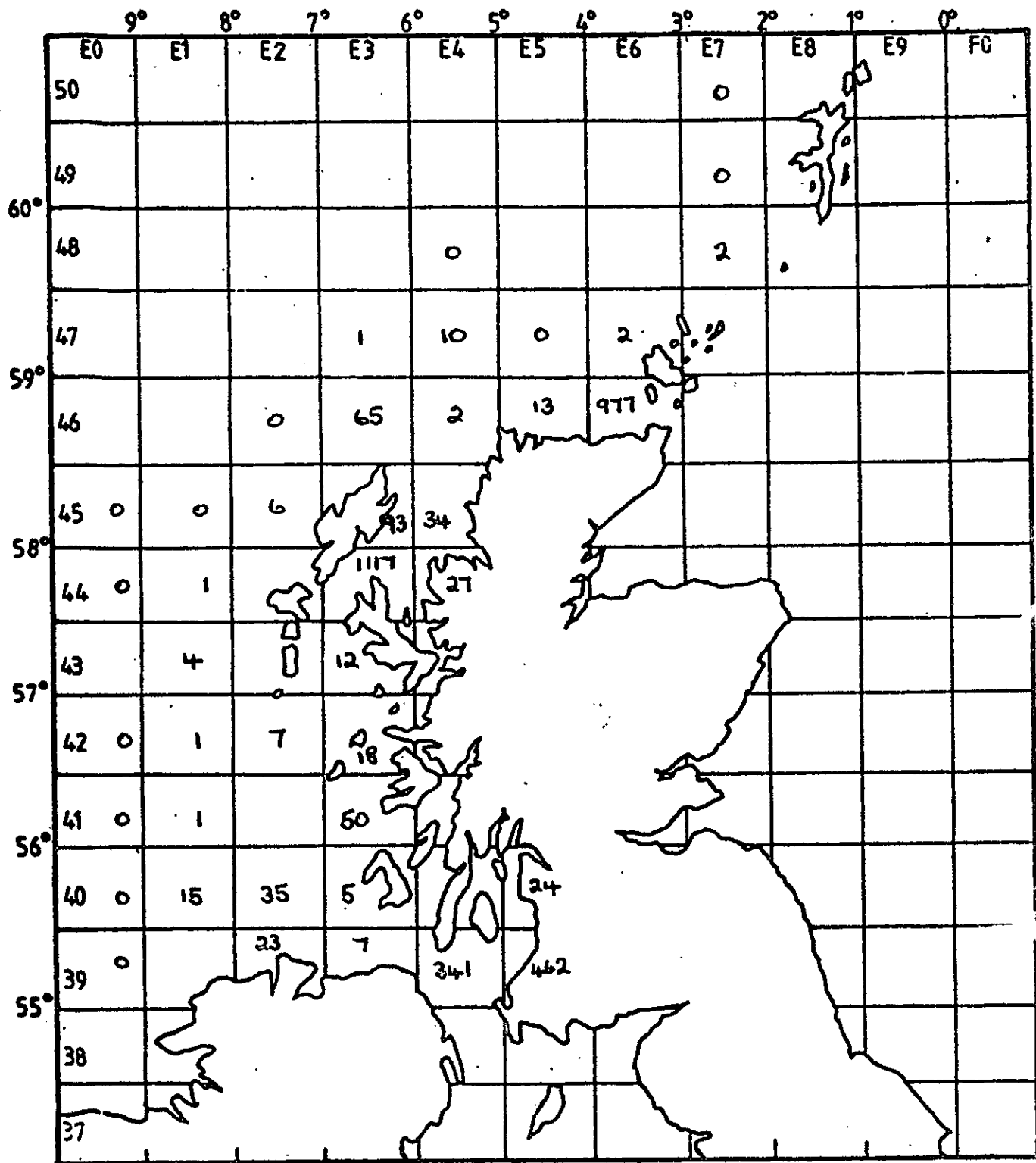
TRACK CHART



HADDOCK I-GROUP

AVERAGES NOS/HOUR

FIGURE 1



WHITING I-GROUP AVERAGES NOS/HOUR

FIGURE 2