

R1/12

Not to be cited without prior reference to the Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen

FRV *SCOTIA*

Cruise 0496S

**REPORT**

7-26 March 1996

**Personnel**

K A Coull	HSO
P Copland	HSO
J R Hutcheon	SO
K J Peach	SO
P L Clark	ASO (18-26 March)
J McWilliam	ASO (7-18 March)
D J Tait	HSO
F N Burns	HSO
A Ferguson	Visitor

**Objective**

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

**Out-turn days per project:** EAAI-4, DACI-16.

**Narrative**

*Scotia* sailed from Aberdeen on the morning of 7 March and proceeded to the stations of the northwest part of the survey area. Trawling commenced on the morning of 8 March and the vessel worked on the stations west of the Hebrides until the following evening when weather conditions deteriorated. The vessel was able to continue work in the more sheltered waters of the North Minch before completing stations west of Barra Head on 12 March. Due to severe weather conditions the vessel was unable to carry out any work on the following two days, and with continuing poor weather forecast the opportunity was taken to head for the southern stations. Several stations were completed in the Irish Sea before *Scotia* docked in Dublin for the mid-cruise break on 16 March. The vessel sailed again the following morning and recommenced work on the stations west of the Isle of Man. Work continued uninterrupted until 21 March when the stations on the southern part of the survey were completed. The vessel then headed north and worked on the stations off the north coast of Scotland, completing the survey on the afternoon of 25 March. *Scotia* docked at Aberdeen on the morning of 26 March.

## Results

A total of 52 valid hauls was achieved with all stations being sampled at least once.

Average numbers of 1-group haddock and whiting caught per hour in each statistical rectangle are shown in Figures 1 and 2 respectively. Average numbers of herring caught per hour in each statistical rectangle are shown in Figure 3.

Catches of mackerel were generally low except for stations off NW Ireland with a particularly large catch of 430 baskets (juveniles) caught in statistical rectangle 40E1. Larger sized mackerel were more common off the north and west of Butt of Lewis with a catch of 70 baskets in statistical rectangle 47E3.

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.

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

K A Coull  
14 May 1996

Seen in draft: J Nichols

Haddock I-group average numbers/hour

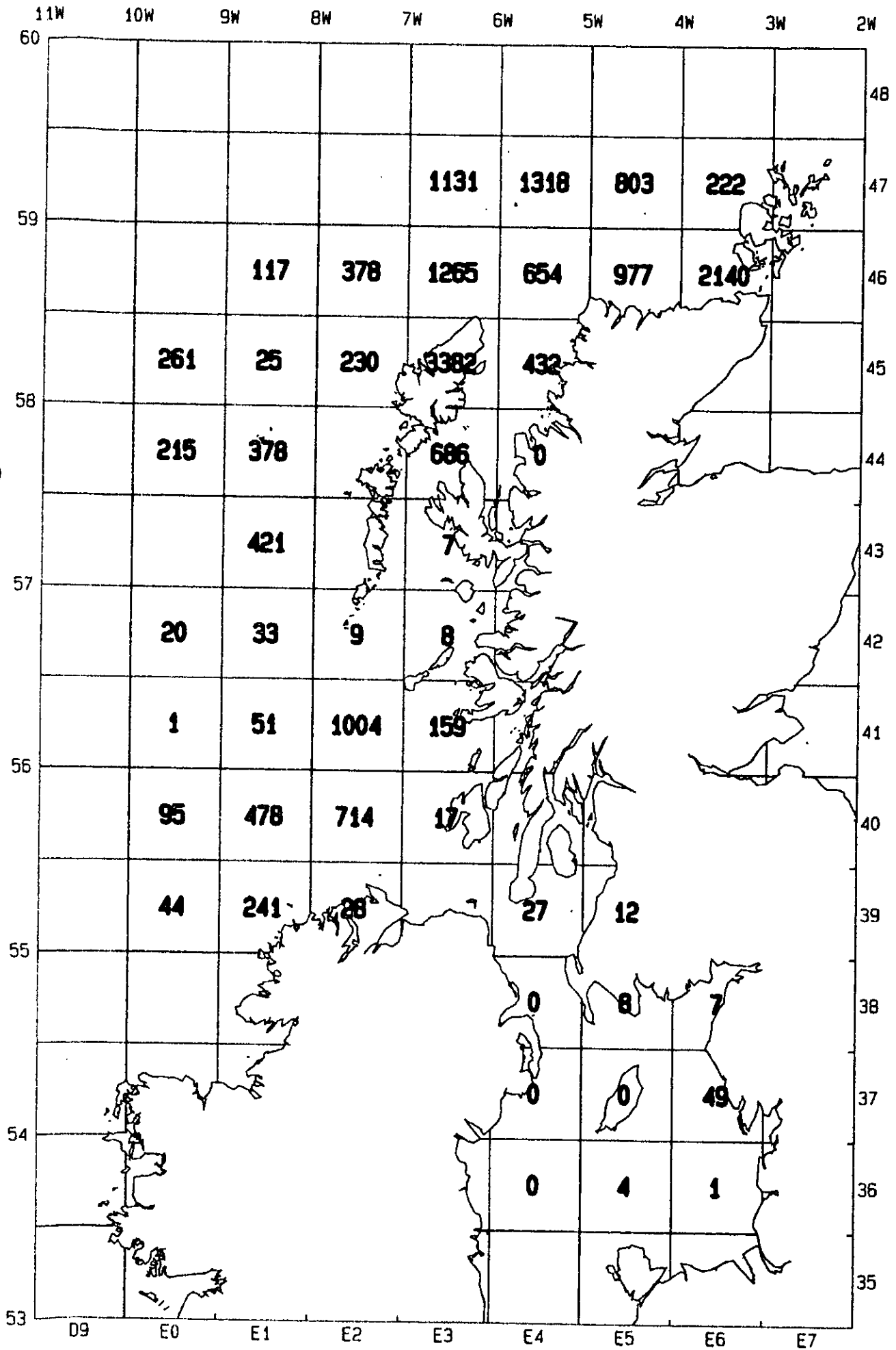


FIGURE 1

Whiting I-group average numbers/hour

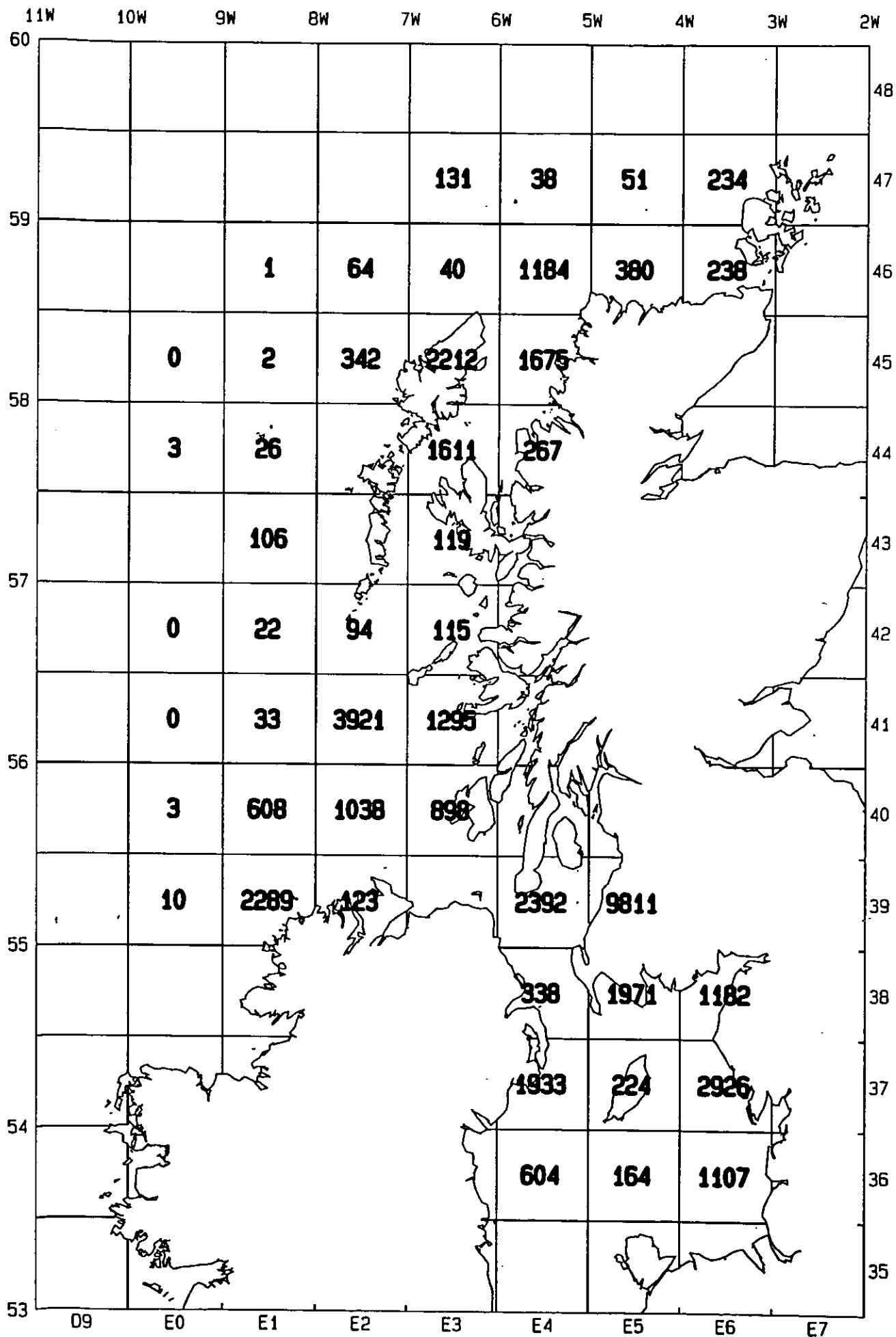


FIGURE 2

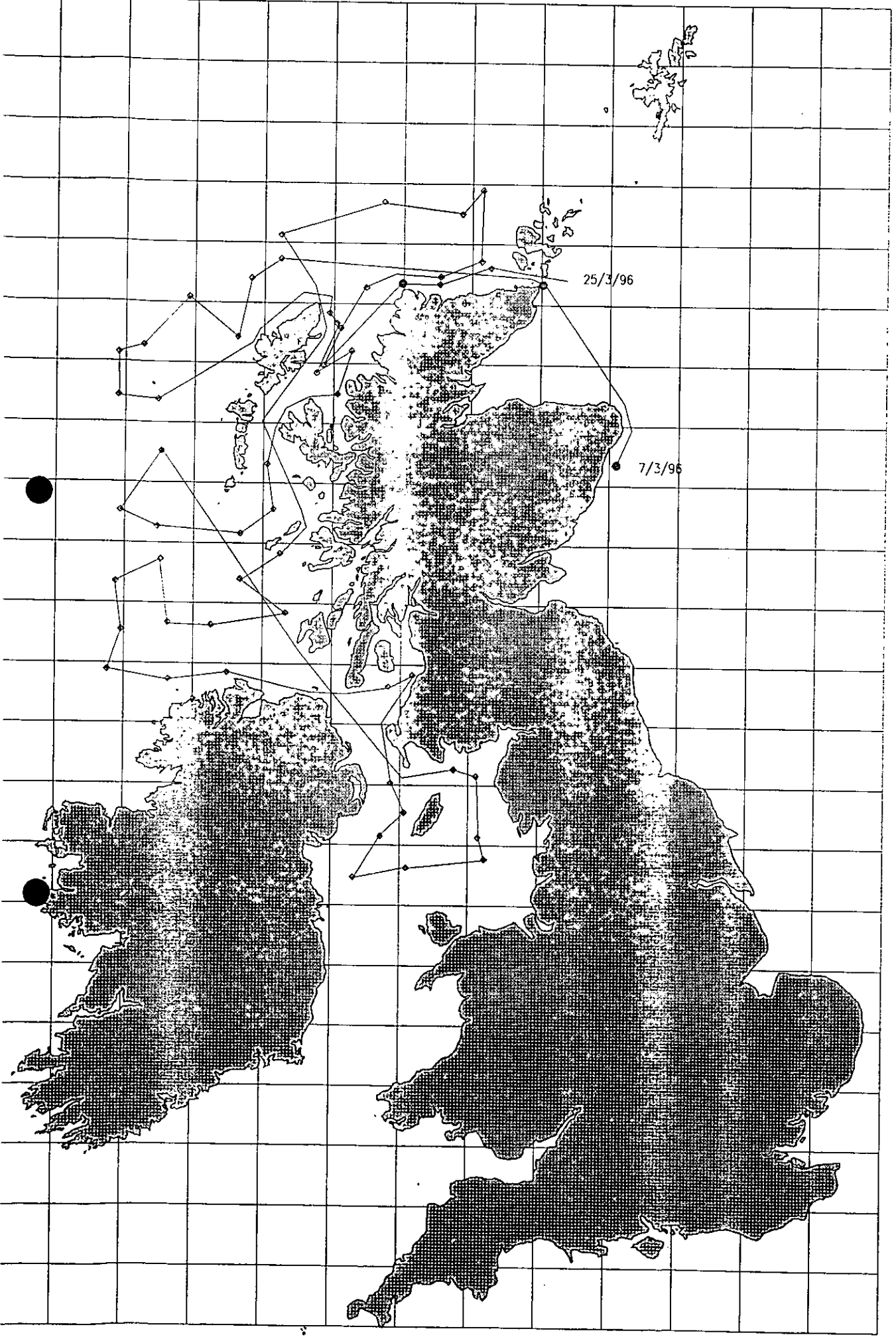


FIGURE 3