

R1/12

Not to be cited without prior reference to the Laboratory

FRV *SCOTIA*

Cruise 0494S

REPORT

10 - 29 March 1994

Personnel

K A Coull	HSO (in charge)
P J Copland	HSO
J R Hutcheon	SO
K J Peach	SO
J McWilliam	ASO
M C Donald	ASO
N S Collie	PTO
L C Hastie	RA

Objectives

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

Out turn days per project: DAC1 = 16, EAA1 4.0

Narrative

Scotia sailed from Aberdeen at 1000 on 10 March, collecting water samples from three locations during passage to the survey area. Severe weather conditions however prevented trawling until the morning of 12 March. With weather precluding any further work on 13 March, the vessel proceeded to the southern part of the survey area. Work was carried out in the Clyde and off Northern Ireland before poor weather forced *Scotia* to head for the stations in the sheltered waters of the South Minch. Weather conditions improved on 17 March, permitting *Scotia* to work unhindered on the southern and western parts of the survey area before the vessel docked at Stornoway on the morning of 22 March for a mid cruise break. The vessel sailed the following morning and with strong westerly winds was restricted to the waters of the North Minch until 24 March. The vessel then worked on the northern part of the survey area, completing work there on the morning of 27 March. Several stations were then repeated before the vessel docked at Aberdeen on the morning of 29 March.

Results

A total of 44 valid hauls covering 38 stations was achieved.

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 on the western edge of the survey area. Average numbers of herring caught per hour in each statistical rectangle are shown on Figure 3. The presence of *Icythophonus* was recorded only once from a total of 1450 herring examined.

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 magnetic disk.

Weight and length data were collected from 470 fish (including 179 skate) using the "Marel" weighing system.

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

K A Coull

27 May 1994

Seen in draft: P Ramsay

Haddock I-group average numbers/hour

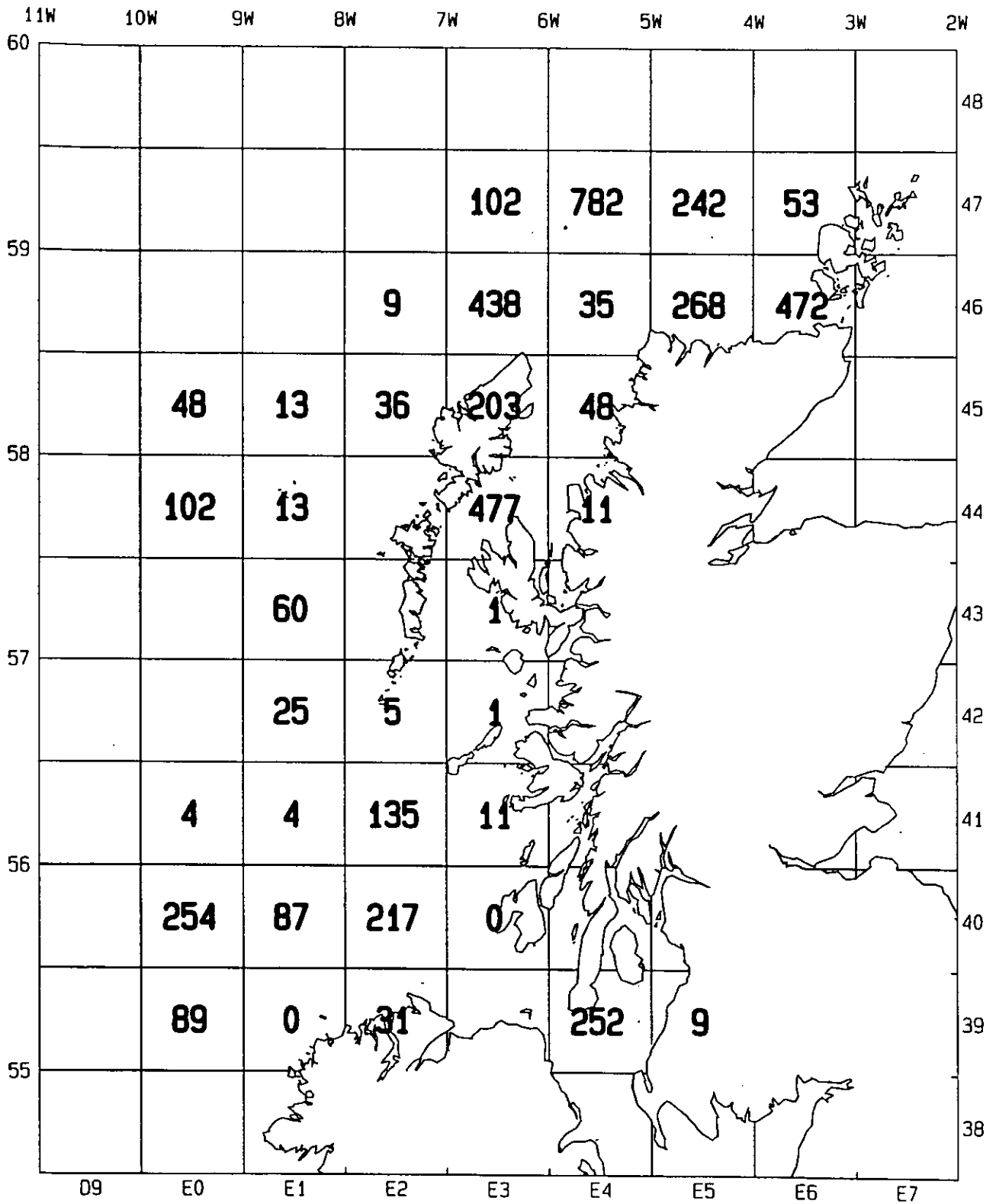


Figure 1

Whiting I-group average numbers/hour

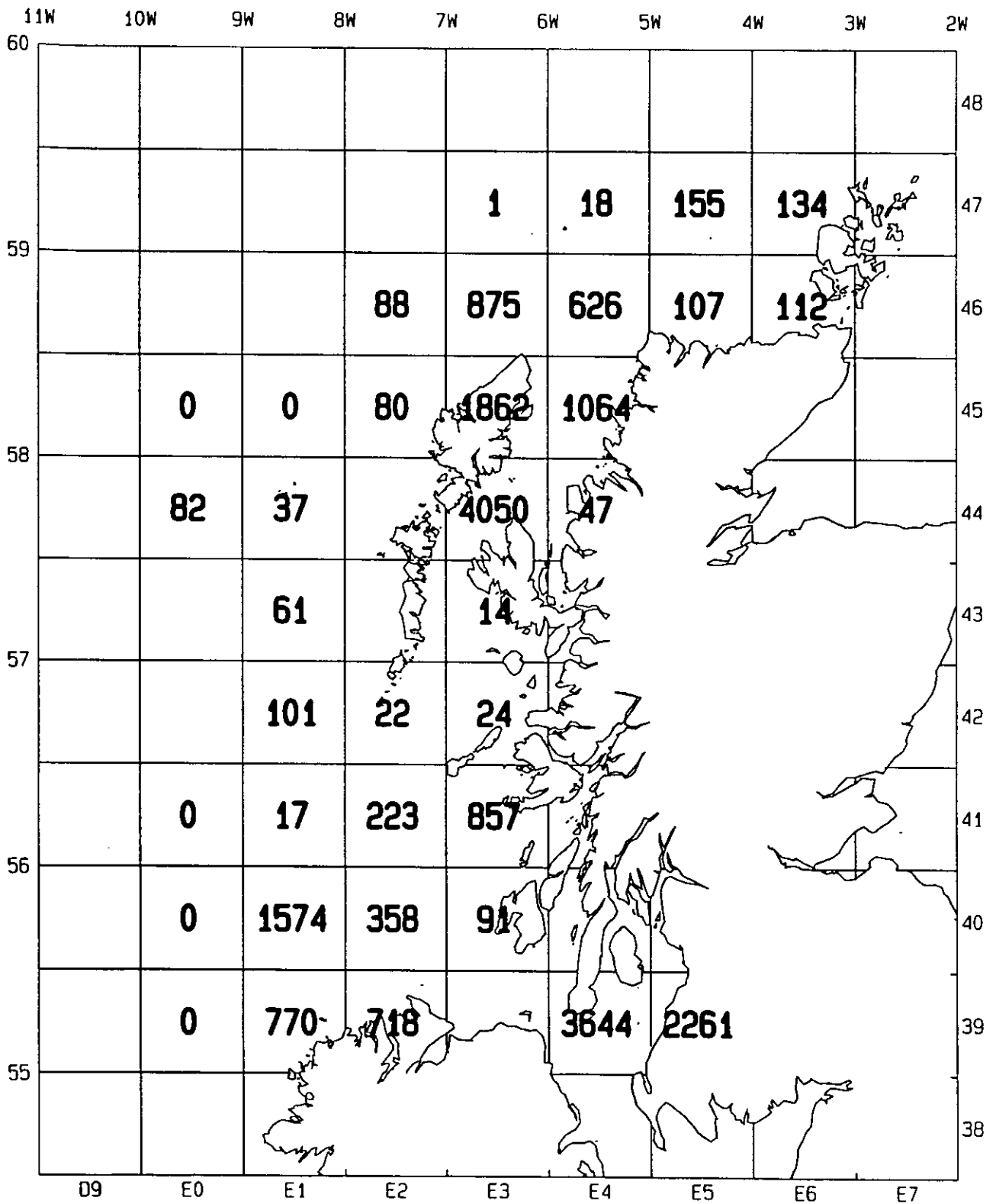


Figure 2

Herring average numbers/hour

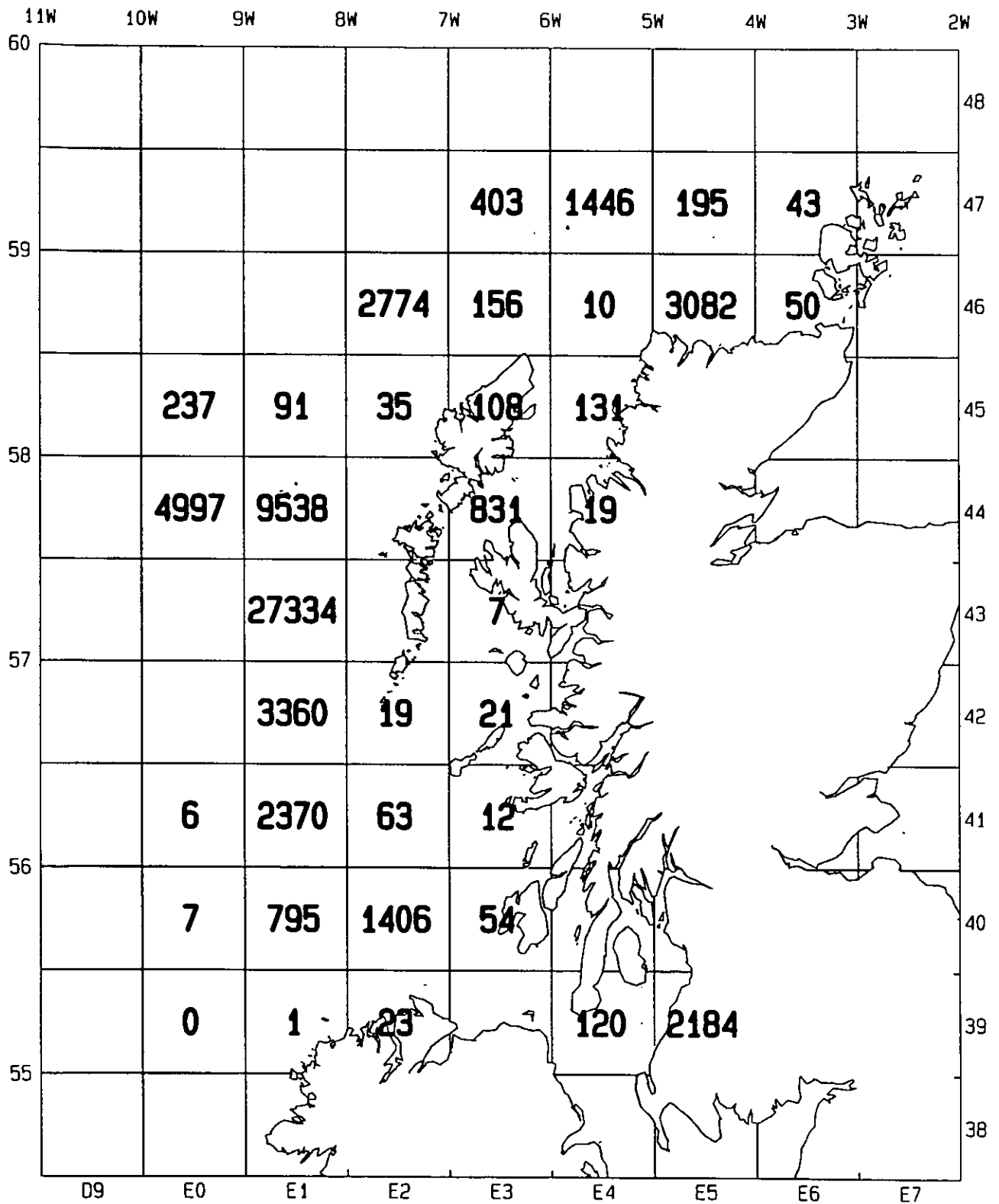


Figure 3

Scotia 10 - 29 March 1994 Cruise 0494S

