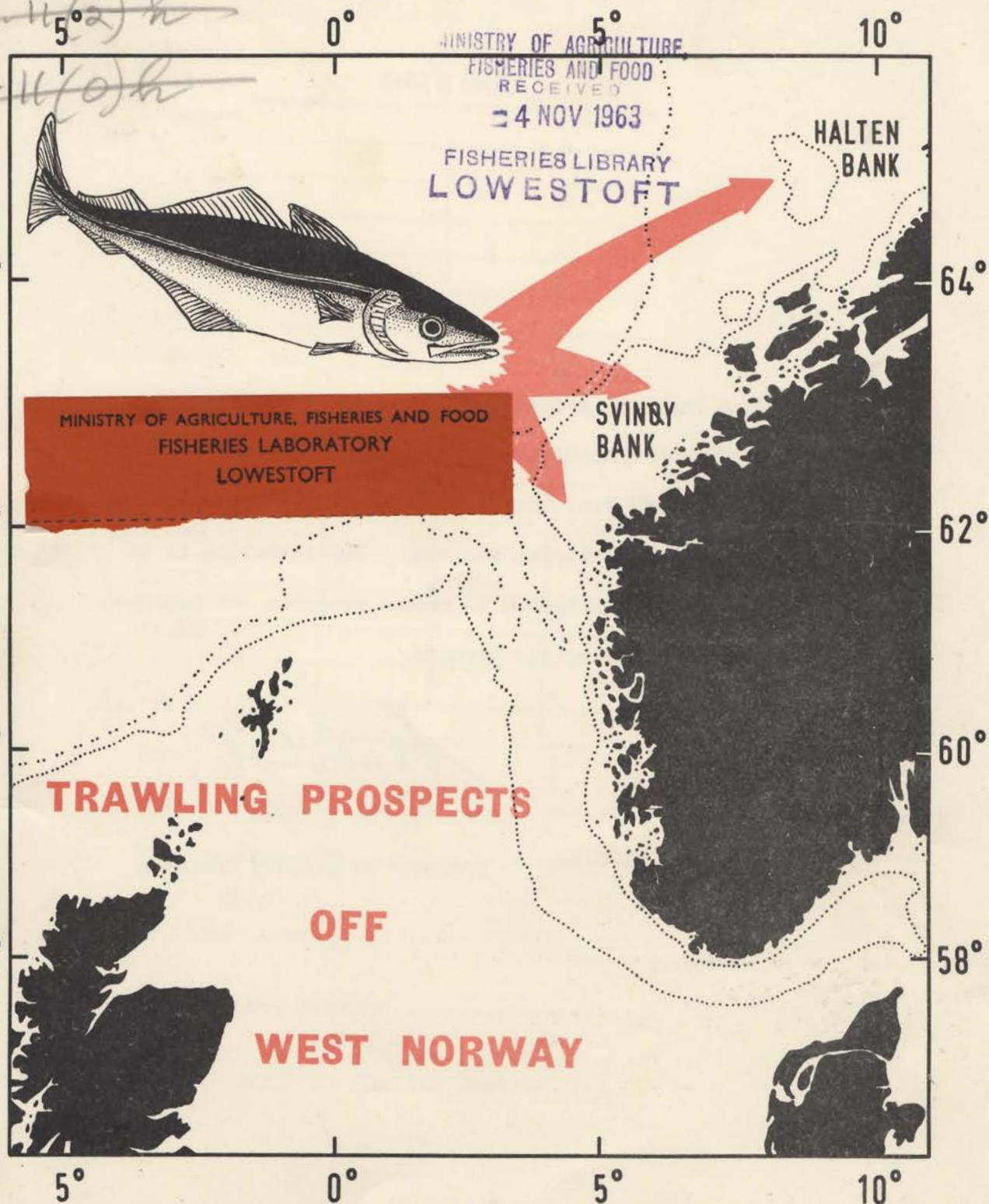


MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD



LABORATORY LEAFLET (NEW SERIES) No. 4

FISHERIES LABORATORY - LOWESTOFT

SEPTEMBER, 1963

126727

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Laboratory Leaflet (New Series) No. 4

TRAWLING PROSPECTS OFF WEST NORWAY

INTRODUCTION

Norwegian fisheries on the offshore banks off Western Norway, particularly on Svinø Bank are, of course, of long historical standing. German trawlers also make good catches there during the winter, but British vessels sailing to the Barents Sea grounds only occasionally attempt to fish these banks as they pass. This report discusses the fishing prospects on these grounds which are not regularly fished by British vessels at present, from which it is hoped that skippers can make their own assessments.

SVINØY BANK

Nature of the sea-bed - Chart 1

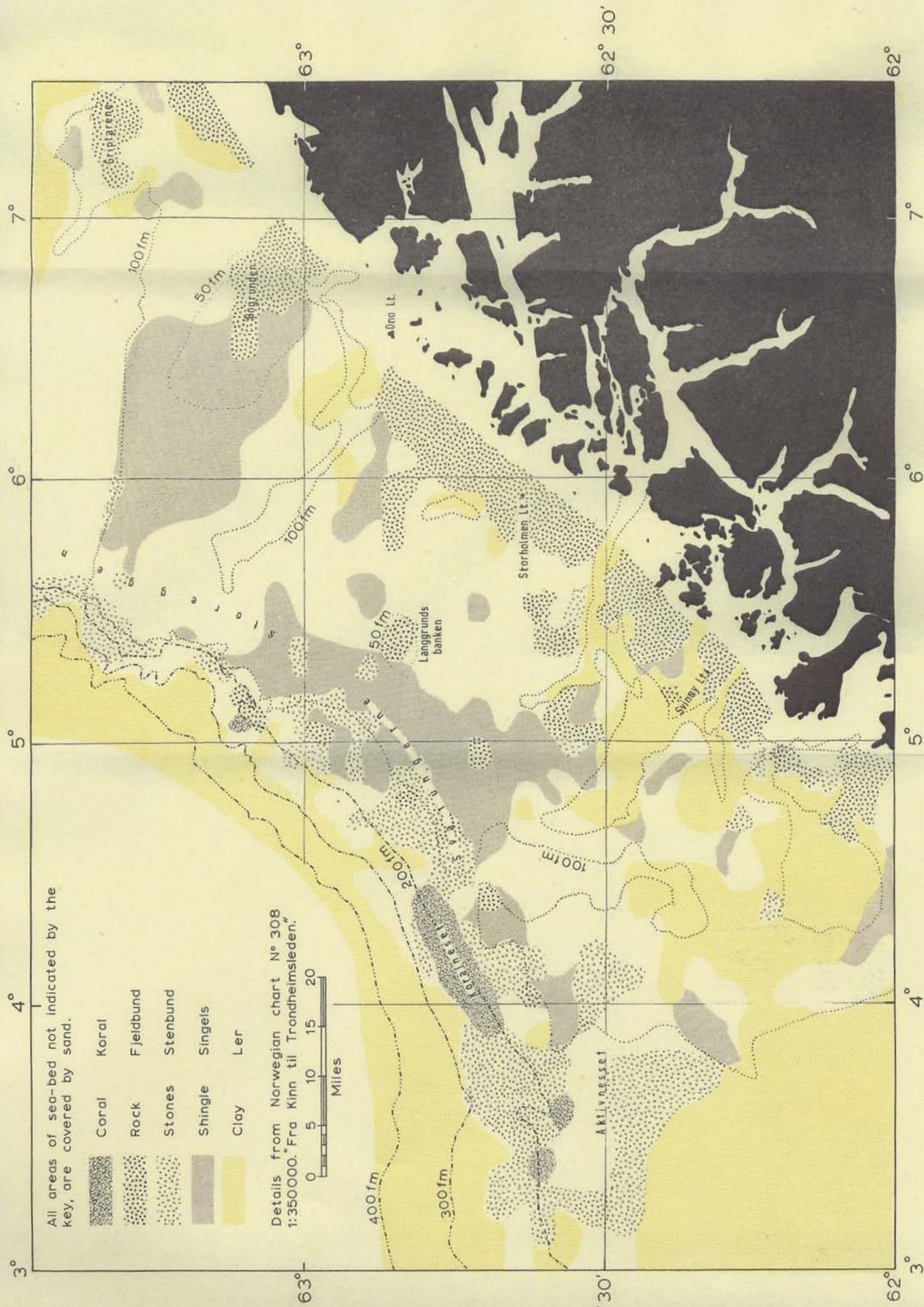
Svinøy Bank rises abruptly from the depths of the Norwegian Sea and has a steep western edge covered with patches of stones, rock and coral; the edge is almost precipitous at the northern end of the bank. The eastern edge of the bank has large patches of rocks and stones, but between these eastern and western edges there are considerable areas of clear ground.

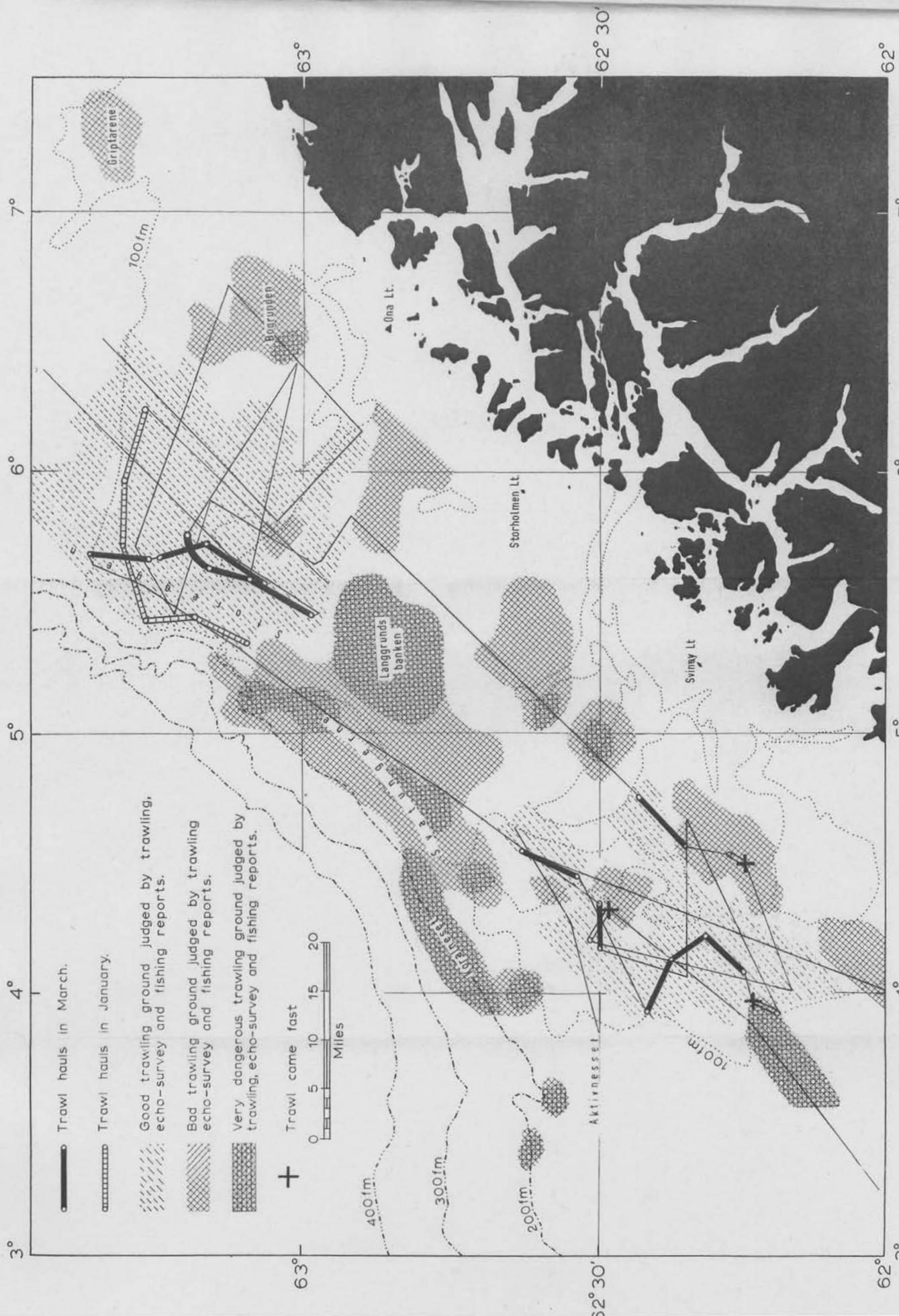
Almost all of the bank north of $63^{\circ}00'N$, and above 100 fm, is covered with sand or shingle; the bottom is generally very flat, especially around the north-western part, known as "Storeggen". In the north-eastern corner there is a bank of less than 50 fm, the "Bogrunden", which is partly covered by rock. Although Chart 1 only covers the sea-bed as far as $63^{\circ}30'N$, the sandy bottom continues up to $64^{\circ}00'N$ at depths of 130 to 150 fm.

The middle region of Svinøy Bank, from about $62^{\circ}40'$ to $63^{\circ}00'N$, is much more rocky than either the northern or southern ends. There is a small rock bank of less than 50 fm at the centre, "Langgrunds banken", and patches of rocks, stones and extensive coral-beds occur at the western edges of Svinøy Bank.

Much of the southern end of the bank is covered with clay, or sandy clay, particularly below the 100 fm line, although the western edge of the shelf is still covered with rocks, stones and coral.

Most of the details for Chart 1 have been taken from published charts, but a number of dredge samples were taken on the bank by the research vessel ERNEST HOLT and these confirmed the general picture. In the northern area the dredge samples consistently brought up fine sand, or sand with some mud. In the south dredge hauls again usually brought up mud and sand, although rocky ground was found in some shallower areas shown on the chart.





Trawling areas - Chart 2

In order to assess the suitability of Svinøy Bank for trawling, the ERNEST HOLT made a number of trawl hauls at both the northern and southern ends of the bank; in addition, fairly extensive echo-surveys of the seabed were made over the whole bank. Information from other fishing reports has also been used to compile the chart of good and bad trawling areas on the bank.

Undoubtedly the best trawling grounds are to be found at the northern end of the bank on the "Storeggen" ground, where, apart from the edge of the shelf, the bottom is flat and clear and excellent for trawling; the clear ground probably extends as far as $64^{\circ}00'N$.

The middle region of the bank between $62^{\circ}40'$ and $63^{\circ}00'N$ is generally a bad area for trawling. The small "Langgrunds banken" at the centre of the area is reputed to be very dangerous and much trawl gear has been lost there. The western edge of the bank is probably little better since there are large patches of rock, and in the south there are extensive coral beds at "Koralneset". It may be possible to find clear trawling grounds between the edge of the shelf and the "Langgrunds banken", but such exploration will probably be costly in gear.

Good trawling grounds are found again at the southern end of the bank, although they are not as clear as in the north. An important ground which was not investigated by the ERNEST HOLT is the "Aktivneset", at $62^{\circ}30'N$ from $3^{\circ}25'$ to $3^{\circ}55'E$; to the south of this ground is a large patch of stones but the "Aktivneset" itself is covered with sand and would possibly provide another good trawling area.

The ERNEST HOLT came fast three times in the southern area, at $62^{\circ}15'N$, $4^{\circ}30'E$ (90 fm), $62^{\circ}29'N$, $4^{\circ}20'E$ (96 fm) and $62^{\circ}14'N$, $3^{\circ}58'E$ (98 fm); in the two latter cases the trawl was very badly damaged.

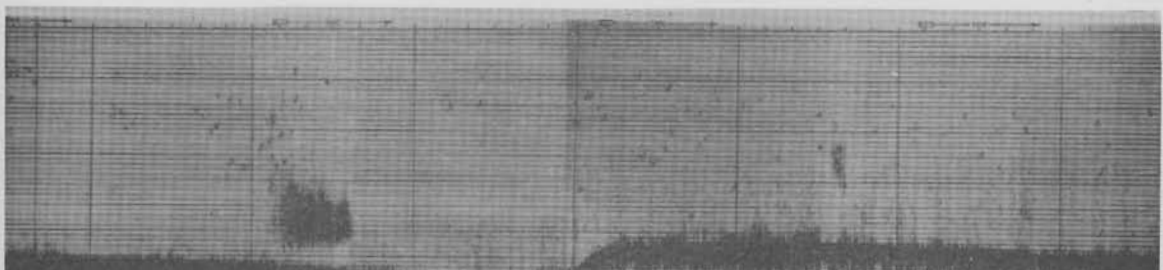
Fish echo-traces - Chart 3

In both 1962 and 1963 during the month of March the ERNEST HOLT carried out echo-sounder surveys for fish traces over about 600 miles of sea-bed on Svinøy Bank; the results of these surveys are shown diagrammatically on Chart 3. It is difficult to make accurate estimates of fish density from these echo-traces since the nature of the traces changed by day and night, and different types of trace occurred in different areas of the bank; but in compiling Chart 3 an attempt has been made to allow for these variations.


Extensive fish traces were seen on the echo-sounder throughout the northern area. These were both in midwater and in association with the sea-bed. Much of the trace was of a diffuse nature and was probably due to the shoals of ripe herring being fished by drifters in this area, but many smaller shoals and comet-like "single-fish" traces were also seen that were caused by coalfish and spurdogs (Echo-photographs 1 to 4).

Extensive echo-traces of diffuse types were found (Echo-photographs 5, 6 and 7) on the "Bogrunnen" in the north-west, in the middle region of the bank, and also over the rough ground at the south end of the bank; these traces were probably made by shoals of herring, sprats, or a similar type of pelagic fish; no attempt was made to fish them.

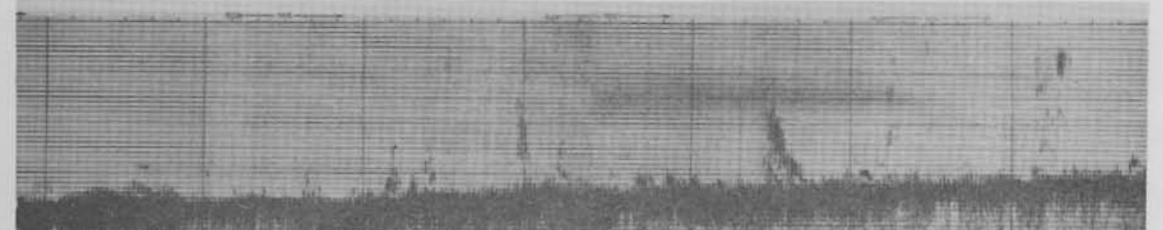
In the south numerous "single-fish" and small shoal traces were recorded; from the trawl catches it seems likely that they were again mainly made by coalfish.



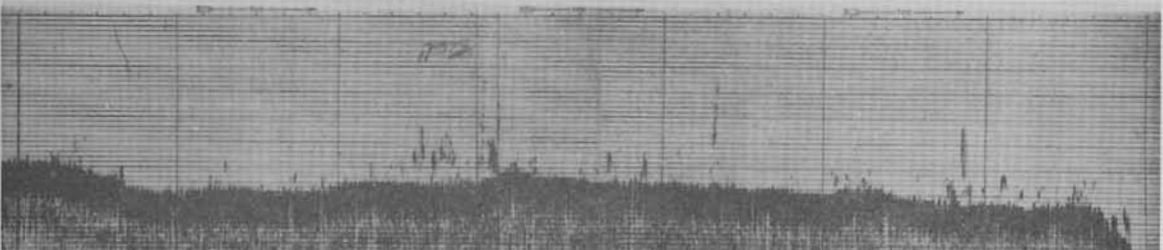
1. Trawling, caught 20 baskets Coalfish, 1 basket Haddock, 1 basket Spurdog per hour's tow; cod-end cover full with 4 baskets Herring; 2000 hours.



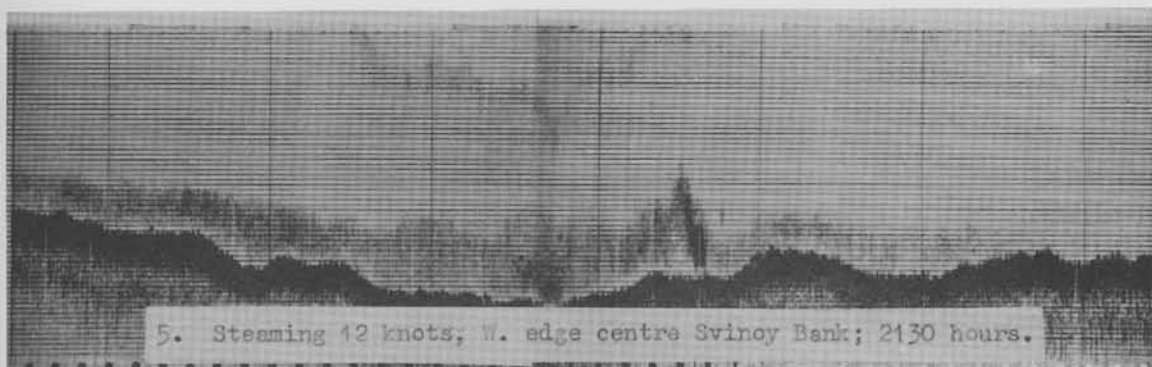
2. Trawling, caught 35 baskets Coalfish, $\frac{1}{2}$ basket Spurdog per hour's tow, cod-end cover had 1 basket Herring only; 2000 hours.



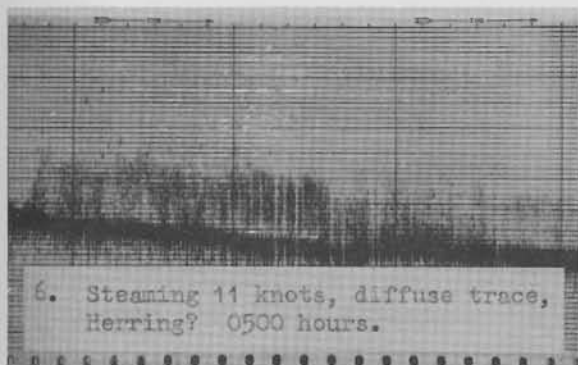
3. Trawling, caught 24 baskets Coalfish, 60 baskets Spurdog per hour's tow; no cod-end cover; 1400 hours.



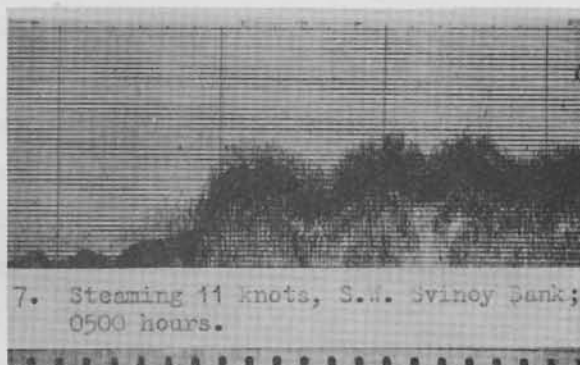
4. Steaming 14 knots, N.W. edge Svinoy Bank; 1730 hours.



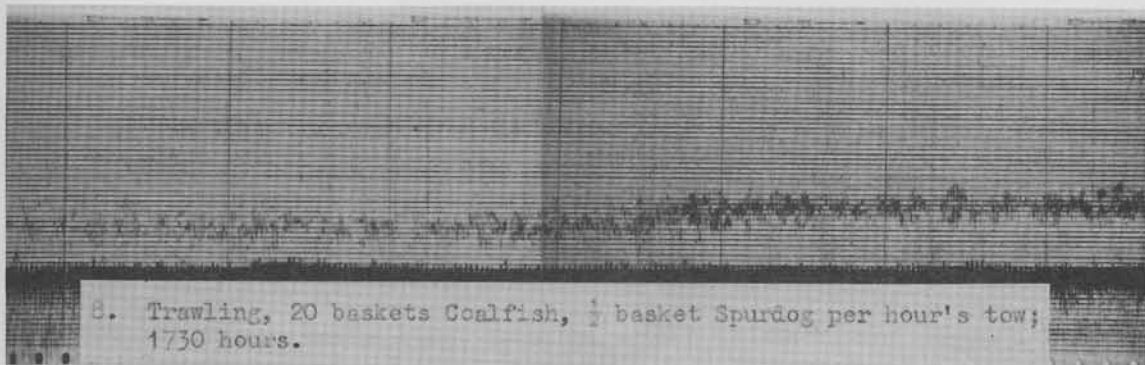
5. Steaming 12 knots; W. edge centre Svinoy Bank; 2130 hours.



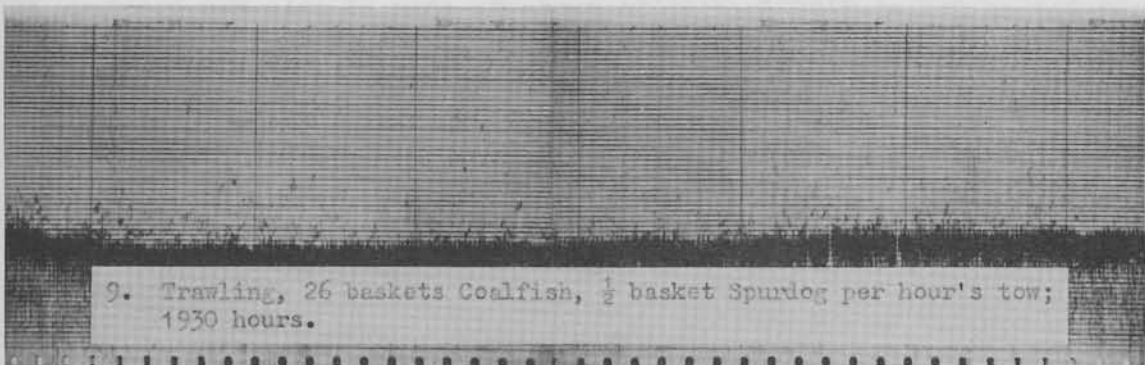
6. Steaming 11 knots, diffuse trace, Herring? 0500 hours.



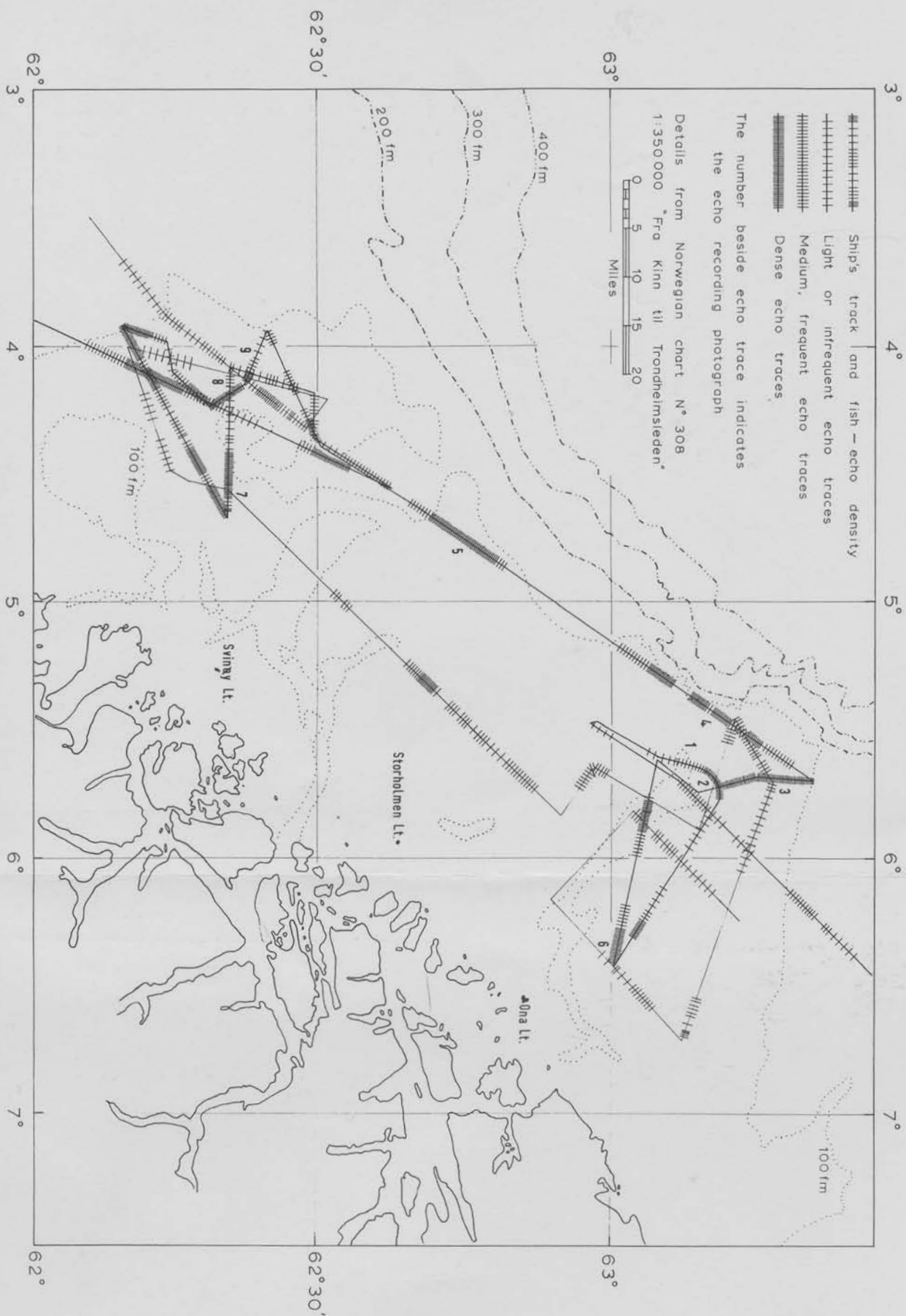
7. Steaming 11 knots, S.W. Svinoy Bank; 0500 hours.



8. Trawling, 20 baskets Coalfish, $\frac{1}{2}$ basket Spurdog per hour's tow; 1730 hours.



9. Trawling, 26 baskets Coalfish, $\frac{1}{2}$ basket Spurdog per hour's tow; 1930 hours.



Fishing prospects

Although German trawlers make catches on Svinø Bank from late December until April, the main fisheries occur in February and March. The ERNEST HOLT has made fishing surveys on Svinø Bank and the results are shown in Table 1. Some good fishing was found on "Storeggen" in March, the best catch being at the rate of 80 baskets per hour's trawling, and consisted of coalfish and spurdogs; catches of 20 to 30 baskets of coalfish per hour's trawling were also made at the southern end of the bank in March. However, twenty trawl hauls with a single vessel, on a new ground, obviously cannot form a sound basis from which to assess the fishing prospects, even though some of the catches were large. A much better idea can be obtained from the German statistics of trawler landings from the Norwegian coast; in Table 2 the average catches per day's fishing are given for the period 1955 to 1961. Over this seven-year period the average catch of fish on Svinø Bank was 16.5 tons per day, compared with 13.8 tons per day and 15.6 tons per day at Malangen and Røst Bank respectively. Obviously the fishing at Svinø was good throughout this period, but the disadvantage of the area was that the catches consisted of more than 80% coalfish, compared with only 20 to 40% of coalfish on the more northern banks (Table 3).

The catches made by the ERNEST HOLT were mainly of large ripe coalfish and spurdogs, but also included smaller numbers of cod, small haddock, whiting, tusk, ling, megrim, small halibut, and rays. The large catches of spurdogs were made on "Storeggen", but good catches of spurdogs can also be made at about 62°32'N, 4°29'E in 110 to 115 fm.

TABLE 1 ERNEST HOLT catches on Svinøy Bank

| Shoot position | Haul position | Catch (baskets per hour tow) | |
|----------------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| | | Coalfish | Other fish |
| <u>JANUARY</u> | | | |
| 63°05' 5°23' | 63°10' 5°27' | 1 | 0 |
| 63°10' 5°27' | 63°15' 5°26' | 5 | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 63°15' 5°26' | 63°17' 5°47' | 8 | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 63°17' 5°47' | 63°17' 5°59' | 15 | 1 |
| 63°17' 5°59' | 63°15' 6°15' | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| <u>MARCH</u> | | | |
| 63°00' 5°31' | 63°05' 5°36' | 2 | 4 |
| 63°05' 5°36' | 63°09' 5°38' | 20 | 2 |
| 63°09' 5°38' | 63°11' 5°46' | 35 | 1 |
| 63°06' 5°40' | 63°09' 5°44' | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 |
| 63°09' 5°44' | 63°13' 5°40' | 24 | 20 Spurdogs |
| 63°15' 5°41' | 63°20' 5°41' | 24 | 60 Spurdogs |
| 62°30' 4°20' | 62°30' 4°10' | 25 | 1 |
| 62°15' 4°05' | 62°19' 4°13' | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 |
| 62°19' 4°13' | 62°22' 4°08' | 20 | 1 |
| 62°22' 4°08' | 62°25' 3°55' | 26 | 1 |
| 62°32' 4°29' | 62°38' 4°33' | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 62°26' 4°46' | 62°21' 4°34' | 1 | 1 |

TABLE 2 German trawler landings of roundfish
from the Norwegian coast, 1955-61

| | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <u>Malangen</u> | | | | | | | |
| Days fishing | 1,527 | 2,465 | 2,293 | 1,294 | 1,285 | 1,224 | 1,184 |
| Total landing: tons | 26,503 | 45,471 | 29,614 | 18,231 | 16,080 | 13,886 | 12,180 |
| Catch/day: tons | 17.3 | 18.4 | 12.9 | 14.1 | 12.5 | 11.1 | 10.3 |
| <u>Röst Bank</u> | | | | | | | |
| Days fishing | 1,623 | 996 | 1,087 | 1,252 | 1,196 | 1,478 | 825 |
| Total landing: tons | 26,104 | 19,048 | 17,781 | 21,674 | 20,850 | 18,171 | 8,676 |
| Catch/day: tons | 16.1 | 19.1 | 16.4 | 17.3 | 17.4 | 12.3 | 10.5 |
| <u>Svinøy</u> | | | | | | | |
| Days fishing | 738 | 471 | 301 | 647 | 477 | 474 | 444 |
| Total landing: tons | 11,928 | 6,951 | 7,375 | 9,212 | 7,005 | 8,240 | 6,025 |
| Catch/day: tons | 16.2 | 14.8 | 24.5 | 14.2 | 14.7 | 17.4 | 13.6 |

TABLE 3 Composition of German trawler catches on the Norwegian coast

| | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <u>Malangen</u> | | | | | | | |
| Catch/day: tons | 17.3 | 18.4 | 12.9 | 14.1 | 12.5 | 11.1 | 10.3 |
| % Cod | 24 | 38 | 31 | 26 | 21 | 23 | 24 |
| % Haddock | 39 | 29 | 14 | 16 | 17 | 23 | 24 |
| % Coalfish | 21 | 15 | 30 | 30 | 29 | 28 | 26 |
| <u>Røst Bank</u> | | | | | | | |
| Catch/day: tons | 16.1 | 19.1 | 16.4 | 17.3 | 17.4 | 12.3 | 10.5 |
| % Cod | 23 | 20 | 12 | 43 | 37 | 33 | 17 |
| % Haddock | 13 | 18 | 8 | 12 | 17 | 11 | 16 |
| % Coalfish | 37 | 33 | 41 | 28 | 20 | 39 | 35 |
| <u>Svinøy Bank</u> | | | | | | | |
| Catch/day: tons | 16.2 | 14.8 | 24.5 | 14.2 | 14.7 | 17.4 | 13.6 |
| % Coalfish | 85 | 80 | 89 | 82 | 76 | 85 | 82 |

Norwegian fishing reports for 1961 to 1963 are included as an appendix at the end of this report. (In the Norwegian reports catches in Møre or Sunnmøre and Romsdal areas generally refer to Svinøy Bank.) No attempt has been made to analyse the reports, since the Norwegian catches are frequently made with lines or gill-nets, and even when reports refer to trawler landings there is no indication of the size of the vessels nor of the duration of the trips, but these reports are useful in giving some indication of the duration of the fishery, and of the best areas for fishing.

It is concluded that Svinøy Bank could provide paying fishing for British trawlers, although it has the disadvantage that most of the catches are of coalfish, or spurdogs, with only a small percentage of other species.

The grounds off the northern coasts of Norway provide a greater variety of fish but a longer time is taken on passage to them; the Svinøy fishery could prove particularly attractive to middle-water vessels as an alternative ground to Faeroes, especially for Grimsby and Aberdeen based vessels.

HALTEN BANK

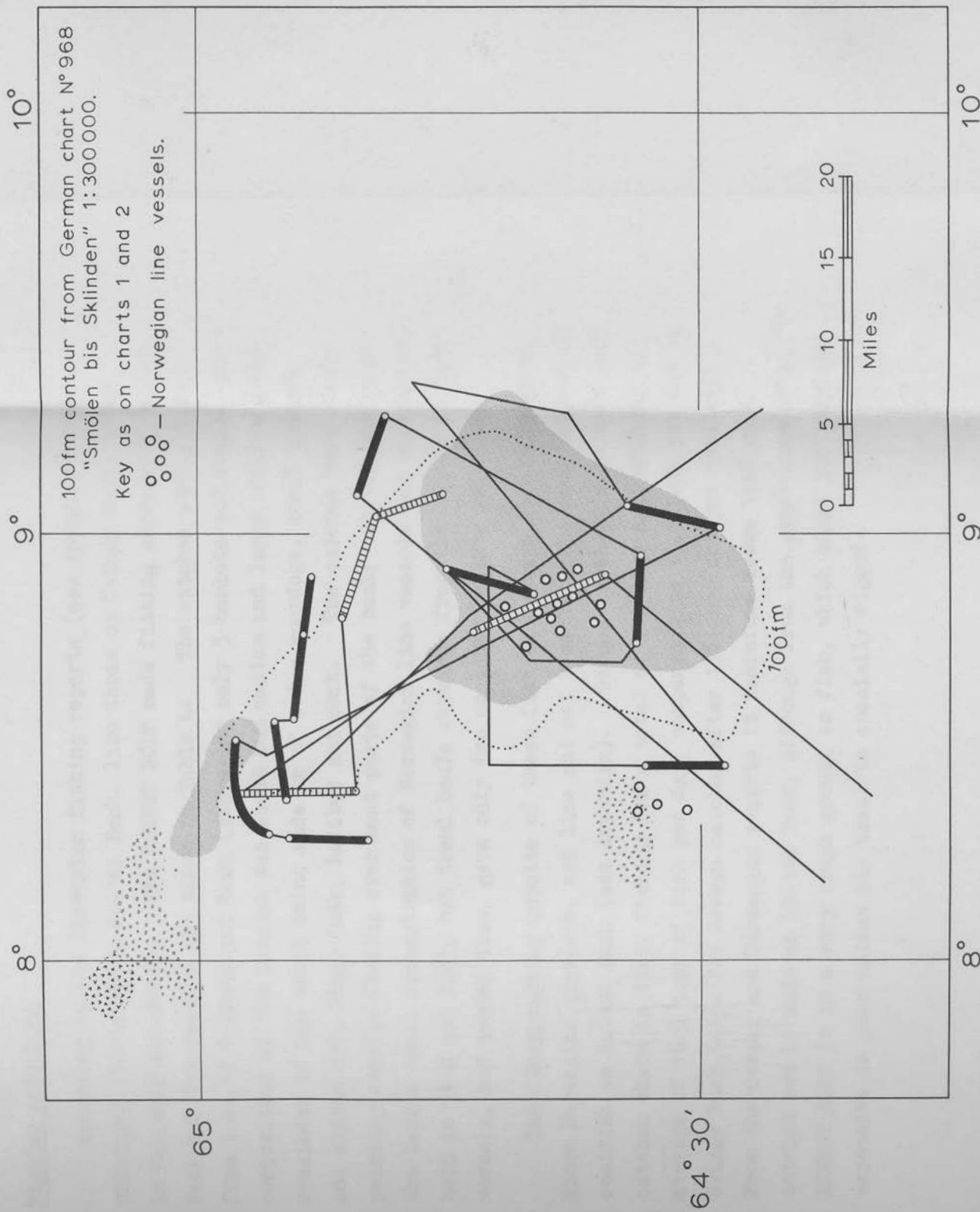
Nature of the sea-bed and trawling areas - Chart 4

Halten Bank is largely covered by clay and sand, although there is an extensive patch of sand and shingle in the south-east; a large patch of stones and rock occurs near the north-western tip of the bank (Chart 4).

Trawl hauls were made by the ERNEST HOLT over most parts of the Halten Bank without serious damage to the trawl, but the bank was not a good trawling ground and the cod-end was ripped or holed in 5 out of 14 trawl hauls. Several baskets of sponge (particularly "duffs" and "elephants' lugs") were taken in most trawl hauls, frequently including pink branching corals on the western side of the bank, and the trawl would probably have suffered more damage had it not been rigged to allow most sponges, etc., to fall through the "duff-trap" behind the groundrope.

Fish echo-traces

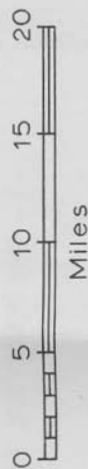
There were generally less fish traces on Halten Bank than on Svinpy Bank, and most of these were of a diffuse type, probably caused by herring. Halten Bank is a herring spawning ground and extensive traces seen at the northern end and at the centre of the bank were believed to be caused by herring; few traces were seen of the "comet" and small shoal types expected from coalfish or cod.



100fm contour from German chart N° 968
"Smölen bis Sklinden" 1:300 000.

Key as on charts 1 and 2

○ ○ ○ ○ — Norwegian line vessels.



Fishing prospects

According to the Norwegian fishing reports (see Appendix), the principal fisheries on Halten Bank, like those on Svinø Bank, occur in February and March. The ERNEST HOLT made fishing surveys of Halten Bank and the results are shown in Table 4. The catches were all low, from 1 to 11 baskets per hour (averaging only 5 baskets per hour). The composition of the catches was about 80% medium and large coalfish, the remainder of the catch being made up of a few spurdogs, small haddock and single cod, ling, tusk, halibut and monk. The catches were disappointing despite fishing over most parts of the bank; at the centre of the bank a small concentration of Norwegian line vessels was encountered both in 1962 and 1963, but trawl hauls outwards from the centre of these vessels, and around them, gave only two or three baskets per hour.

The disappointing results of these fishing surveys were surprising since Norwegian trawlers, and line and net vessels, make good catches of coalfish on Halten Bank (see Appendix). German trawlers also made good catches there in 1961, fishing for a total of 112 days and catching an average of 16.0 tons of fish per day, compared with 13.6 tons per day on Svinø Bank (data for German catches after 1961 are not yet available). From the German and Norwegian reports it therefore seems that good catches can be made on Halten Bank, although from the experience of the ERNEST HOLT it is a very rough ground to fish, which might prove rather expensive in gear unless the trawl is specially rigged.

TABLE 4 ERNEST HOLT catches on Halten Bank

| Shoot position | Haul position | Catch (baskets per hour tow) | |
|----------------|---------------|------------------------------|------------|
| | | Coalfish | Other fish |
| <u>JANUARY</u> | | | |
| 64°46' 9°06' | 64°50' 9°03' | 9 | 2 |
| 64°50' 9°03' | 64°52' 8°48' | 2 | 1 |
| 64°51' 8°24' | 64°58' 8°23' | Torn net | |
| 64°44' 8°46' | 64°36' 8°54' | 3 | 1 |
| <u>MARCH</u> | | | |
| 64°50' 8°17' | 64°55' 8°17' | 4 | 1 |
| 64°56' 8°17' | 64°58' 8°30' | 3½ | 2 |
| 64°29' 9°01' | 64°34' 9°04' | Torn net | |
| 64°28' 8°24' | 64°33' 8°27' | Torn net | |
| 64°40' 8°51' | 64°45' 8°55' | 1½ | 1 |
| 64°34' 8°44' | 64°33' 8°56' | 2½ | ½ |
| 64°49' 9°17' | 64°51' 9°05' | 10 | 1 |
| 64°53' 8°54' | 64°54' 8°46' | 1 | ½ |
| 64°54' 8°46' | 64°54' 8°34' | Torn net | |
| 64°55' 8°34' | 64°55' 8°23' | Torn net | |

OTHER BANKS

In the region of the Halten and Svinøy Banks are two other small banks, Froya Bank which is covered with sand and clay, with small patches of shingle, and Sklinna Bank which is also covered with sand and shingle, but with a patch of rock at the centre (position approximately $65^{\circ}20'N$, $10^{\circ}07'E$).

These banks are small and would not support a large fishery; the catches would probably consist mainly of coalfish with some cod.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY

It is concluded that Svinøy Bank would give good paying catches to middle-water trawlers during the months of February and March, and that the fishery might well extend from mid-January to mid-April. Distant-water trawlers on passage back from the Barents Sea or north Norwegian coast have occasionally used the ground to "top up" a poor trip, and this practice could probably be extended with profit. The northern part of the bank around "Storeggen" is the best trawling ground, and the ERNEST HOLT made good catches of coalfish and spurdogs there. Good fishing is often found at the southern end of Svinøy Bank, too, but the trawlable area there is more broken up by rough ground.

The bank has three disadvantages:-

- (i) the catches consist largely of coalfish, with some spurdogs, other fish forming only about one-tenth of the catch;
- (ii) some of the trawling grounds may sometimes be difficult to fish due to the presence of liners, or of drifters fishing for herring;
- (iii) the weather at both Svinøy and Halten Banks is rather worse than further north on the coast; this is shown in Table 5 which gives the hours of winds of gale force 8 and above, per month, averaged for the period 1955 to 1961.

TABLE 5 Hours of wind of gale force 8 and above,
monthly averages for the years 1955-1961

| Area | January | February | March | April |
|----------------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|
| Svinøy | 145 | 142 | 98 | 52 |
| Røst | 111 | 101 | 77 | 32 |
| Malangen -Andenes | 87 | 73 | 51 | 26 |
| Faeroes | 163 | 126 | 93 | 32 |

Svinøy gets about twice as much wind as Malangen, but roughly the same as the Faeroes. Of course, at Faeroes it is frequently possible to get a lee by moving around the islands in bad weather; on the other hand it is sometimes possible to avoid the worst of the weather at Svinøy Bank by moving from the north to the south end of the bank, or vice-versa.

From the Norwegian and German reports, Halten Bank should provide as good fishing as Svinøy Bank; indeed in the last two years Halten Bank seems to have provided the better fishing. The Halten Bank has the disadvantages that:-

- (i) like Svinøy Bank the catches are mainly coalfish;
- (ii) the ground is rough;
- (iii) the bank suffers the same bad weather as Svinøy but is more exposed;
- (iv) it is about 150 miles further from port than Svinøy Bank.

APPENDIX - Norwegian Fishing Reports

"Fiskets Gang" for the weeks ending 14th January to 1st April 1961

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 14th January | Sunnmøre and Romsdal* had landings of 230 tons of saithe. |
| 21st January | Sunnmøre and Romsdal landings included 133 tons of cod and 142 tons of saithe. |
| 4th February | Good hauls of saithe were reported by net boats fishing on the Halten Bank. One boat caught 14 tons - 3,500 fish - in one haul of 40 nets. Sunnmøre and Romsdal had 352 tons of fish which were mostly saithe. |
| 11th February | In Møre and Romsdal 153 tons of cod and 522 tons of saithe were landed. |
| 18th February | The fishing in Møre-Romsdal was small. |
| 25th February | Landings of roundfish, other than cod, were small. |
| 4th March | - |
| 11th March | Landings of saithe were small. |
| 18th March | Landings of saithe were small. |
| 25th March | At Sunnmøre and Romsdal 385 tons of saithe, 2 tons of haddock and 36 tons of dogfish were landed. (Cod were not included in these figures.) |
| 1st April | Møre-Romsdal had improved landings of saithe and cod. |

* N.B. Sunnmøre, or Møre and Romsdal, refer to Svinøy Bank.

"Fiskets Gang" for weeks ending 17th January-7th April 1962

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 13th January | Sunnmøre and Romsdal had landings of 260 tons groundfish which included 66 tons of cod and 161 tons of saithe taken by net fishermen in one or two days' fishing. |
| 20th January | Saithe and cod fishing was the most productive form of fishing in Sunnmøre and Romsdal waters. Under adverse weather conditions 78 tons of cod, 172 tons of saithe and 35 tons of other fish were landed. |
| 27th January | Fiskets Gang for this week not available. |
| 3rd February) 10th February) | There is not much to say regarding fish landings in districts south of Lofoten. |
| 17th February | In the more southern districts 600-700 tons of saithe were landed from Halten Bank during two nights' fishing. In Møre and Romsdal and Sogn and Fjordane some smaller quantities of cod, saithe and dogfish were landed. |
| 3rd March | Rather good catches of saithe were landed from Halten Bank. Such landings amounted to some 600 tons in Møre-Romsdal. |
| 10th March | Considerable quantities of saithe were taken by nets and by trawl on the Halten Bank. About 600 tons were landed at Møre ports and probably still more at ports in Trøndelag. |
| 17th March | Net boats and some trawlers had good catches of saithe on Halten Bank. It is believed 1,000 tons were landed. |
| 24th March | The saithe fishing on Halten Bank declined, mostly owing to competition with a fleet of about 300 Russian herring drifters. The net boats, however, found rather good saithe fishing on the banks off Sunnmøre and Romsdal. Three trawlers landed 230 tons of saithe at Kristiansund from Halten Bank, while net boats landed about 1,470 tons from Sunnmøre and Romsdal grounds. |
| 31st March | Considerable quantities of coalfish were taken on the Halten Bank and on the grounds off Møre og Romsdal. Landings amounted to about 1,190 tons. |
| 7th April | Landings in Møre and Romsdal were small. |

"Fiskets Gang" for weeks ending 10th January to 30th March 1963

- 10th January On the Halten Bank on several grounds off Møre the saithe fishery started with nets. It was partly successful, landing 41 tons of cod and 99 tons of saithe.
- 26th January Møre-Romsdal had 147 tons of fish, mostly cod and saithe.
- 2nd February Improving weather conditions resulted in a good saithe fishery with nets on the Aktivneset (South-western Svinøy Bank). Some boats landed catches of 44 tons. On 2nd February 578 tons of saithe were landed at Alesund and other Sunnmøre ports; 184 tons were landed at Maløy.
- 9th February Between 3,700 and 3,800 tons of saithe were taken off the Romsdal and Sunnmøre coast, mainly with nets.
- 16th February Saithe fishing with nets and trawls on Halten Bank and other grounds to Aktivneset (this includes Svinøy Bank) gave about 2,200 tons, of which 1,410 tons were landed at Alesund and the ports of Sunnmøre; much dogfish was also caught.
- 23rd February From the Halten Bank and grounds off Møre and Romsdal (mainly Svinøy Bank) about 1,300 tons of saithe were landed by net boats and trawlers.
- 2nd March From the Halten Bank 214 tons of headed saithe were landed at Kristiansund by six trawlers and 505 tons from net boats.
- 9th March Landings of saithe were 856 tons, of which 356 tons had been taken on the Halten Bank. The quantity includes six trawler landings amounting to 180 tons of headed fish.
- 16th March The saithe fishery at Halten Bank was smaller. At Frøya 49 tons were landed and at Kristiansund 25 tons. On the grounds off Sunnmøre and Romsdal (Svinøy Bank) the saithe reappeared and a quantity of 533 tons was landed. The fish were feeding on herring spawn.
- 23rd March Trawlers and net boats landed 2,073 tons of saithe at Frøya and Møre ports. Catches were good on Halten Bank and on various grounds to the south.
- 30th March From Halten Bank and various grounds southwards to Aktivneset (South-western Svinøy Bank) only about 26 stones of saithe were landed. The saithe fishery is on the decrease; the season has been very good for the fishermen.