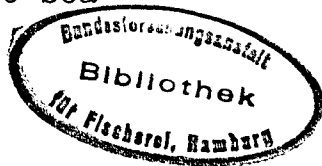


Ref.: H (Pelagic Fish (N) Cttee)
F (Demersal Fish (N) Cttee)
L (Plankton Cttee)



Monthly Synoptic Charts of Bottom Temperature
and Salinity in the North Sea: A Trial for
the Months May-December, 1970

by

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ICES Service Hydrographique

At the Statutory Meeting in 1970 it was decided (C.Res. 1970/4:2) that

"bottom temperatures and, if possible, also bottom salinities be collected at as many places as possible, preferably at distances of about 30 miles, by research vessels of member countries on the Continental Shelf of ICES Areas II, IIIa, IV, V, VIa, VII, and XIV. In addition, temperatures and salinities at 100 m depth should be collected in Area II and at 10 m depth in Area IIIa. Light vessels are requested to take these measurements at least once a week. The countries are urged to forward these data as soon as possible, preferably at the end of each voyage, respectively at the end of each month, to the Council's Hydrographer. The Council's Hydrographer will prepare monthly charts of temperature and salinity distributions based on this information, and provide ICES member countries with copies of these charts within six months. The charts will also be reviewed at the 59th Statutory Meeting."

In accordance with this Resolution monthly charts of temperature and salinity at 10 m depth and near bottom in the ICES Area IIIa (i.e. Skagerrak + Kattegat) have been prepared and distributed regularly; some sample charts are presented in Doc. C.M.1971/C:17.

Furthermore, as also requested by C.M.1970, charts were prepared of temperature and salinity at bottom and surface in that area of the North Sea covered by the ICES Young Herring Survey 1971. Separate charts were prepared for each of the months involved, i.e. January-March, together with anomaly charts of bottom temperature and salinity for February. Some provisional charts, based upon the material then at disposal, were made available to the meeting of the relevant Working Group in April. The final charts are presented in Doc. C.M.1971/C:12.

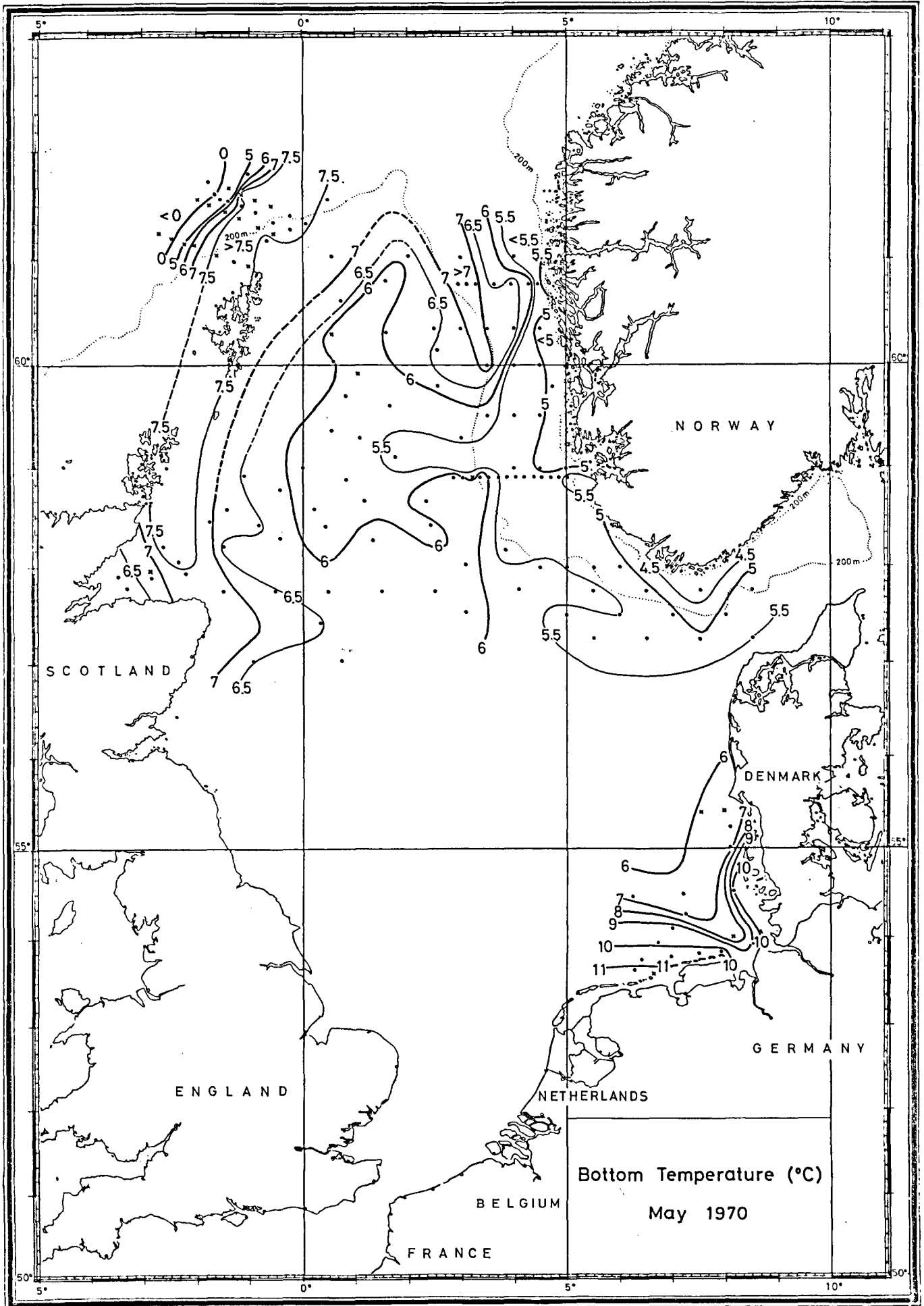
Of the regions mentioned in the Resolution quoted above it was reckoned that, besides Area IIIa which is already dealt with, Area IV, i.e. the North Sea, would generally have the best coverage of observations. It was therefore decided to try out what monthly charts of bottom temperature and salinity could be prepared for this area. As it was anyhow considered impossible in the start not to exceed the maximum delay of 6 months stipulated in the Resolution, for the distribution of the charts it was found natural to begin with the same month in Area IV as in Area IIIa, i.e. May 1970. The various institutes and data centres were requested to supply us with copies of relevant data for the months May-December, 1970. On the basis of the material received the charts appended to this document were prepared.

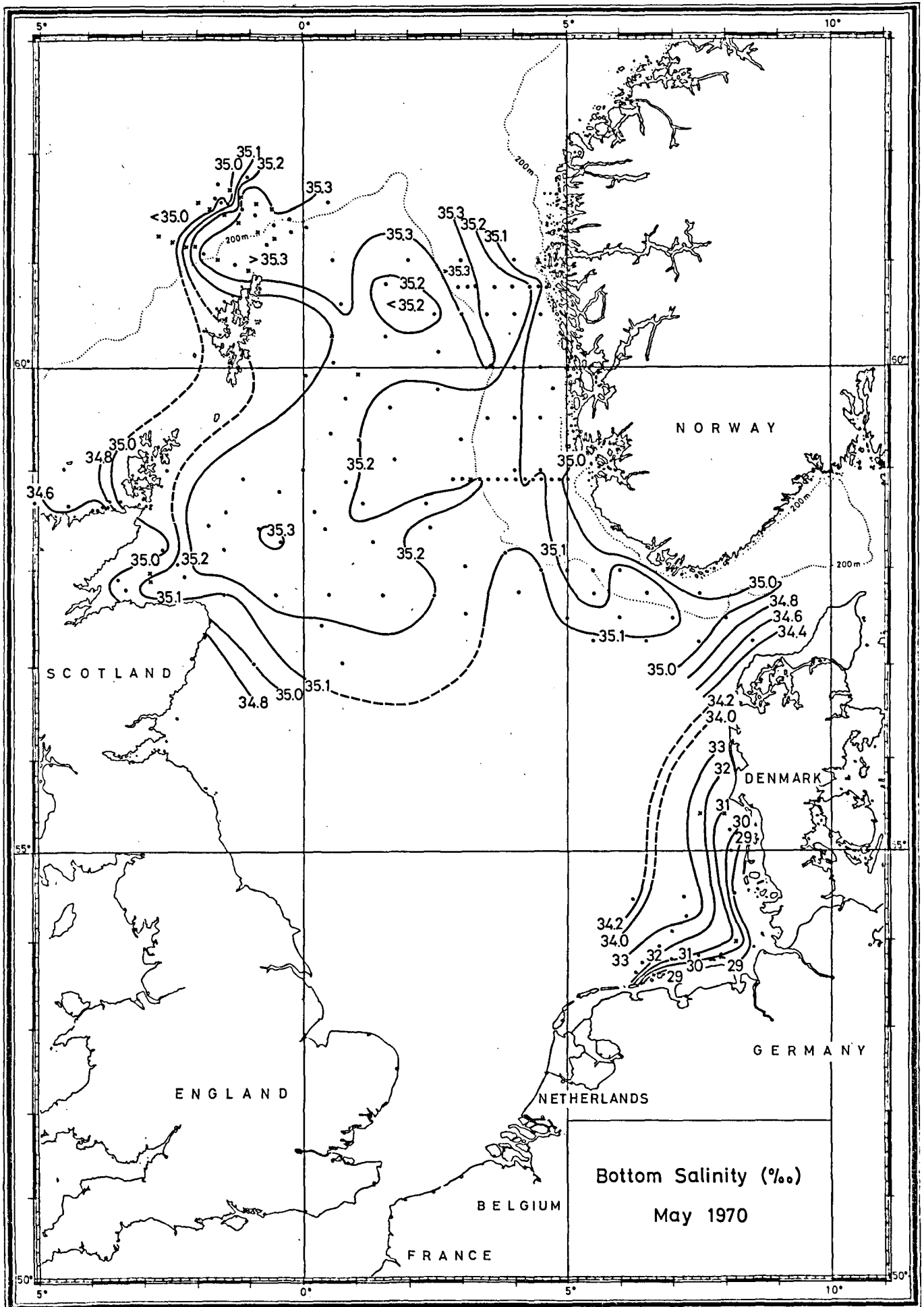
As appears from the charts there is in some months a fairly good coverage of the whole North Sea whereas in other months this holds good for minor regions only.

It may be hoped that for the months following those covered by the present charts more bottom temperature data will be available, in response to the Council Resolution (C.Res. 1970/4:1) by which "member countries be urged to examine the possibility of increasing the number of bottom temperature observations, including bathythermograph observations, made on the Continental Shelf in Areas IV, VIa and VII"

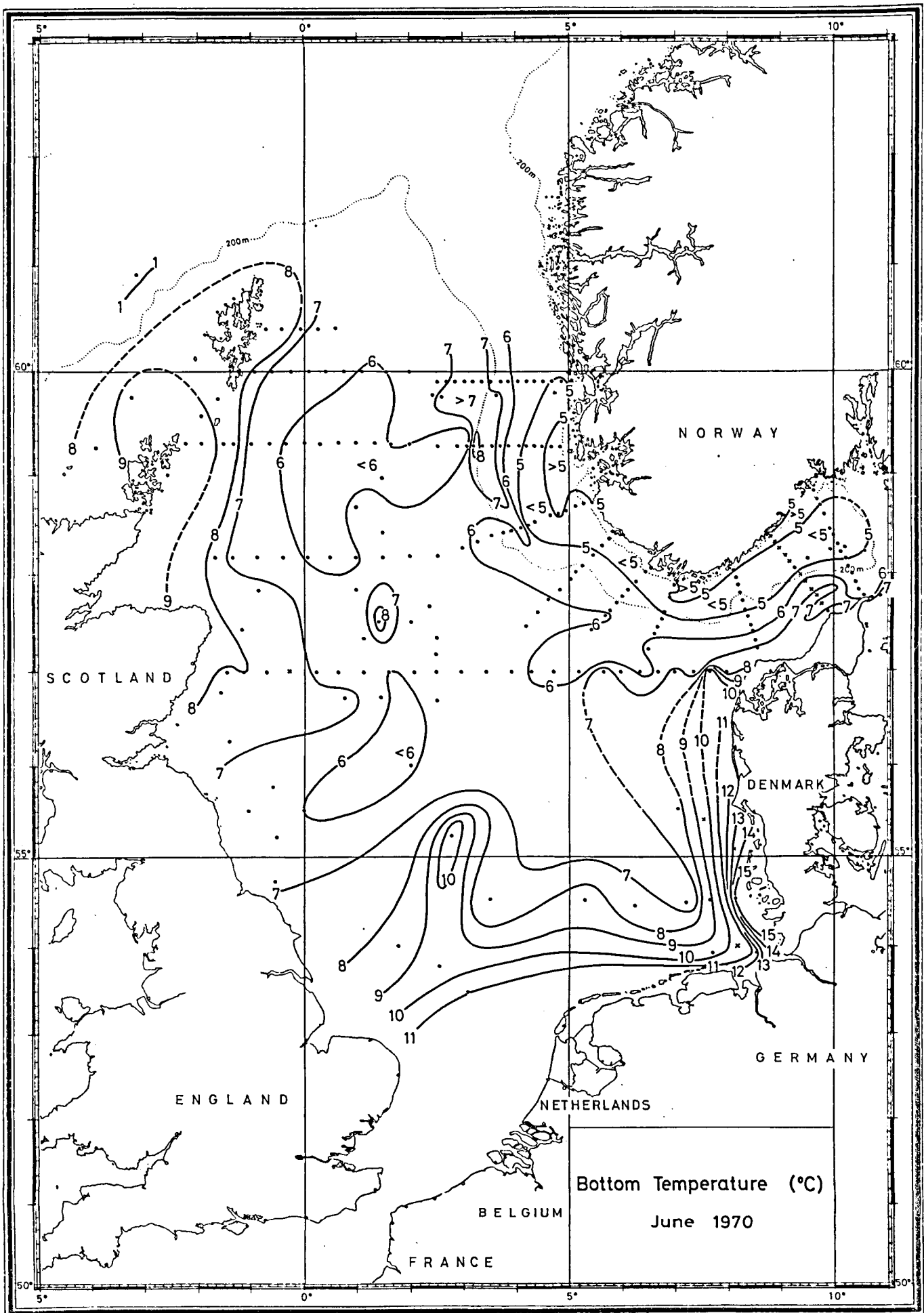
Although the present charts are somewhat delayed it is expected that when the preparation of the charts has become a routine matter there would be a reasonable chance to comply with the stipulated time limit of 6 months.

Finally, attention is drawn to the possibility for supplying regularly, if so desired, also monthly anomaly charts, such as those of Figs. 13 and 14 of Doc. C.M.1971/C:12.

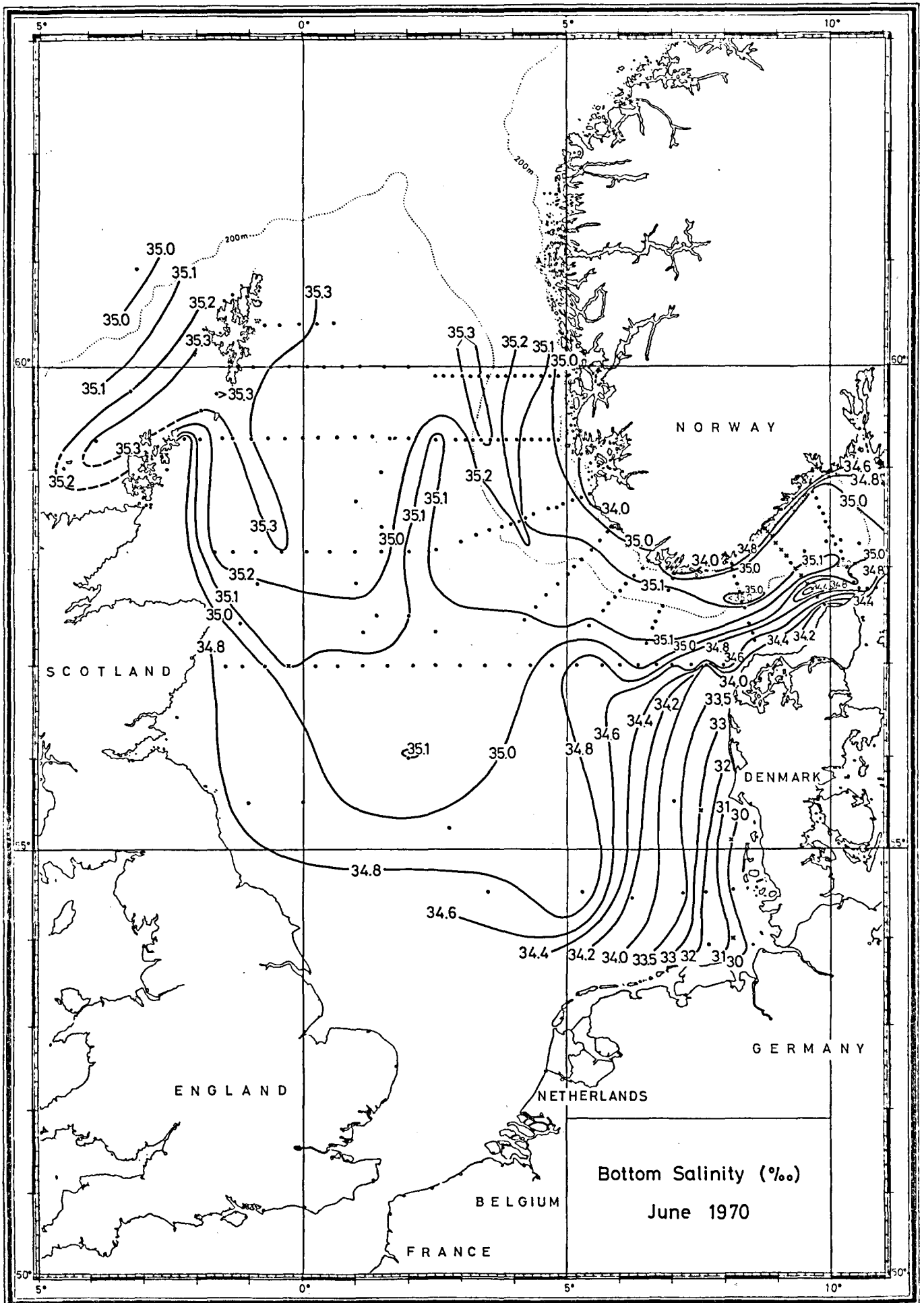


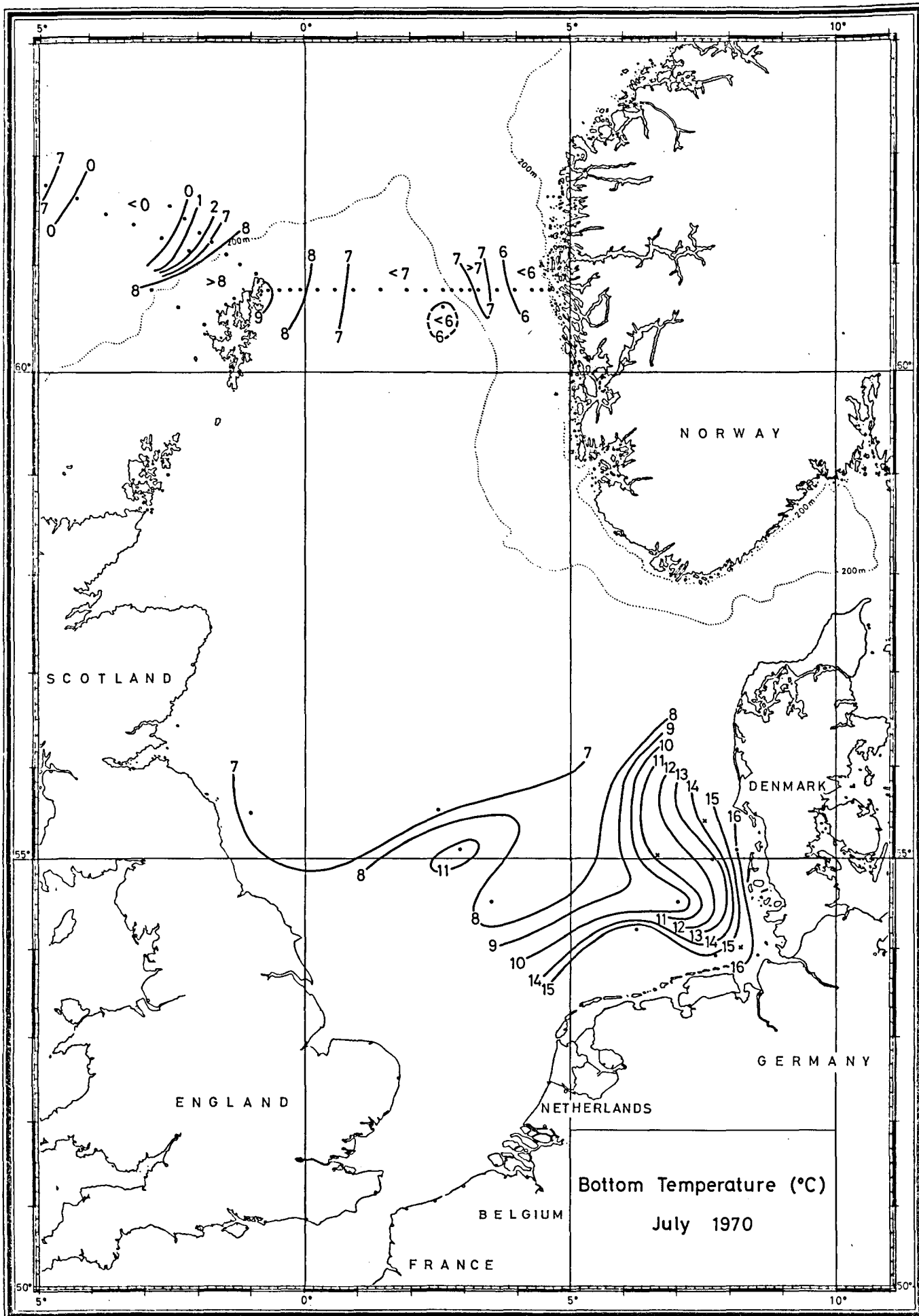


Bottom Salinity (‰)
May 1970

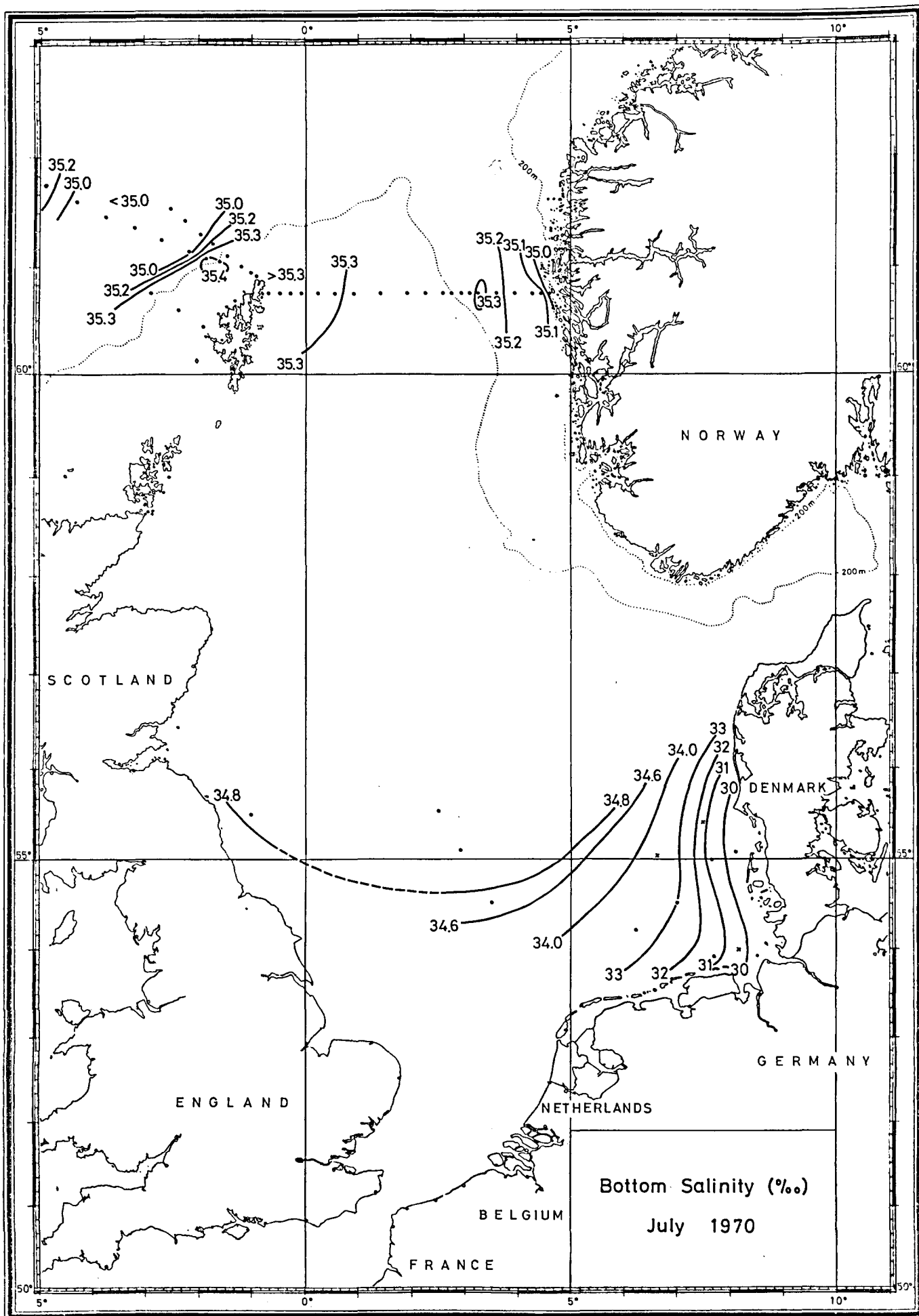


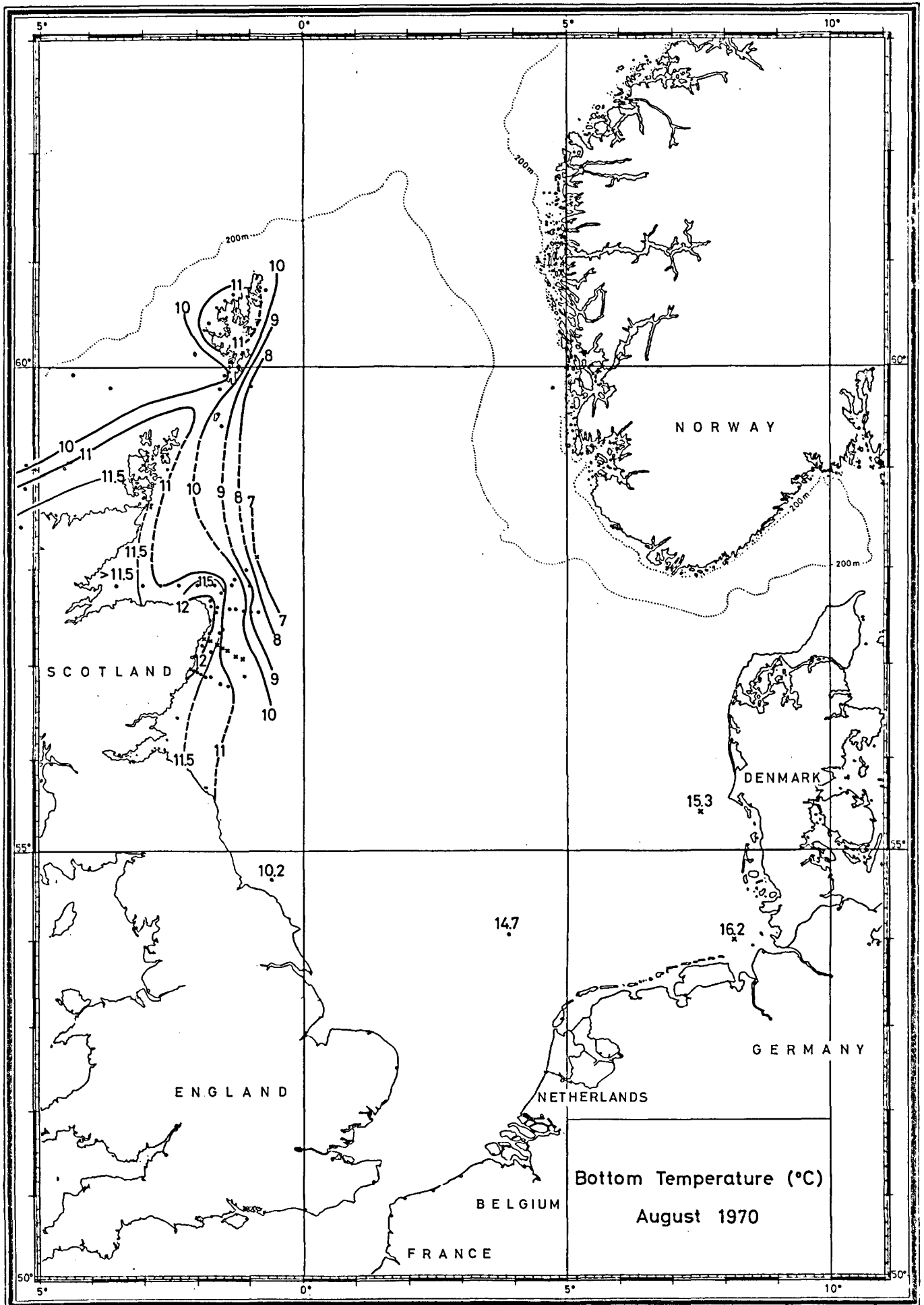
Bottom Temperature (°C)
June 1970



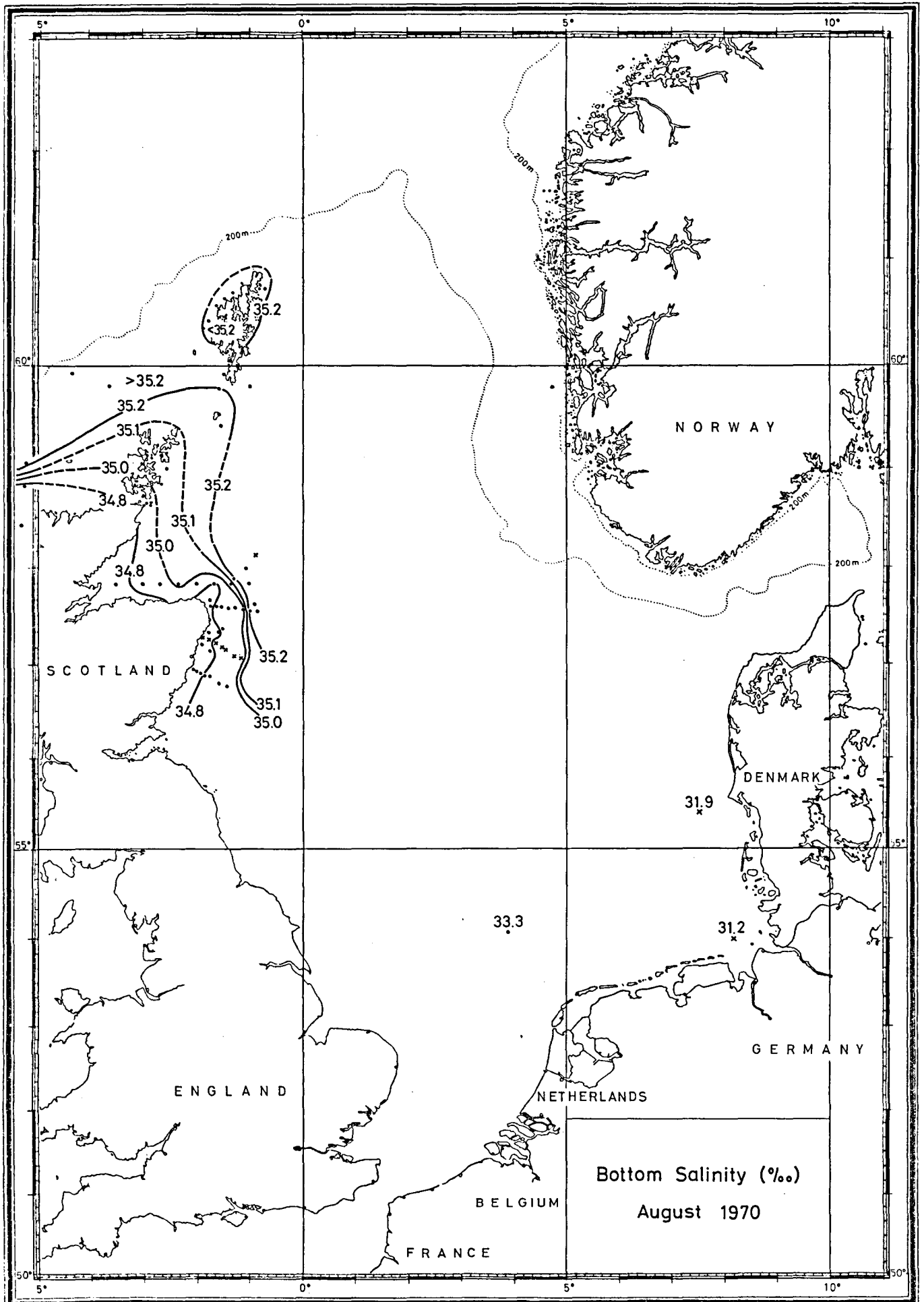


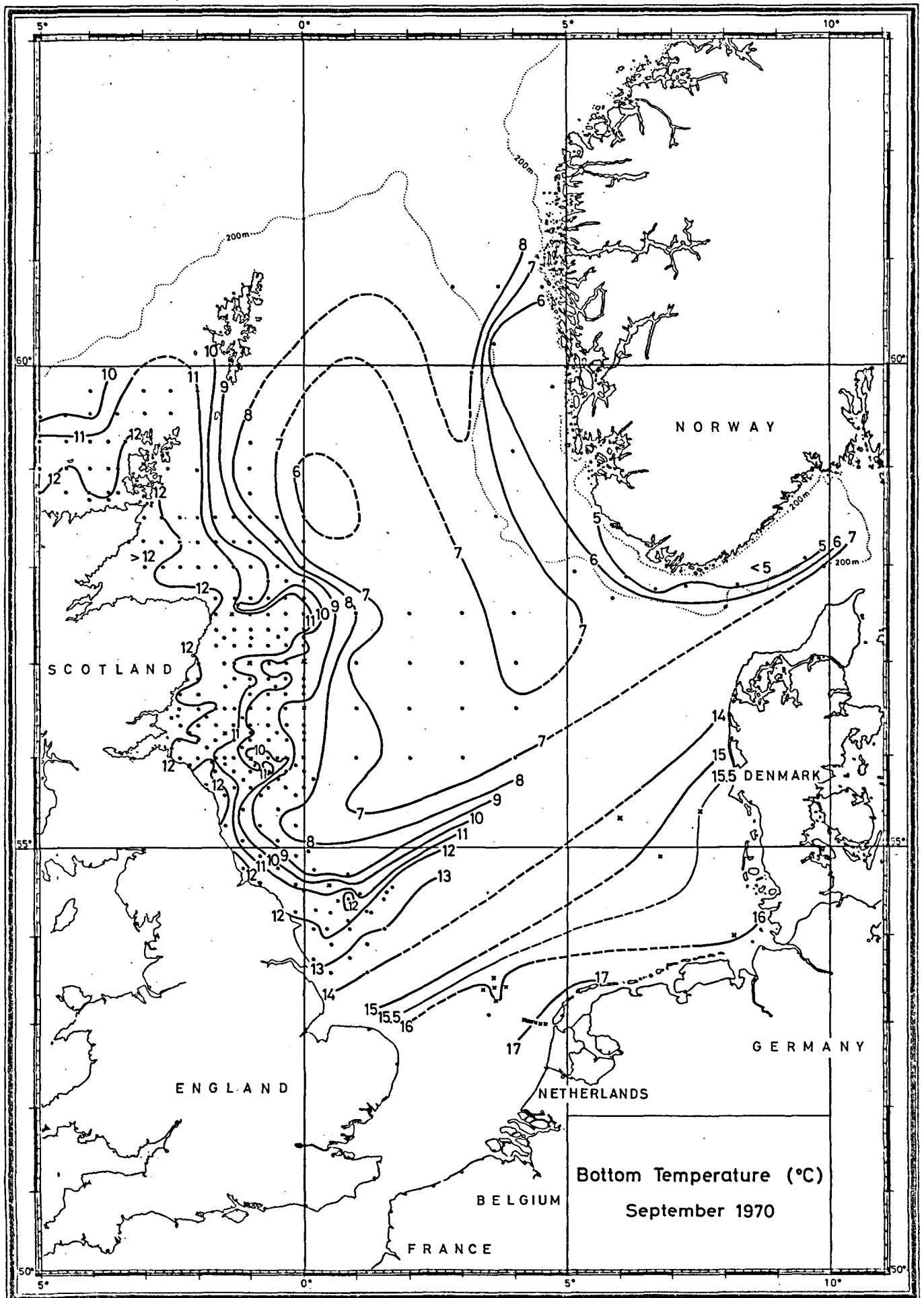
Bottom Temperature (°C)
July 1970



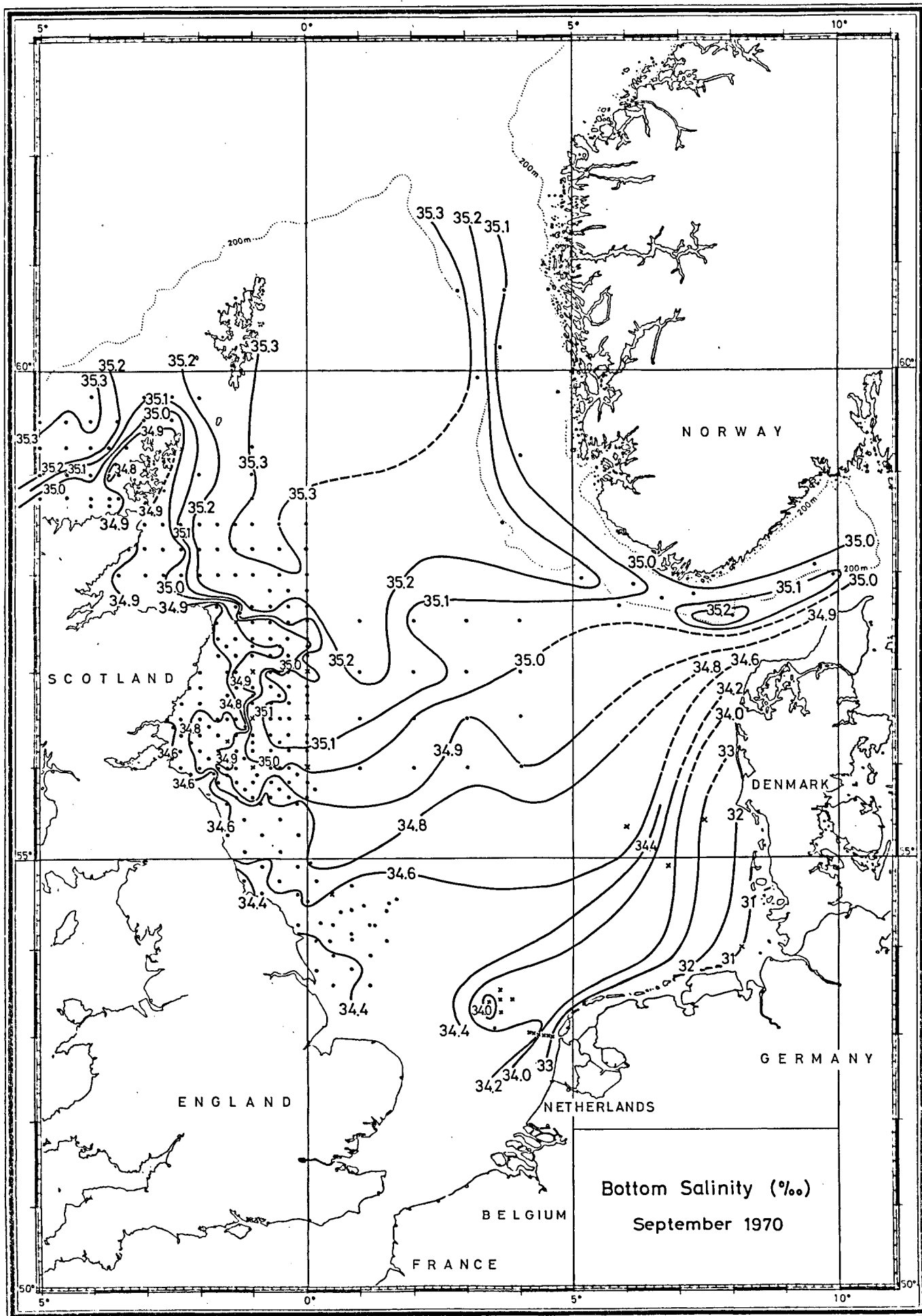


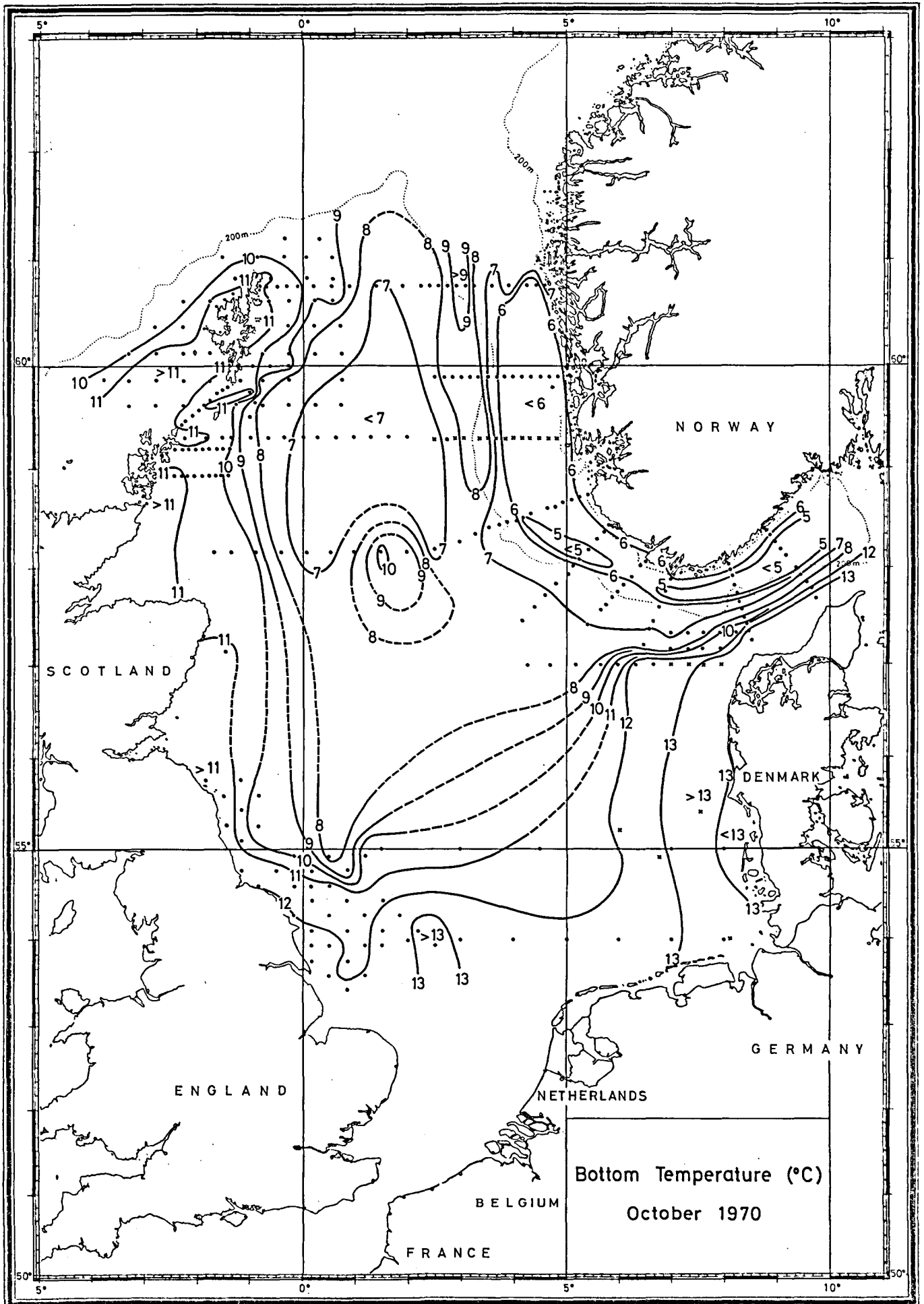
Bottom Temperature (°C)
August 1970



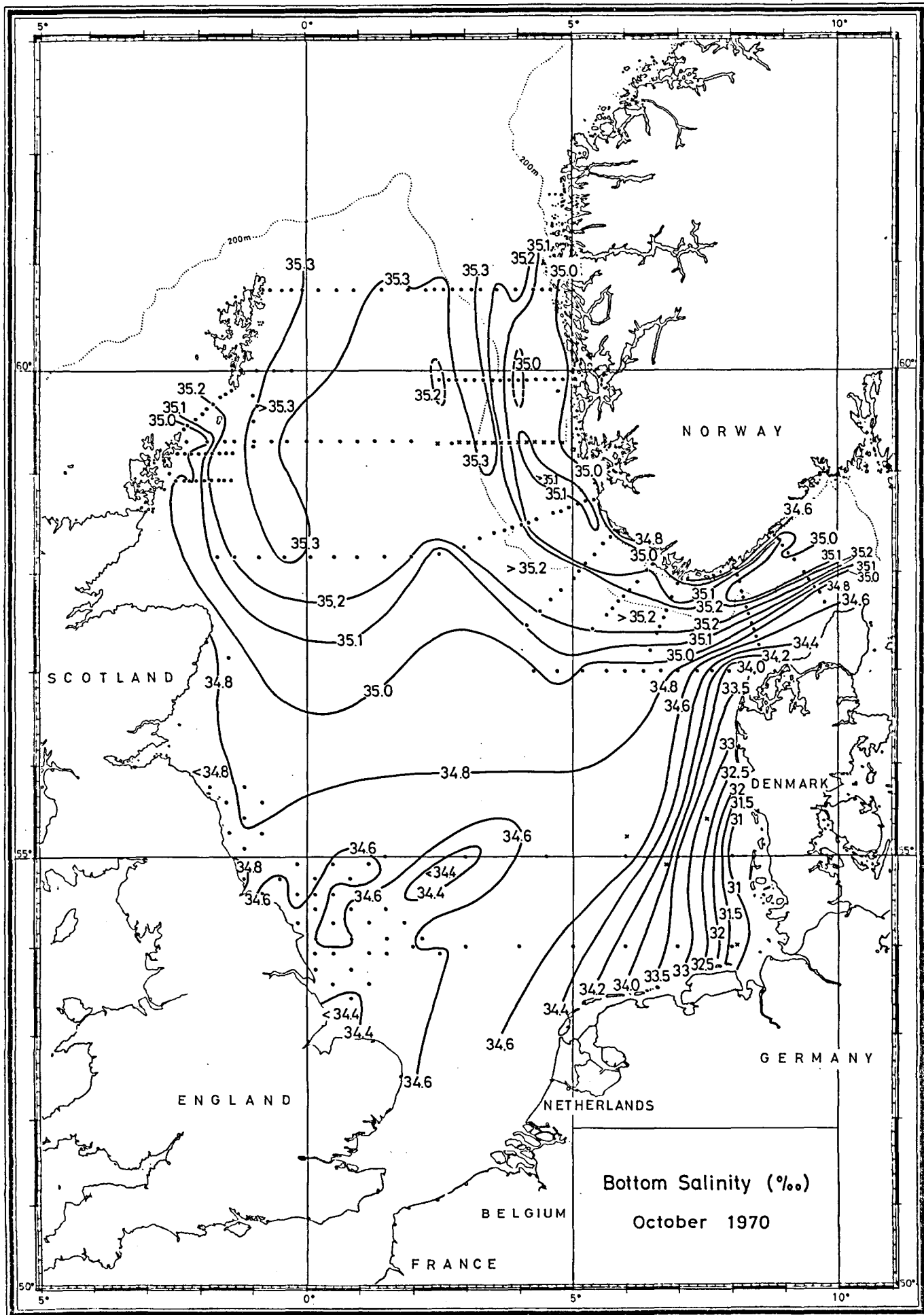


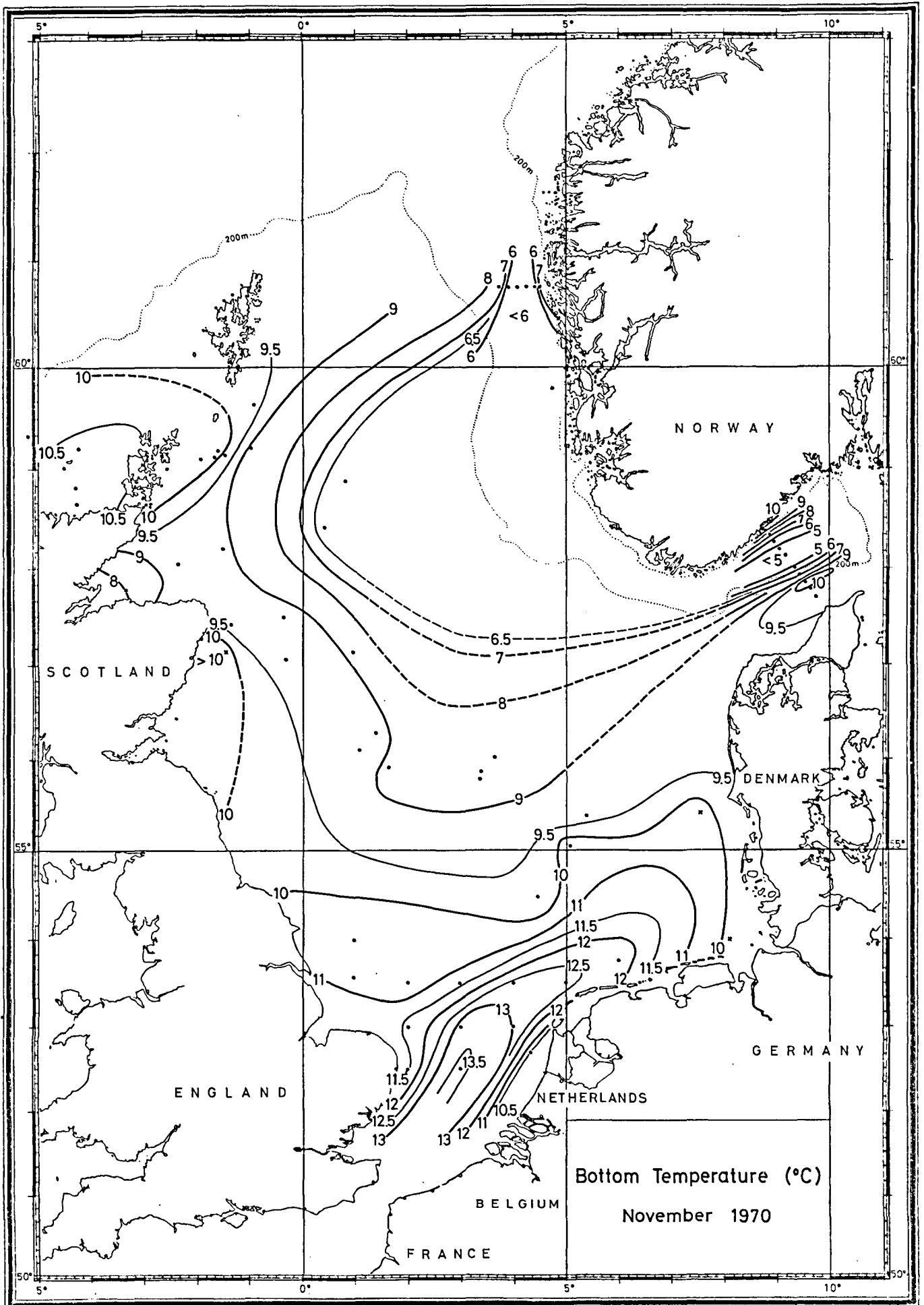
Bottom Temperature (°C)
September 1970



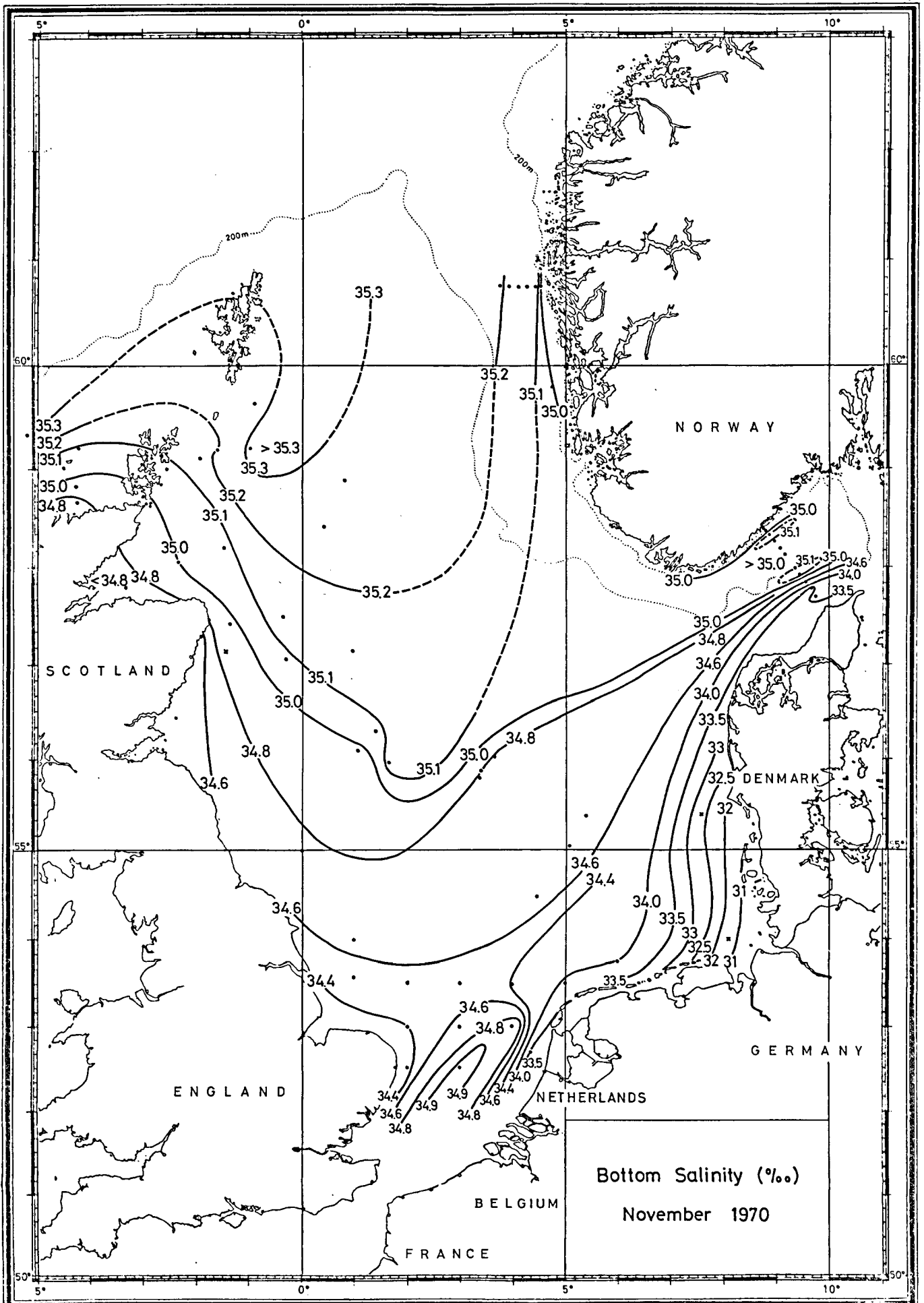


Bottom Temperature (°C)
October 1970





Bottom Temperature (°C)
November 1970



Bottom Salinity (‰)
November 1970

