

R1/12

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

FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 0499S

REPORT

1-19 March 1999

Personnel

K A Coull	B3 (In Charge)
K J Peach	B1
I M Gibb	B1
C G Davis	B1
M C Matthewson	B1
I Garioch	CW
J McWilliam	A4
F N Burns	A4
H Emmerson	A4
K Hughes	Visitor (1-12 March)

Objective

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

Out turn in days per project: 19 days MO1R

Narrative

Scotia sailed from Aberdeen at 1600 hours on 1 March and proceeded to the stations off the north coast of Scotland. Trawling commenced the following morning and the vessel worked westward until severe weather conditions during the morning of 3 March resulted in the vessel heading for the relatively sheltered waters of the North Minch. With continuing strong northerly winds the vessel worked south, completing stations in the Minch, Stanton Banks and NW Ireland areas. With the prospect of better weather conditions, *Scotia* then worked northwards, carrying out Methot Net sampling and trawling at stations west of the Hebrides, Butt of Lewis and North Coast areas. With the northern part of the survey completed, *Scotia* then steamed south to resume trawling at the station off Tiree on 10 March. The vessel continued working south, completing stations in the Clyde and west of the Isle of Man before docking in Dublin for a mid cruise break on 12 March. *Scotia* sailed on 13 March and resumed work on the stations in the Irish Sea. With the survey area being completed on 15 March, *Scotia* then proceeded north, repeating stations in the Clyde, North Minch and North Coast regions. After completing the last trawl on the morning of 18 March the opportunity was taken to carry out calibration work in relation to the Roxanne system. *Scotia* returned to Aberdeen on the morning of 19 March.

Results

A total of 65 hauls was achieved with 56 survey stations being sampled at least once. A total of 17 Methot haul stations were completed along the 200 metre contour.

Average numbers of one group haddock and whiting caught per hour in each statistical rectangle are shown in Figures 1 and 2 respectively. Indications are that the average numbers of one group haddock caught per hour are low, whilst the numbers of one group whiting caught per hour are relatively high. It should be noted that in previous years the haul duration was normally 60 minutes whereas the haul duration during this survey was normally 30 minutes.

Herring were widely distributed throughout the survey area with catches being relatively high. The number of herring caught per hour in each statistical rectangle is shown in Figure 3.

All otoliths collected from cod, haddock, whiting, saithe, Norway pout and herring 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 and distance covered during each haul.

K A Coull
20 May 1999

Seen in draft: D Hodge

0499S - 1+ haddock (average number per hour)

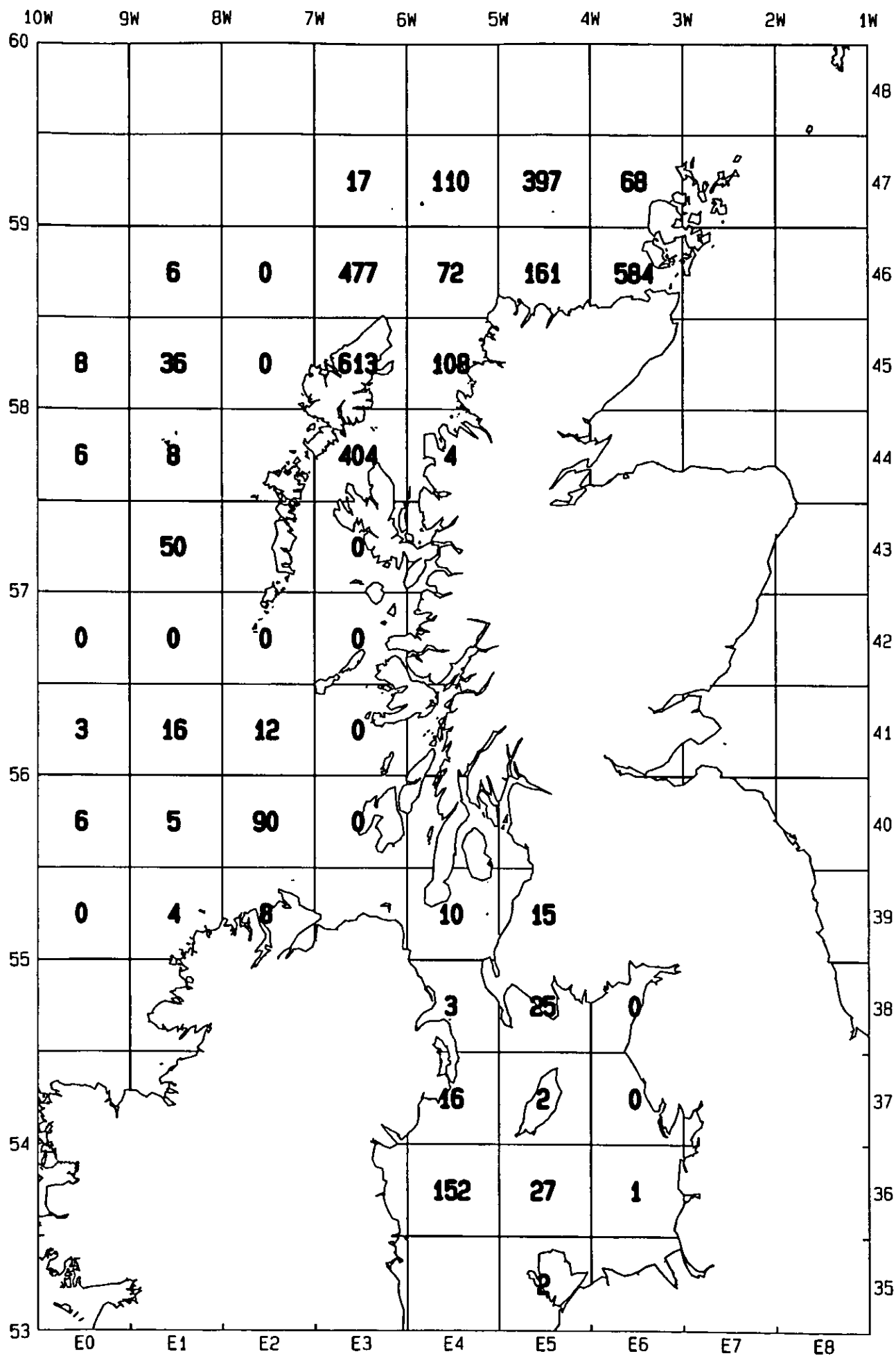


Figure 1

0499S - 1+ whiting (average number per hour)

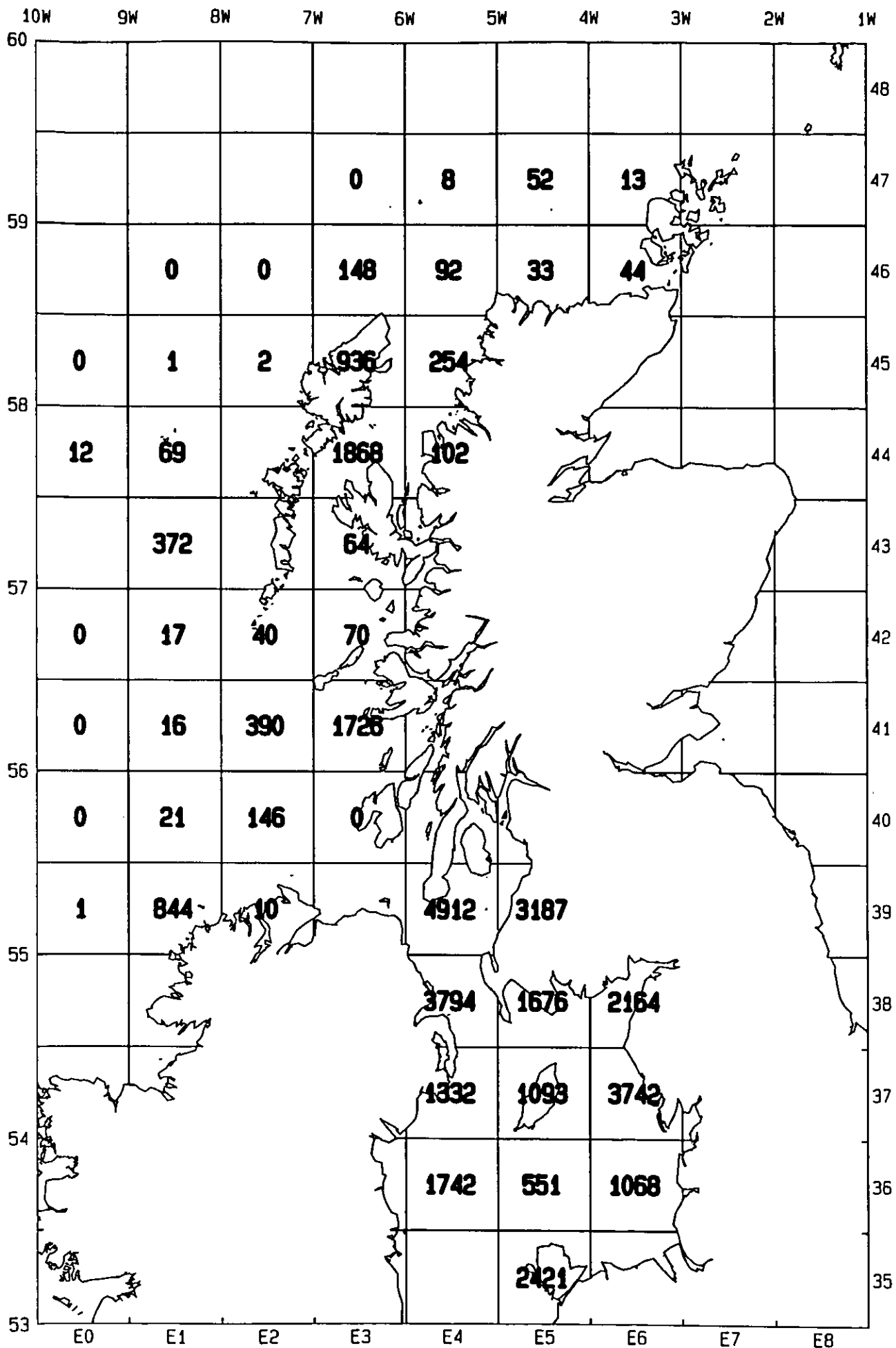


Figure 2

0499s - herring (average number per hour)

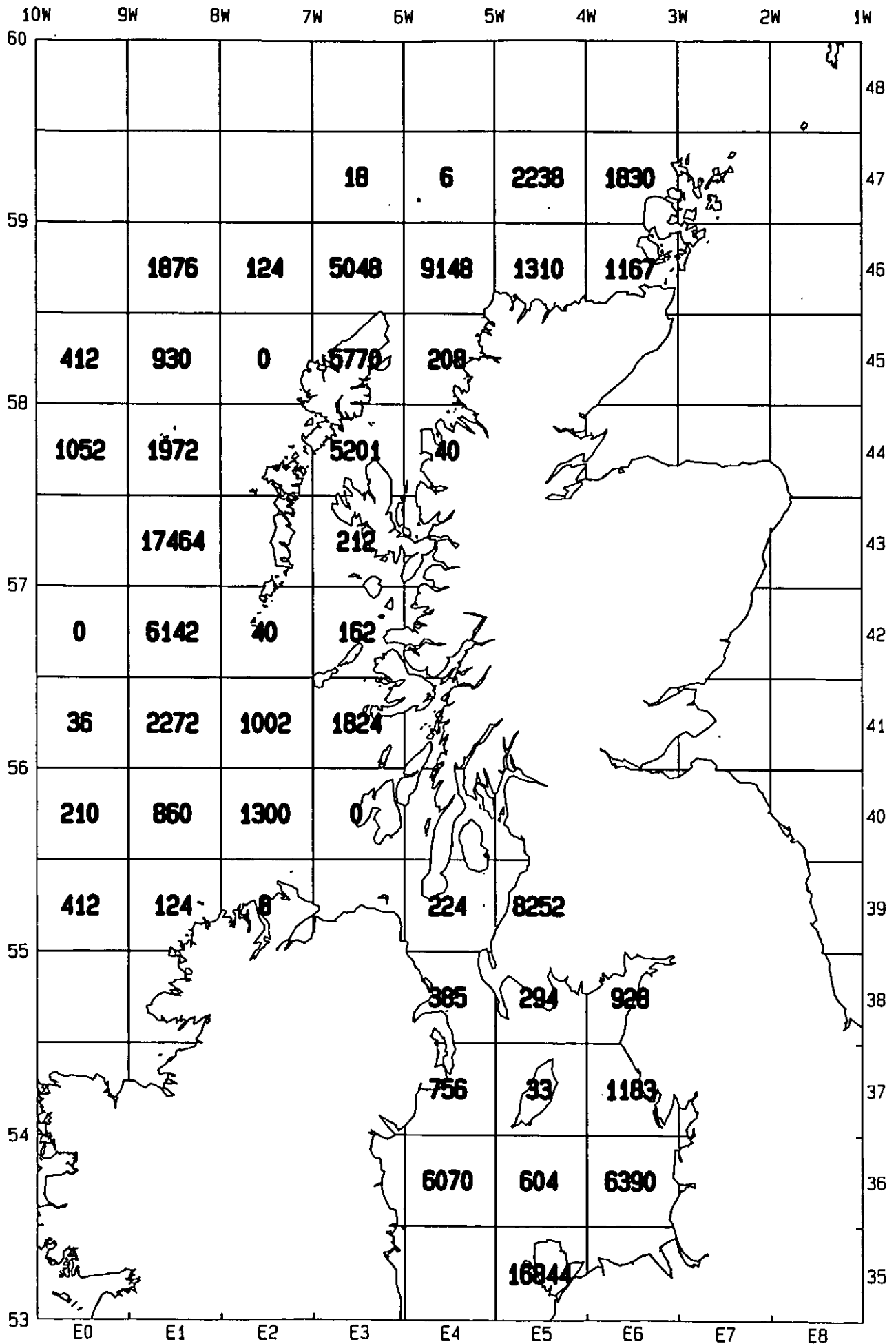


Figure 3

West Coast Groundfish Survey - 1999

