

R1/12

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

FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 1396S

REPORT

7-27 August 1996

Personnel

K A Coull	HSO (in charge)
K J Peach	SO
C G Davis	ASO
M Mathewson	ASO
D J Tait	ASO
F N Burns	ASO
G Stowasser	Visitor (Aberdeen University)

Objective

To undertake a demersal trawling survey of the North Sea.

Out-turn Days per Project: 21 days DAC1

Narrative

Due to a fault with the bow-thruster, sailing was delayed by six hours. *Scotia* left Aberdeen at 1600 hours on 7 August and completed one trawling station off Aberdeen. The vessel continued working southwards, covering the stations off the east coast of Scotland and north-east coast of England. With the southern part of the survey area covered, the vessel entered Norwegian waters on 12 August and proceeded to work northwards covering the eastern boundary of the survey area. *Scotia* docked at Stavanger on the morning of 16 August of the mid cruise break. The vessel sailed again on 17 August and continued working northwards. On 18 August the ships engineering staff discovered a developing problem with the port side trawl winch. After consultation it was agreed that the vessel could continue working. *Scotia* completed the stations in the Norwegian waters on the evening on 19 August. With favourable weather conditions continuing, *Scotia* proceeded along the northern edge of the survey area then completed the stations off the west of the Shetland Islands on 21 August. Work continued in the area east of Orkney and Moray Firth until 2000 hours on 24 August when engine problems prevented the vessel from trawling. The vessel resumed work at 1400 hours on 25 August. Due to time lost the deciding factor on priority for the remaining stations was influenced by the coverage of other participating countries. The vessel worked off the north east coast of Scotland until the evening of 26 August. *Scotia* returned to Aberdeen on the morning of 27 August.

Results

A total of 85 valid hauls was achieved with three stations not being sampled due to time lost with engine breakdown. Water samples and temperatures were collected from 65 stations.

The numbers of 0-group haddock and whiting caught per hour in each statistical rectangle are shown in Figures 1 and 2 respectively. While the numbers of 0-group whiting encountered were relatively low in comparison with previous years surveys, the number of 0-group haddock matched the series average.

All length frequency, haul summary and age data for cod, haddock, whiting, saithe and Norway pout were punched at sea and stored on micro-computer. The Scanmar system was used throughout the cruise to monitor headline height, wind spread and distance covered during each haul.

K A Coull
27 September 1996

Seen in draft: Peter Ramsay (Master)

August 1996 Haddock 0-group nos/hour

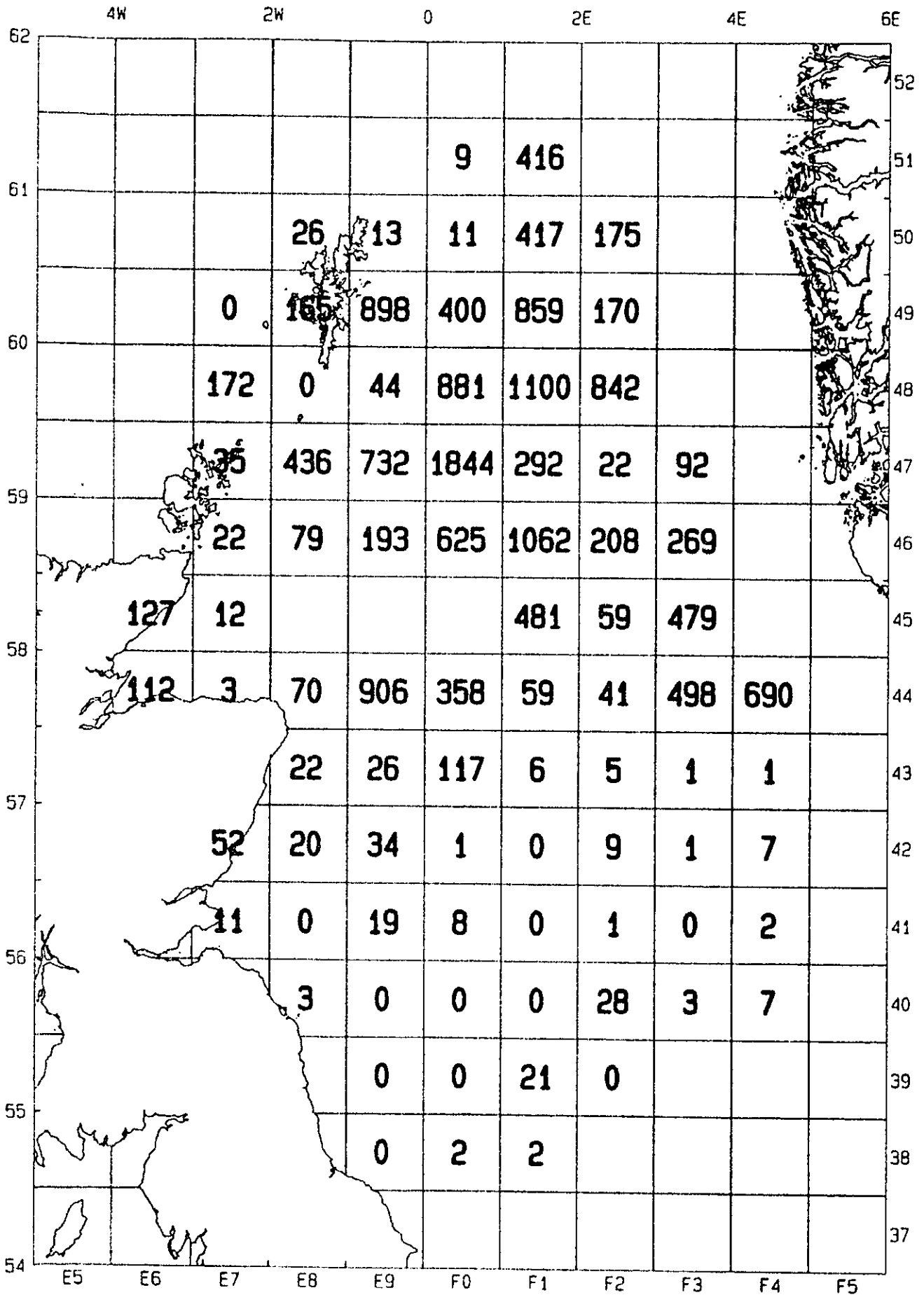


Figure 1

August 1996 Whiting 0-group nos/hour

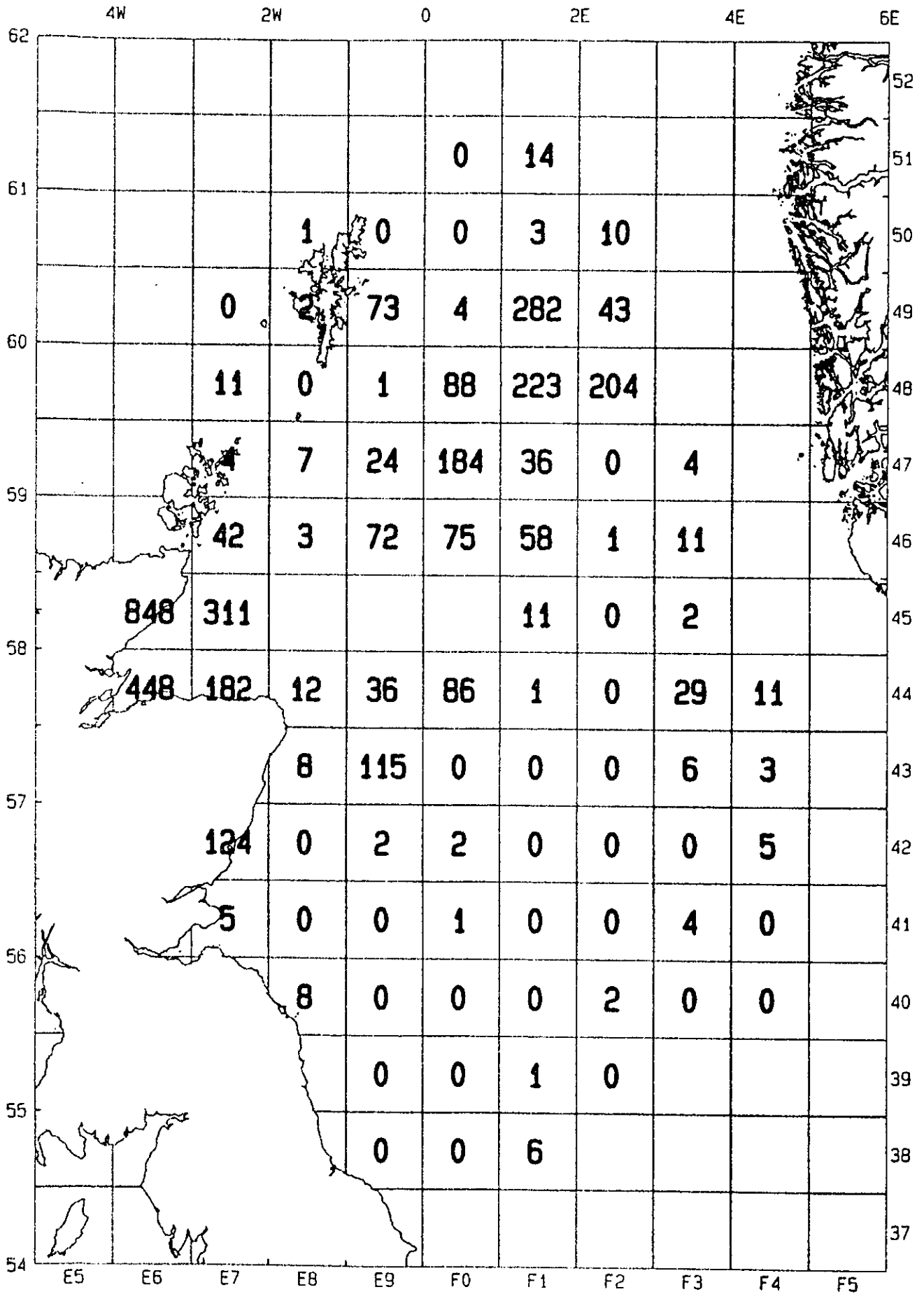


Figure 2

112

Scotia 7 - 27 August 1996 Cruise 1396S

