

P17/6

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FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 0398S

**REPORT**

14 February - 6 March 1998

**Personnel**

K A Coull	SSO
R S Raynard	SSO
J A King	HSO
I Tuck	HSO
K J Peach	SO
M C Mathewson	ASO
F N Burns	ASO
I Penny	ASO
I Garioch	CW

**Objective**

1. Demersal trawling survey of the grounds off the north and west coast of Scotland and Irish Sea.
2. To obtain *nephrops* samples from the Little Halibut Bank area.

**Out turn days per project:** 21 days DAC1**Narrative**

*Scotia* sailed from Aberdeen on 14 February and proceeded to the stations off the west of the Orkney Islands. Trawling commenced the following day and the vessel worked westwards until severe weather conditions on the morning of 16 February forced *Scotia* to move into the more sheltered waters of the North Minch where work could continue. The vessel then continued working southwards, covering stations on the Stanton Banks and northwest of Ireland before severe weather intervened on 20 February. The vessel resumed work in the Clyde area the following morning and continued work in the Irish Sea waters until the vessel docked in Dublin on the morning of 24 February for the mid-cruise break. The vessel sailed again the following morning and headed for the station off Malin Head but was unable to resume fishing due to deteriorating weather conditions. After seeking shelter off Islay for 36 hours, *Scotia* was able to recommence operations on the station off Tiree on 28 February. Trawling continued throughout the night, covering stations on the Stanton Banks and southwest of Barra Head before weather intervened at mid-day on 1 March. An improvement in weather conditions on the morning of 2 March then allowed *Scotia* to work northwards, covering the western and northern edge of the survey area. With the survey area being completed on the evening of 4 March, *Scotia* carried out a series of trawls in the Little Halibut Bank area to obtain samples of *nephrops* for analysis at the Laboratory. *Scotia* returned to Aberdeen on the morning of 6 March.

## Results

A total of 59 hauls was achieved with 55 survey stations being sampled and a further four locations in the Captain Field being sampled to provide *nephrops* samples for analysis in relation to oil contamination.

Average numbers of 1-group haddock and whiting caught per one hour in each statistical rectangle are shown in Figures 1 and 2 respectively. The number of 1-group haddock caught per 10 hours for ICES area VIA matches the average for the last four years which is above the series average (1981-1998). The number of 1-group whiting per 10 hours is well above the average for the series.

The number of herring caught per one hour in each statistical rectangle is shown in Figure 3.

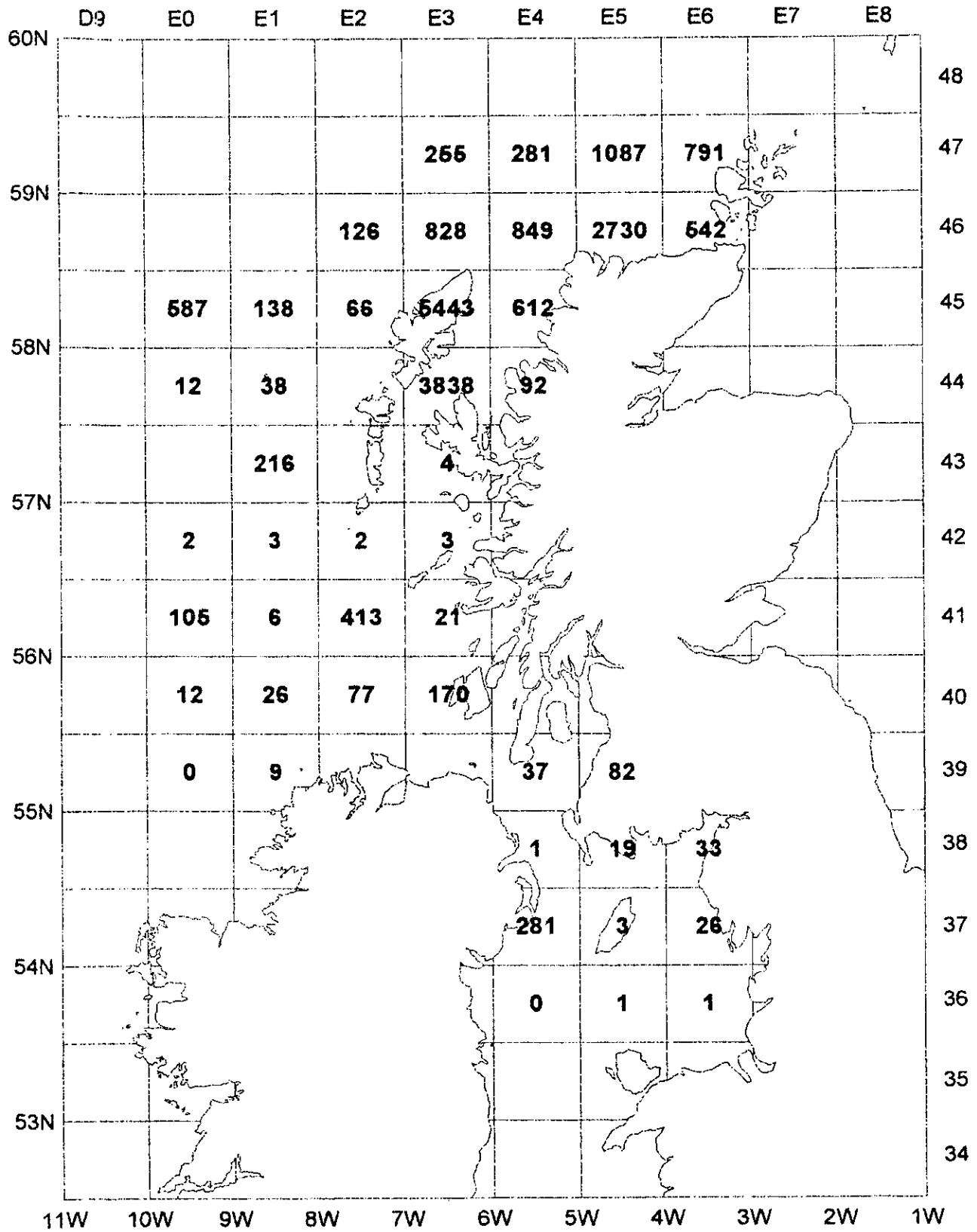
All otoliths collected from cod, haddock, whiting, saithe and Norway pout were aged at sea. Length frequencies, haul summary data and age data were punched at sea and stored on floppy disk.

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

K A Coull  
6 May 1998

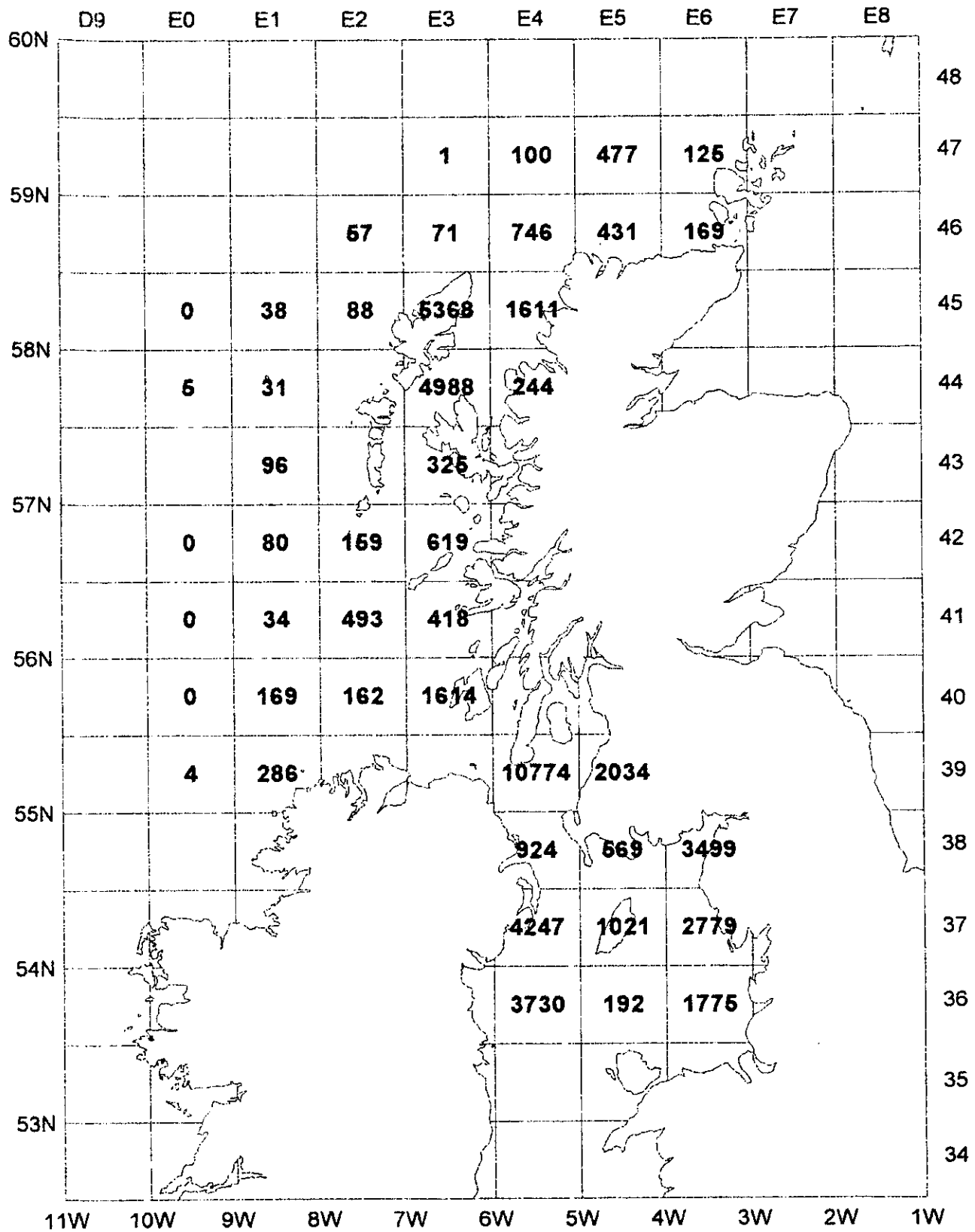
Seen in draft: P Ramsay

**Scotia - West Coast Survey 1998**  
**Haddock 1+ ( Average number per hour )**



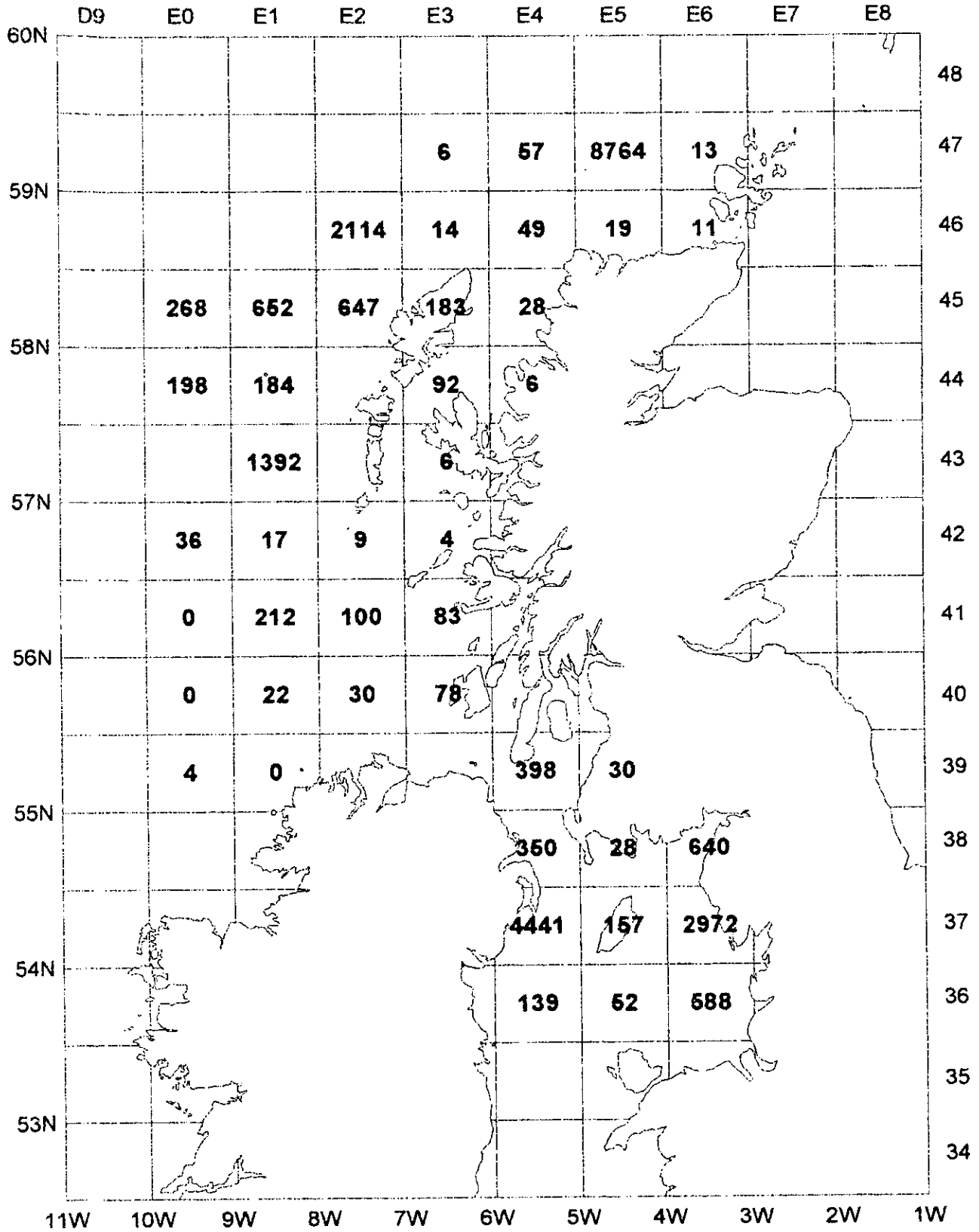
**Figure 1**

**Scotia - West Coast Survey 1998**  
**Whiting 1+ ( Average number per hour )**



**Figure 2**

**Scotia - West Coast Survey 1998  
Herring ( Average number per hour )**



**Figure 3**

# Scotia West Coast Survey 0398S

