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INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA

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DEMERSAL FISH COMMITTEE
REF. PELAGIC FISH COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL O-GROUP SURVEY IN FAROE WATERS

***** 1980 *****

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INTRODUCTION

0-group surveys started in the waters around Faroe in 1972 as a part of the International 0-group Fish Survey in Faroe, Iceland and Greenland waters. In 1972 and 1973 English vessels covered the Faroe Grounds. In 1974 the investigations were separated from the East Greenland Icelandic ones, and the International 0-group Survey in Faroe Waters was erected as one coordination unit. In 1974, 1975 and 1976 the area was covered by English and Faroese vessels, and France joined the survey in 1976. From 1977 England left the survey, and from 1980 France, so at present only Faroes takes part in the survey.

THE 1980 SURVEY

R/V "J.Chr.Svabo" worked in the period 23 June to 9 July covering 96 stations in two strata, chosen at random inside the strata.

The survey started rather early this year, as it was expected that the sea had temperatures higher than usual and an unusual calm period in all spring and early summer should have made the growth conditions favourable. Methods were the same as in earlier years.

RESULTS

No hydrographic observations were made through the survey.

For the demersal species details on the 4 most numerous species are given in table 1, 2 and 4, and fig.1 to 4.

It shows that for two of the species Norway pout and sandeel the 1980 year class is very strong, for cod the yearclass is above the 1974-1978 average and for haddock the yearclass is below the 1974-1978 average.

The average lengths given in table 1 and 2 show that the growth was good in all 4 species in spring and early summer 1980.

Among other demersal species caught occasionally can be mentioned redfish, long rough dab, cottids, angler, whiting and lemon sole.

For the pelagic species blue whiting was caught occasionally, and further herring was caught on some stations. Herring catch was somewhat higher this year than the last two years. Details are given in table 3, and fig.5. The timing of the survey might, however, not be very suitable for determining herring abundance.

DISCUSSION

The disruption of the English surveys in 1976 means that this series only covers 5 years. The disruption of the French surveys gives only 4 years for their series. As their survey was timed to cover an early period, and especially saithe, no 0-group abundance estimates of saithe can be given this year.

The Faroese surveys now cover 7 years, and there should be some prospect to correlate them with historic data from VPA now, for cod and haddock.

TABLE 1

O-GROUP SURVEY FAROES. JENS CHR. SVABO

STRATUM 1

Species	Year	Dates	Stations no	Mean numbers, per 30 min.	Precision %	Average length mm
Cod	1974	1/7- 5/7	17	4617	95	38.8
	1975	11/6-26/6	24	3085	71	26.0
	1976	22/6- 9/7	52	11165	44.9	29.8
	1977	23/6-11/7	54	3148	40.6	23.5
	1978	26/6-14/7	60	7190	39.8	29.5
	1979	2/7-19/7	56	3156	44.1	25.8
	1980	23/6-8/7	67	7371	50.5	30.5
Haddock	1974	1/7- 5/7	17	59	89	52.6
	1975	11/6-26/6	24	10	89	17.8
	1976	22/6- 9/7	52	139	36.1	26.4
	1977	23/6-11/7	54	26	24.4	17.3
	1978	26/6-14/7	60	528	42.3	24.0
	1979	2/7-19/7	56	24	49.2	19.4
	1980	23/6-8/7	67	98	65.6	26.9
Norway Pout	1974	1/7- 5/7	17	10151	130	37.7
	1975	11/6-26/6	24	1093	85	23.5
	1976	22/6- 9/7	52	6118	55.2	30.4
	1977	23/6-11/7	54	111	45.8	21.2
	1978	26/6-14/7	60	5769	66.1	29.3
	1979	2/7-19/7	56	1198	80.4	21.7
	1980	23/6-8/7	67	12748	55.7	32.0
Sandeel	1974	1/7- 5/7	17	4079	94	62.6
	1975	11/6-26/6	24	1390	68	43.7
	1976	22/6- 9/7	52	947	42.8	51.8
	1977	23/6-11/7	54	923	41.6	42.9
	1978	26/6-14/7	60	446	73.8	53.2
	1979	2/7-19/7	56	4241	48.3	41.7
	1980	23/6-8/7	67	6433	55.5	55.0

TABLE 2

O-GROUP SURVEY FAROES. JENS CHR. SVABO

STRATUM 2

Species	Year	Dates	Stations no	Mean numbers, per 30 min.	Precision %	Average length mm
Cod	1974	5/7-25/7	32	324	102	36.9
	1975	26/6- 4/7	26	2328	96	28.0
	1976	7/7-16/7	44	2327	77.5	35.7
	1977	4/7-11/7	39	143	58.8	25.9
	1978	26/6-14/7	34	977	58.3	28.0
	1979	3/7-17/7	27	1228	121.3	25.9
	1980	23/6-9/7	29	634	121	28.8
Haddock	1974	5/7-25/7	32	29	66	56.1
	1975	26/6- 4/7	26	97	65	21.2
	1976	7/7-16/7	44	147	50.6	29.7
	1977	4/7-11/7	39	26	30.7	19.5
	1978	26/6-14/7	34	143	43.2	23.5
	1979	3/7-17/7	27	17	72.5	24.1
	1980	23/6-9/7	29	30	87.2	29.6
Norway Pout	1974	5/7-25/7	32	3627	178	49.0
	1975	26/6- 4/7	26	93	98	20.0
	1976	7/7-16/7	44	2207	125.6	36.9
	1977	4/7-11/7	39	4	82.0	23.8
	1978	26/6-14/7	34	2640	119.0	29.3
	1979	3/7-17/7	27	560	97.0	22.4
	1980	23/6-9/7	29	567	168	30.4
Sandeel	1974	5/7-25/7	32	2838	199	65.1
	1975	26/6- 4/7	26	1015	105	42.6
	1976	7/7-16/7	44	374	110.0	59.6
	1977	4/7-11/7	39	243	94.9	45.0
	1978	26/6-14/7	34	176	150.3	54.9
	1979	3/7-17/7	27	220	128.8	41.7
	1980	23/6-9/7	29	331	162	48.0

O-GROUP SURVEY FAROES. JENS CHR SVABO

Catches of 0-group herring 1976 to 1980. Both stratum 1 and 2

Year	Dates	Number of stations with herring	Total number of herring caught
1976	22/6-16/7	3	5
1977	23/6-11/7	3	7
1978	26/6-14/7	15	262
1979	2/7-19/7	11	103
1980	23/6-9/7	12	618

TABLE 4.

O-GROUP SURVEY FAROES . . . JENS CHR. SVABO

Abundance estimates of major species. 0-group survey at Faroos 1974-80
Cod, haddock, Norway Pout and sandeel by R/V Jens Chr. Svabo.
Combined estimate str. 1 and 2.

Numbers per 1/2 hour trawling.

Year	Cod	Haddock	Norway Pout	Sandeel
1974	2506	45	6968	3490
1975	2730	54	602	1214
1976	6941	145	4210	668
1977	1670	26	59	590
1978	4139	340	4249	314
1979	2216	21	888	2263
1980	4059	55	6756	3431
Average 1974-1978	2769	122	3218	1255 1

Using average 1974-1978 as an index = 100

Year	Cod	Haddock	Norway Pout	Sandeel
1974	70	37	217	278
1975	76	44	19	97
1976	193	119	131	53
1977	46	21	2	47
1978	115	279	132	25
1979	62	17	28	180
1980	113	45	201	273

Fig.1

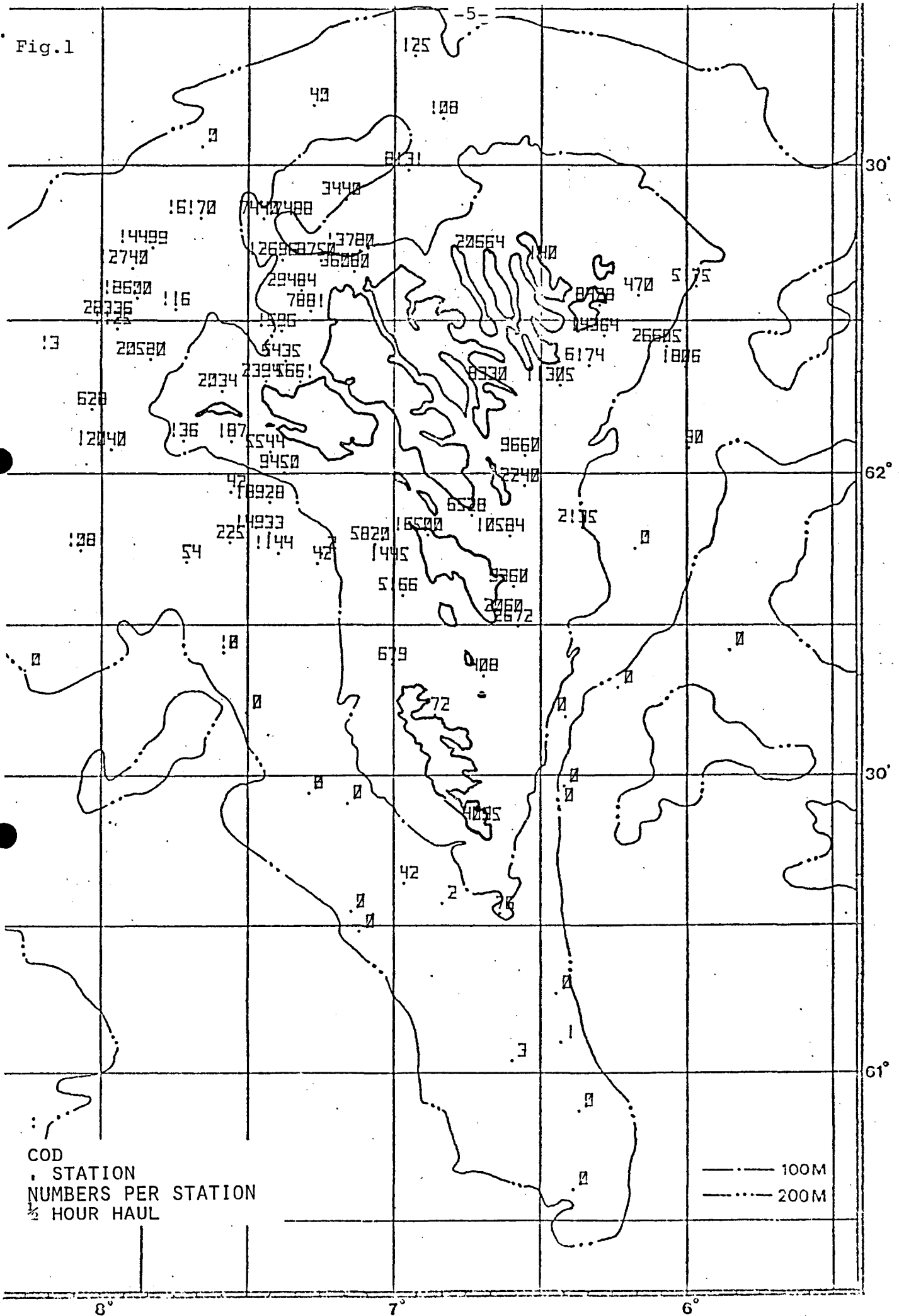


Fig. 2

HADDOCK
 . STATION
 NUMBERS PER STATION
 1/2 HOUR HAUL

— 100M
 - - - 200M

HADDOCK
STATION
NUMBERS PER STATION
1/2 HOUR HAUL

Fig.3

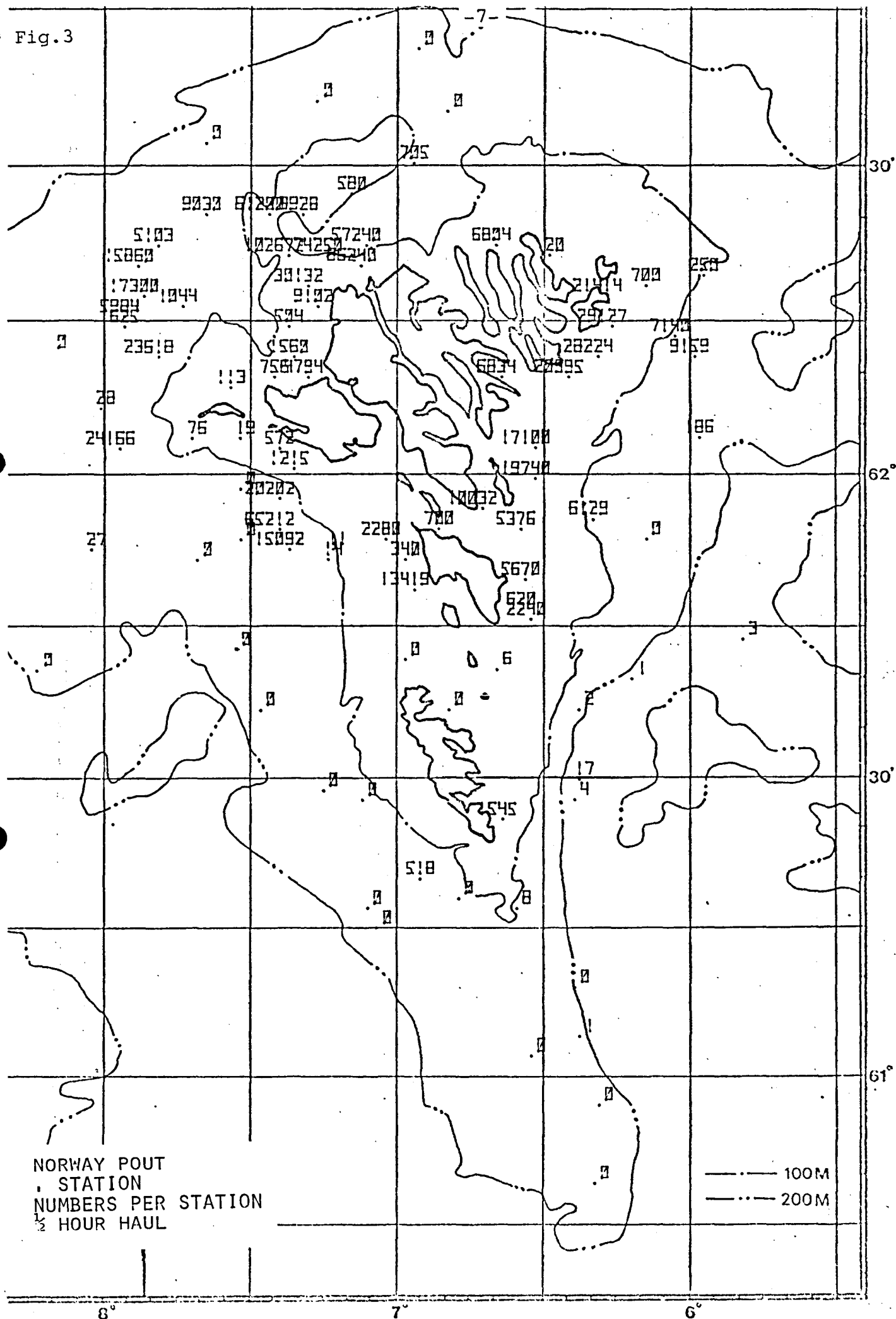


Fig. 4

Map of the Bering Sea showing sandeel catch data. The map includes a grid with latitude from 30°N to 61°N and longitude from 8°W to 6°W. Numerous numerical data points are plotted, representing the number of sandeels per station from a 1/2 hour haul. Bathymetric lines for 100M and 200M depths are shown. A legend in the bottom left explains the data, and a legend in the bottom right shows the bathymetric lines.

— 100M
- - - 200M

SANDEEL
STATION
NUMBERS PER STATION
1/2 HOUR HAUL

SANDEEL
STATION
NUMBERS PER STATION
1/2 HOUR HAUL

— • — 100M
 — • — 200M

Fig.5

