

ICES STATISTICAL RECTANGLE CODING SYSTEM

At the 1976 Statutory Meeting the Council decided that (C.Res.1976/4:10):

"member countries are urged to provide statistical and biological data by ICES statistical rectangles, taking into account the importance of this reporting for the future requirements arising from anticipated changes in the fishery jurisdiction, as well as for the Assessment Working Groups and the ICES FISHDAT System."

The uniform coding system for ICES statistical rectangles was adopted by the Council at the 1974 Statutory Meeting (C.Res.1974/4:8):

"It was decided that:

the routine reporting of statistical and biological data by statistical rectangles should be made in accordance with the rectangle coding system described in Doc.C.M.1974/D:11 (Section 3.8 and Figure 1), commencing with the 1974 data; the northing co-ordinate (latitude) must be stated first. The Statistician should inform all member countries of this change."

In accordance with that resolution, the ICES Statistician informed members of the Statistics and all "Fish" Committees, as well as the Chairmen of relevant Working Groups (circular letter dated 6 December 1974), of the uniform coding system together with its description and three charts on which the system was superimposed.

The principle of the statistical rectangle coding system is as follows. The latitudinal rows, each of which are 30' wide, are numbered (two digits) from 01 at the southern boundary of the ICES statistical area (36°00'N latitude (see ICES No.2 chart)) northwards to 99. The northern limit of the statistical rectangle system is thus 85°30'N latitude. The longitudinal columns, each of which are 1° wide, are coded according to an alphanumeric system which starts at the western boundary of the ICES statistical area (44°00'W longitude (see ICES No.1 chart)) with A0, continuing A1, A2, A3 to 40°W longitude. East of 40°W the system continues B0, B1, B2 ... to B9, C0, C1, C2 ... C9 etc., using a different letter for each 10° block and covering the entire west-east extent of the ICES statistical area, thus:

A: 44°W - 40°W	G: 10°E - 20°E
B: 40°W - 30°W	H: 20°E - 30°E
C: 30°W - 20°W	J: 30°E - 40°E
D: 20°W - 10°W	K: 40°E - 50°E
E: 10°W - 0°	L: 50°E - 60°E
F: 0° - 10°E	M: 60°E - 68°30'E (M8)

Note that letter I is omitted.

When designating a statistical rectangle, the northing co-ordinate is to be stated first. Thus, the rectangle of which the south-west corner is 54°00'N, 3°00'E is designated 37 F3.

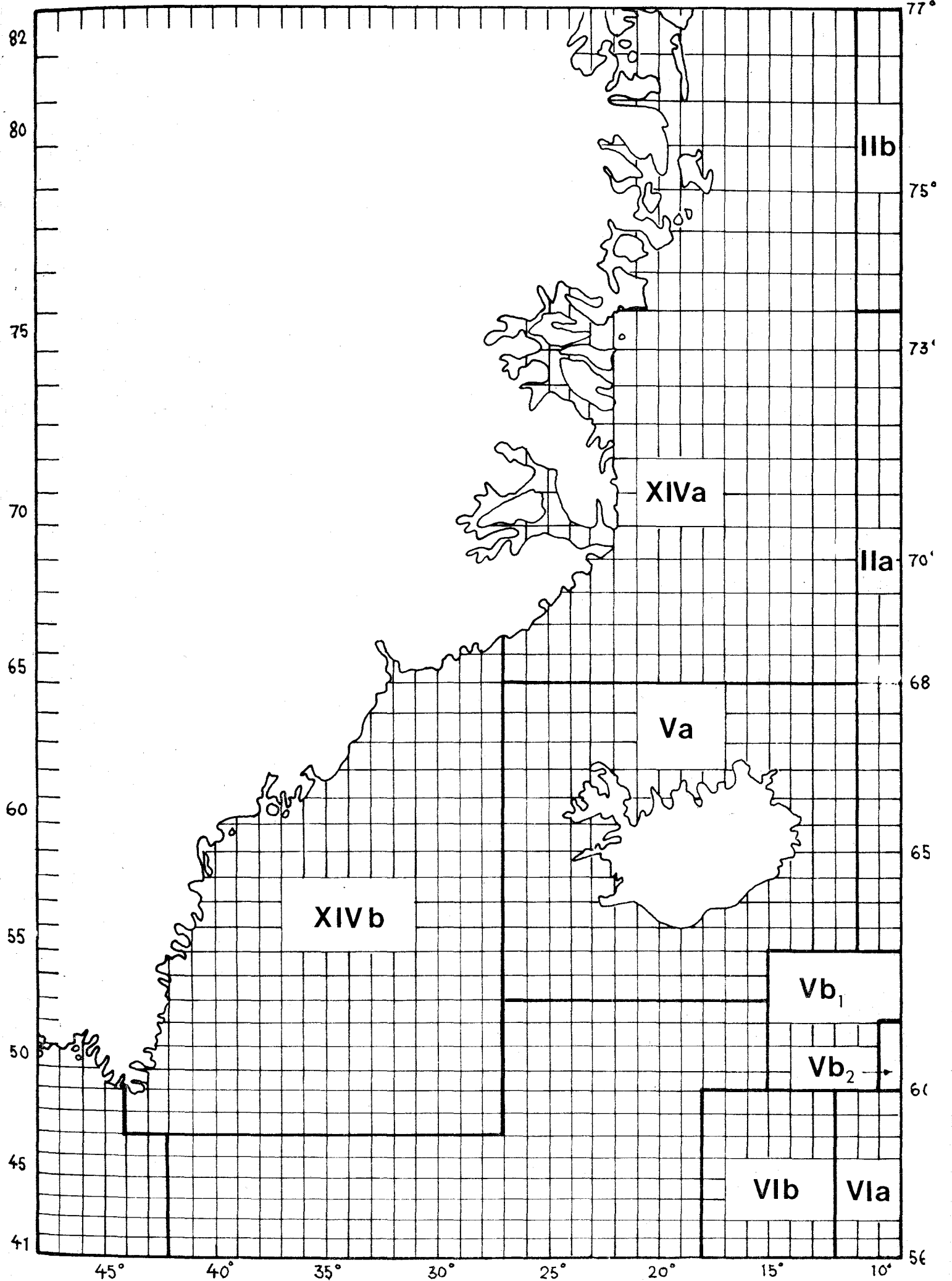
It will obviously be an advantage if national laboratories and statistical offices all use one and the same system for coding of statistical rectangles throughout the North-East Atlantic. In order to facilitate this, and taking into account some changes in statistical boundaries agreed upon by the Council recently (i.e. separation of Division VII,d,e into

two Divisions, separation of Sub-Area XIV into two Divisions XIVa and XIVb), five charts of the ICES fishing areas with the rectangle network superimposed on them are attached to this document:

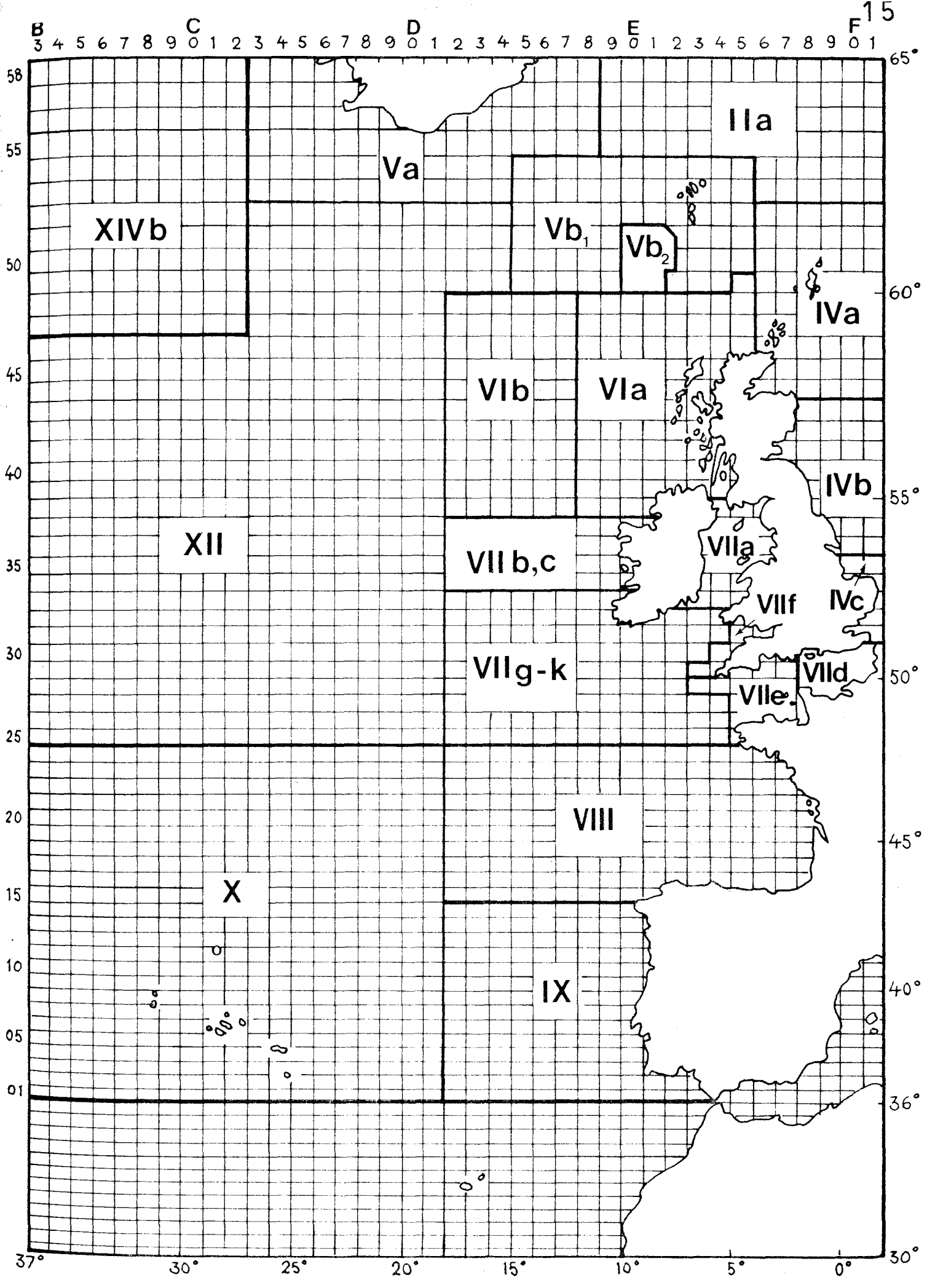
- 1) ICES No.1 - Divisions XIVa, XIVb and Va;
- 2) ICES No.2 - Divisions of Sub-Areas VI and VII, Sub-Areas VIII and IX, major parts of Sub-Areas X and XII, Sub-Divisions Vb₁ and Vb₂;
- 3) ICES No.3 - Divisions of Sub-Area IV and those parts of Sub-Areas VI and VII adjacent to UK and Ireland;
- 4) ICES No.4 - Major parts of Divisions IIa and IIb adjacent to the coast of Norway and of Spitzbergen;
- 5) ICES 27.3.03.00 (Baltic) - Divisions IIIId, IIIIb, IIIIc and part of Division IIIIa brought down to Sub-Divisions 21 - 32.

Copies of the charts were sent in advance to national statistical reporting offices and members of the Statistics Committee immediately after having been prepared with the kind assistance of the Danish Institute for Fisheries and Marine Research.

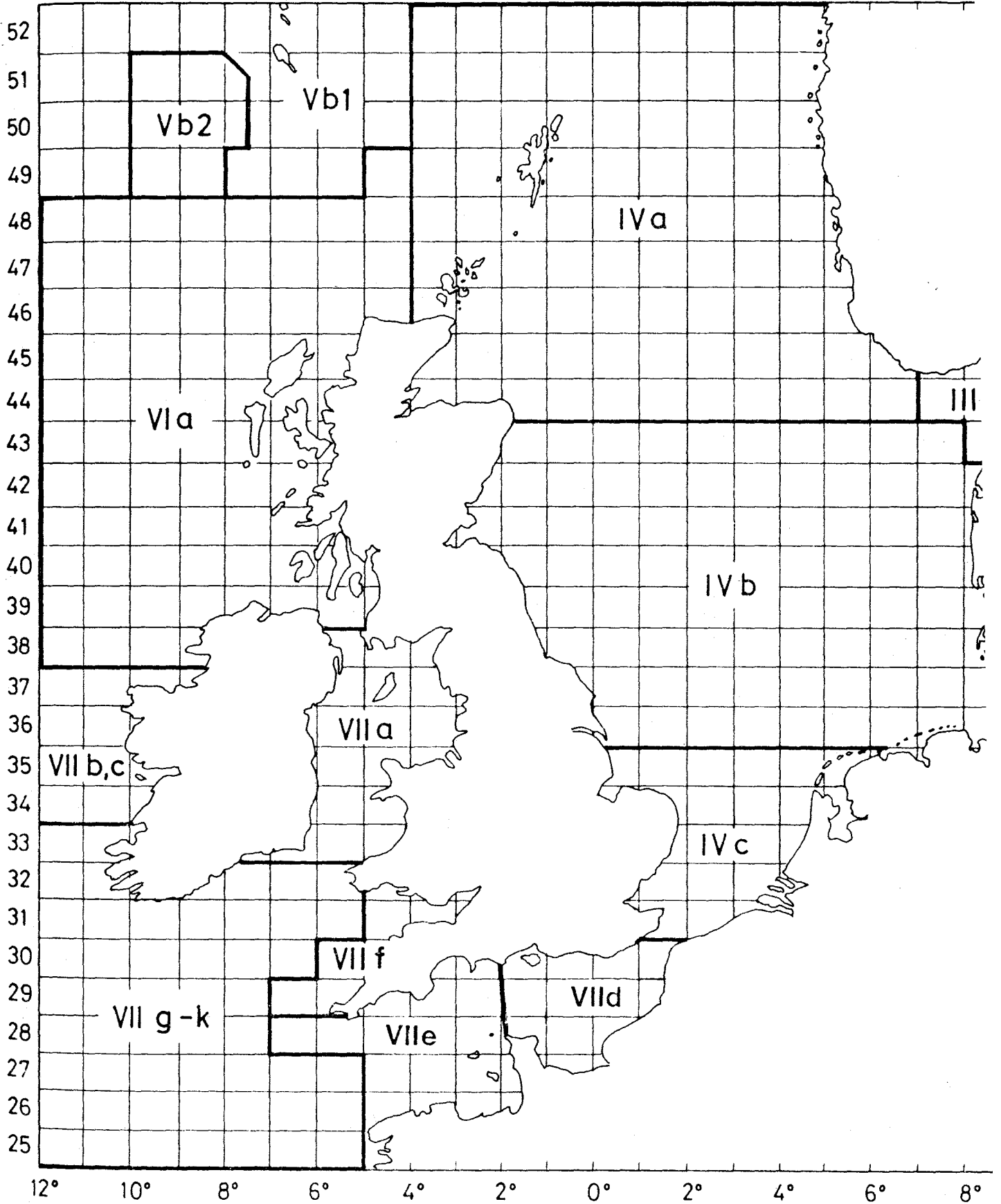
A 0 1 2 3 B 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 C 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 D 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 E 0



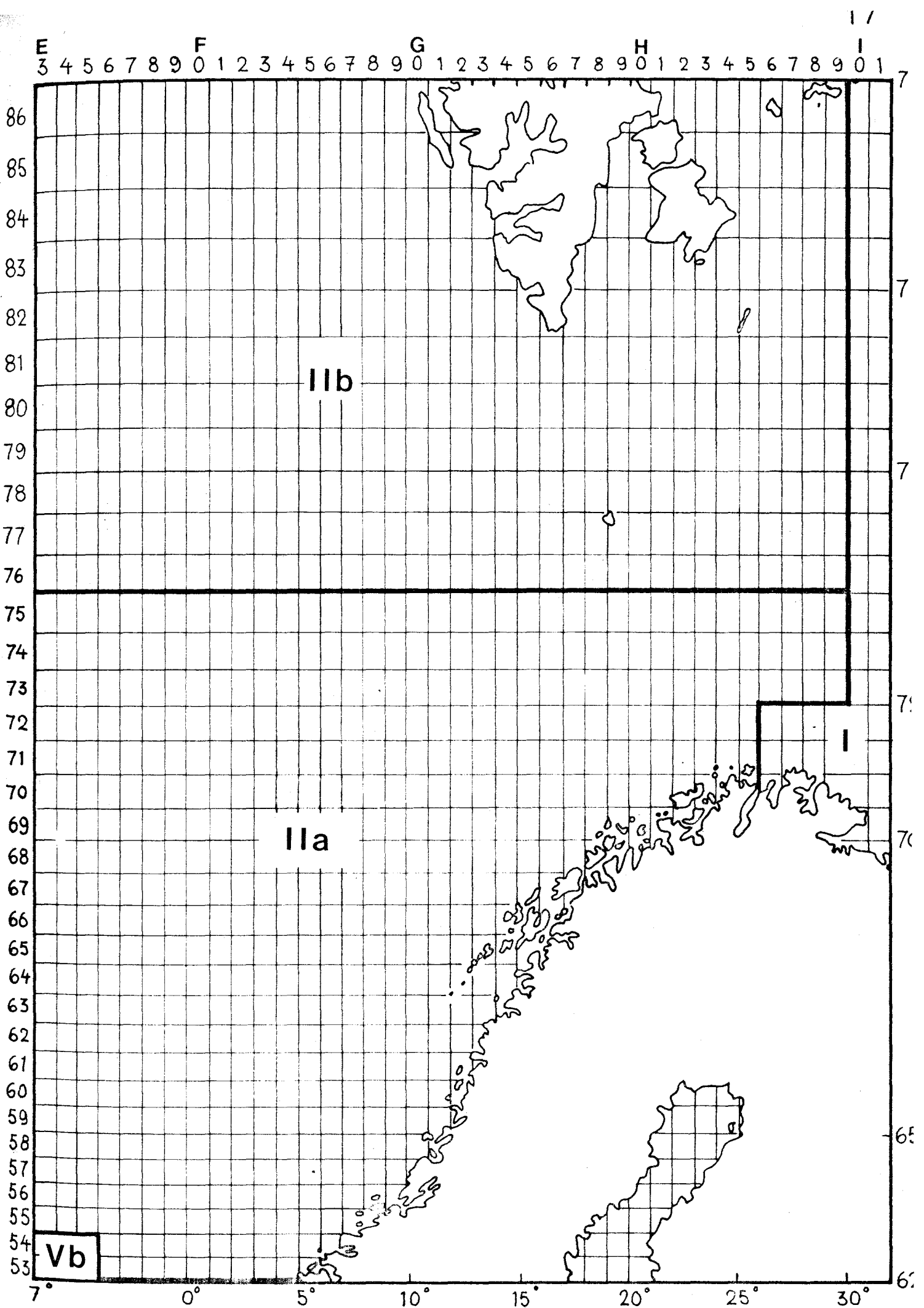
ICES No. 1



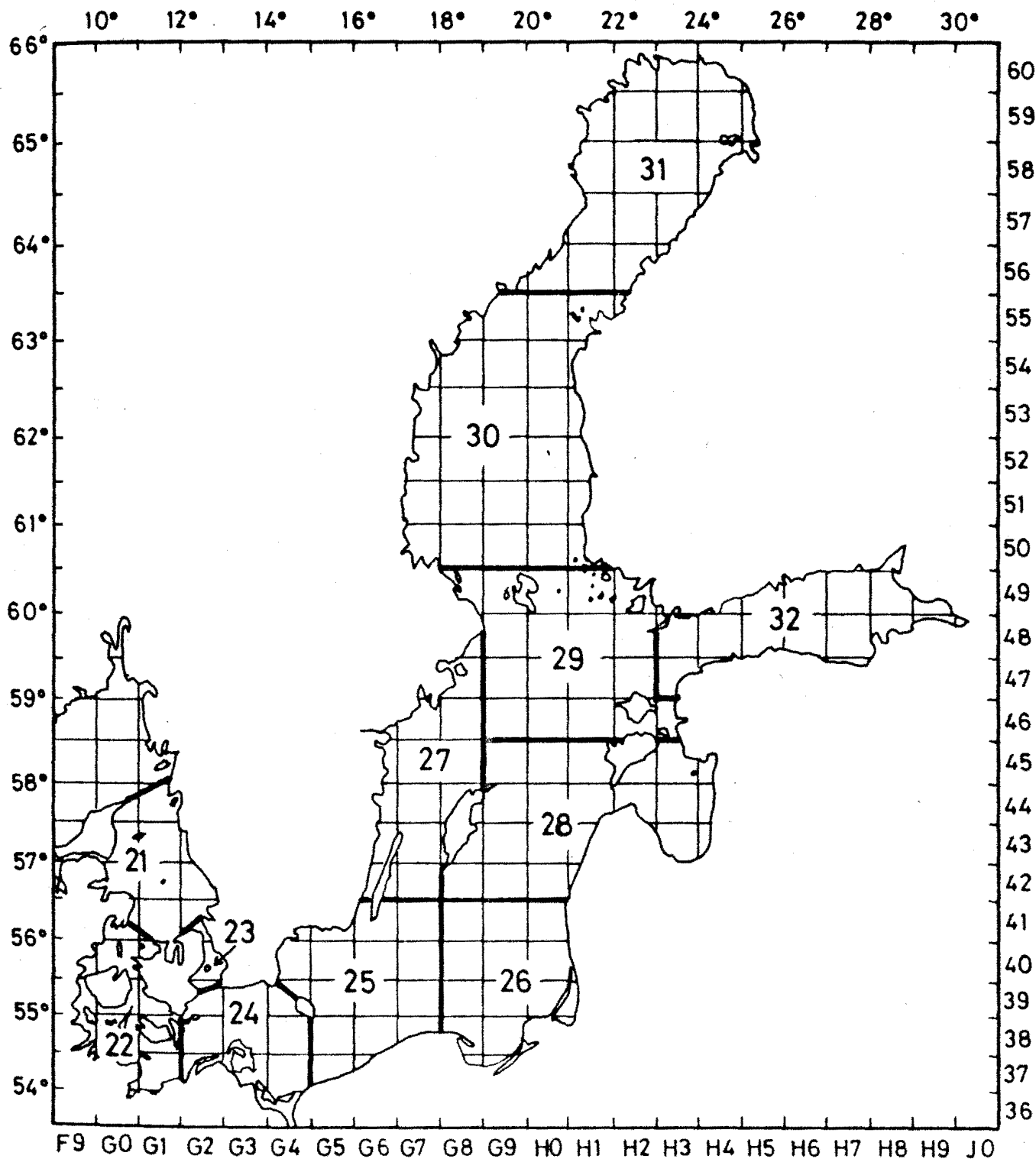
D8 D9 E0 E1 E2 E3 E4 E5 E6 E7 E8 E9 F0 F1 F2 F3 F4 F5 F6 F7 F



ICES No 3



ICES No 4



ICES 27.3.03.00 (Baltic)