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**Summary Data Atlas
of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie**

**Summarization of Temperature Data
and Oxygen Content by Months for
Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, 1960-1970**

C.C.I.W. PAPER NO. 10

**CANADA CENTRE FOR INLAND WATER
BURLINGTON, ONTARIO, 1971**



Environment
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Canada

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Summary Data Atlas of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie

INTRODUCTION

This Atlas summarizes temperature and dissolved oxygen data from lake-wide sampling surveys of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie during the years 1960-1970 inclusive. The purpose is to provide information on the ranges of value and average conditions of temperature and oxygen content of the lakes for scientific, engineering, and water management needs.

In order to achieve this, a summary was made of temperature and oxygen data collected by the Great Lakes Institute of the University of Toronto (now the Institute of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, University of Toronto) and the Canada Centre for Inland Waters in a series of surveys of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie from 1960 to 1970. Surface and near bottom values were summarized by machine plotting and hand contouring the data for each cruise. These contoured data were then digitized by hand on a predetermined grid and the gridded values summarized by month for presentation in this Atlas. A regular rectangular grid was made up to fit the lake and the size of the grid was determined by approximately equating the number of grid points that appeared on the lake to the number of actual observations that would be made during a typical survey.

Presented in this Atlas is the near surface temperature, the near bottom temperature, the near bottom percent saturation of oxygen (relative to the mean atmospheric pressure) and the depth of the top of the hypolimnion (the deep, near isothermal layer of the lake). The values given are a summary of monthly gridded values. The first number at any grid point is the minimum value interpolated at that point from all the observations made during that month for the periods included. A whole survey was considered to be in a particular month if more than half of it was observed in that month. The second value at a grid point is the average of all the values interpolated at that point during the month presented. The decimal point of the average value represents the grid point to which the values were interpolated. The third value is the maximum obtained and the fourth and last number is the number of values available for the monthly summarization at the grid point.

The temperature data used were primarily reversing-thermometer data from one metre depth and from a depth

within twenty percent of the total depth from the bottom, at each observation point. The reversing thermometer measures temperature to at least an accuracy of $\pm 0.05^{\circ}\text{C}$ but real temperatures of near surface waters would not have been measured this accurately because of the water being mixed by the ship taking the observation. Data from mechanical bathythermograph traces were used to supplement missing reversing-thermometer temperatures in a few instances. The bathythermograph data can only be expected to be accurate to $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$.

The data concerning the depth of the top of the hypolimnion were extracted from mechanical bathythermograph traces. Normally, during summer months the Great Lakes are divided into three layers defined by the temperature profile from the surface to the bottom of the lake. These layers are known as the epilimnion, mesolimnion and hypolimnion. The epilimnion is the warmer, nearly isothermal layer at the surface of the lake. The hypolimnion is the deepest nearly isothermal layer. The mesolimnion is more often called the thermocline and is the layer between the epilimnion and hypolimnion where a sharp temperature gradient exists. There are many variations of this structure in the lakes but for purposes of this Atlas the depth of the top of the hypolimnion was defined as the depth where the change of gradient of the temperature was greatest at the bottom of the mesolimnion. This point was digitized by persons examining the traces and selecting the depth according to the above definition.

The percent saturation of oxygen indicates eutrophic conditions of the lakes by showing the depression of the oxygen content near the bottom. These charts should be used in conjunction with the depth of the top of the hypolimnion charts to determine the degree of oxygen depletion in the hypolimnion. Generally speaking the epilimnion will be saturated with oxygen. In the winter it has been found that Lake Erie is 93% or more saturated with oxygen from surveys sponsored by the Canada Centre for Inland Waters from the icebreaker CGSS *McLean* during February and March, 1971.

The percent saturation of oxygen near the bottom of the lakes was calculated from the oxygen content determined from a sample of water and the *in situ* temperature of the lake. The determination of oxygen content using

modified Winkler methods is estimated to be accurate to 0.1 ppm (Rodgers 1972) and the accuracy of the calculation of the percent saturation (Dobson 1968) from the original values of oxygen content and temperature (by reversing thermometers) is estimated to be within 0.3% saturation. The 0.1 ppm error in the oxygen content determination is calculated to produce up to 1.0% saturation error. Hence the total error of percent oxygen saturation can be up to 1.3%. Data for percent oxygen saturation for Lake Erie was obtained by calculating the percent saturation from observed values and then plotting, contouring, digitizing and summarizing these values. However, for Lake Ontario, interpolated gridded values of oxygen content and temperature were used to calculate the percent saturation of oxygen near the bottom of the lake. A comparison of the two methods shows a mean difference of 1.5% saturation at a series of grid points and the standard deviation of these differences was 7.7%. These differences would arise in the interpolation of values at a grid point.

It should be noted that, unlike temperature, oxygen percent saturation is not a climatological parameter. From 1960 to 1970 the oxygen conditions have been changing, particularly in Lake Erie (Gilbertson, Dobson and Lee 1972) depending on progressing eutrophication. These changes are not reflected in the average oxygen percent saturation maps presented here.

As sufficient data become available it is planned to produce further Atlases of other lakes and other parameters.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Individuals responsible for the production of this Data Atlas were D.G. Robertson, R.K. Dolling, R. Gottinger, Mrs. V.A. Jackson, Miss J.E. Bond, Mrs. D.E. Jordan and Miss P. Lloyd-Jones of the Canada Centre for Inland Waters.

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- Glennie, C.J. and T.M. MacLeod. 1967. The Star system for storage and retrieval of scientific data. Canadian Oceanographic Data Centre, Report, 45 pp.
- Rodgers, G.K. 1972. Great Lakes Institute Data Catalogue and Methods for 1960 to 1970. Institute of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, University of Toronto. Publication EG-7, 306 pp.
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- For more detailed information on individual cruises the following data records may be consulted.
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1969. Lake Ontario Cruise 66-1, June 1-5; Cruise 66-2, June 7-10, 1966. Limnological Data Report No. 1. 40 pp.
- Lake Ontario Cruise 66-3, June 15-19, 1966. Limnological Data Report No. 2. 54 pp.
- Lake Ontario Cruise 66-4, June 21-25, 1966. Limnological Data Report No. 3. 88 pp.
- Lake Ontario Cruise 66-5, June 26-30, 1966. Limnological Data Report No. 4. 113 pp.
- Lake Ontario Cruise 66-6, July 4-10, 1966. Limnological Data Report No. 5. 125 pp.
- Lake Ontario Cruise 66-7, July 12-15, Cruise 66-8, July 19-24, 1966. Limnological Data Report No. 6. 116 pp.
- Lake Ontario Cruise 66-9, July 26-29, Cruise 66-10, August 2-7, 1966. Limnological Data Report No. 7. 113 pp.
- Lake Erie Cruise 66-11, August 8-14, 1966. Limnological Data Report No. 8. 105 pp.
- Lake Ontario Cruise 66-12, August 15-19; Cruise 66-14, August 29-September 2, 1966. Limnological Data Report No. 9. 119 pp.
- Lake Ontario Cruise 66-15, September 6-11; Cruise 66-16, September 12-16, 1966. Limnological Data Report No. 10. 80 pp.
- Lake Ontario Cruise 66-17, September 20-24, 1966. Limnological Data Report No. 11. 109 pp.
- Lake Ontario Cruise 66-18, September 26-29; Cruise 66-19, October 1-3, 1966. Limnological Data Report No. 12. 73 pp.
1970. Lake Ontario Cruise 67-001, June 12-17; Cruise 69-003, June 25-29; Cruise 67-005, July 10-13, 1967. Limnological Data Report No. 1. 212 pp.

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- Lake Erie Cruise 67-101, May 30-June 7; Cruise 67-102, June 12-18; Cruise 67-103, June 19-29, 1967. Limnological Data Report No. 1. 230 pp.
- Lake Erie Cruise 67-104, July 4-9; Cruise 67-105, July 10-19; Cruise 67-107, July 31-August 9, 1967. Limnological Data Report No. 2. 186 pp.
- Lake Erie Cruise 67-109, August 21-31; Cruise 67-111, September 11-21; Cruise 67-113, October 2-9; Cruise 67-115, October 23-29, 1967. Limnological Data Report No. 3. 226 pp.
- Lake Ontario Cruise 68-001, April 30-May 3; Cruise 68-005, May 27-30; Cruise 68-009, July 2-6, 1968. Limnological Data Report No. 1. 85 pp.
- Lake Ontario Cruise 68-012, July 23-28; Cruise 68-014, August 19-22; Cruise 68-016, September 8-13, 1968. Limnological Data Report No. 2. 66 pp.
- Lake Ontario Cruise 68-019, October 5-9; Cruise 68-022, October 27-31; Cruise 68-023, November 17-22, 1968. Limnological Data Report No. 3. 100 pp.
- Lake Erie Cruise 68-102, May 17-24; Cruise 68-104, June 15-19; Cruise 68-108, July 29-August 3, 1968. Limnological Data Report No. 1. 152 pp.
- Lake Erie Cruise 68-109, August 31-September 3; Cruise 68-111, September 28-October 4; Cruise 68-112, November 4-10, 1968. Limnological Data Report No. 2. 140 pp.
1972. Lake Ontario Cruise 69-002, April 12-15; Cruise 69-007, May 12-17; Cruise 69-001, June 9-14, 1969. Limnological Data Report No. 1. 201 pp.
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- Lake Ontario Cruise 69-030, October 2-7; Cruise 69-033, October 31-November 5; Cruise 69-034, December 1-6, 1969. Limnological Data Report No. 3. 151 pp.
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1965. Great Lakes Institute Data Record. 1963 Surveys, Part I Lake Ontario, Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair, PR 23, 195 pp.
1971. Great Lakes Institute Data Record, Surveys of 1964, Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, Lake Huron, Georgian Bay, Lake Superior. PR 42, 238 pp.
- Unpublished data files of the Great Lakes Institute of the University of Toronto and the Canada Centre for Inland Waters.

Figure 1. Bathymetry of Lake Ontario

LAKE ONTARIO
BATHYMETRY IN METRES

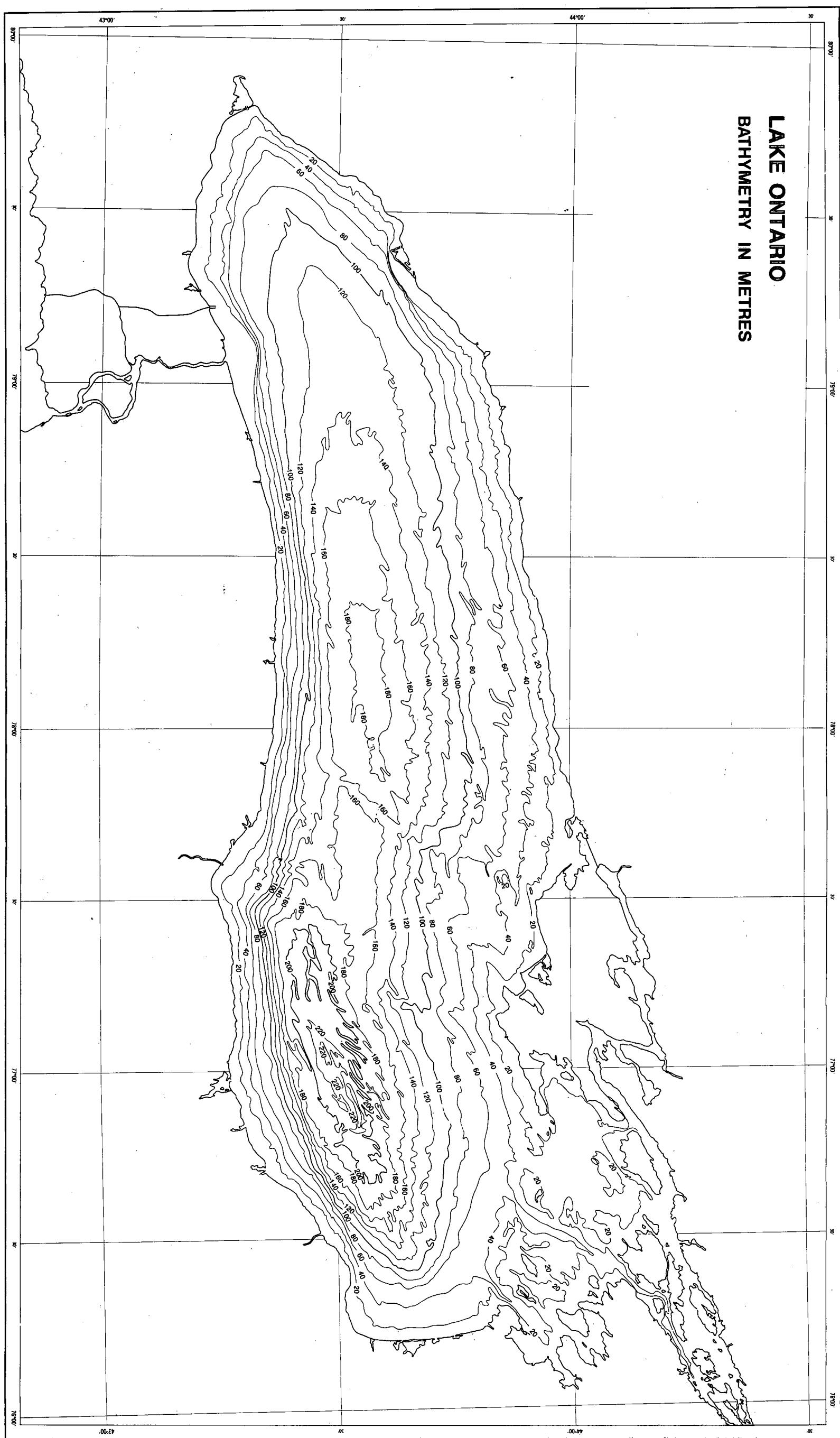


Figure 1

Figure 2. Bathymetry of Lake Erie

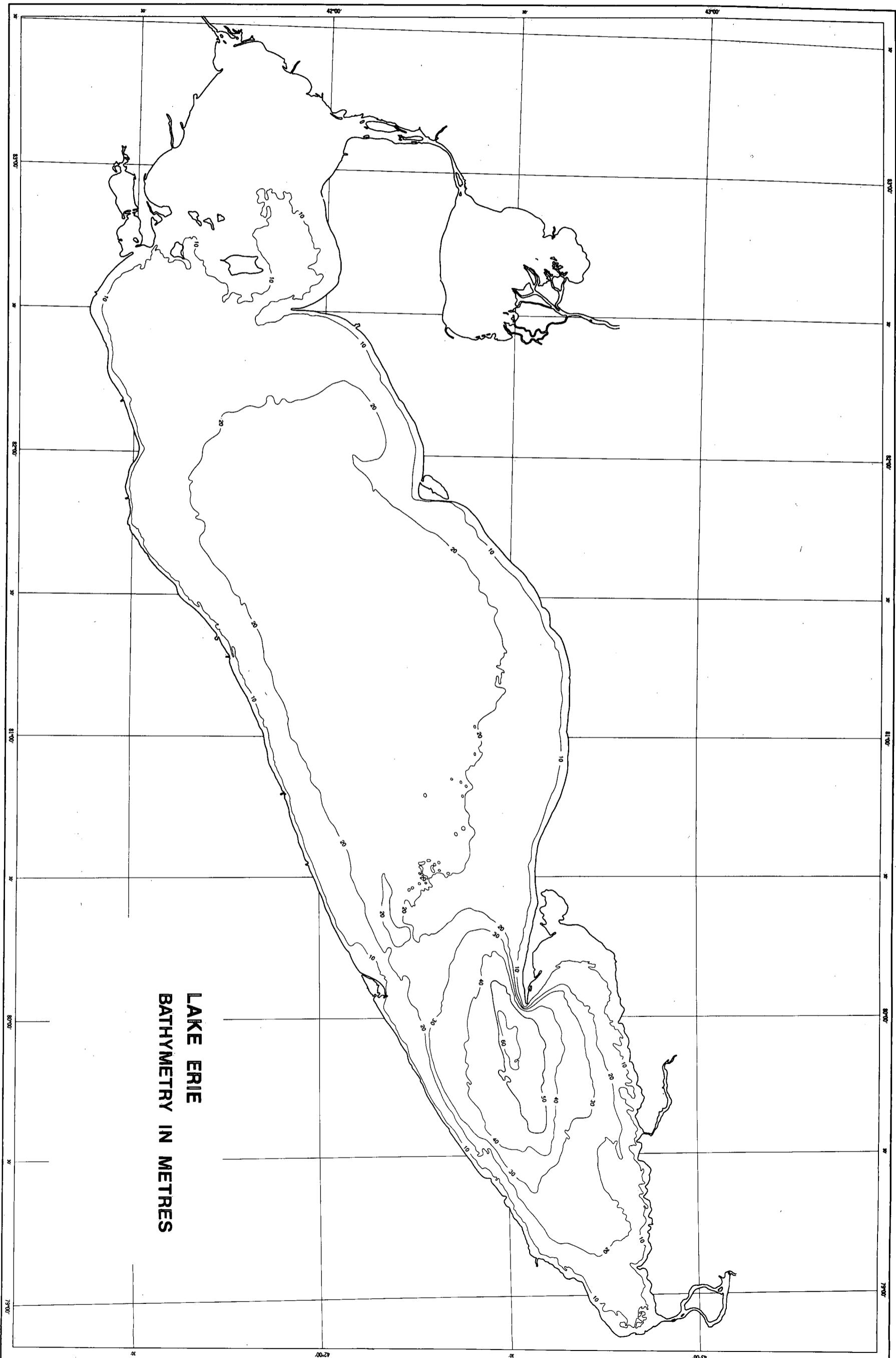


Figure 2

**Figures 3 to 14. Surface Temperature
(Averages and Extremes) of Lake Ontario,
January to December**

LAKE ONTARIO

SURFACE TEMPERATURE ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

JANUARY (1960 - 1968)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

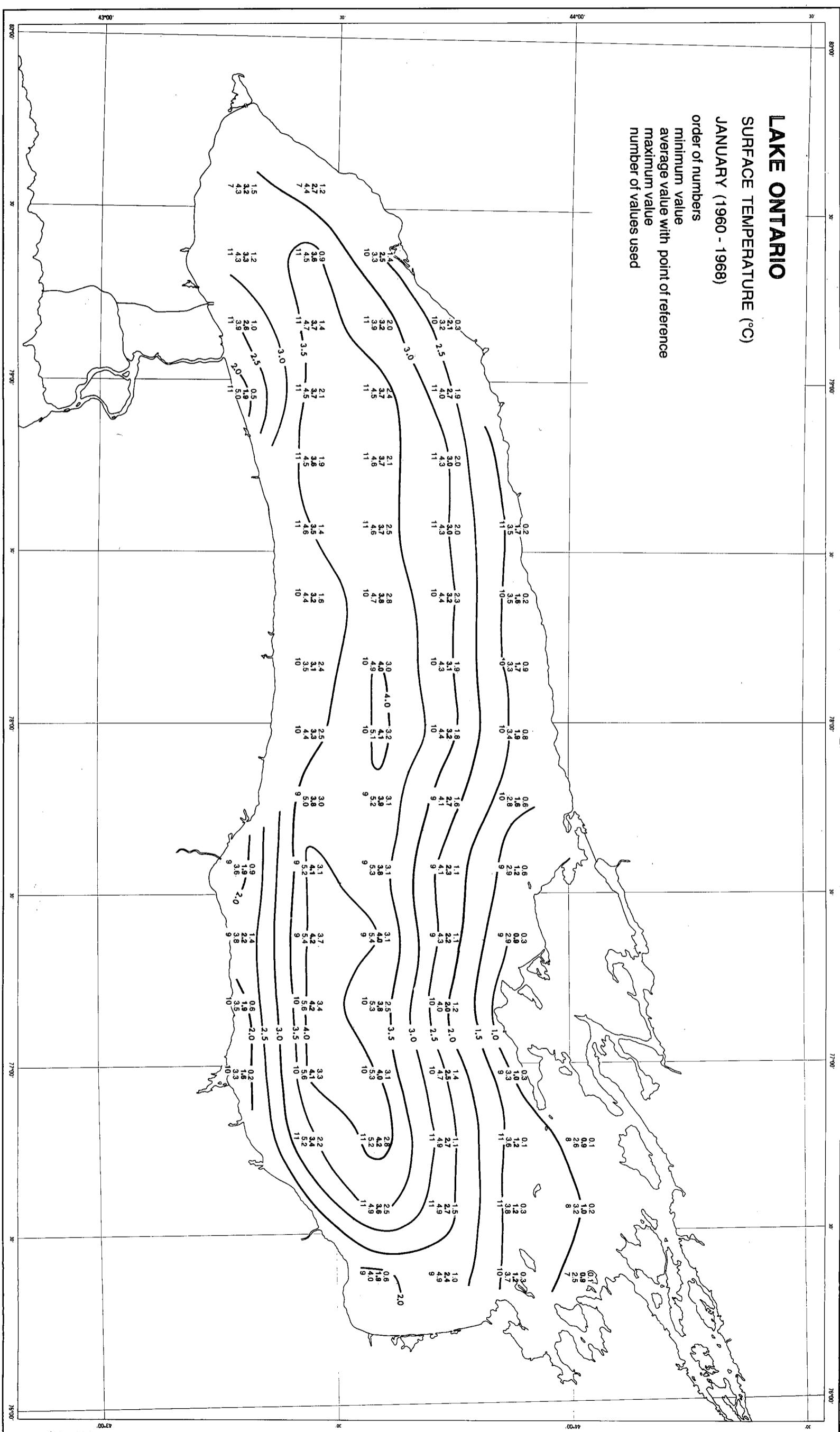


Figure 3

LAKE ONTARIO

SURFACE TEMPERATURE ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

FEBRUARY (1960 - 1969)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

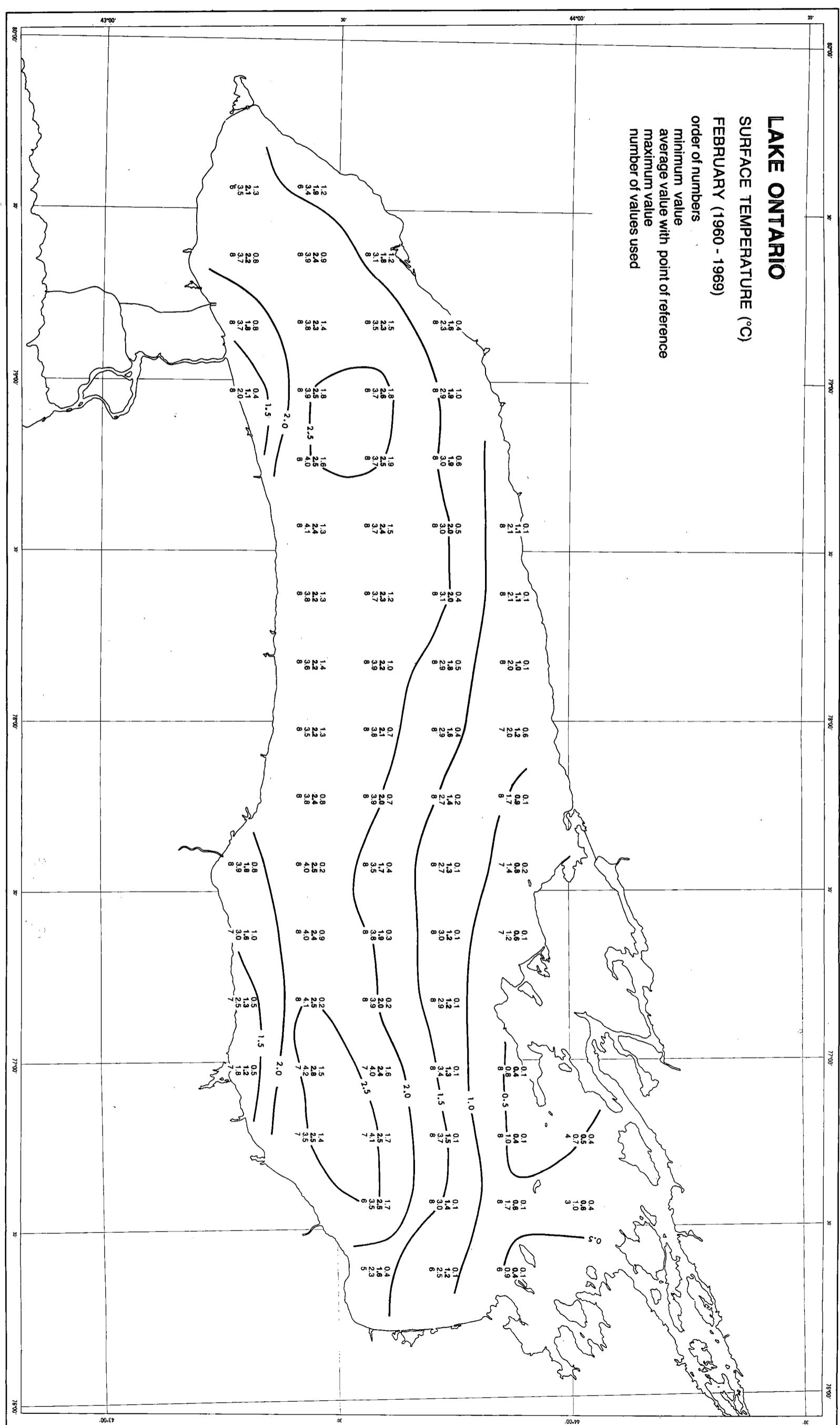


Figure 4

LAKE ONTARIO

SURFACE TEMPERATURE ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

MARCH (1960 - 1968)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

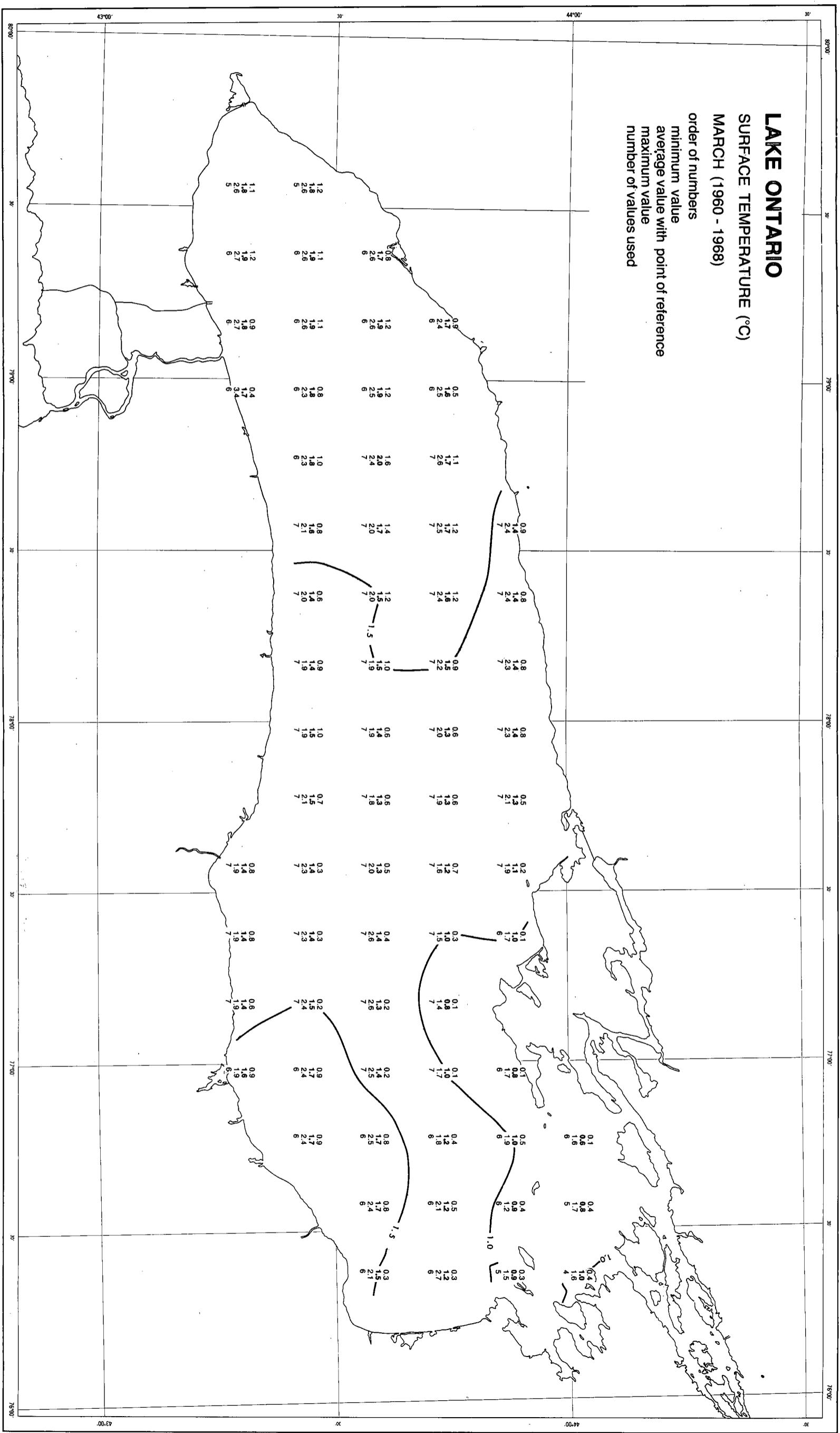


Figure 5

LAKE ONTARIO

SURFACE TEMPERATURE ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

APRIL (1965 - 1969)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

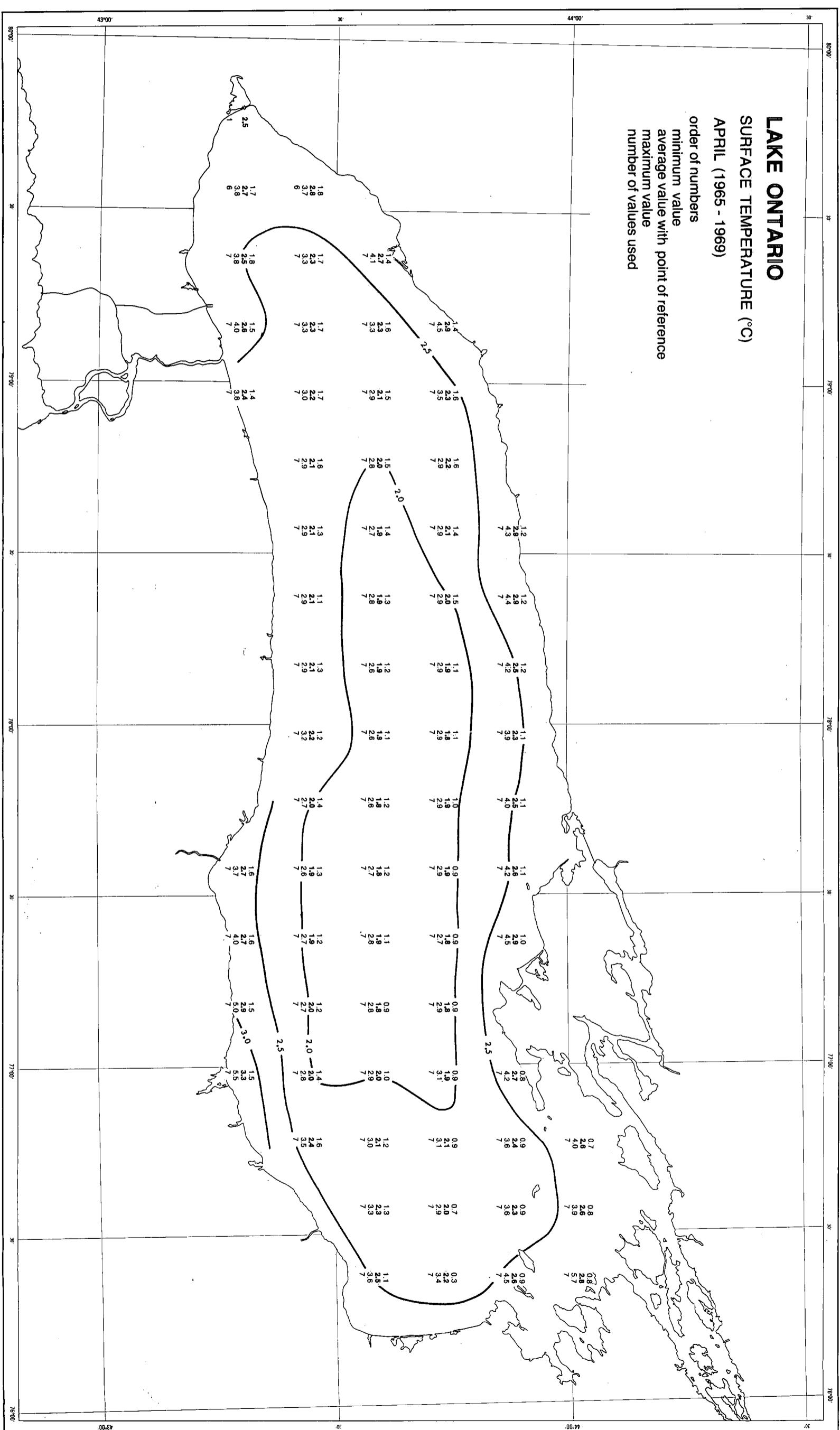


Figure 6

LAKE ONTARIO

SURFACE TEMPERATURE ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

MAY (1965 - 1969)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

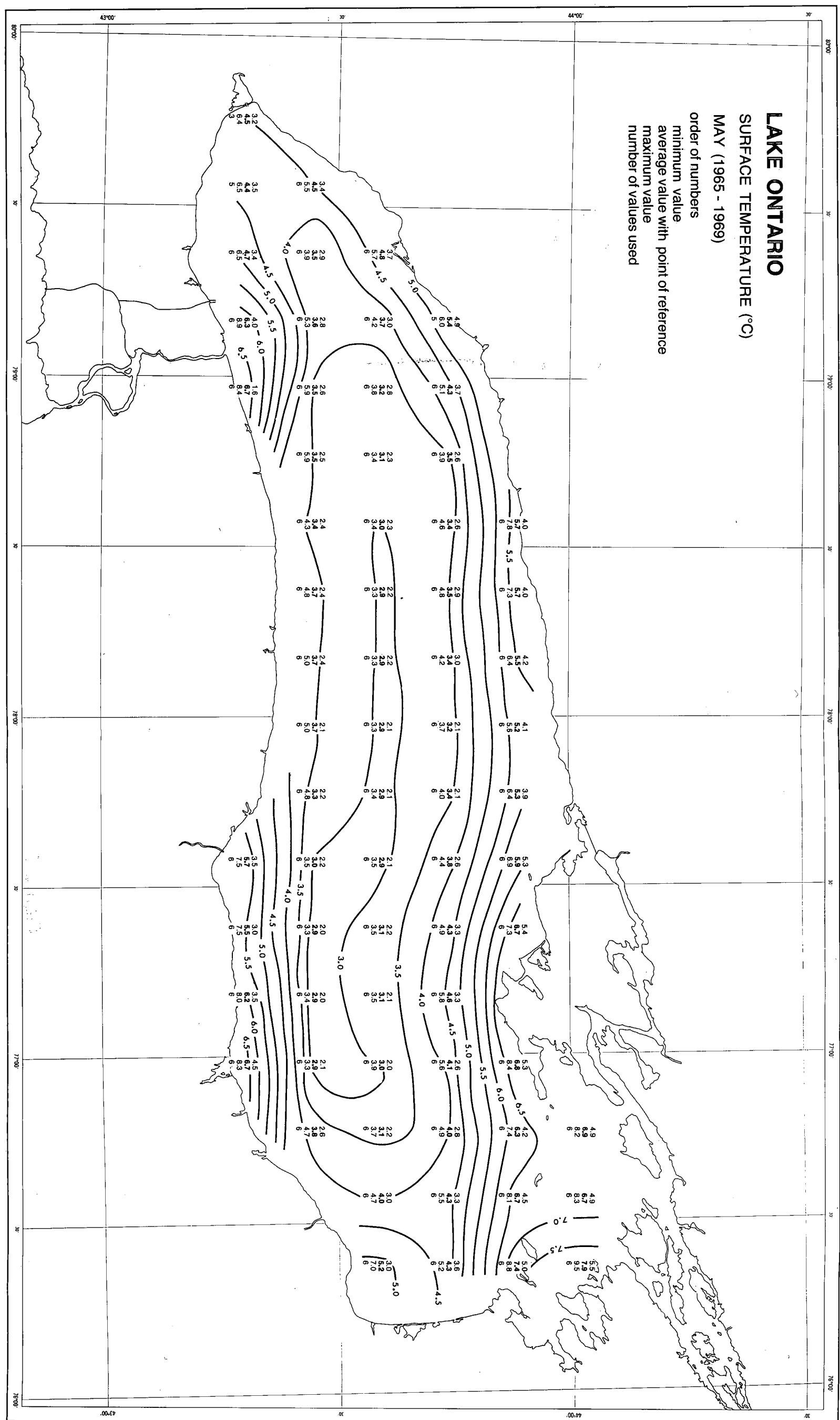


Figure 7

LAKE ONTARIO

SURFACE TEMPERATURE ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

JUNE (1965 - 1969)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

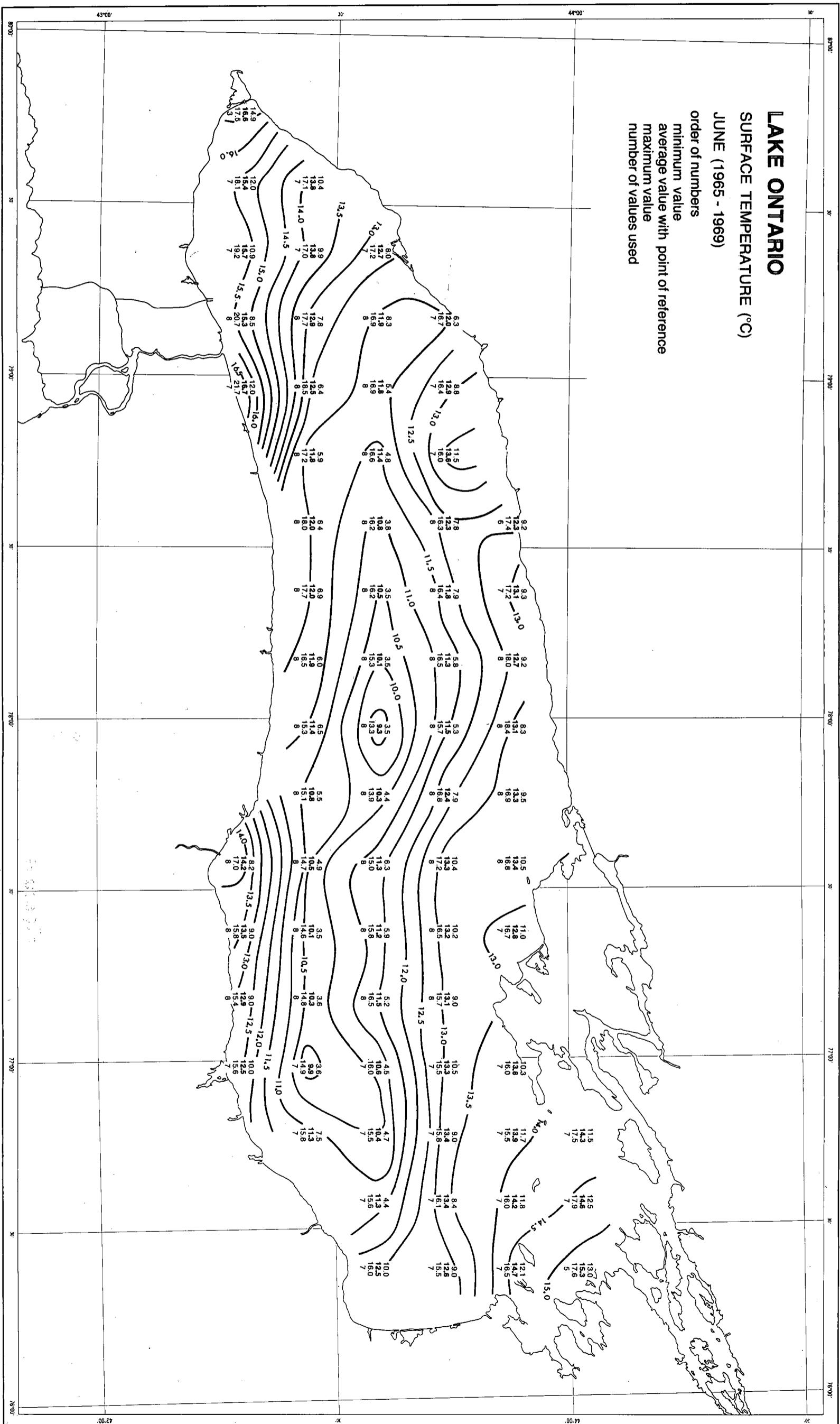


Figure 8

LAKE ONTARIO

SURFACE TEMPERATURE (°C)

JULY (1960 - 1969)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

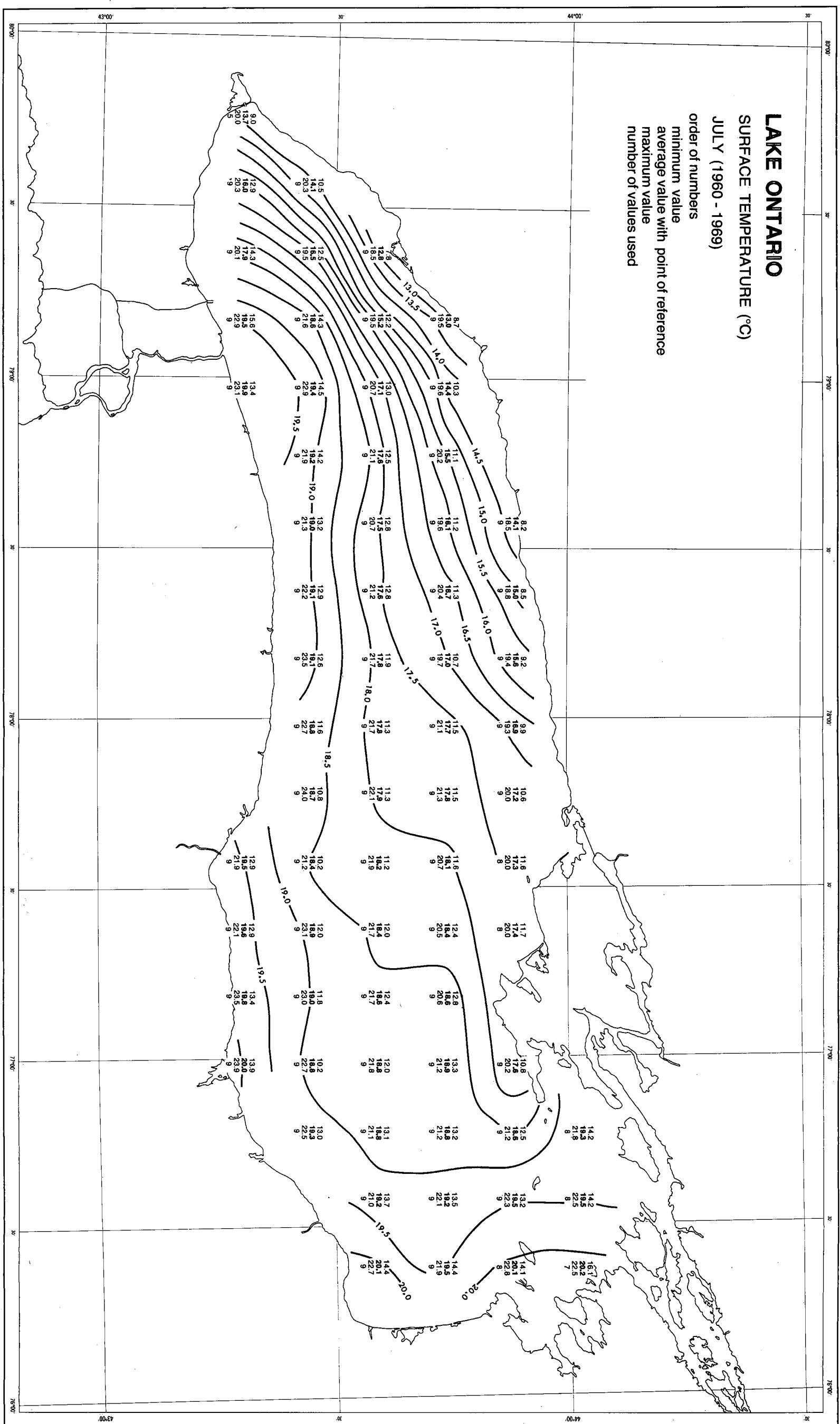


Figure 9

LAKE ONTARIO

SURFACE TEMPERATURE ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

AUGUST (1960 - 1969)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

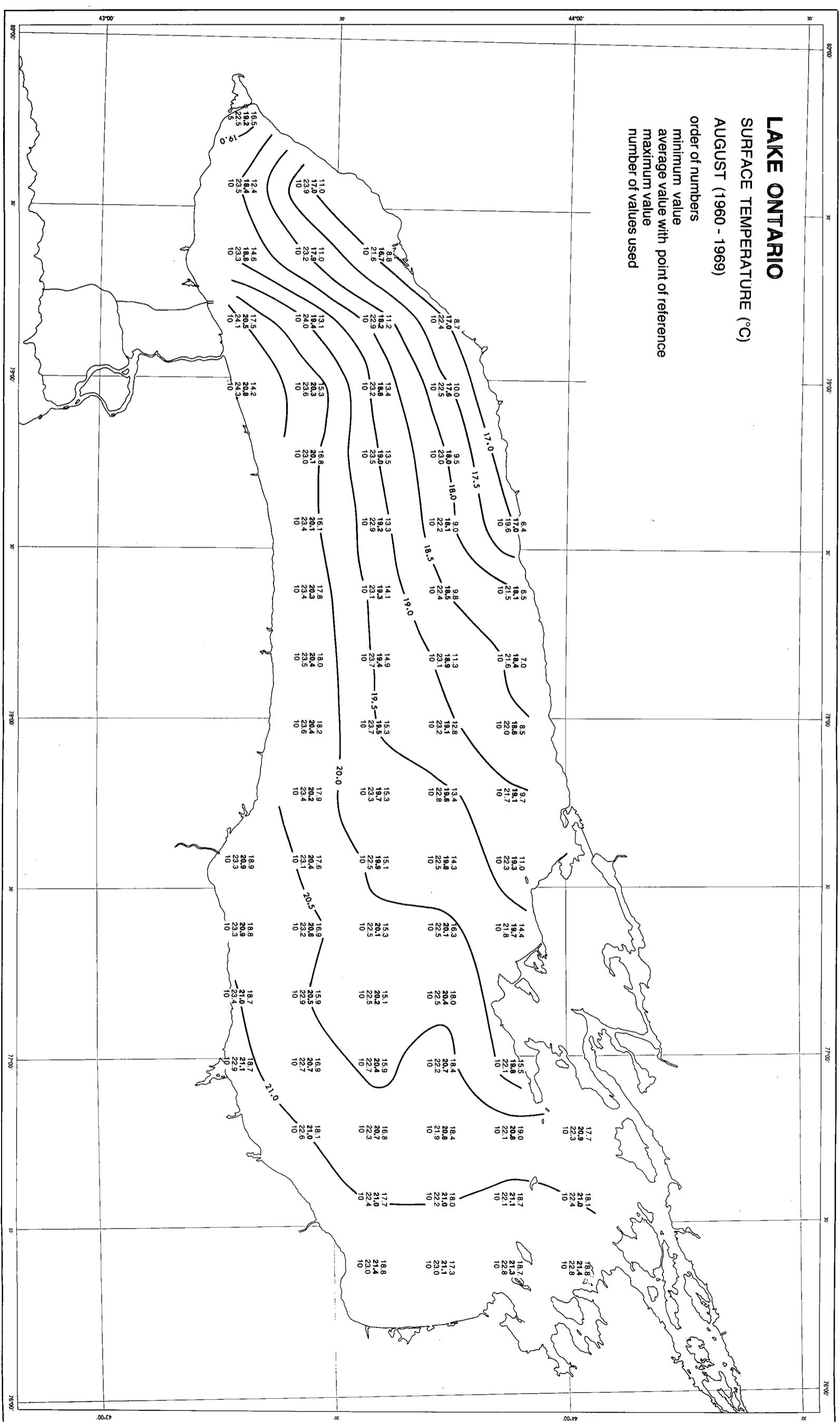


Figure 10

LAKE ONTARIO

SURFACE TEMPERATURE ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

SEPTEMBER (1960 - 1969)

order of numbers
minimum value
average value with point of reference
maximum value
number of values used

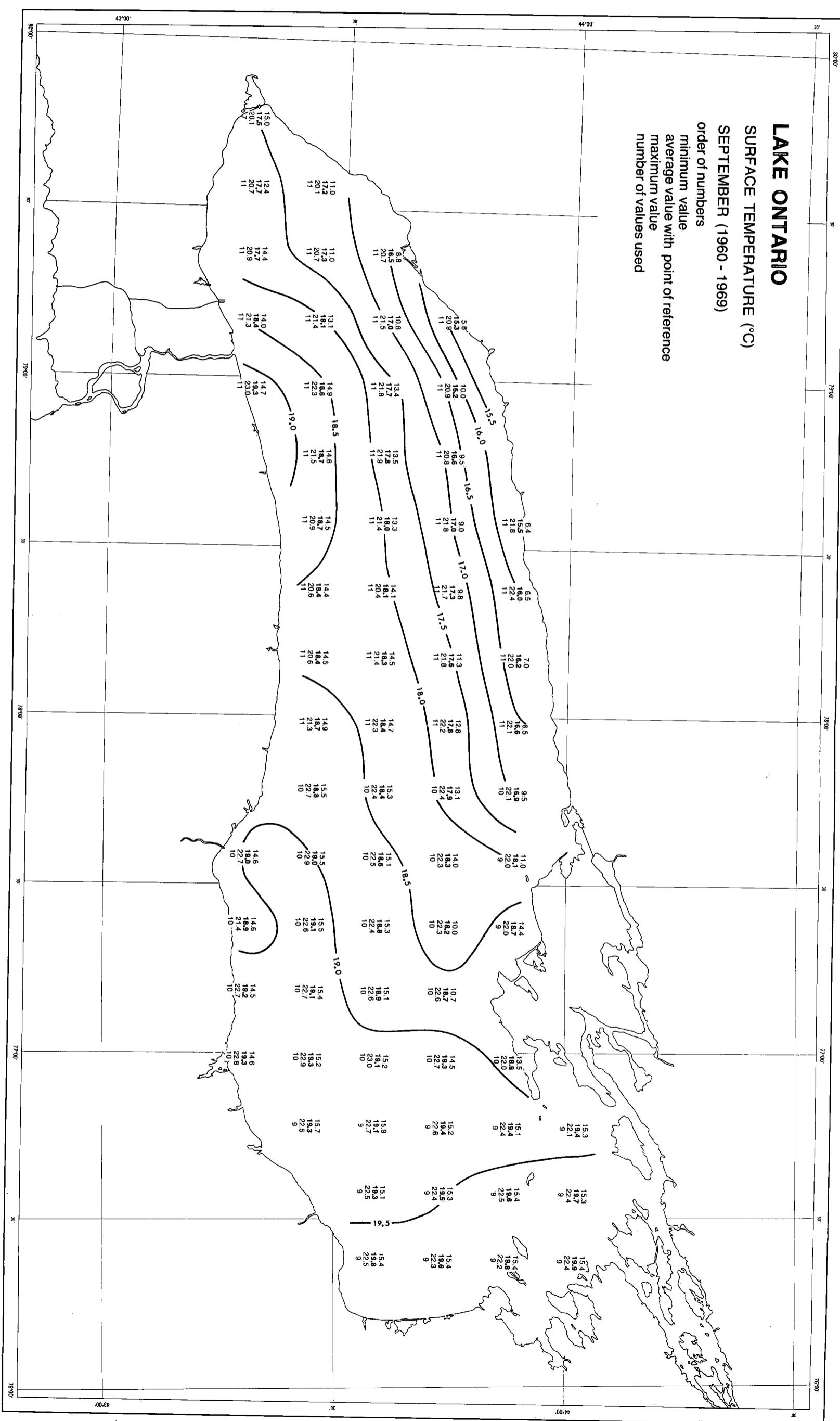


Figure 11

LAKE ONTARIO

SURFACE TEMPERATURE (°C)

OCTOBER (1960 - 1968)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

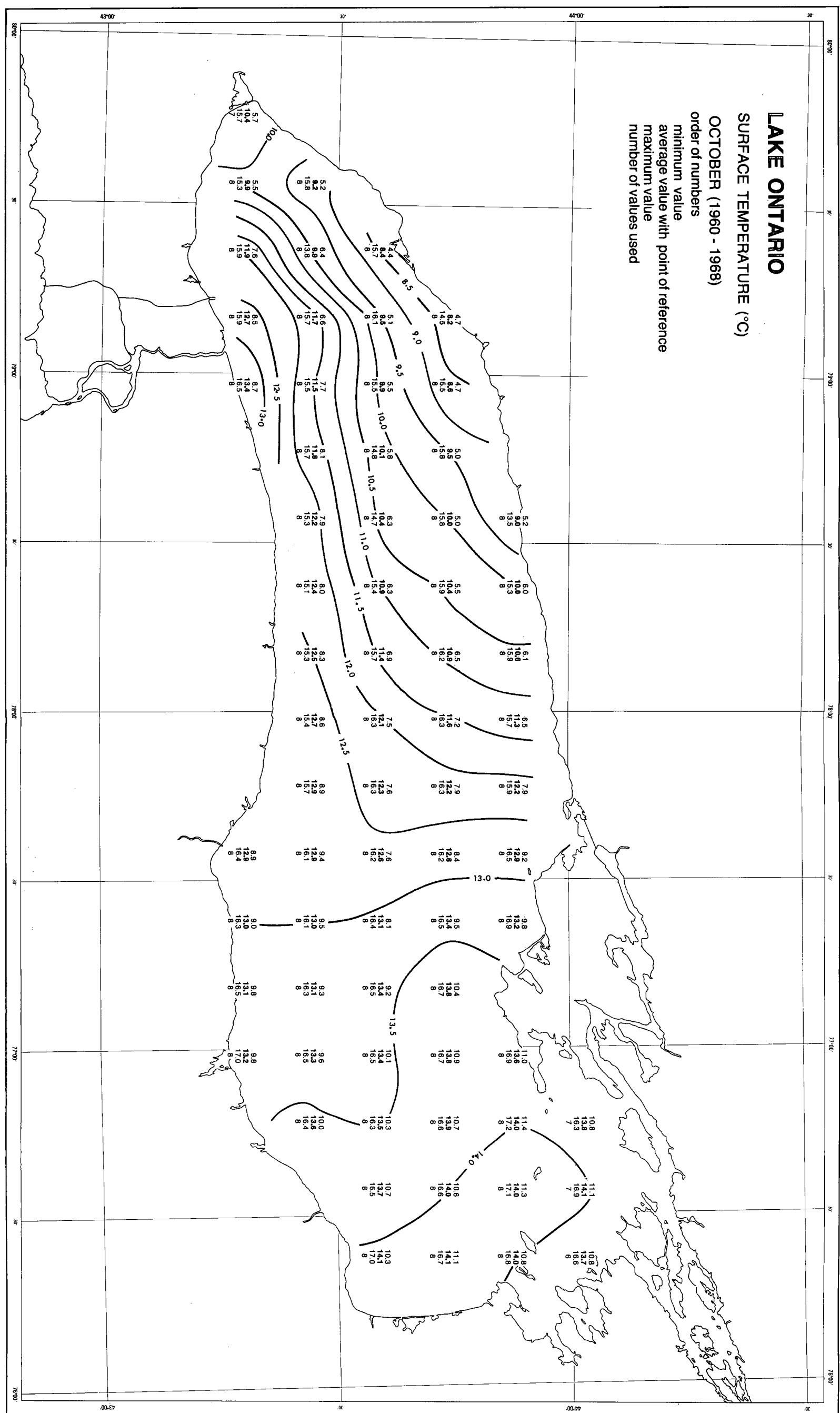


Figure 12

LAKE ONTARIO

SURFACE TEMPERATURE (°C)

NOVEMBER (1960 - 1968)

Order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

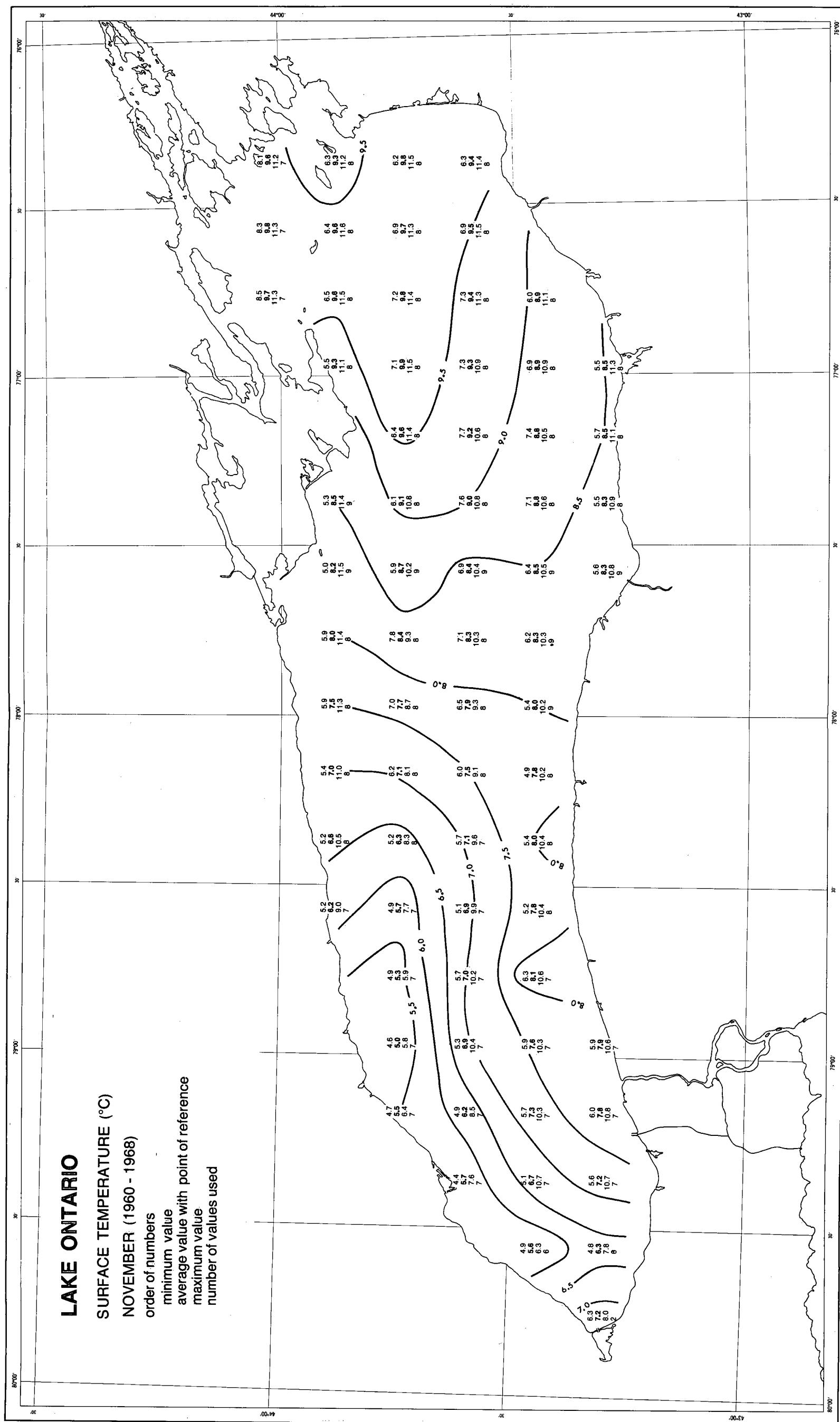


Figure 13

LAKE ONTARIO

SURFACE TEMPERATURE (°C)

DECEMBER (1960 - 1969)
order of numbers

minimum value
average value with point of reference

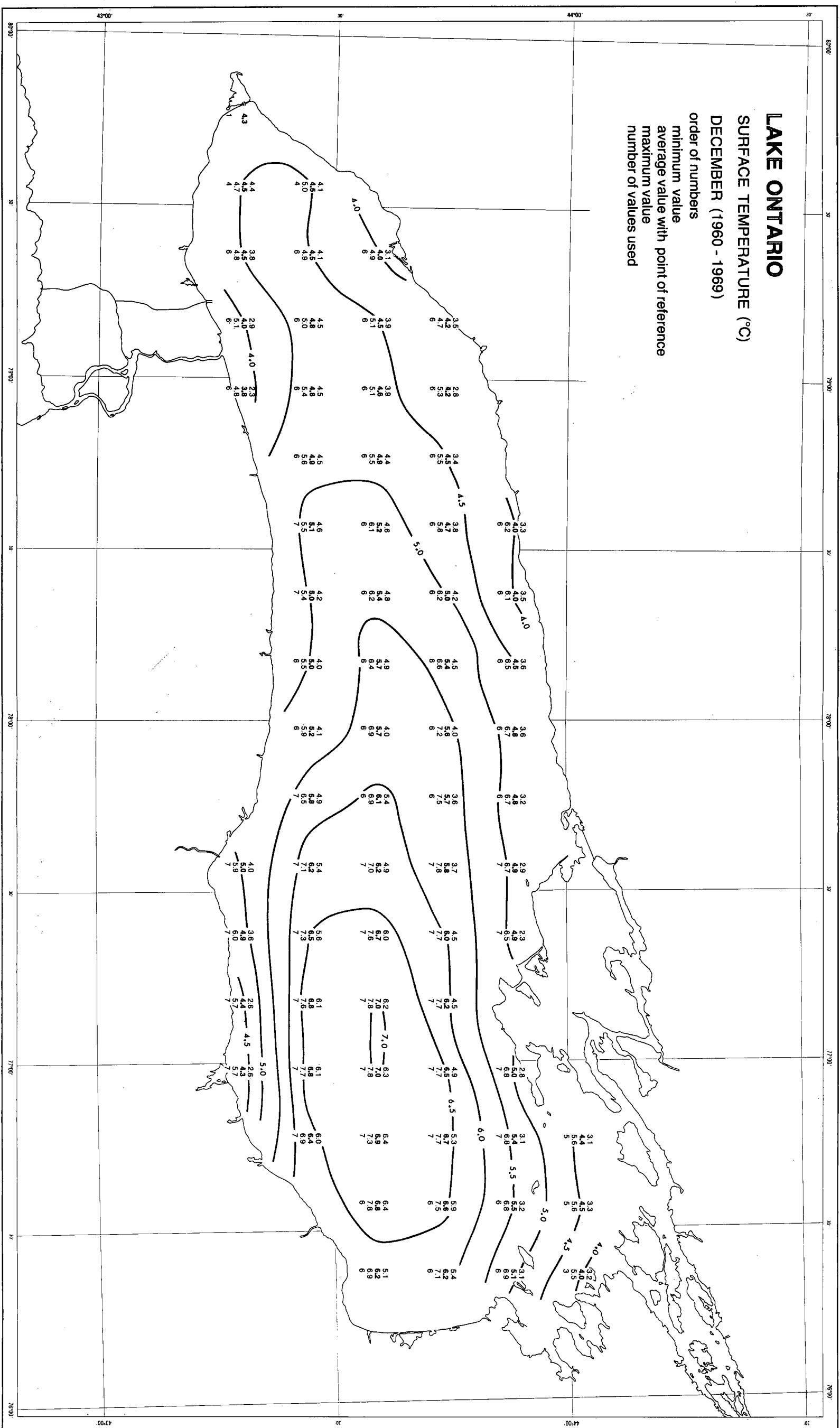


Figure 14

**Figures 15 to 26. Bottom Temperature
(Averages and Extremes) of Lake Ontario,
January to December**

LAKE ONTARIO

BOTTOM TEMPERATURE (°C)

JANUARY (1960 - 1968)

order of numbers
minimum value
average value with point of reference
maximum value
number of values used

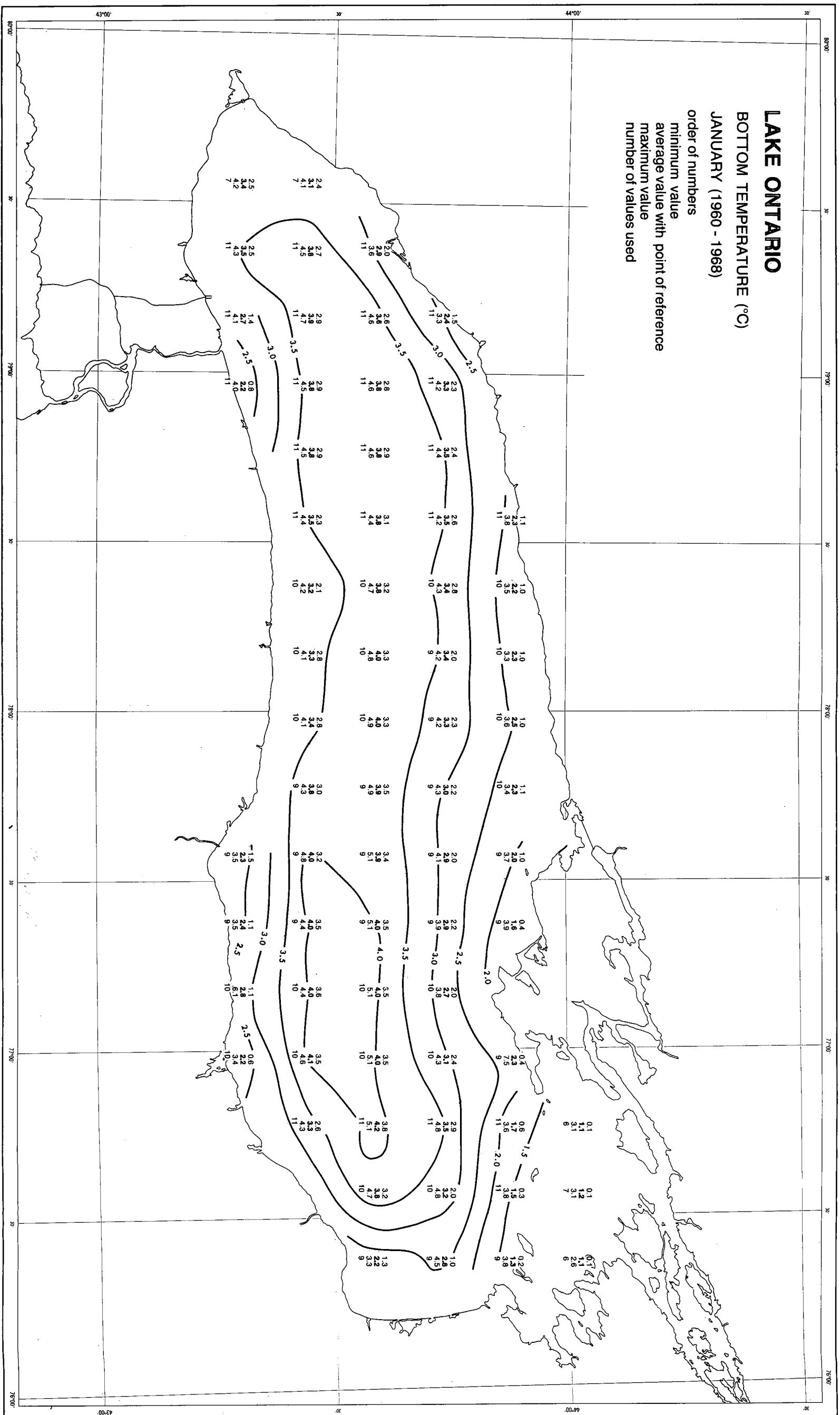


Figure 15

LAKE ONTARIO

BOTTOM TEMPERATURE ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

FEBRUARY (1960 - 1969)

order of numbers
minimum value
average value with point of reference
maximum value
number of values used

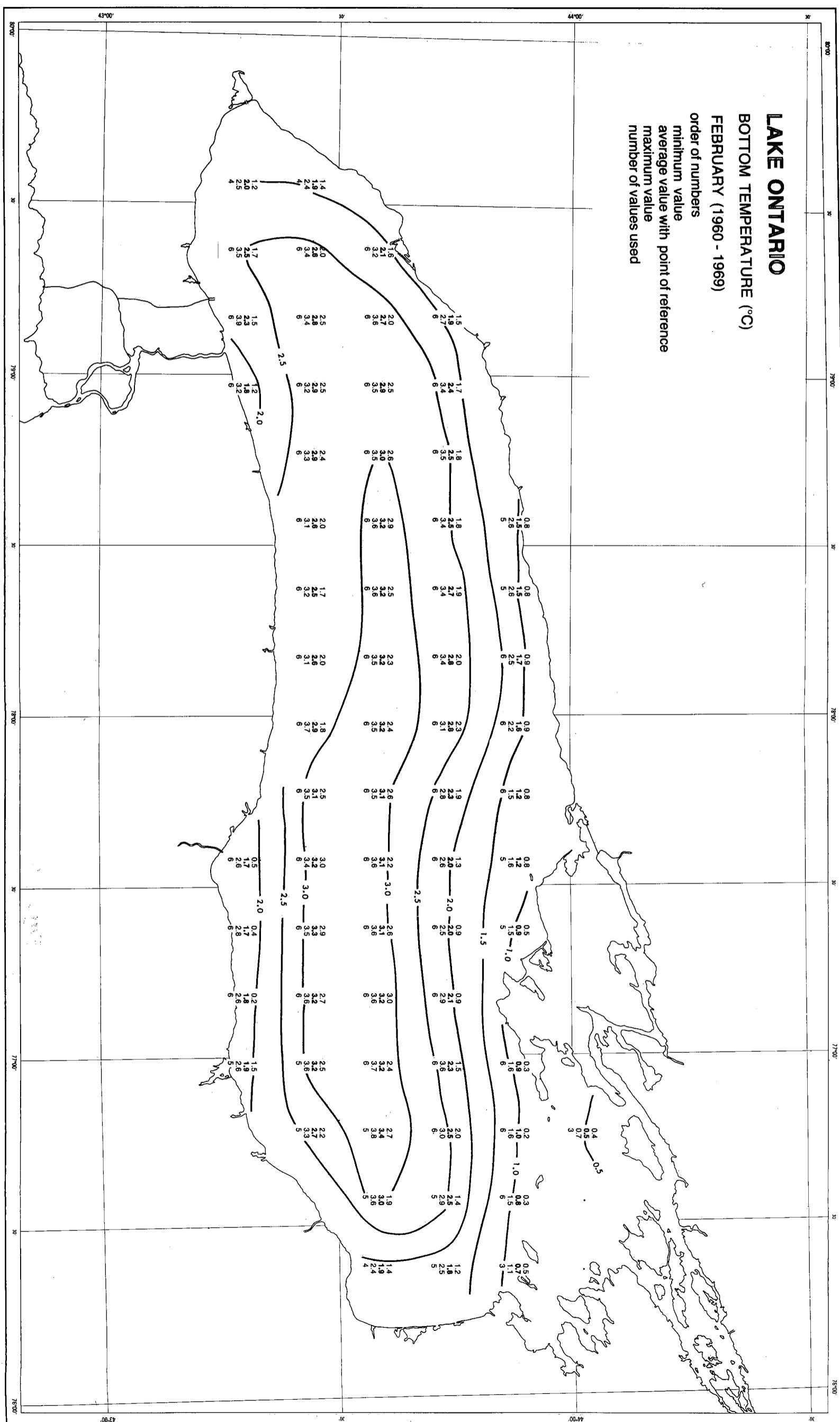


Figure 16

LAKE ONTARIO

BOTTOM TEMPERATURE ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

MARCH (1960 - 1968)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

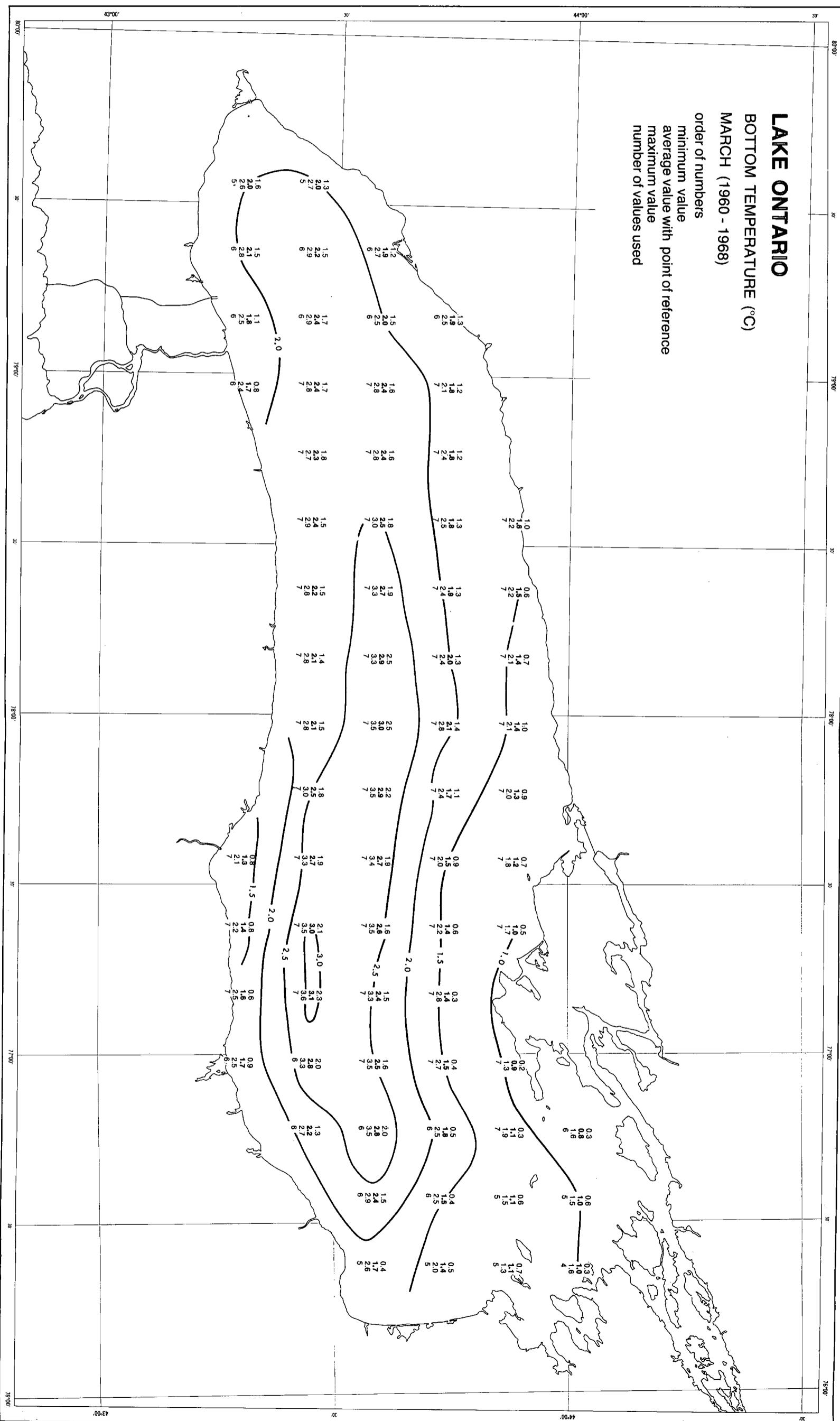


Figure 17

LAKE ONTARIO

BOTTOM TEMPERATURE ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

APRIL (1965 - 1969)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

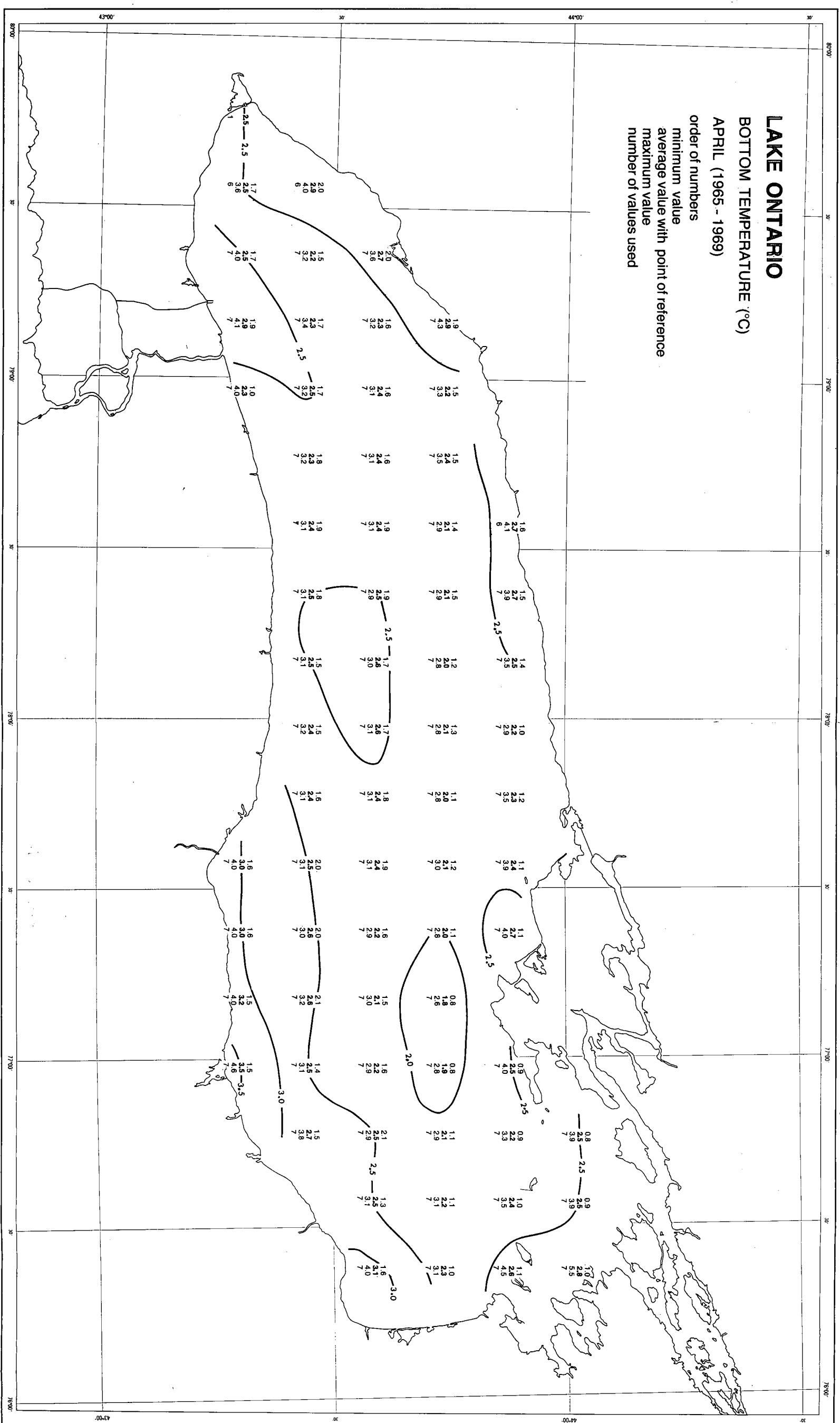


Figure 18

LAKE ONTARIO

BOTTOM TEMPERATURE ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

MAY (1965 - 1969)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

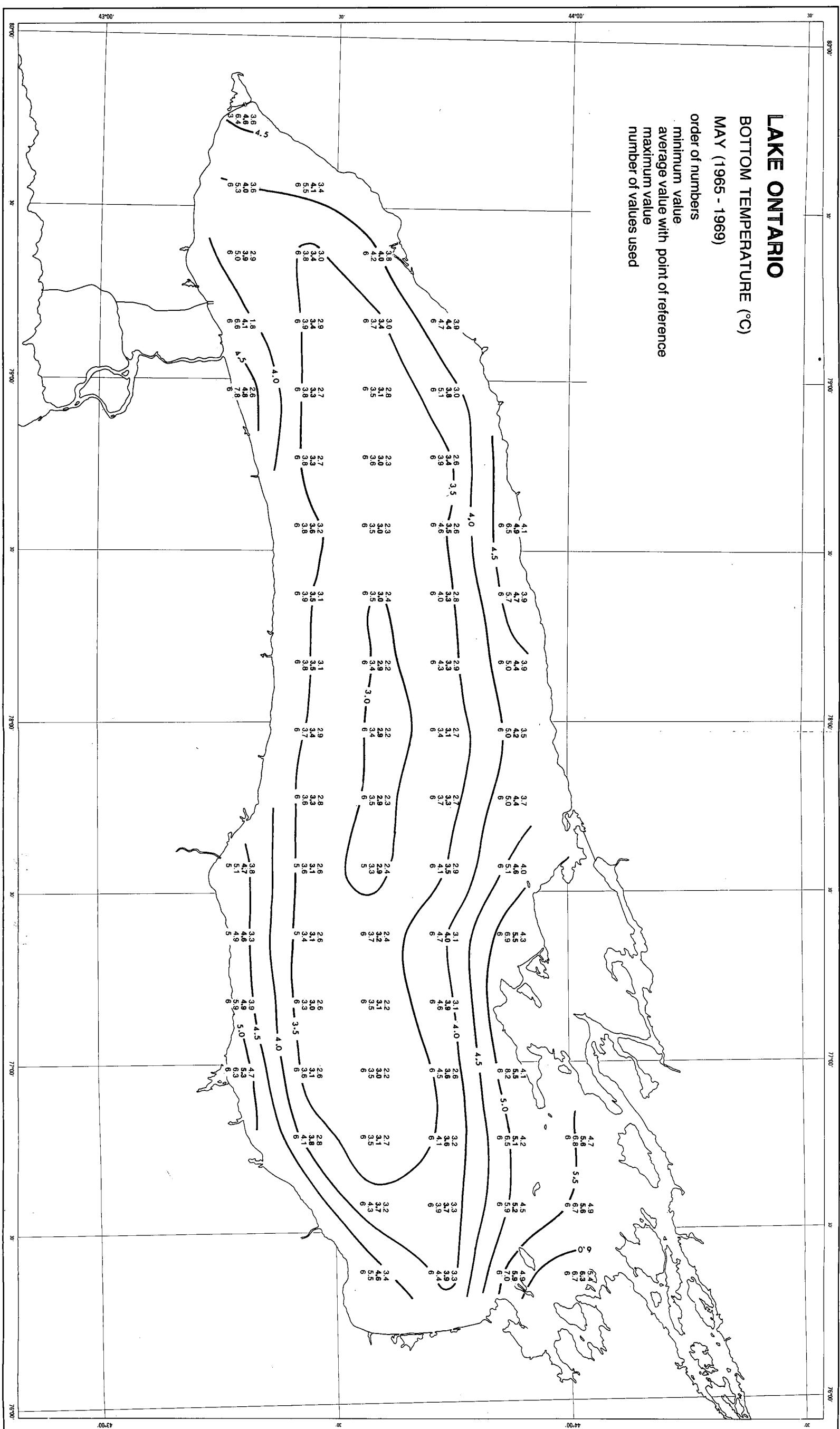


Figure 19

LAKE ONTARIO

BOTTOM TEMPERATURE ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

JUNE (1965 - 1969)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

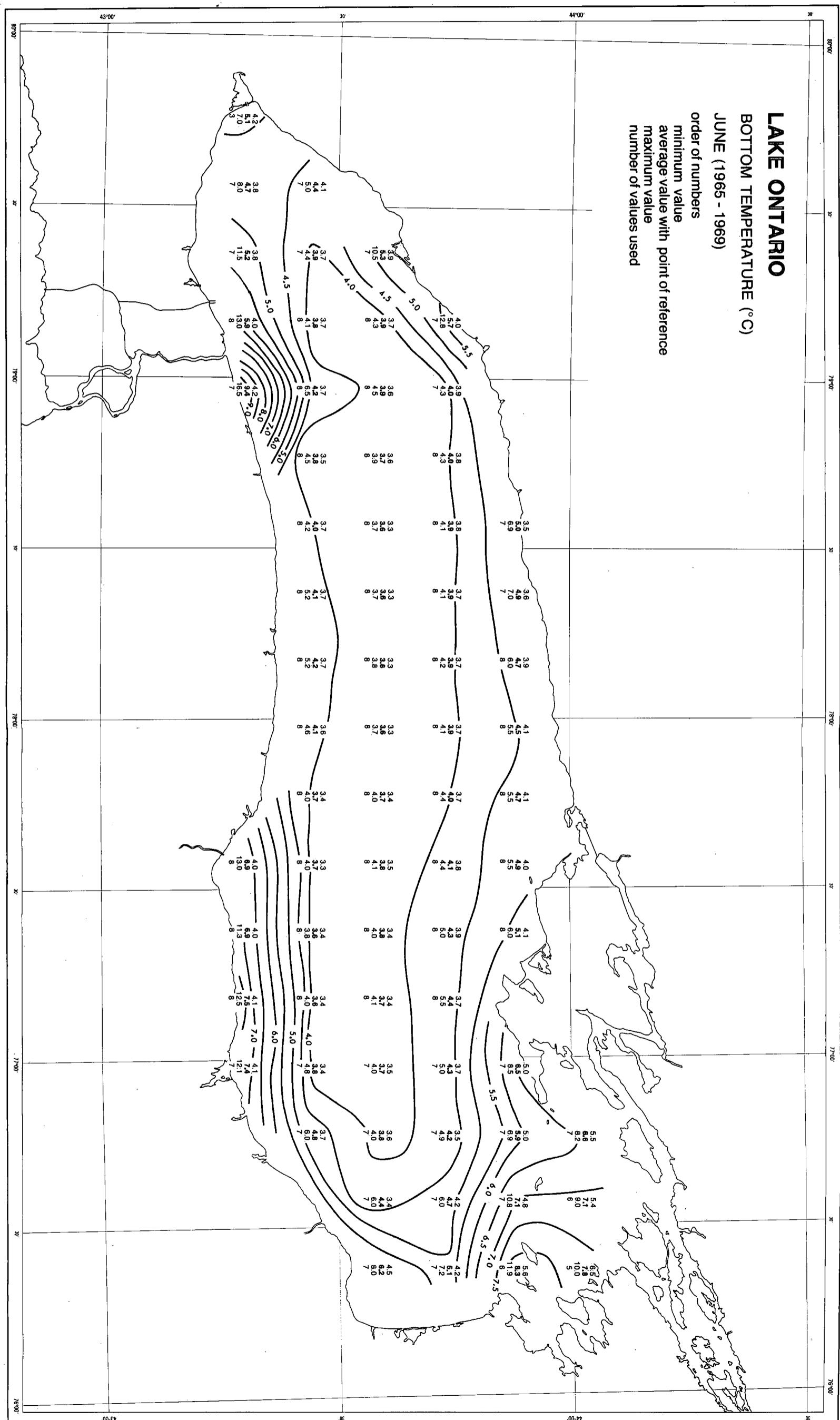


Figure 20

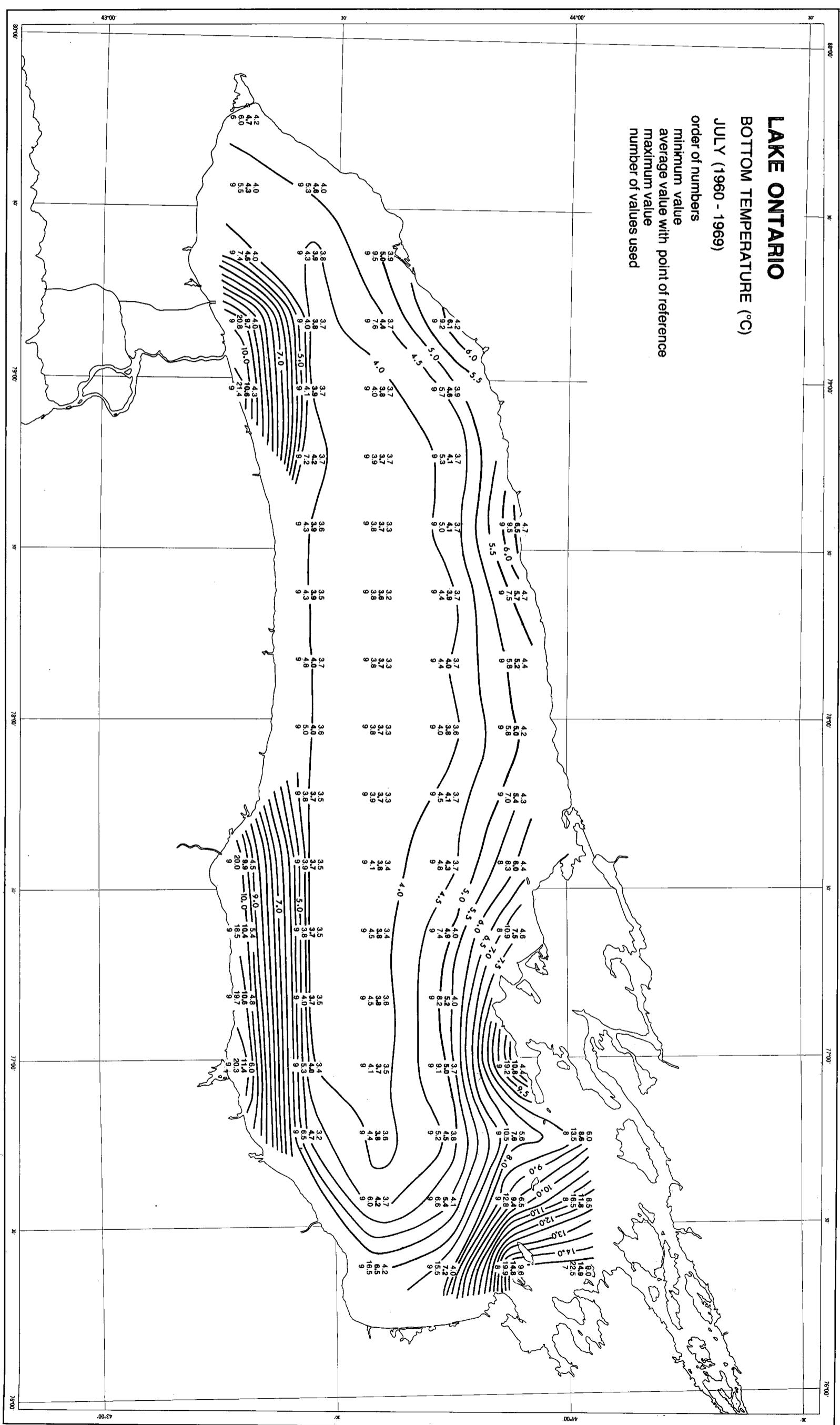


Figure 21

LAKE ONTARIO

BOTTOM TEMPERATURE (°C)

order of numbers minimum value

minimum value
average value with point of reference
maximum value
number of values used

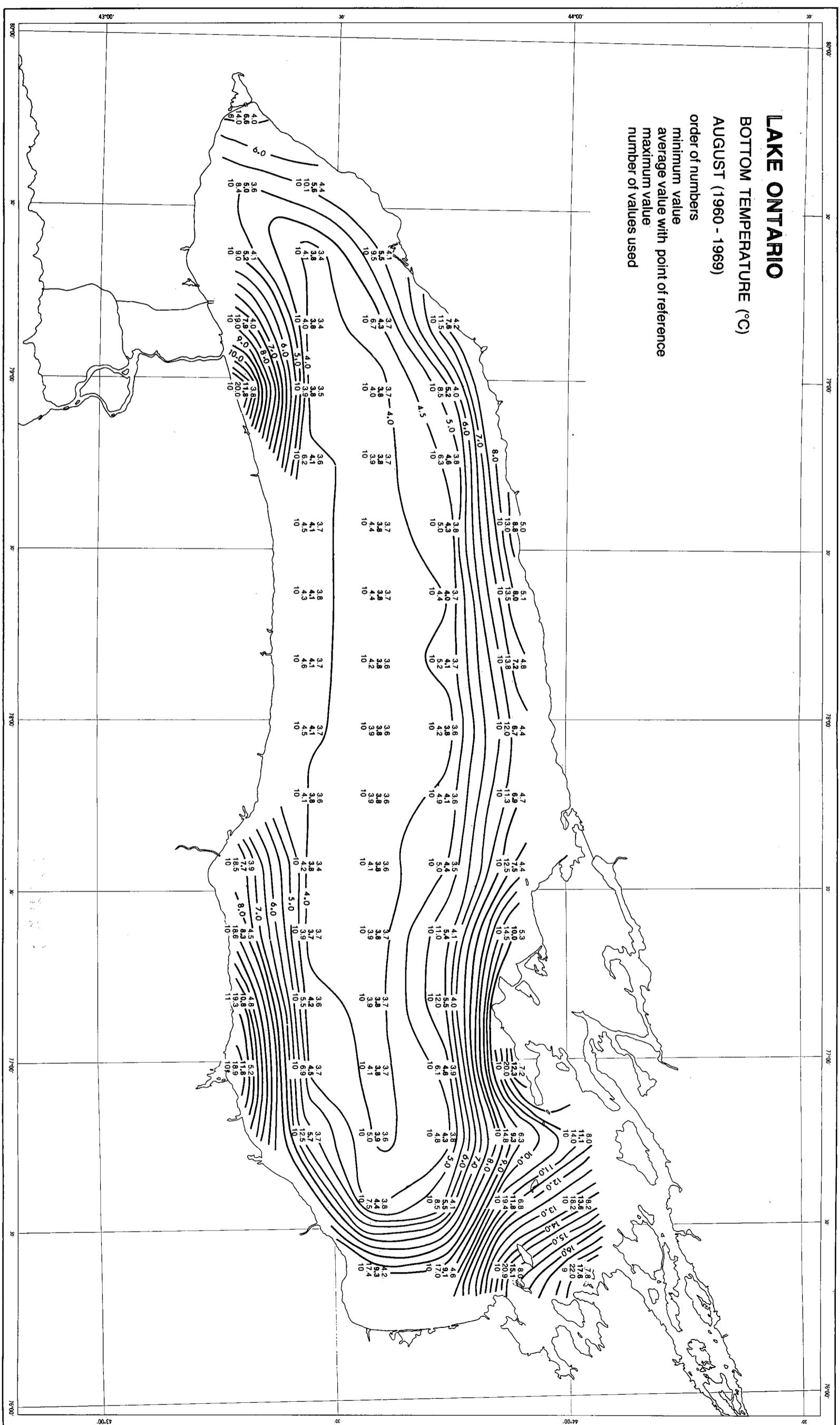


Figure 22

LAKE ONTARIO

BOTTOM TEMPERATURE ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

SEPTEMBER (1960 - 1969)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

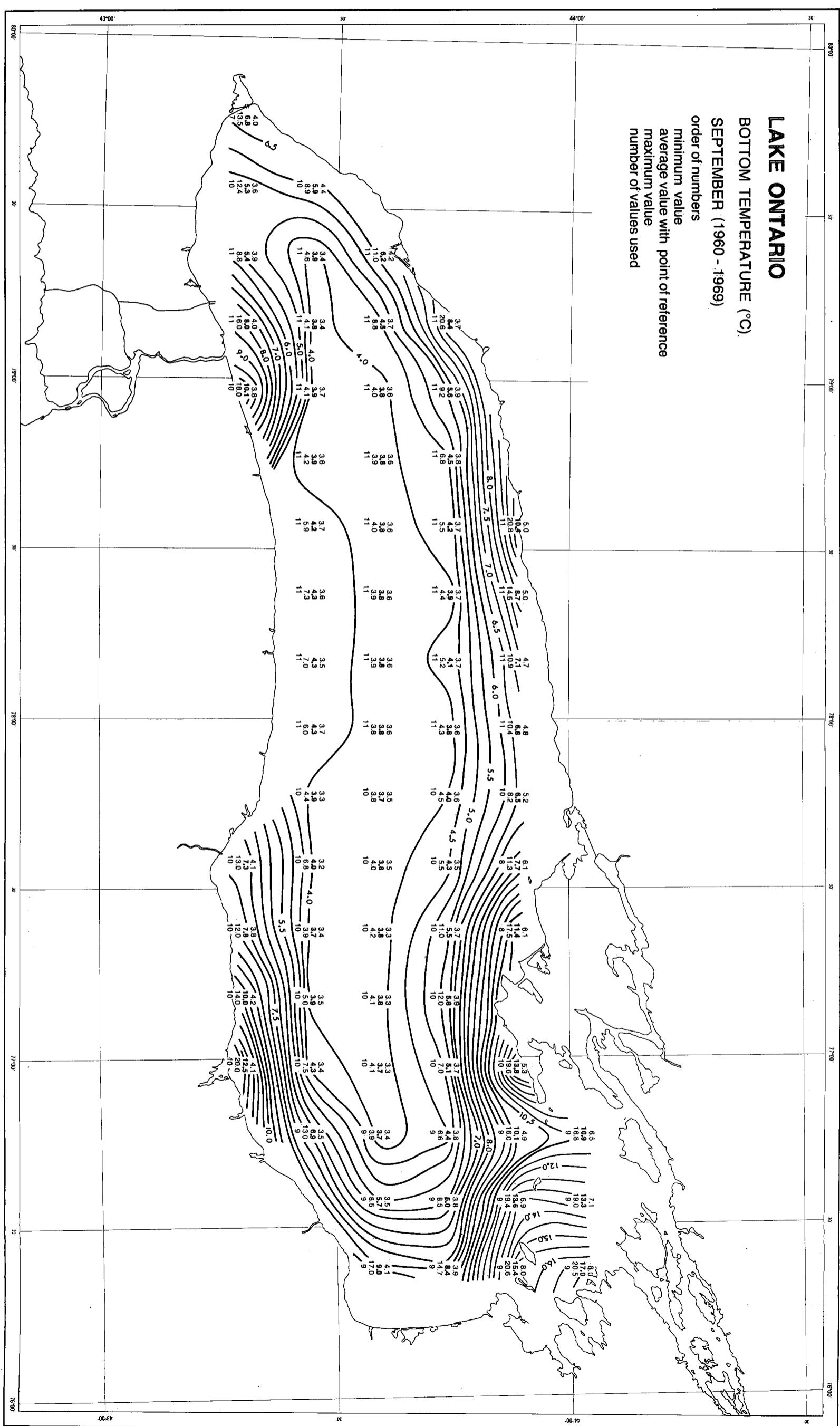


Figure 23

LAKE ONTARIO

BOTTOM TEMPERATURE ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

OCTOBER (1960 - 1968)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

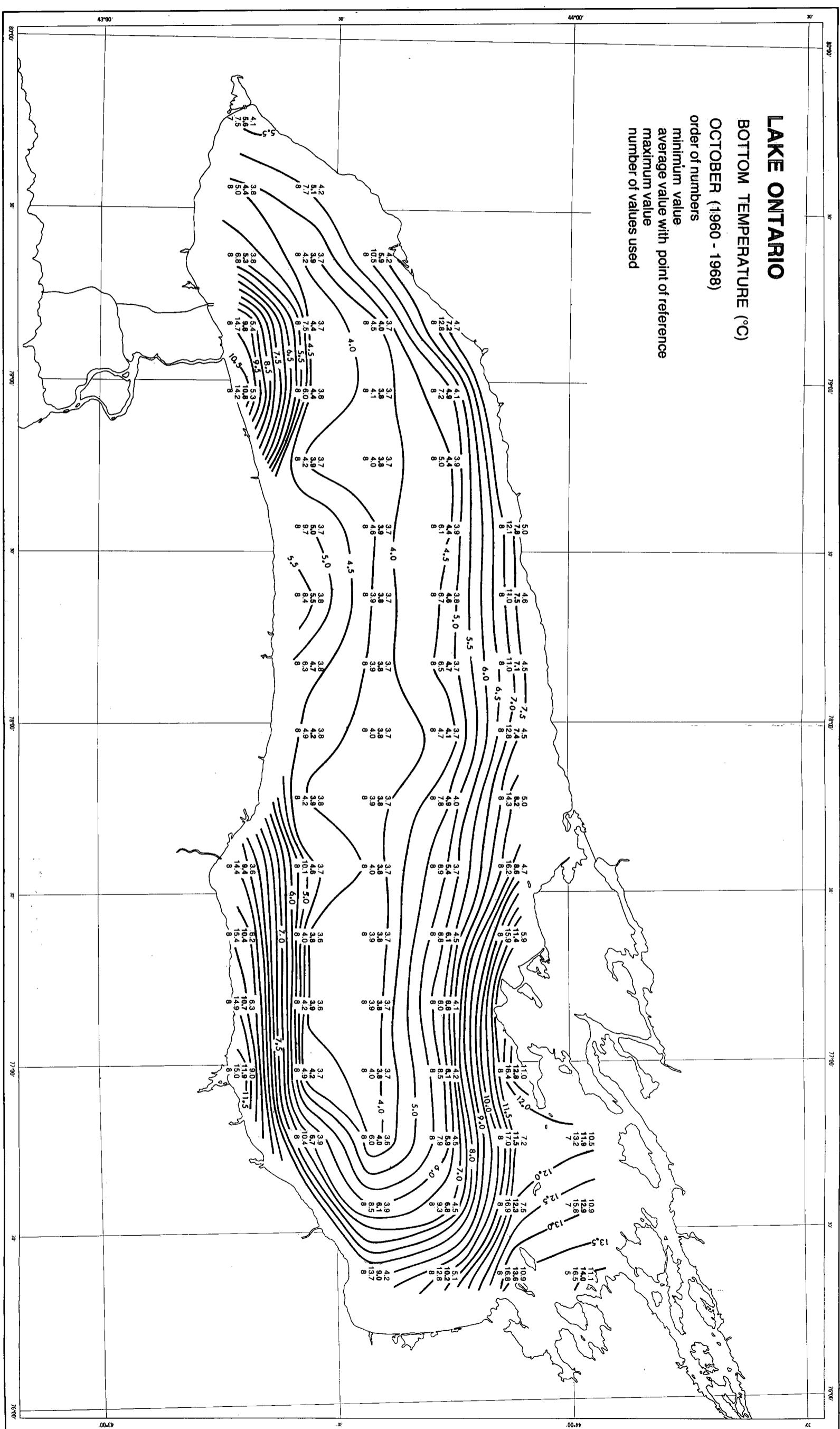


Figure 24

LAKE ONTARIO

BOTTOM TEMPERATURE ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)
NOVEMBER (1960 - 1968)

order of numbers
minimum value
average value with point of reference
maximum value
number of values used

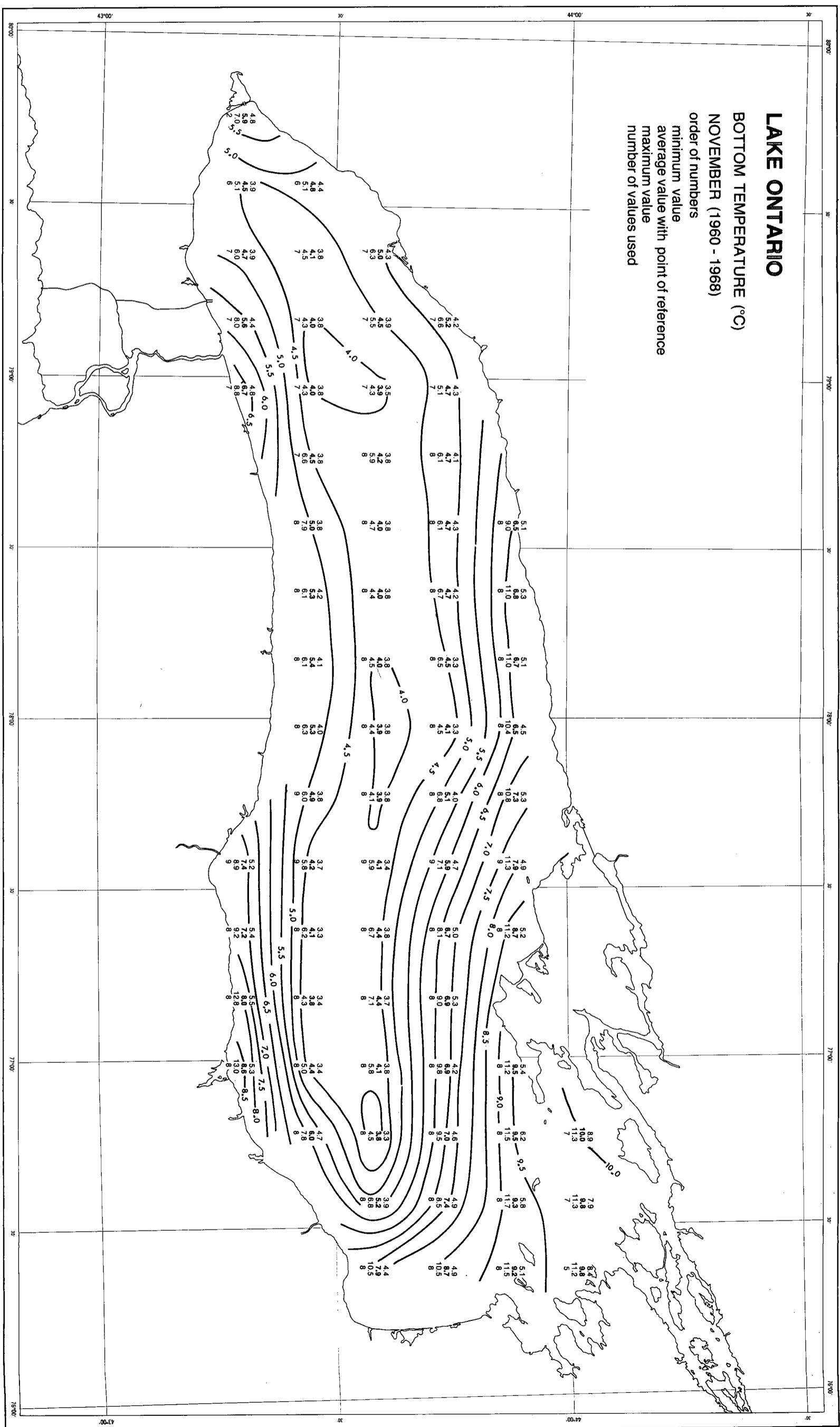


Figure 25

LAKE ONTARIO

BOTTOM TEMPERATURE ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

DECEMBER (1960 - 1969)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

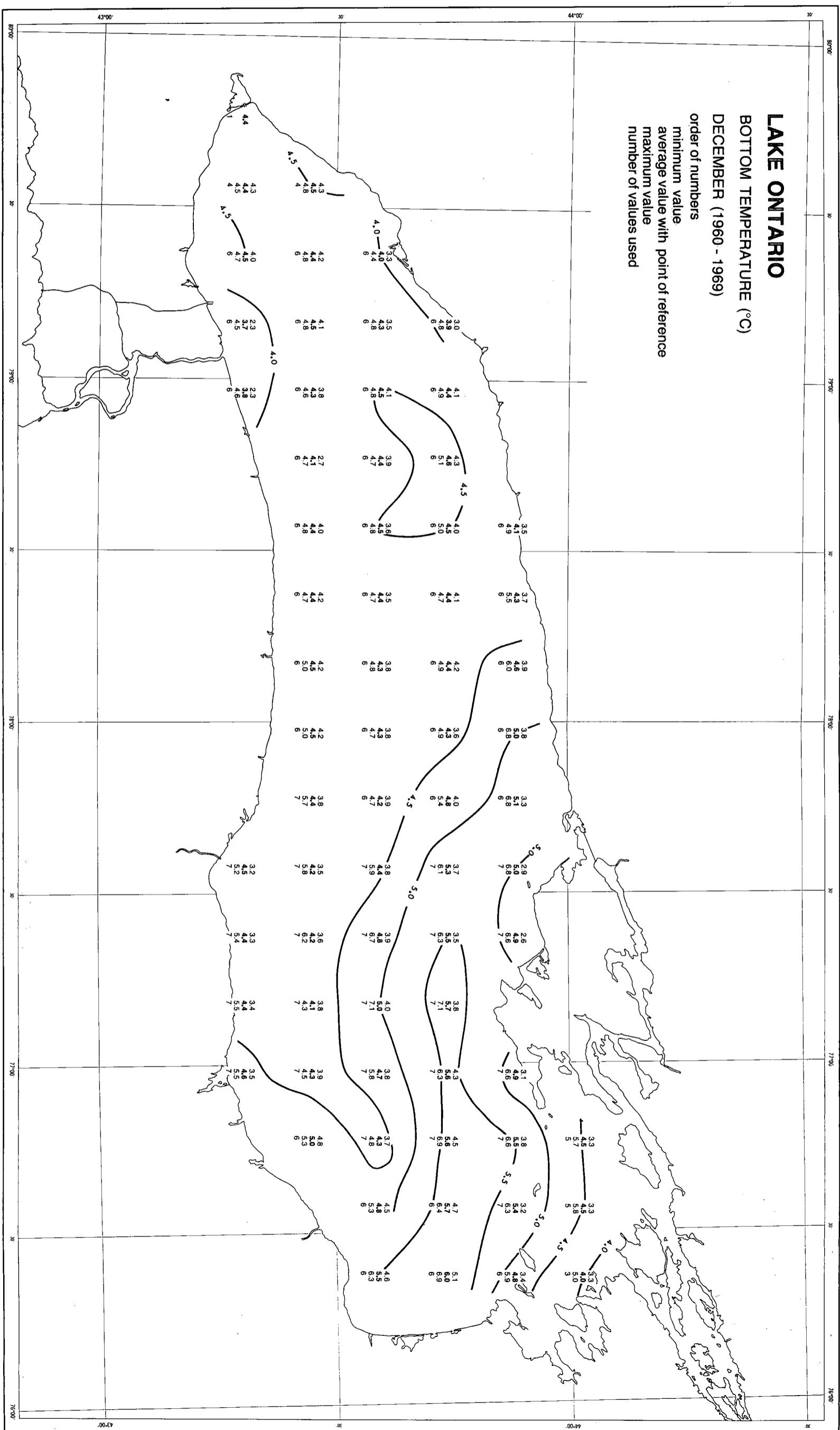


Figure 26

**Figures 27 to 30. Depth to the Top of the
Hypolimnion (Averages and Extremes),
Lake Ontario, June to September**

LAKE ONTARIO

DEPTH TO THE TOP OF THE HYPOLIMNION (m)

JUNE (1965 - 1969)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

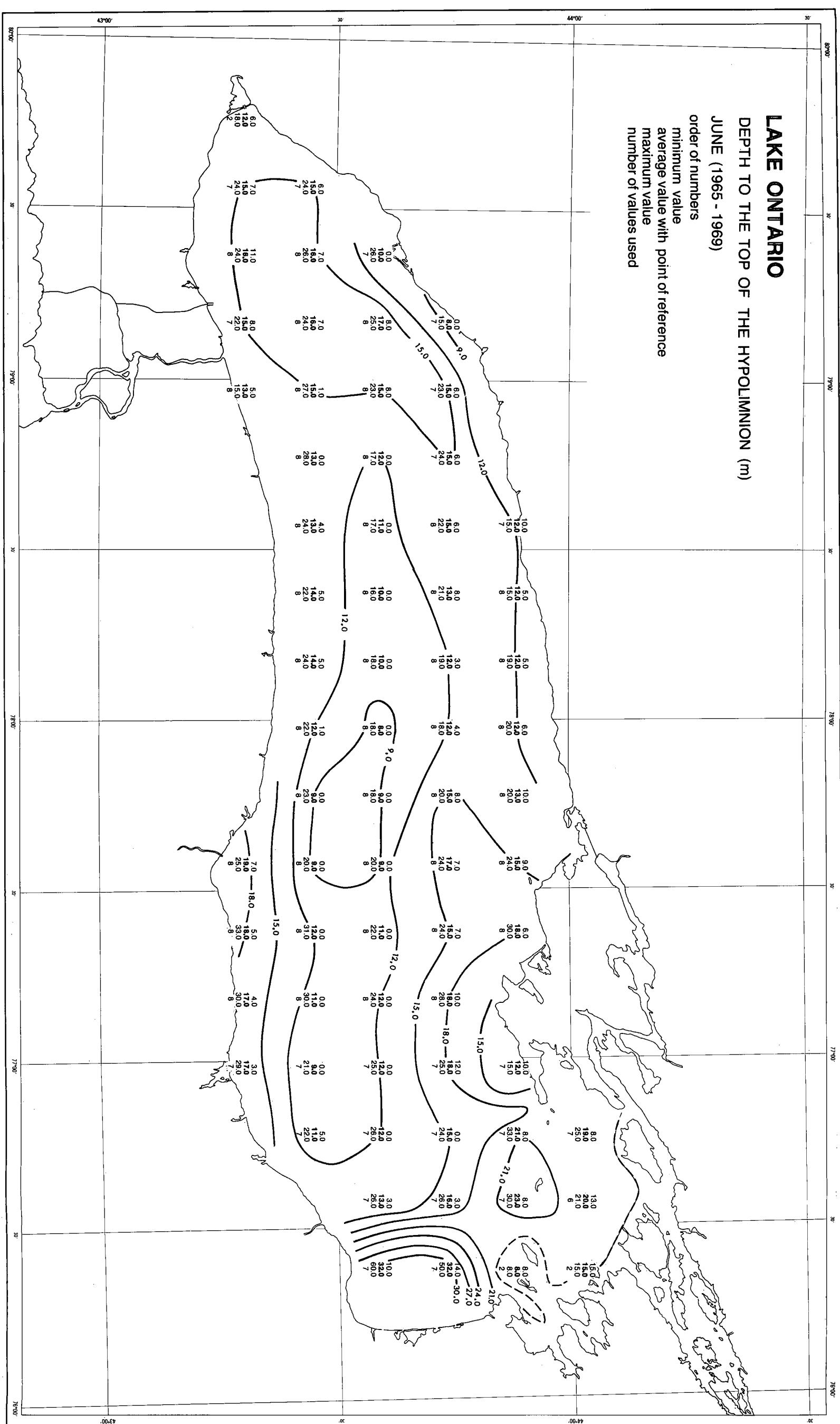


Figure 27

LAKE ONTARIO

DEPTH TO THE TOP OF THE HYPOLIMNION (m)

JULY (1960 - 1969)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

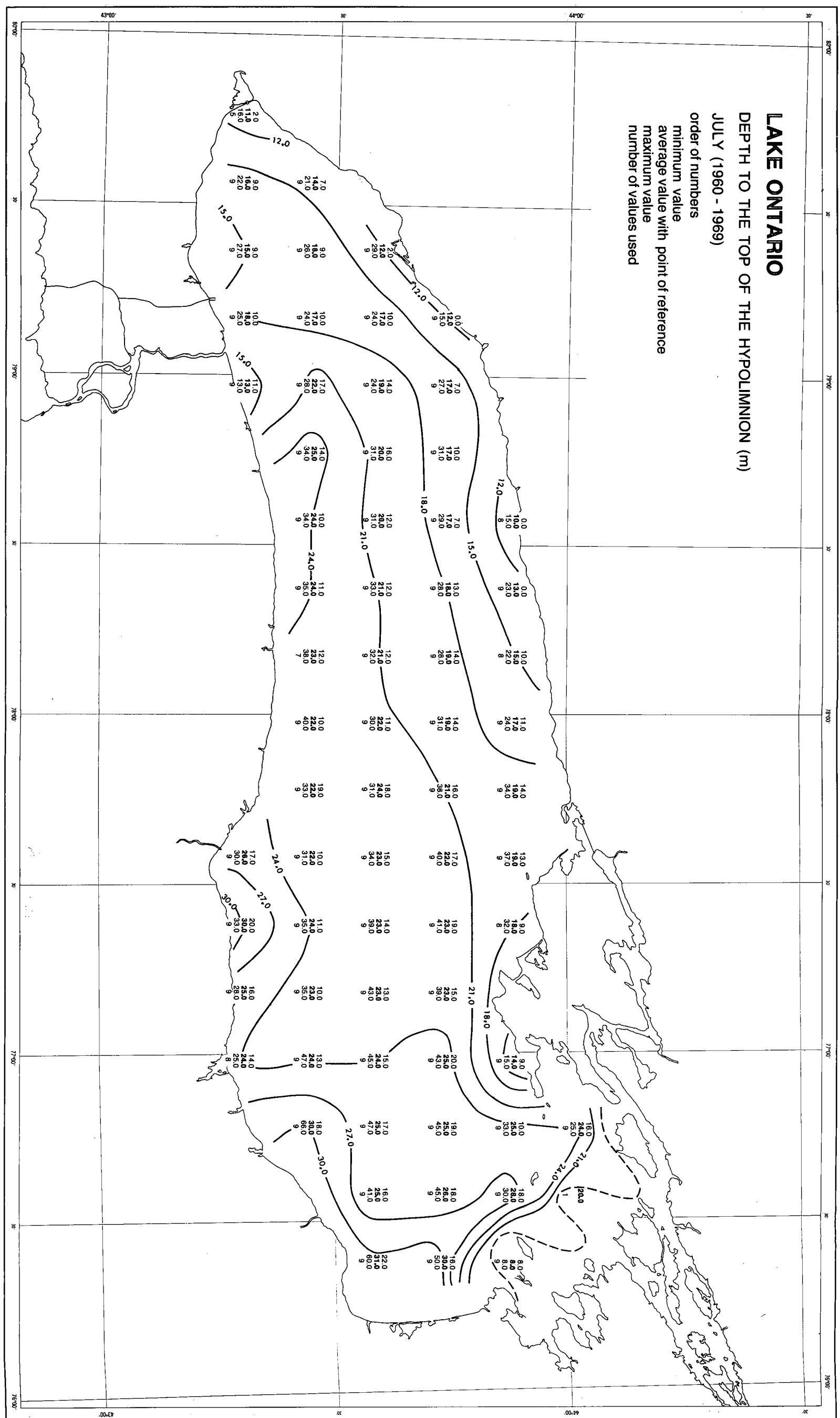


Figure 28

LAKE ONTARIO

DEPT. TO THE TOP OF THE HYPOLIMNION (m)

AUGUST

(1960 - 1969)

order of numbers
minimum value
average value with point of reference
maximum value
number of values used

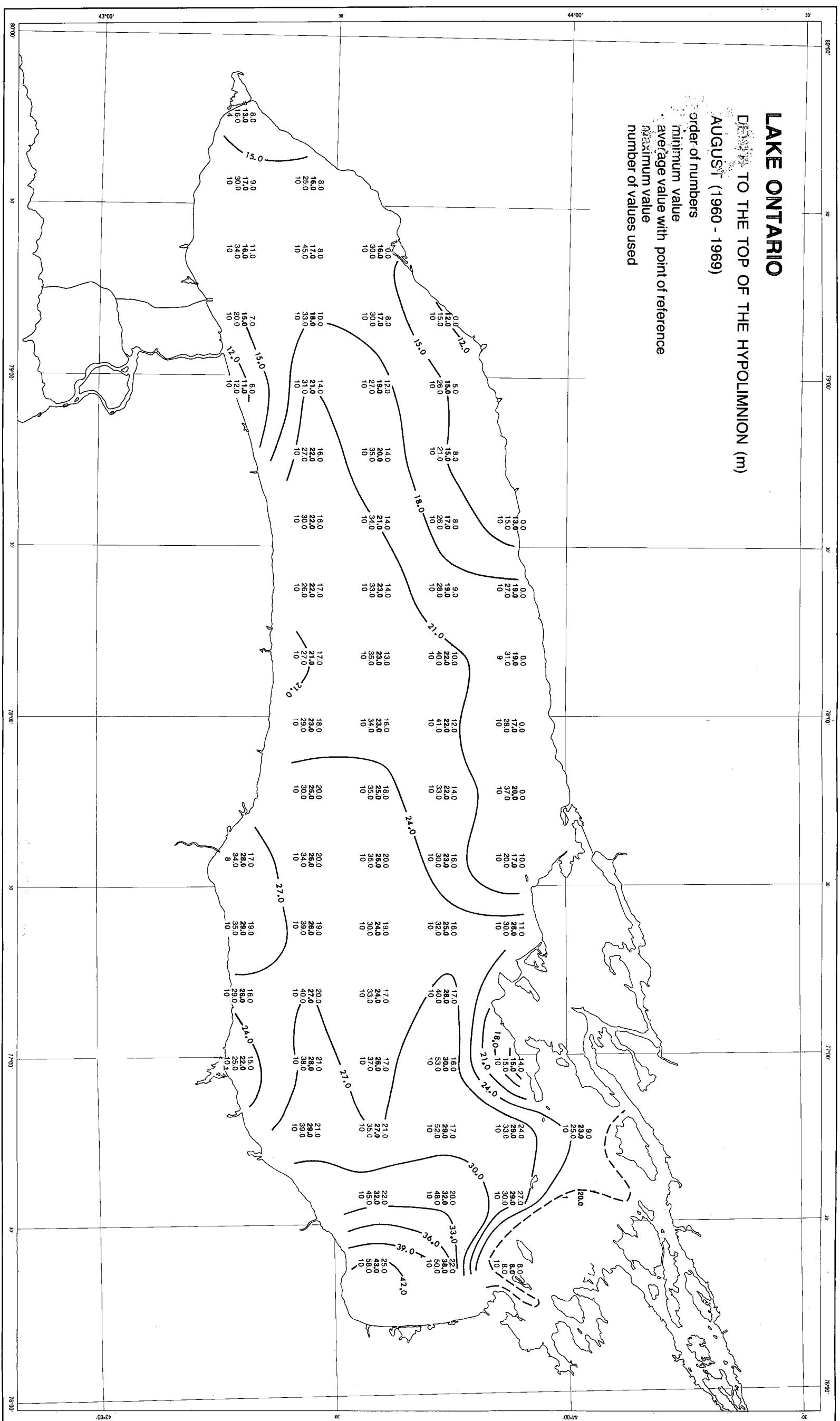


Figure 29

LAKE ONTARIO

DEPTH TO THE TOP OF THE HYPOLIMNION (m)

SEPTEMBER (1960 - 1969)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

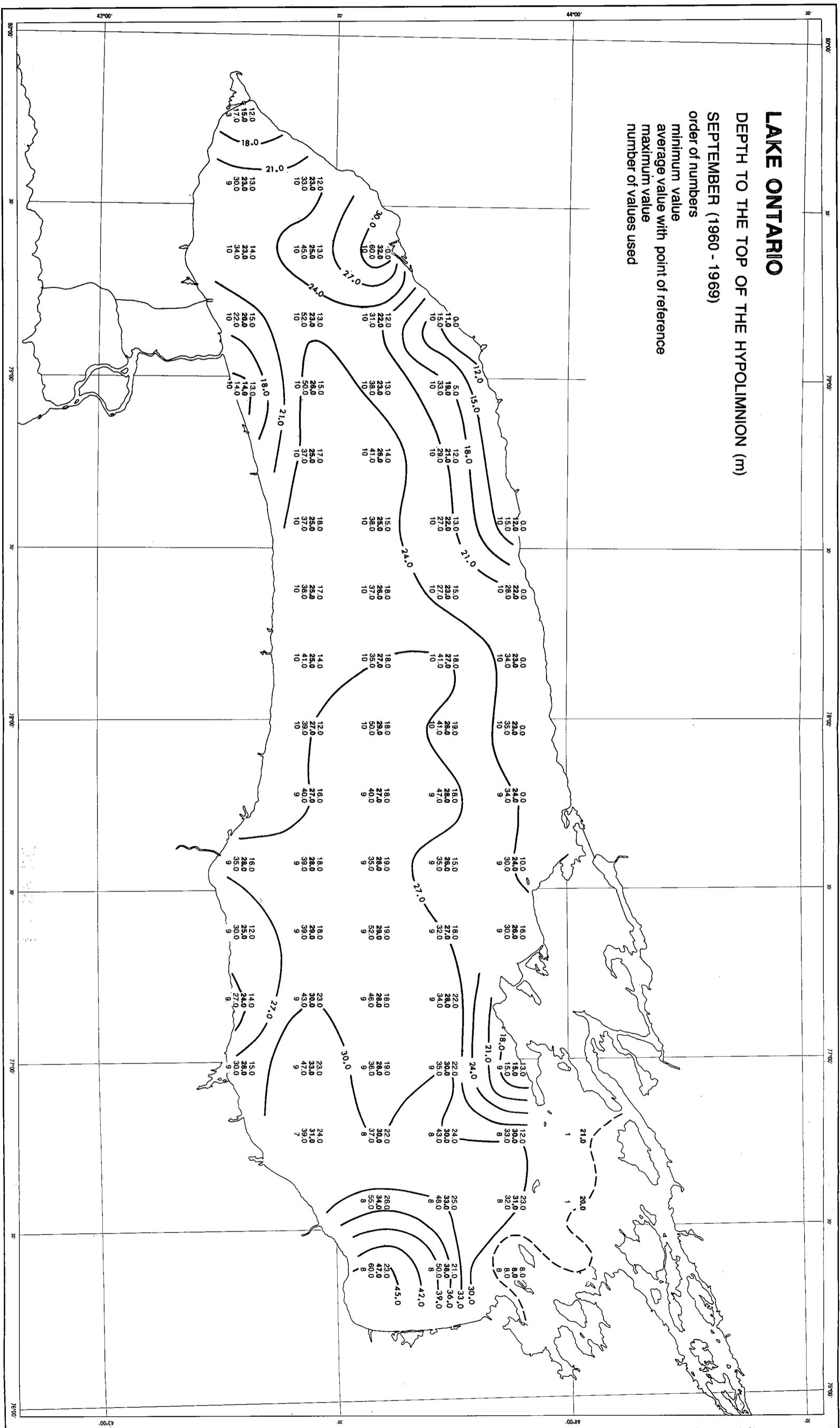


Figure 30

**Figures 31 to 37. Bottom Percent Saturation
of Dissolved Oxygen (Averages and Extremes),
Lake Ontario, May to November**

LAKE ONTARIO

BOTTOM OXYGEN CONCENTRATION (% SATURATION) MAY (1968 - 1969)

order of numbers
minimum value
average value with point of reference
maximum value
number of values used

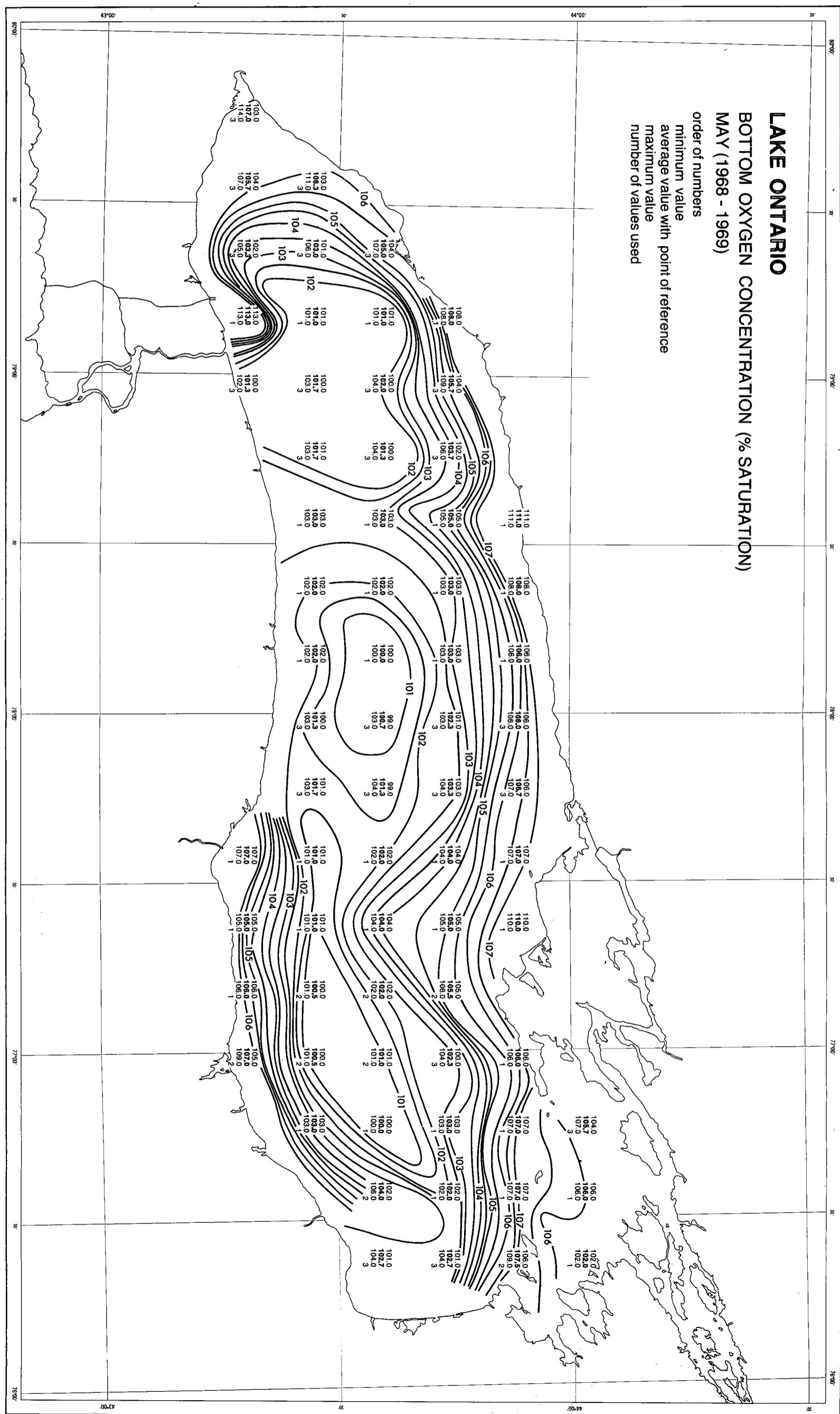


Figure 31

LAKE ONTARIO

BOTTOM OXYGEN CONCENTRATION (% SATURATION)

JUNE (1966 - 1969)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

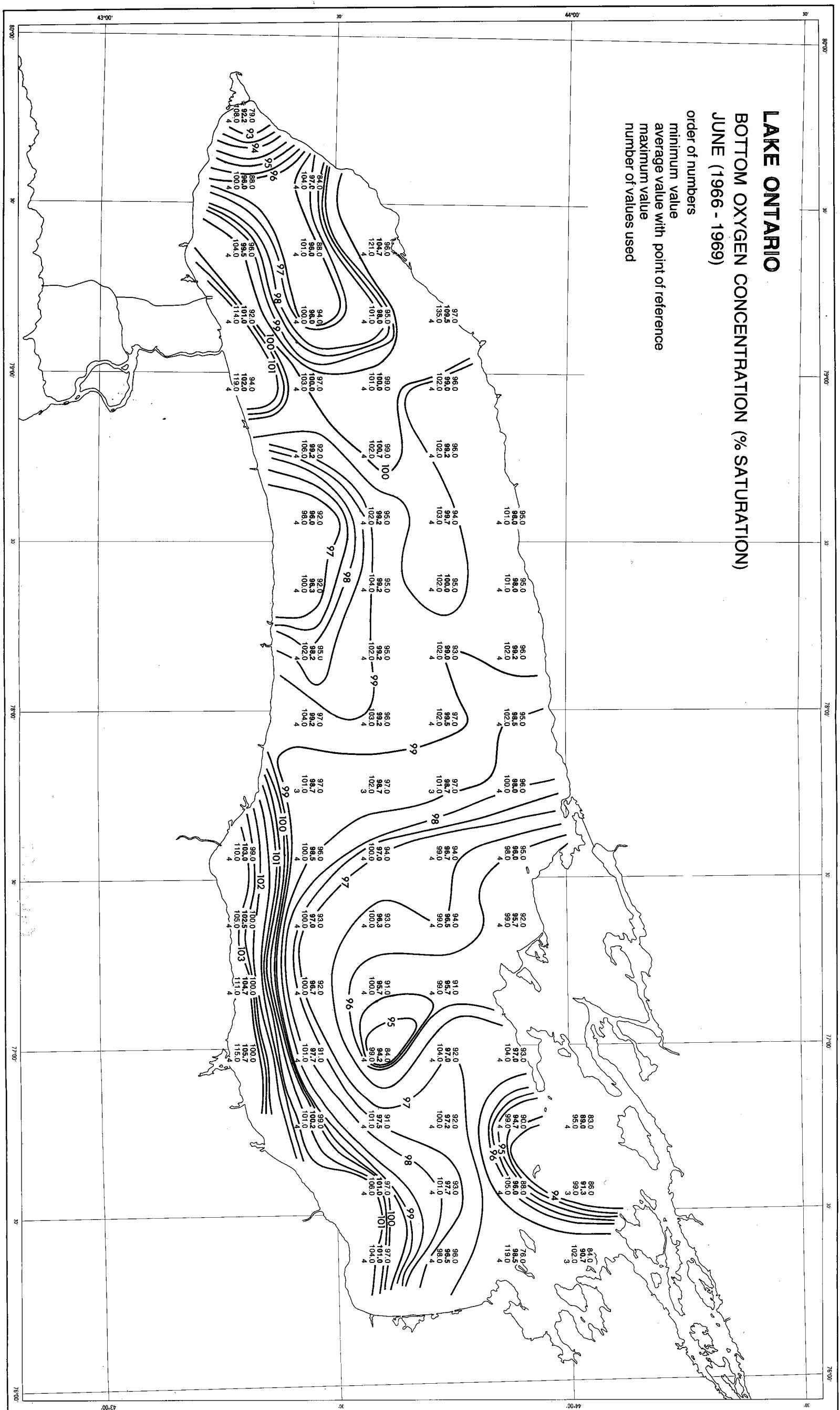


Figure 32

LAKE ONTARIO

BOTTOM SEDIMENT CONCENTRATION (% SATURATION)
JULY (1960 - 1969)

minimum value
average value with point of reference
maximum value
number of values used

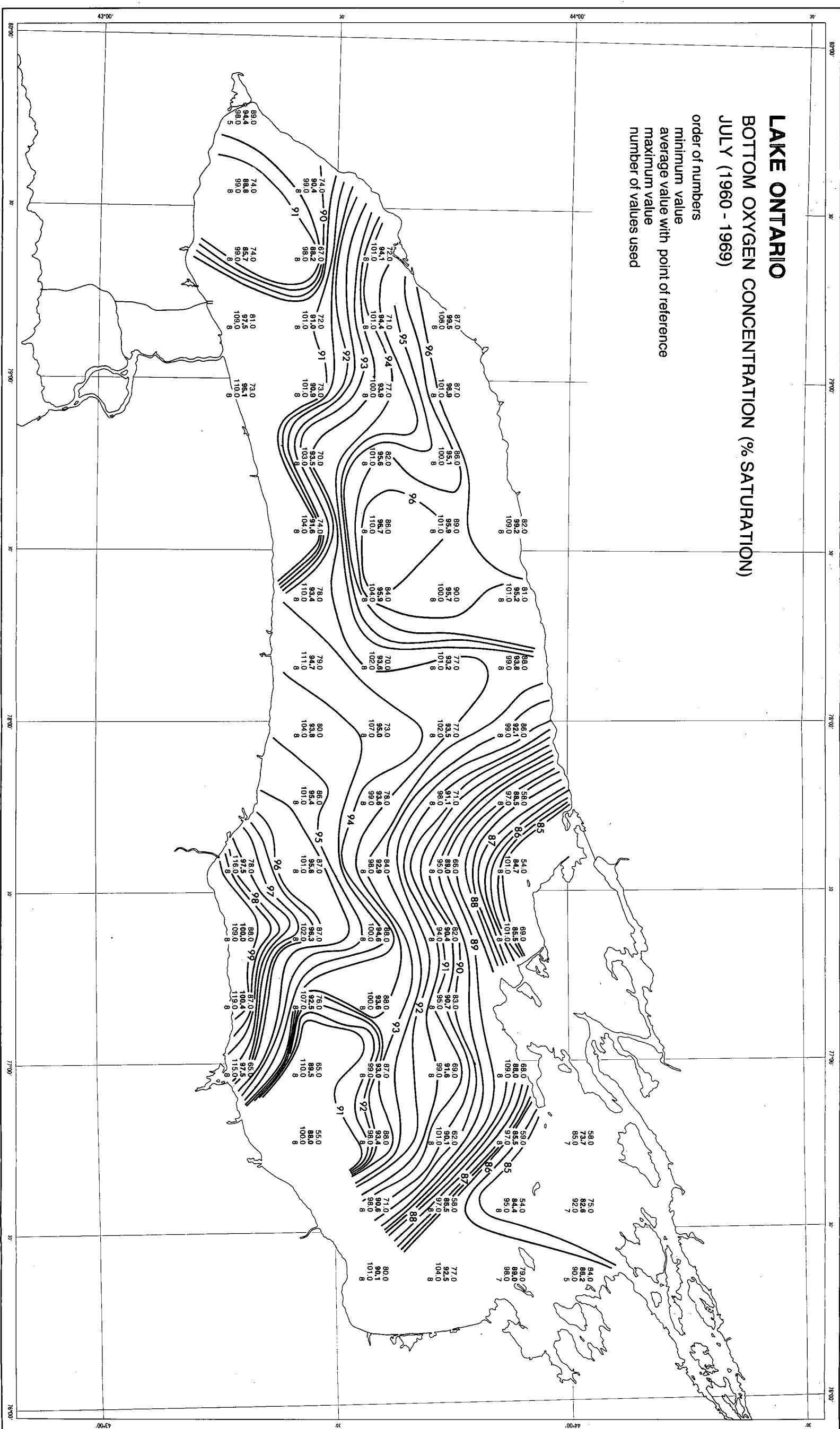


Figure 33

LAKE ONTARIO

BOTTOM OXYGEN CONCENTRATION (% SATURATION) AUGUST (1960 - 1969)

order of numbers
minimum value
average value with point of reference
maximum value
number of values used

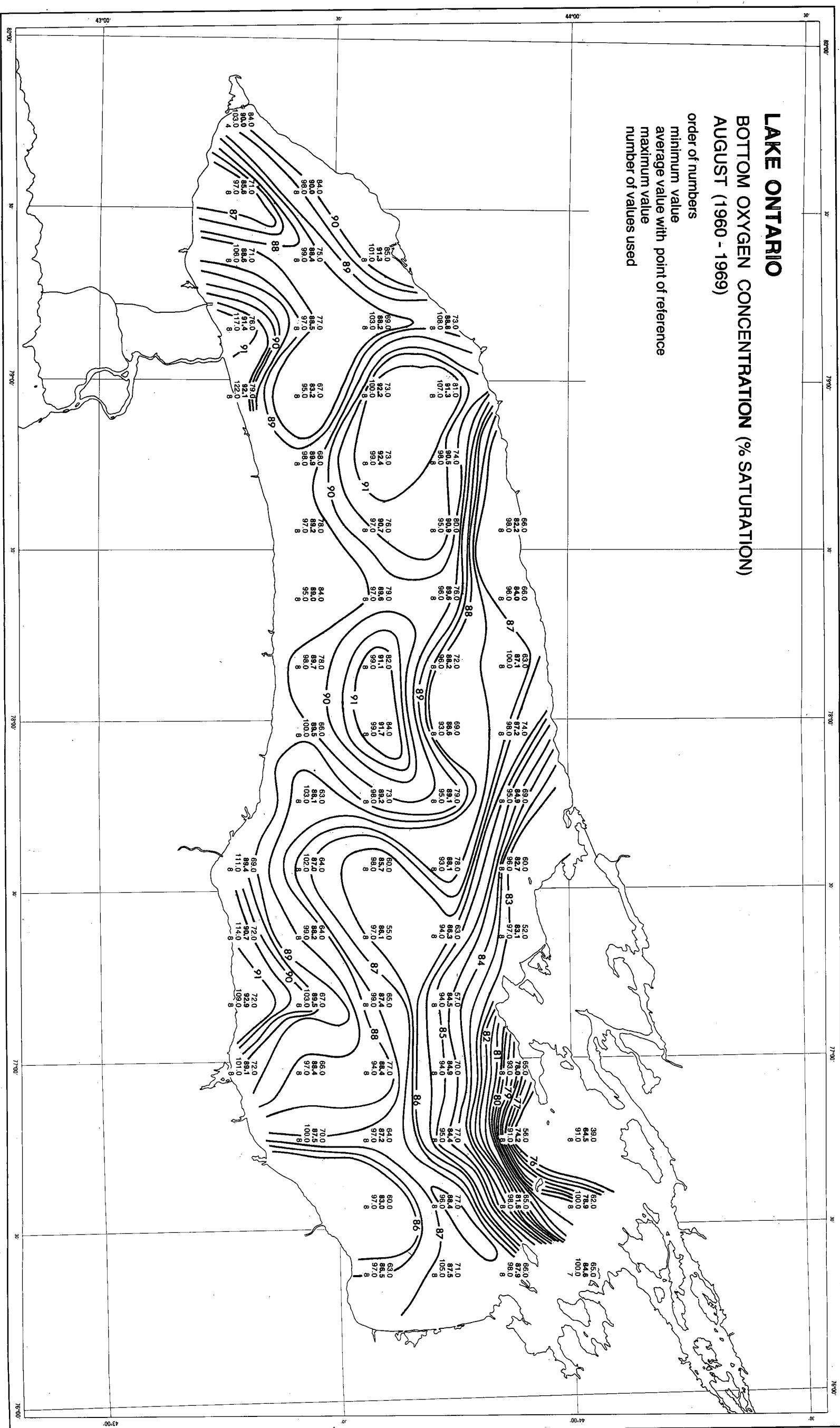


Figure 34

LAKE ONTARIO

BOTTOM OXYGEN CONCENTRATION (% SATURATION) SEPTEMBER (1960 - 1969)

order of numbers

minimum value

average value with point of reference

maximum value

number of values used

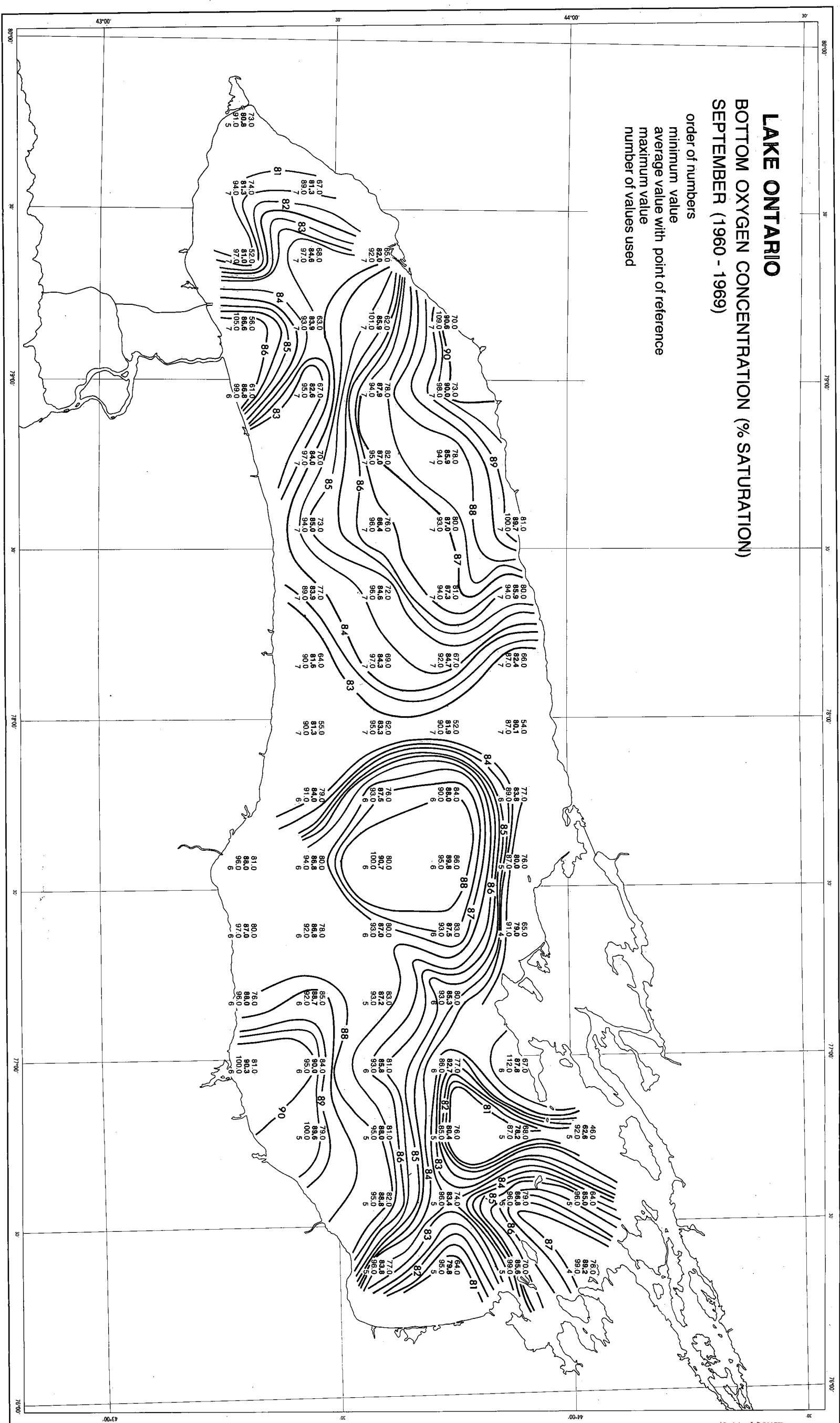


Figure 35

LAKE ONTARIO

BOTTOM OXYGEN CONCENTRATION (% SATURATION) OCTOBER (1960 - 1969)

order of numbers
minimum value
average value with point of reference
maximum value
number of values used

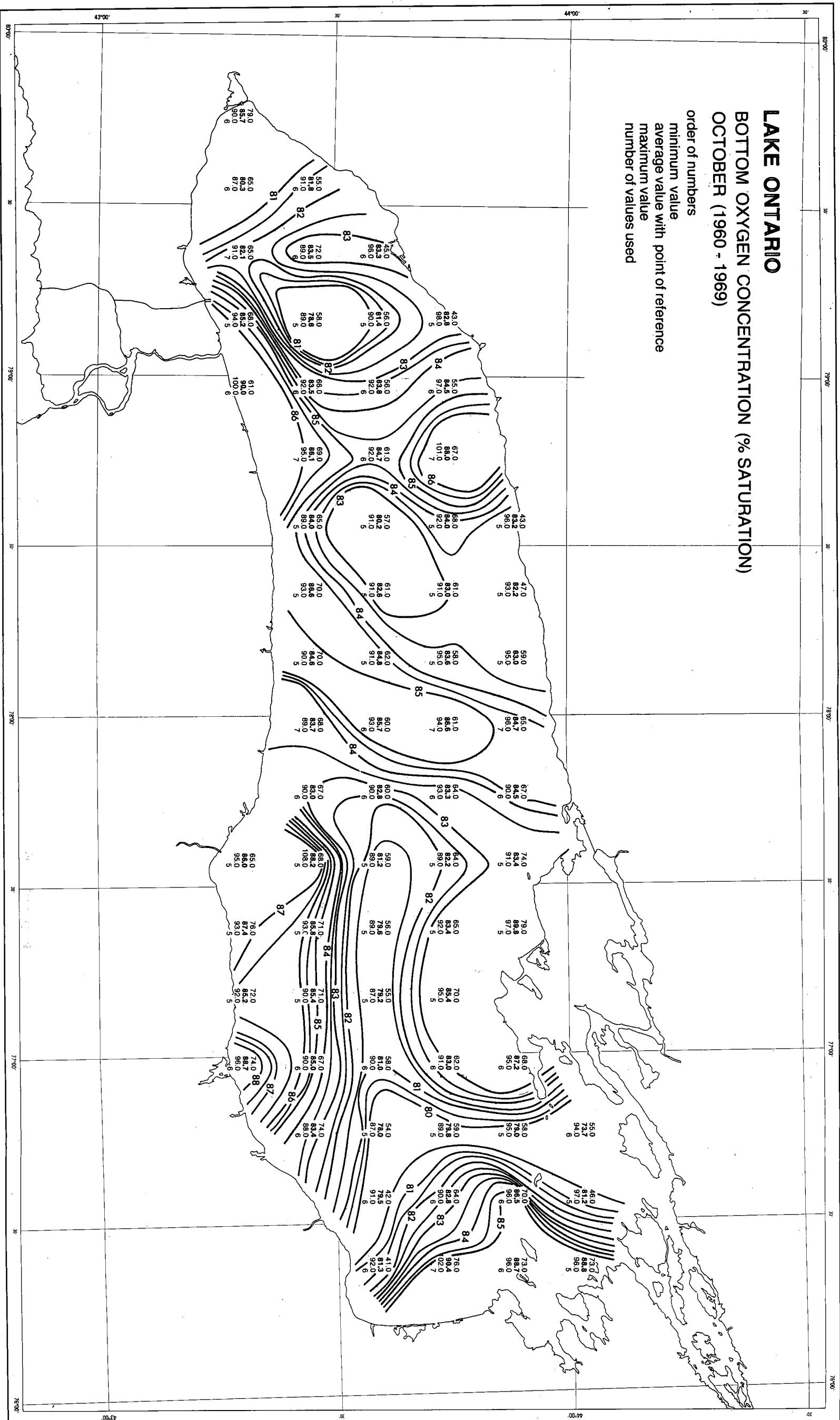


Figure 36

LAKE ONTARIO

BOTTOM OXYGEN CONCENTRATION (% SATURATION) NOVEMBER (1960 - 1969)

order of numbers
minimum value
average value with point of reference
maximum value
number of values used

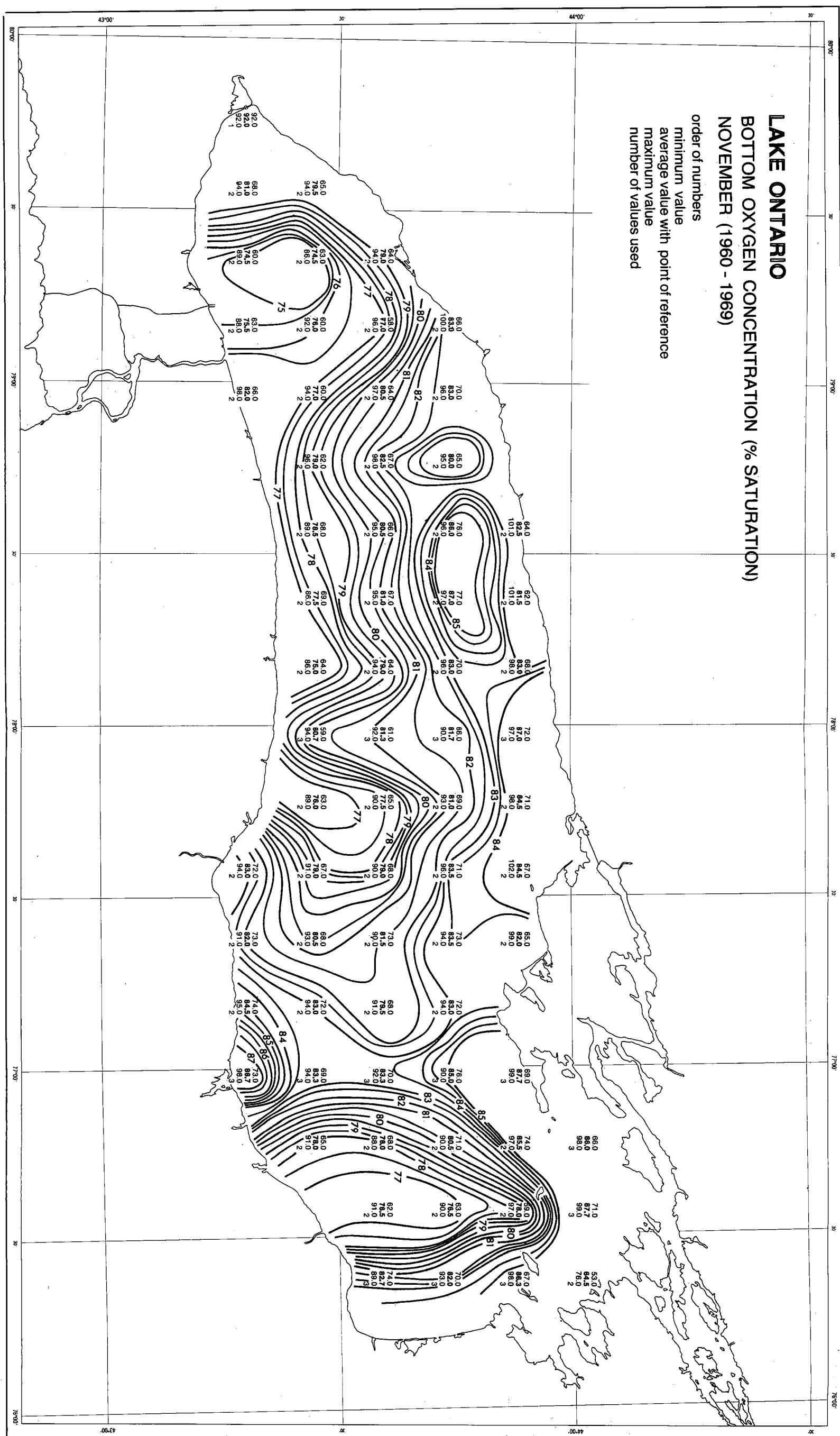


Figure 37

**Figures 38 to 46. Surface Temperature
(Averages and Extremes) of Lake Erie,
April to December**

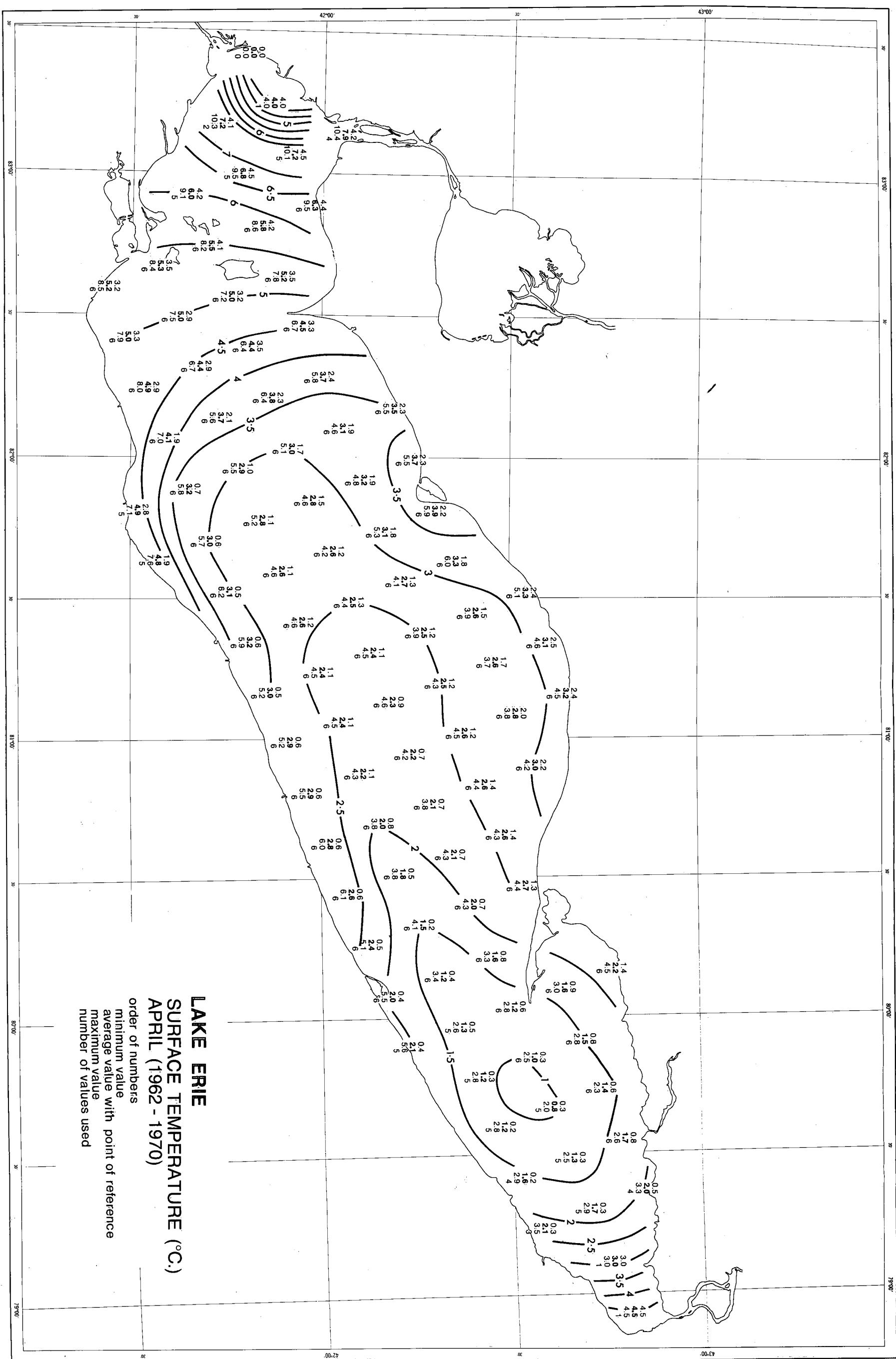


Figure 38

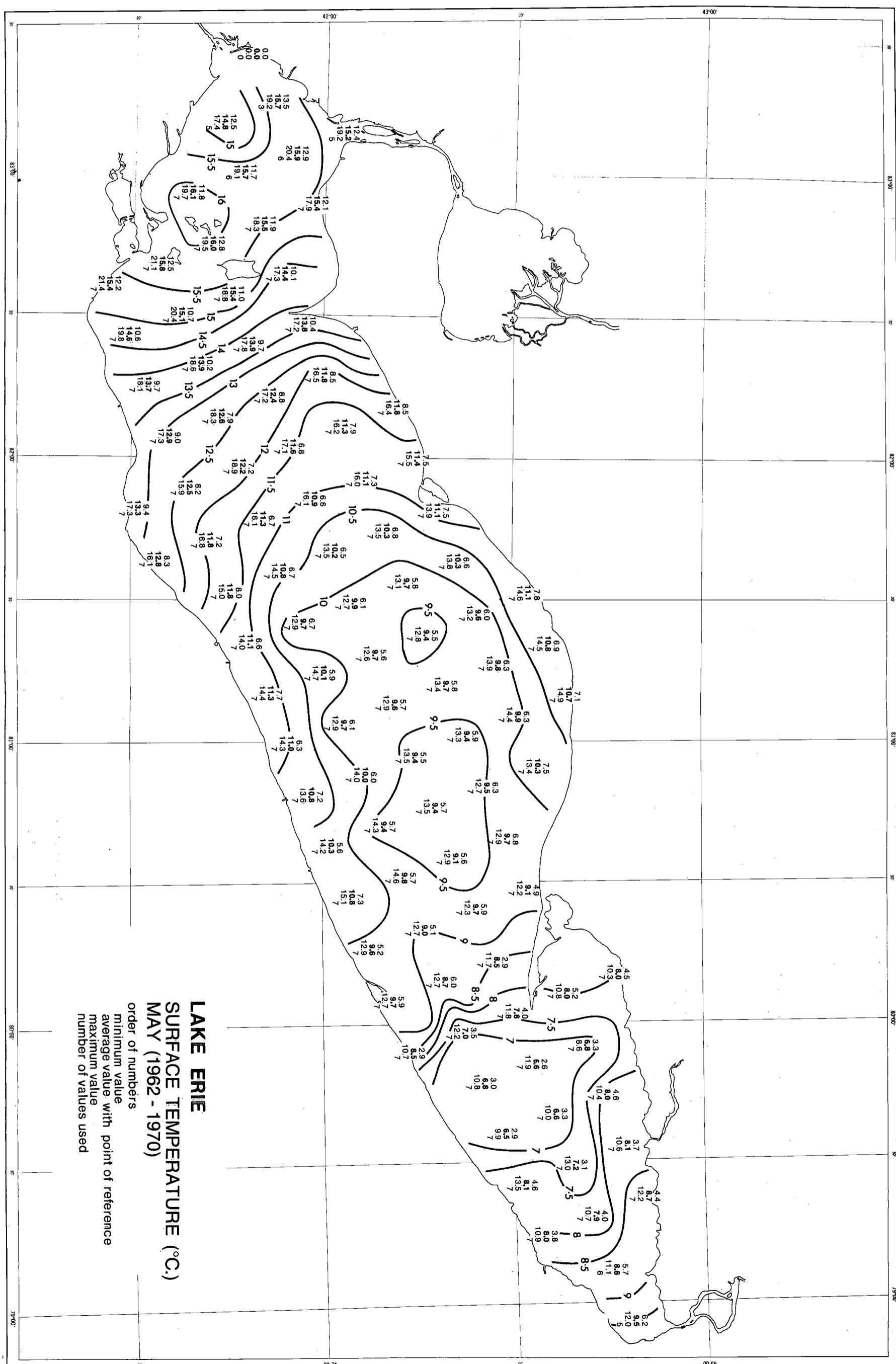


Figure 39

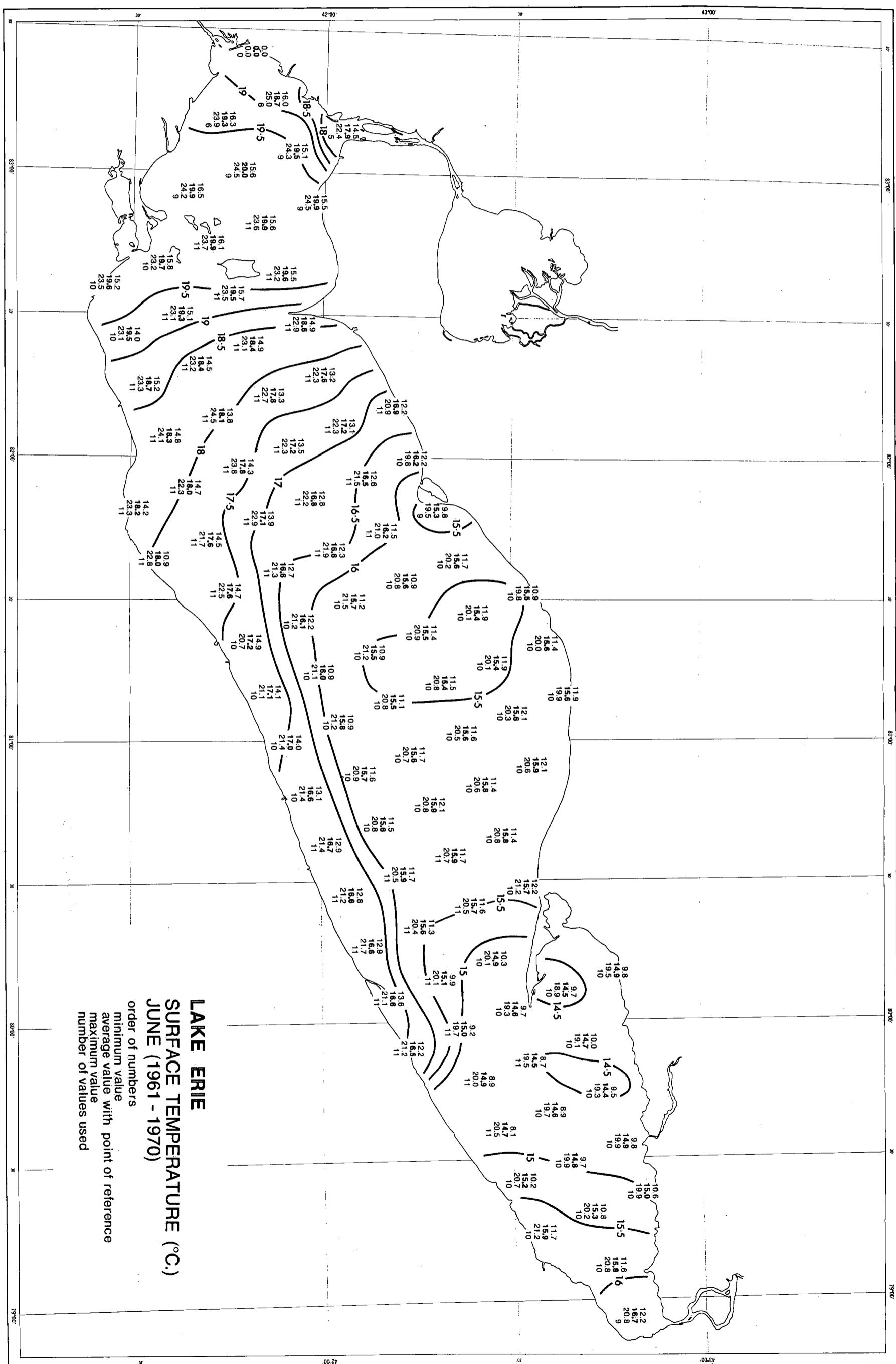


Figure 40

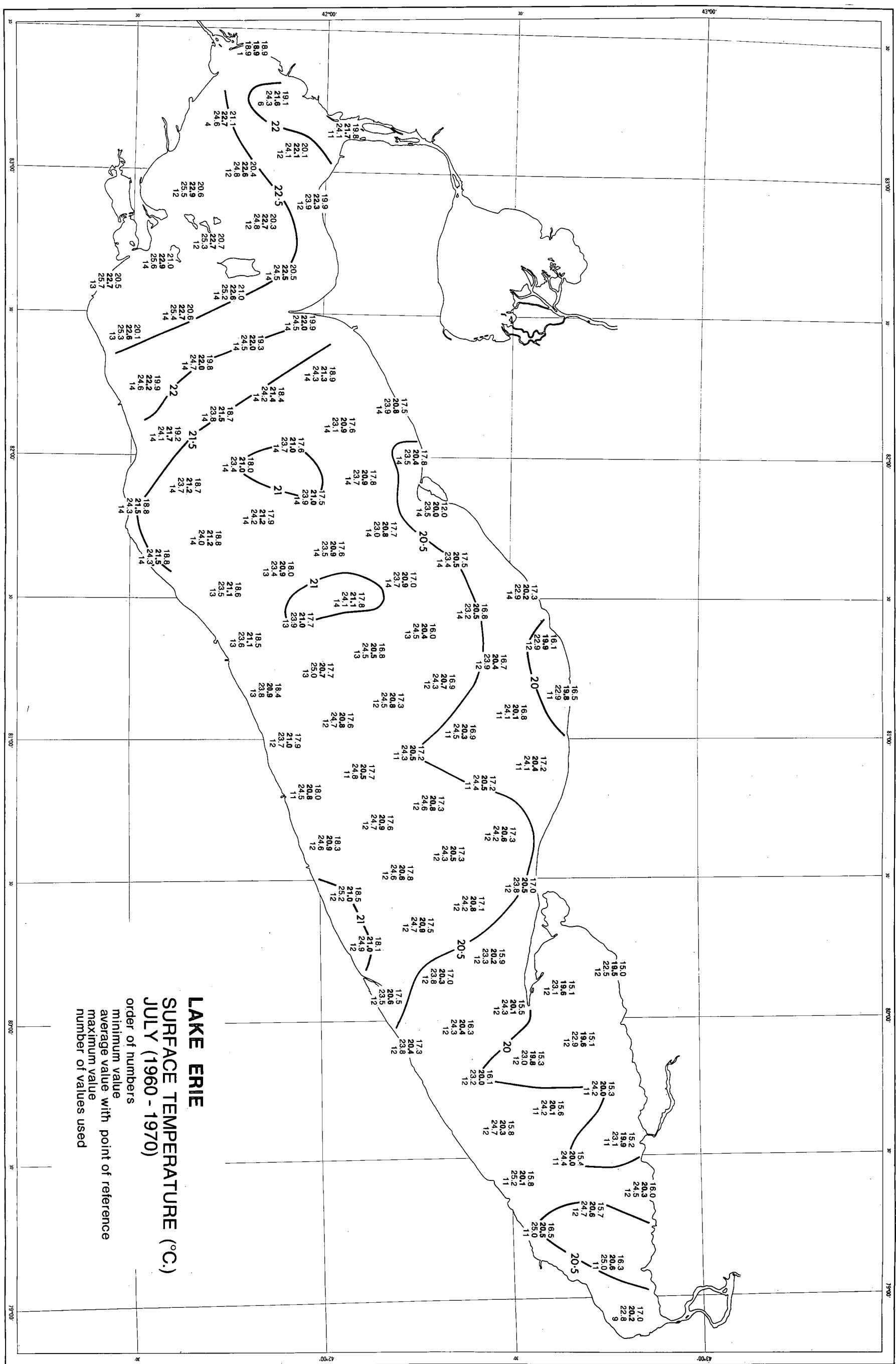


Figure 41

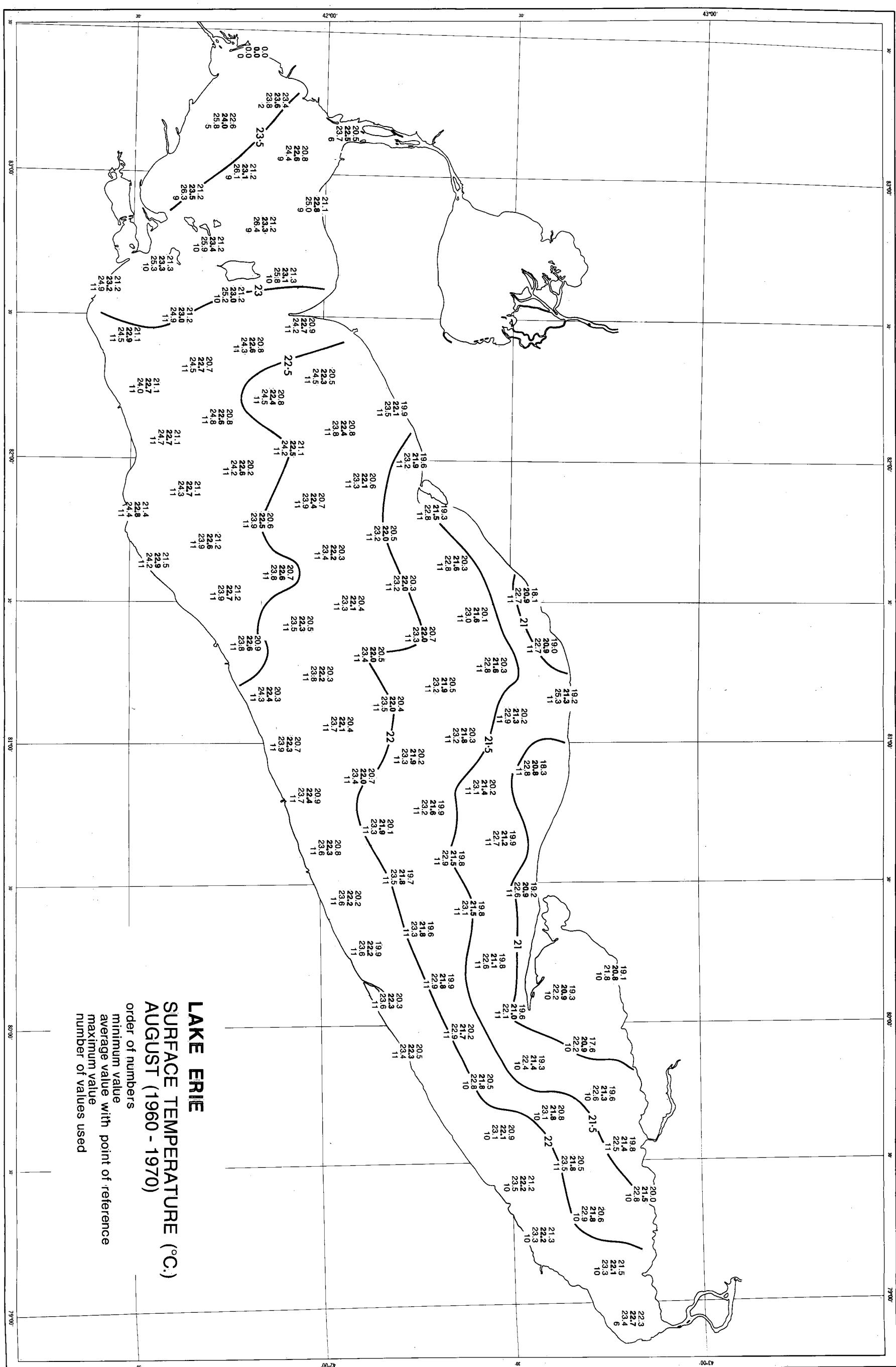


Figure 42

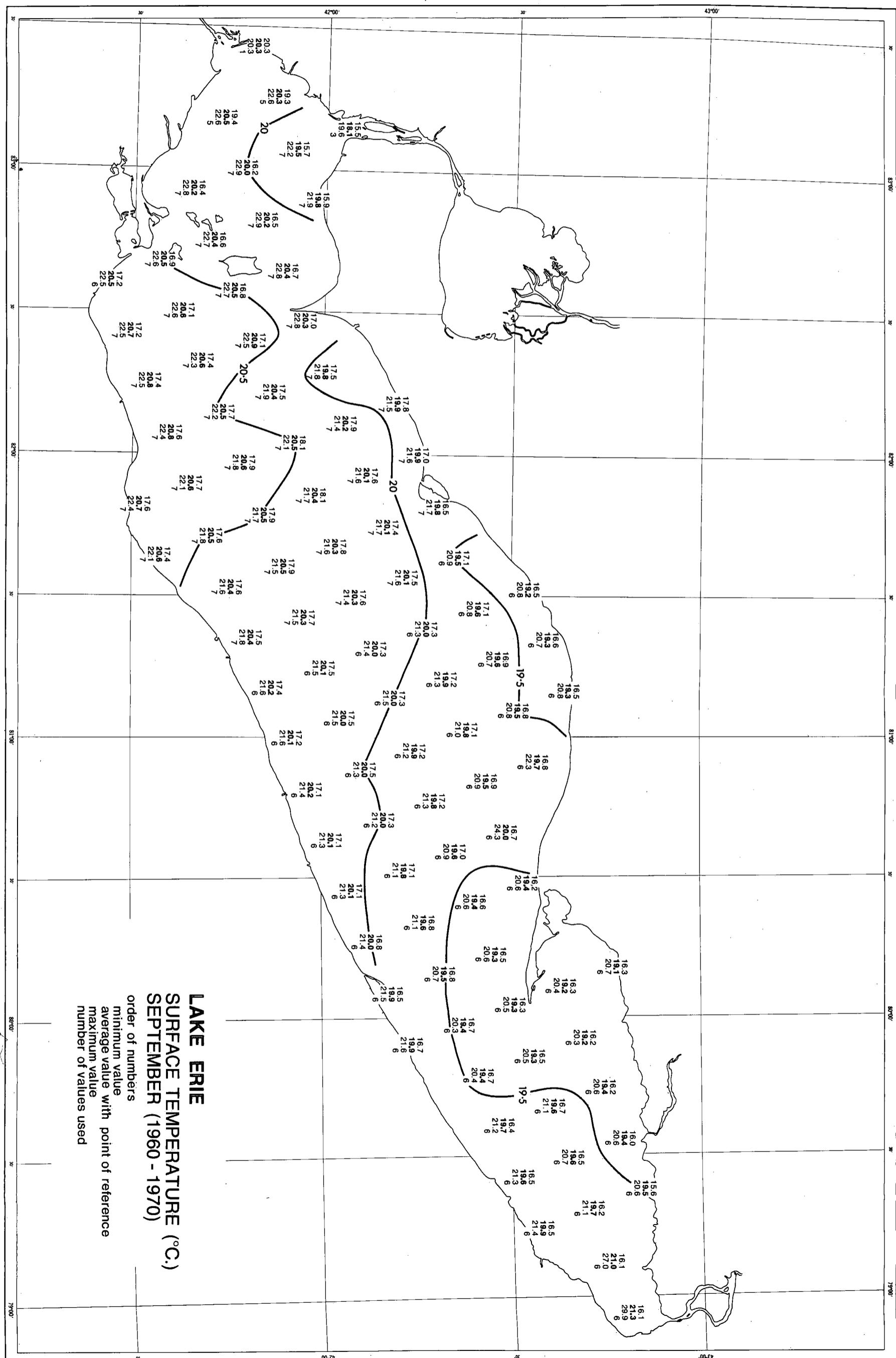


Figure 43

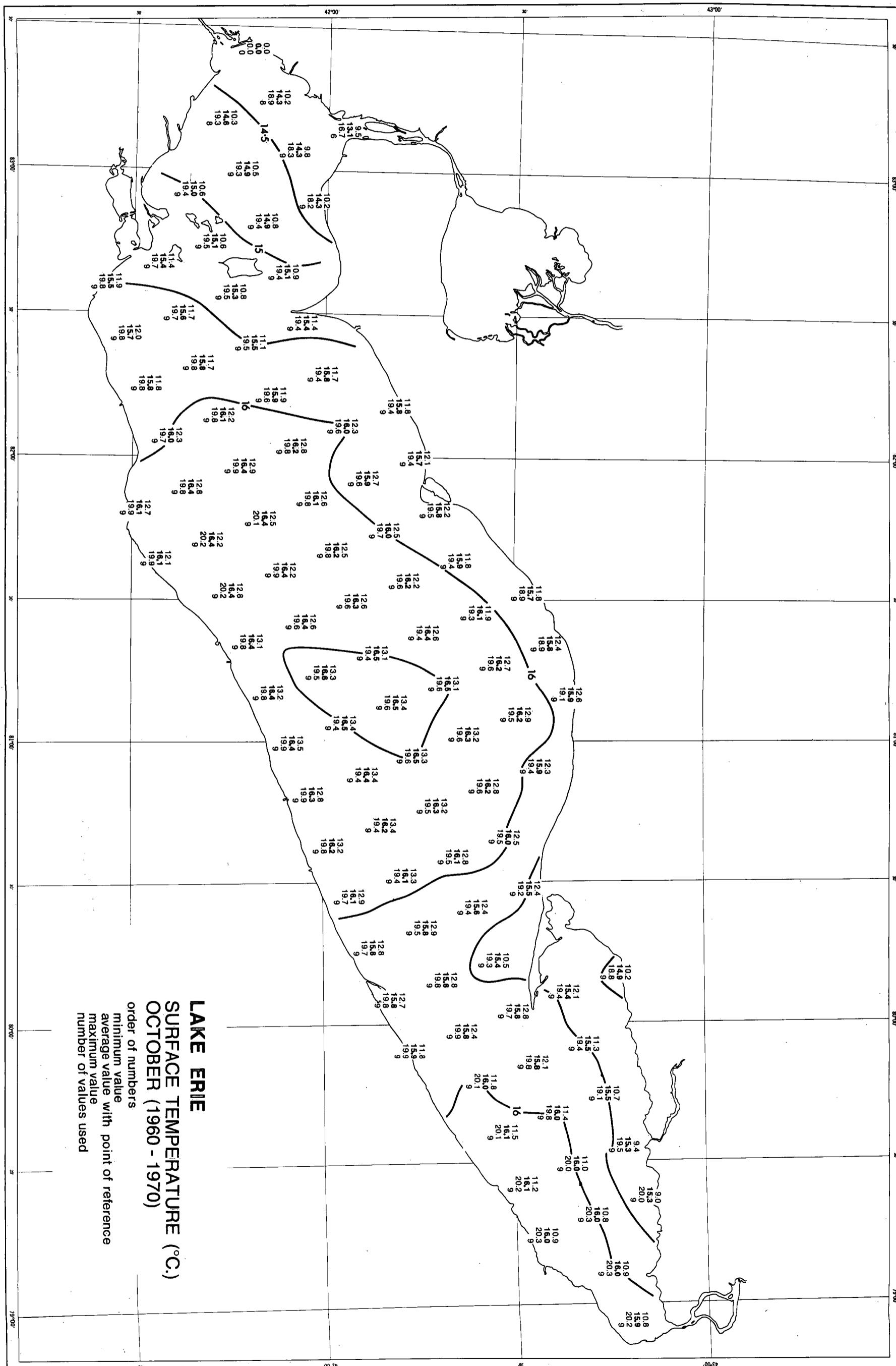


Figure 44

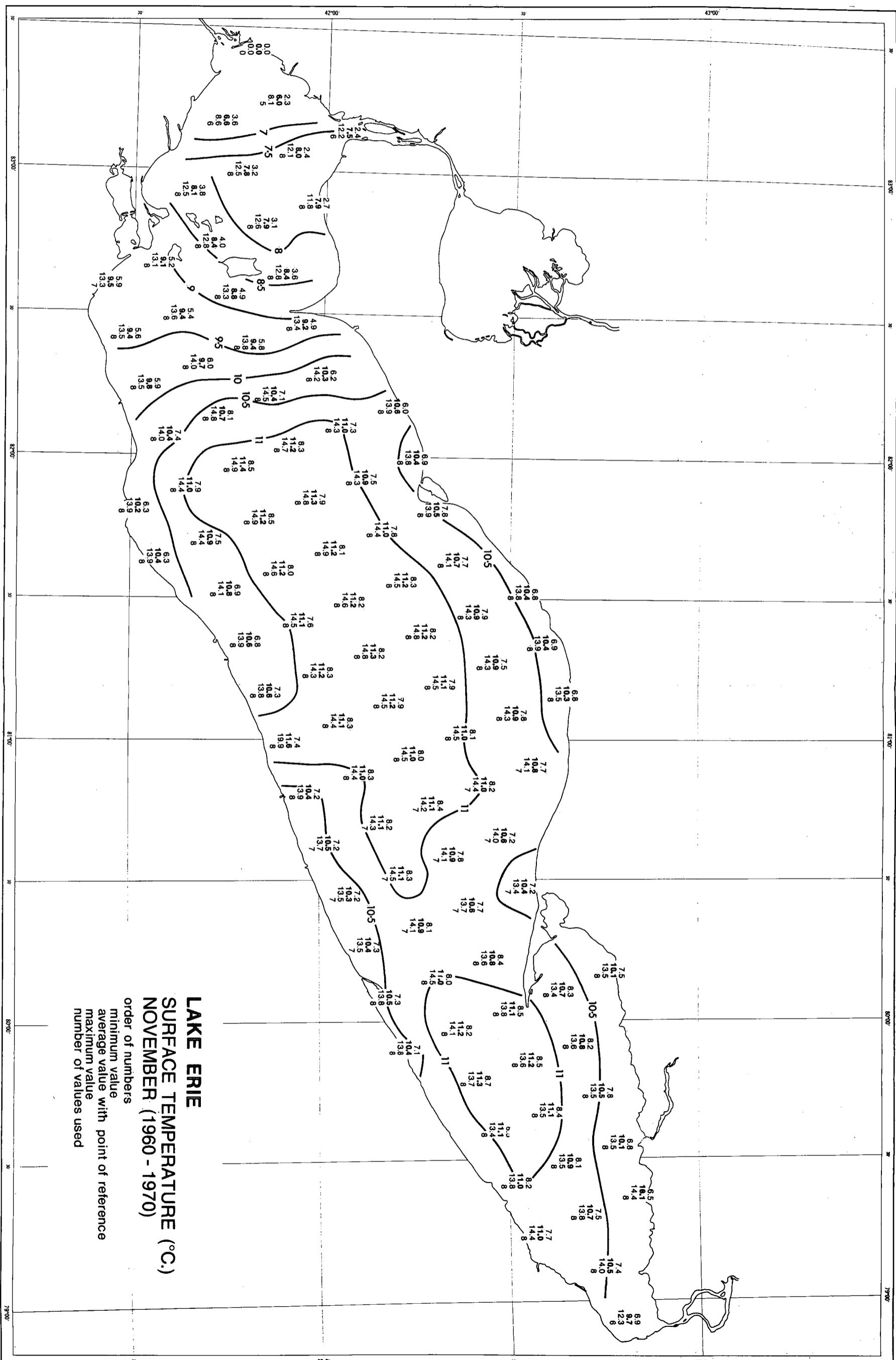


Figure 45

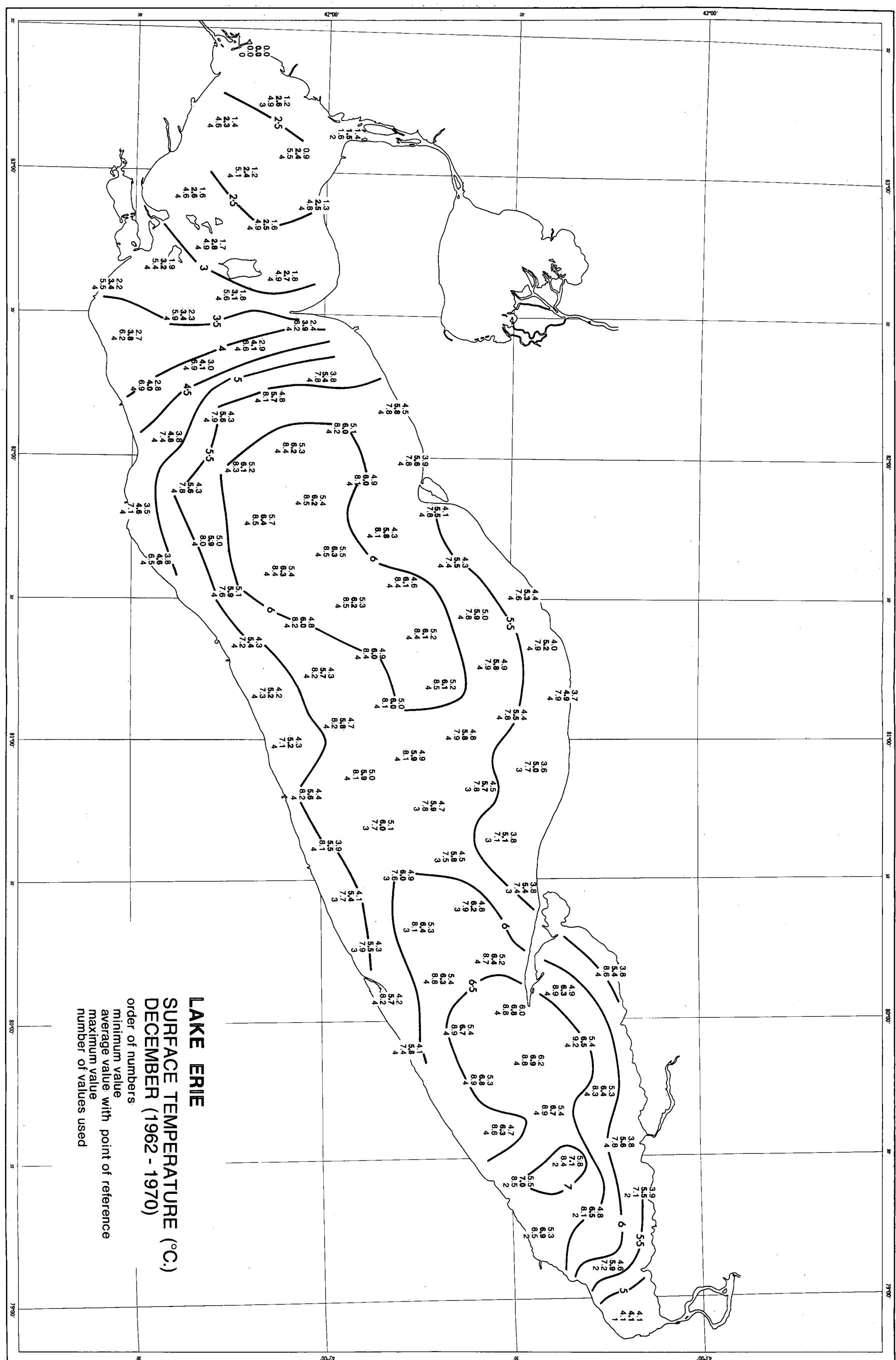


Figure 46

**Figures 47 to 55. Bottom Temperature
(Averages and Extremes) of Lake Erie,
April to December**

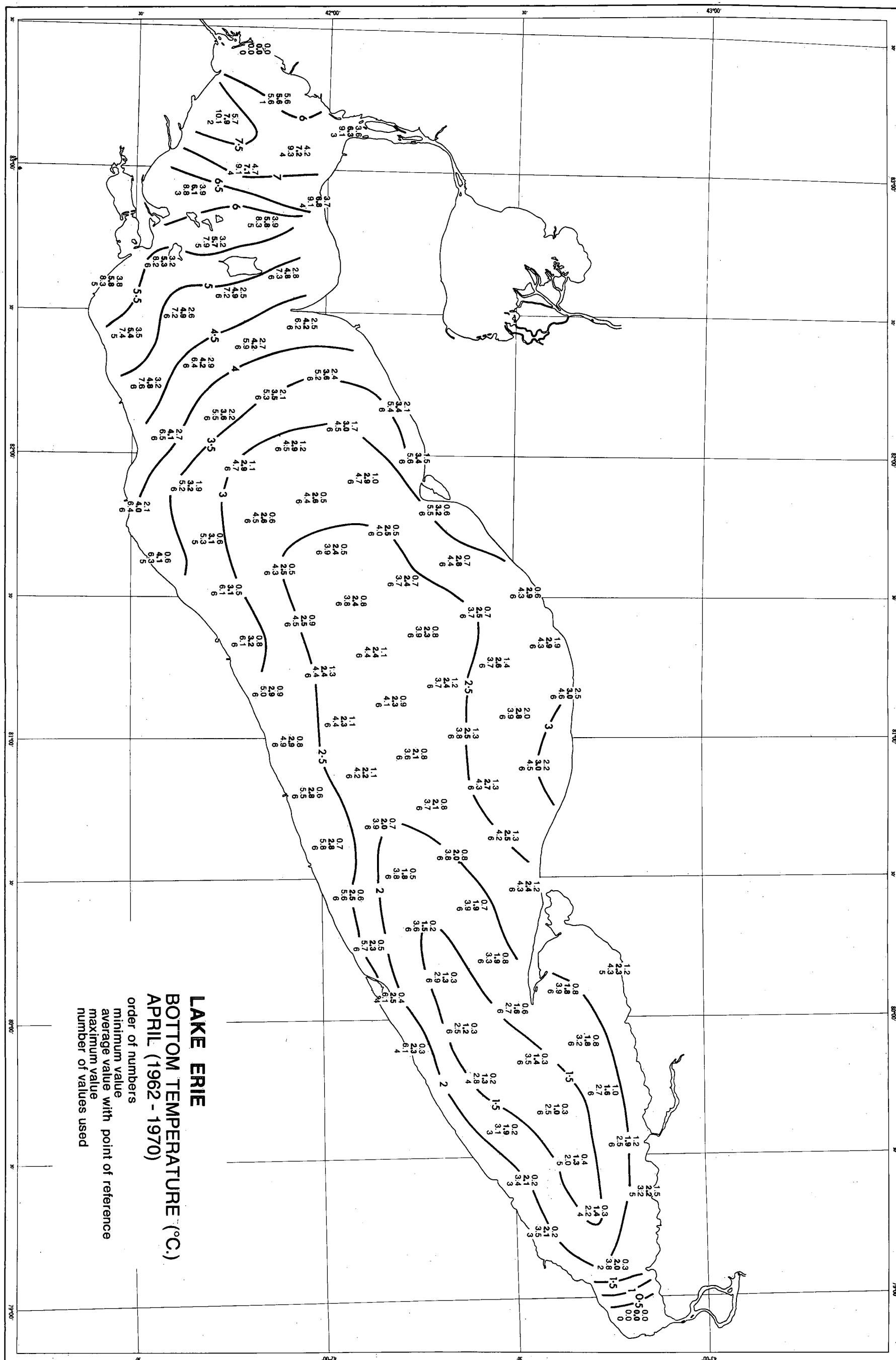


Figure 47

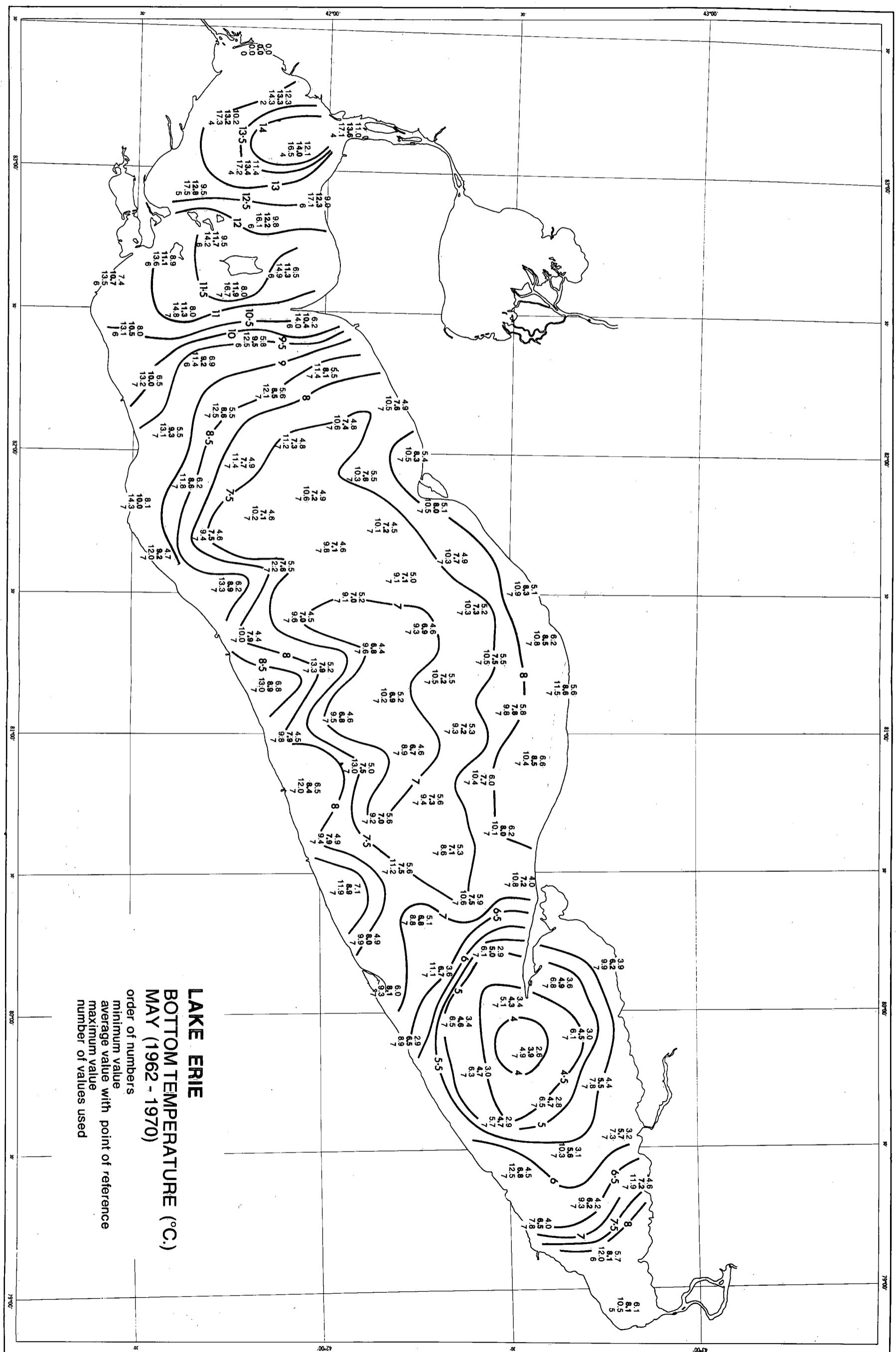


Figure 48

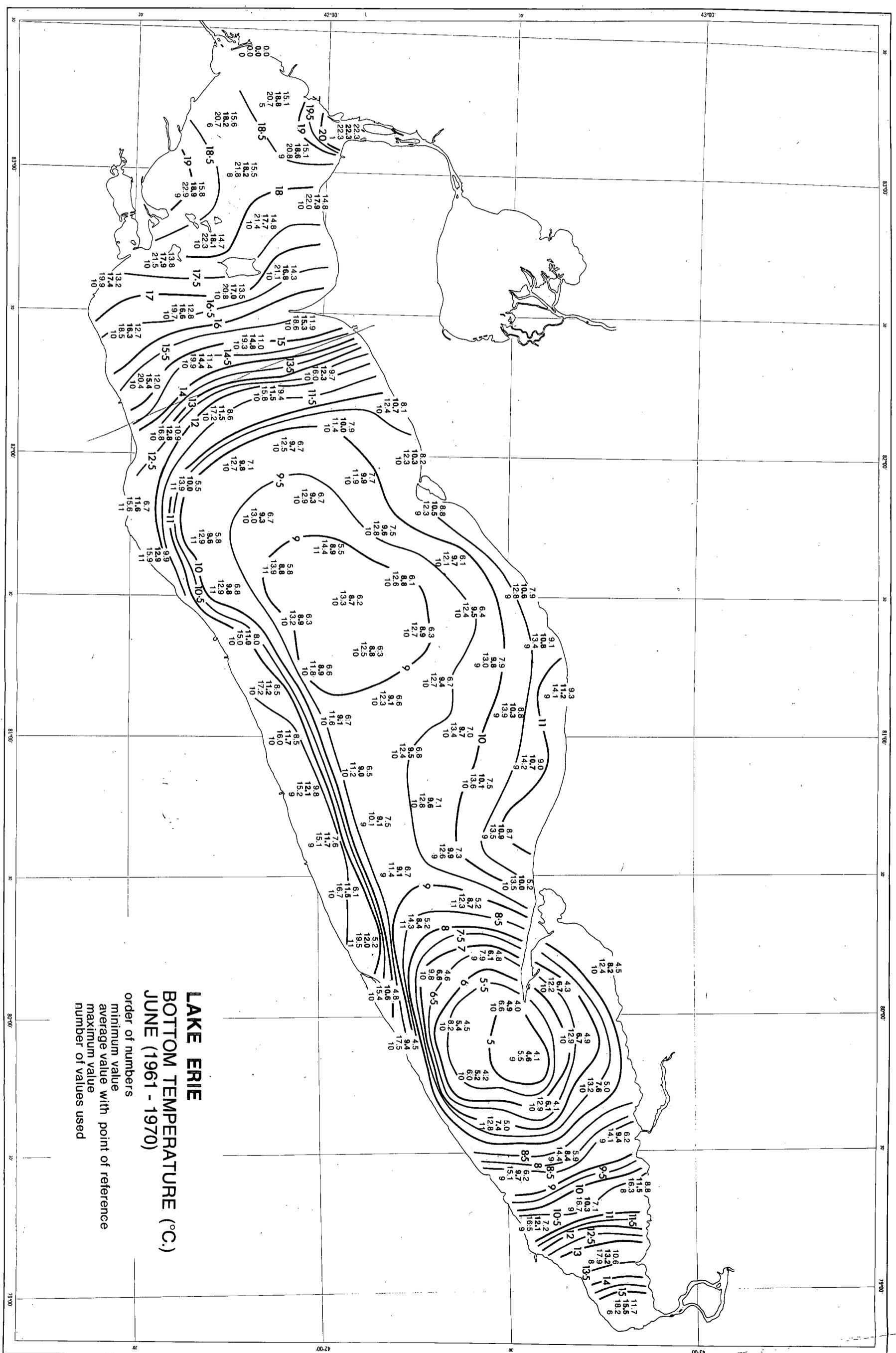


Figure 49

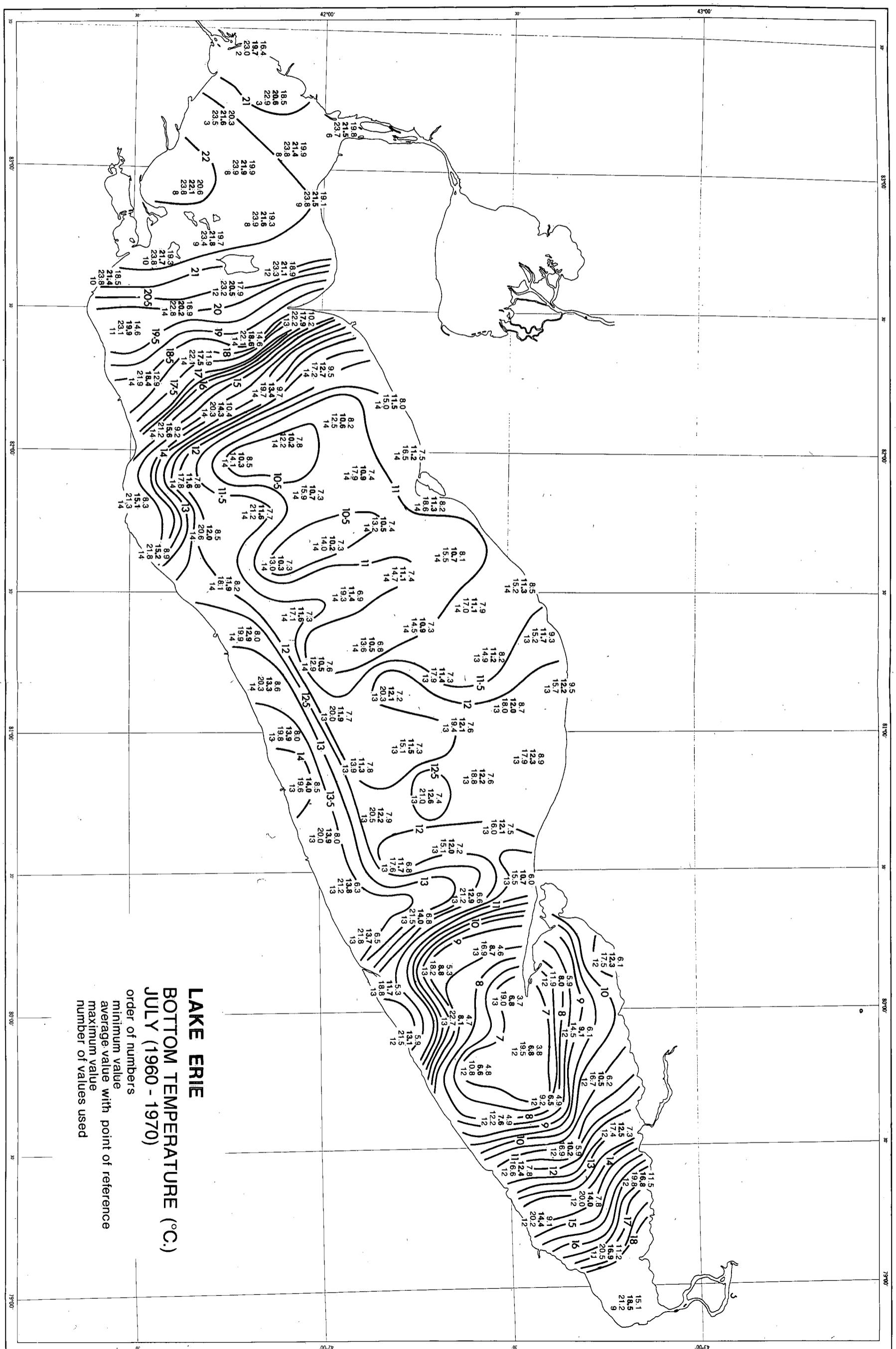


Figure 50

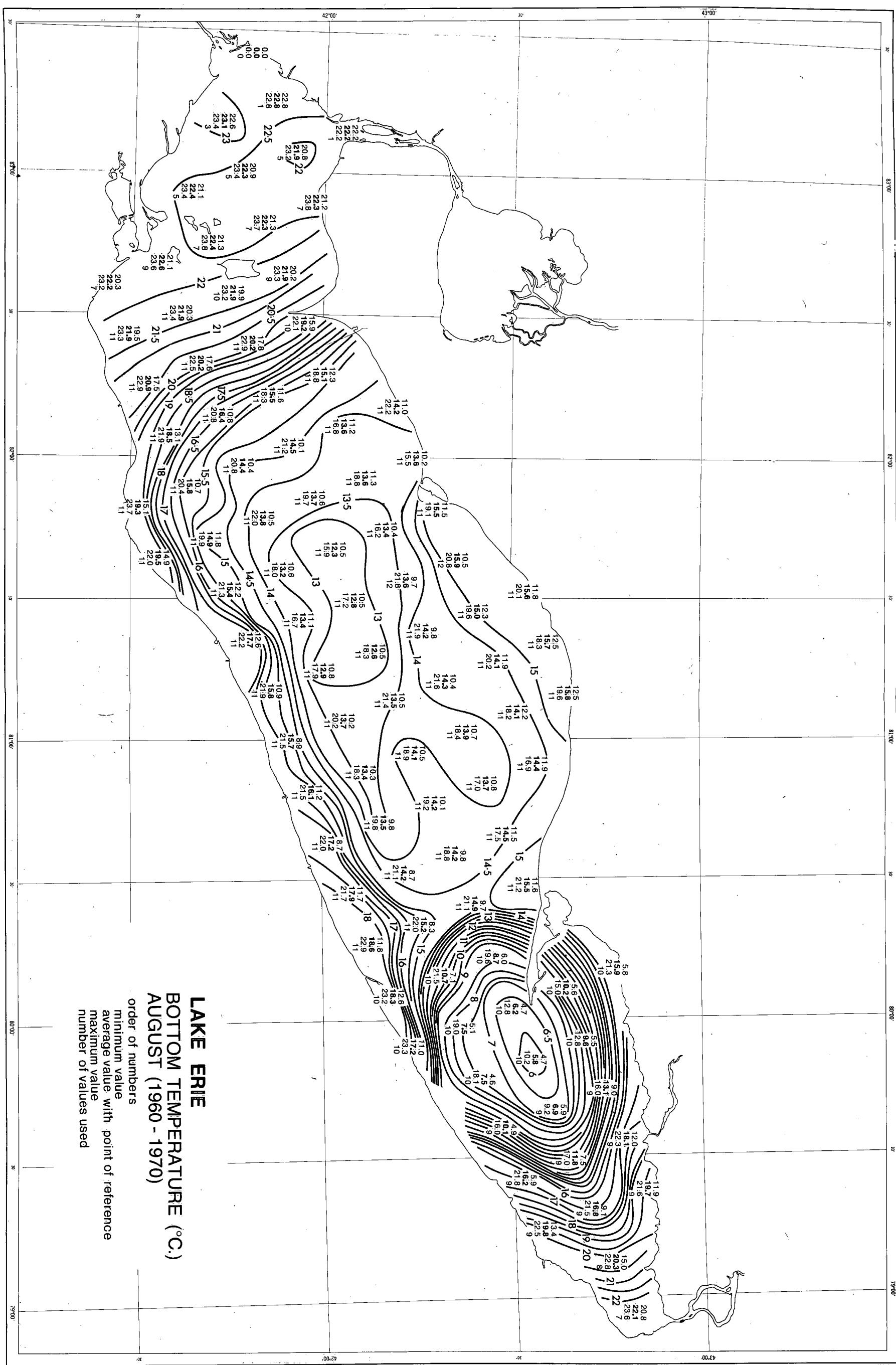
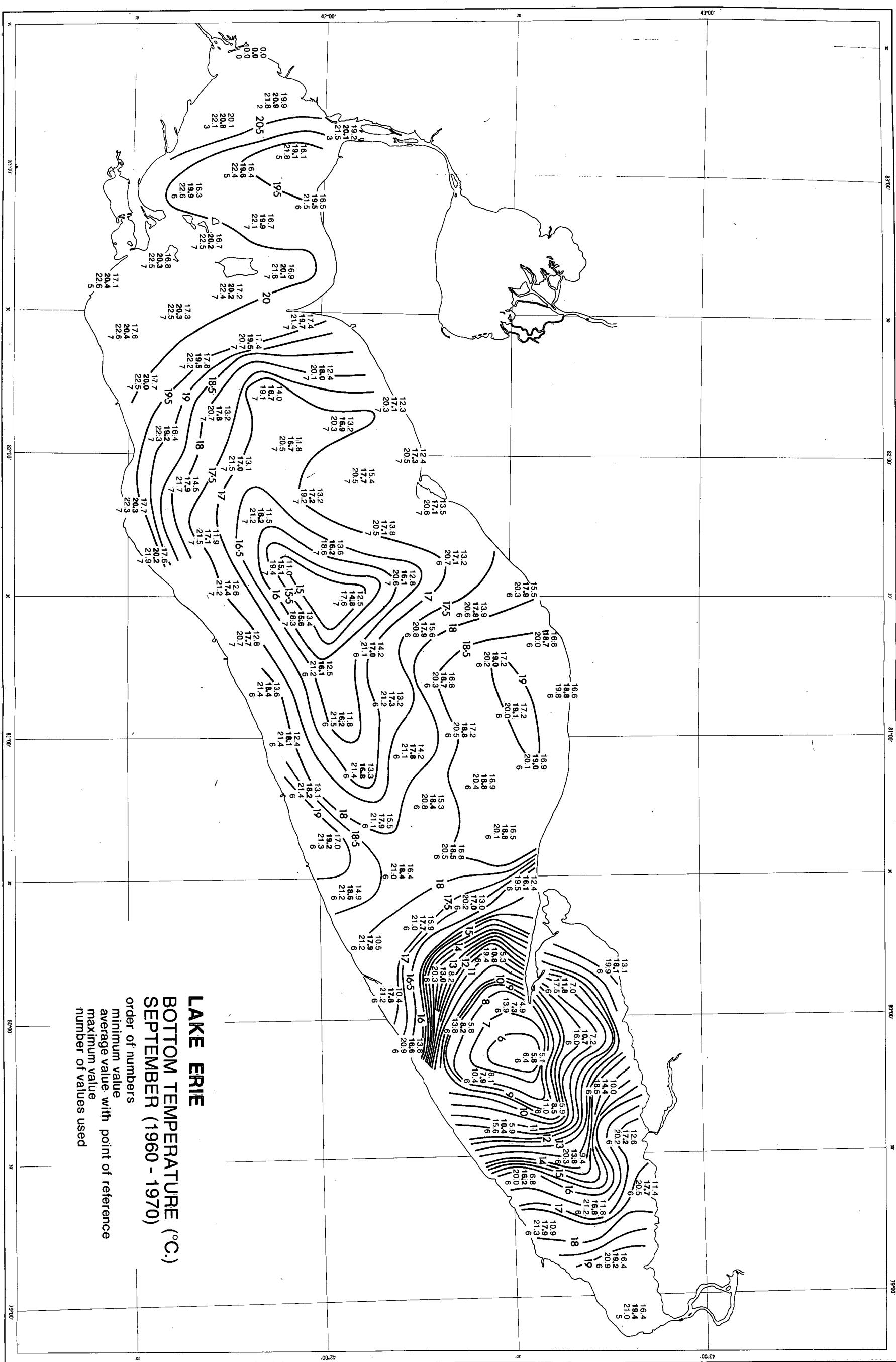


Figure 51



**LAKE ERIE
BOTTOM TEMPERATURE (°C.)
SEPTEMBER (1960 - 1970)**

Figure 52

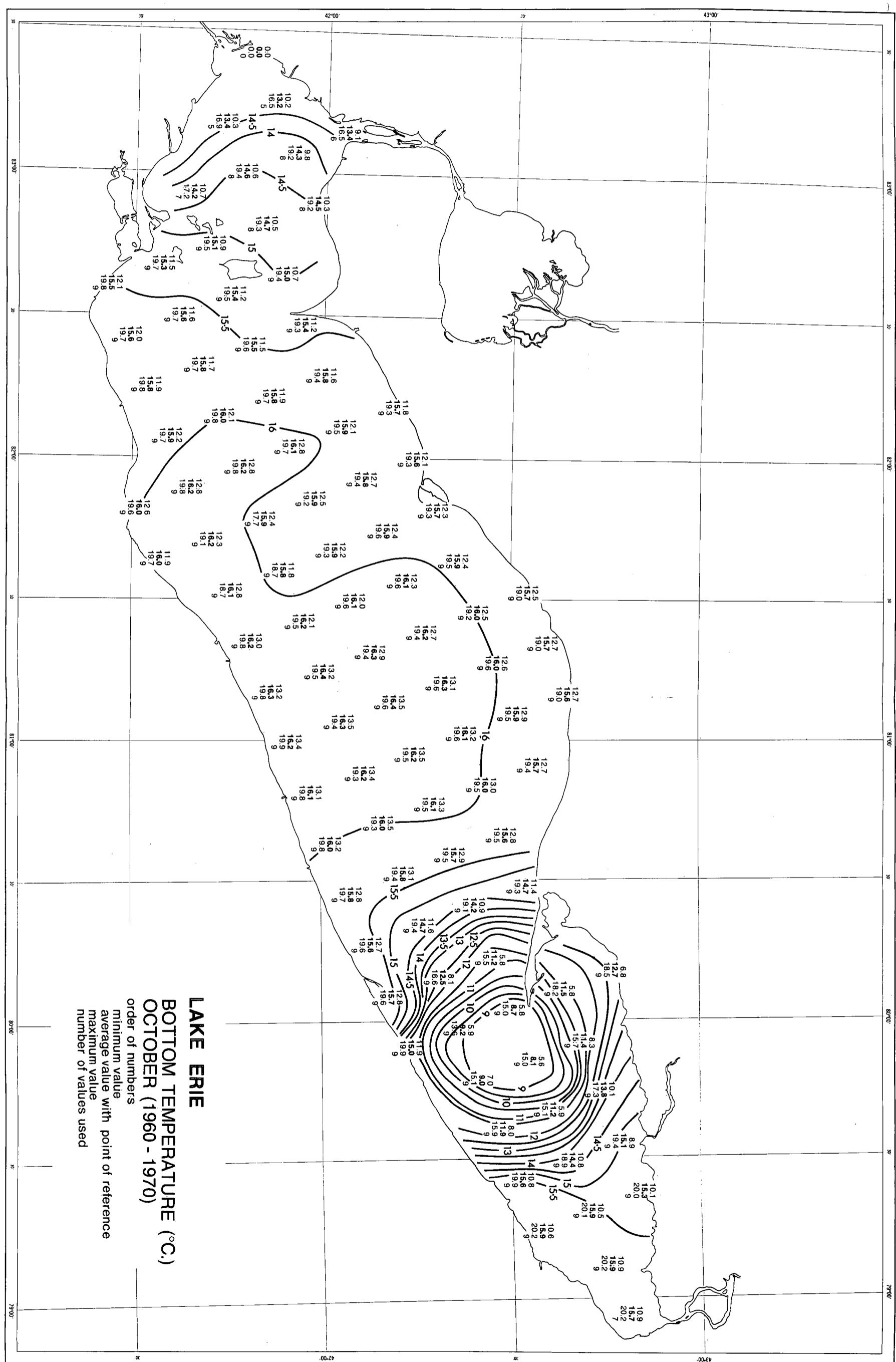


Figure 53

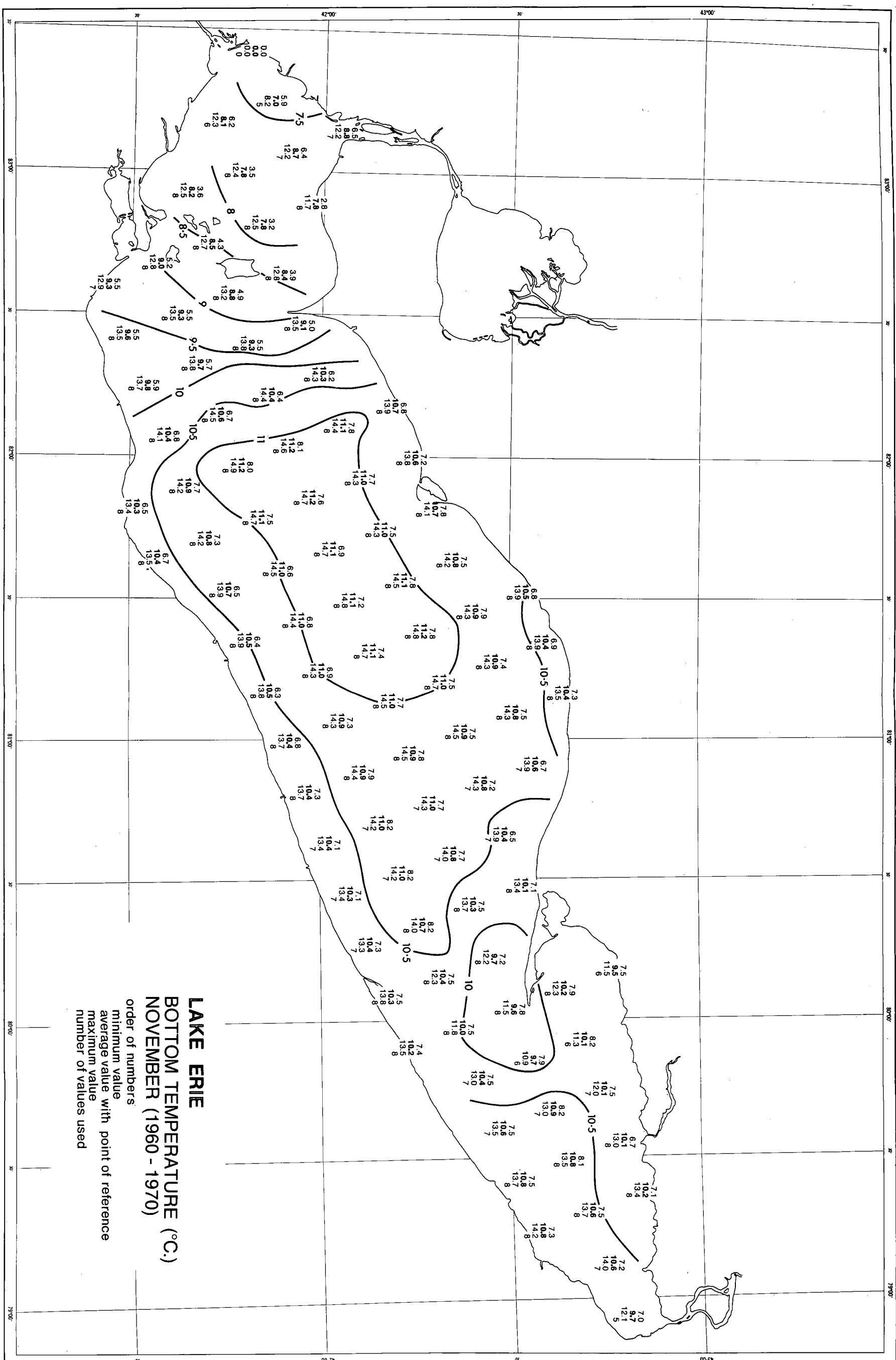


Figure 54

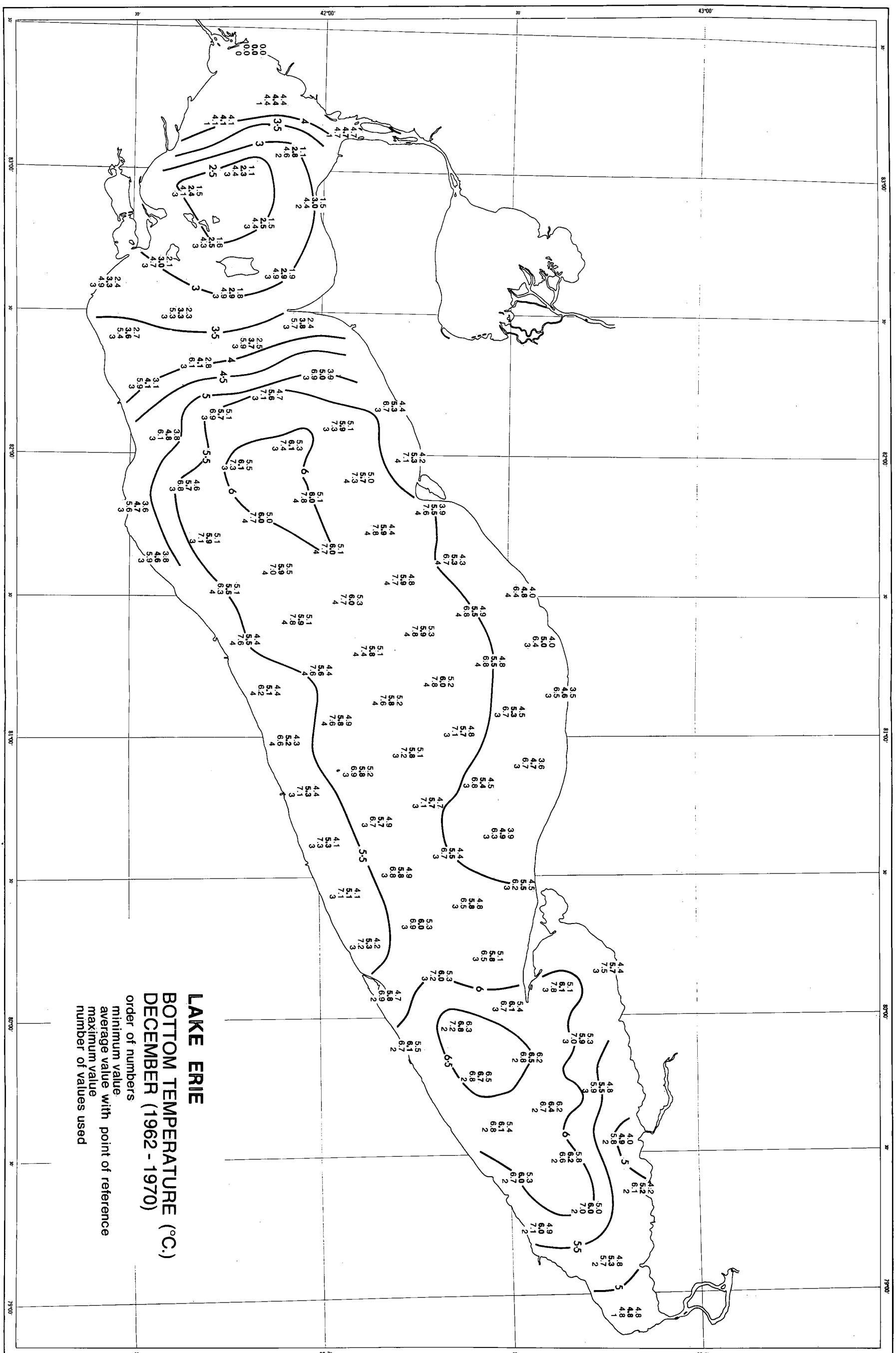


Figure 55

**Figures 56 to 60. Depth to the Top of the
Hypolimnion (Averages and Extremes),
Lake Erie, May to September**

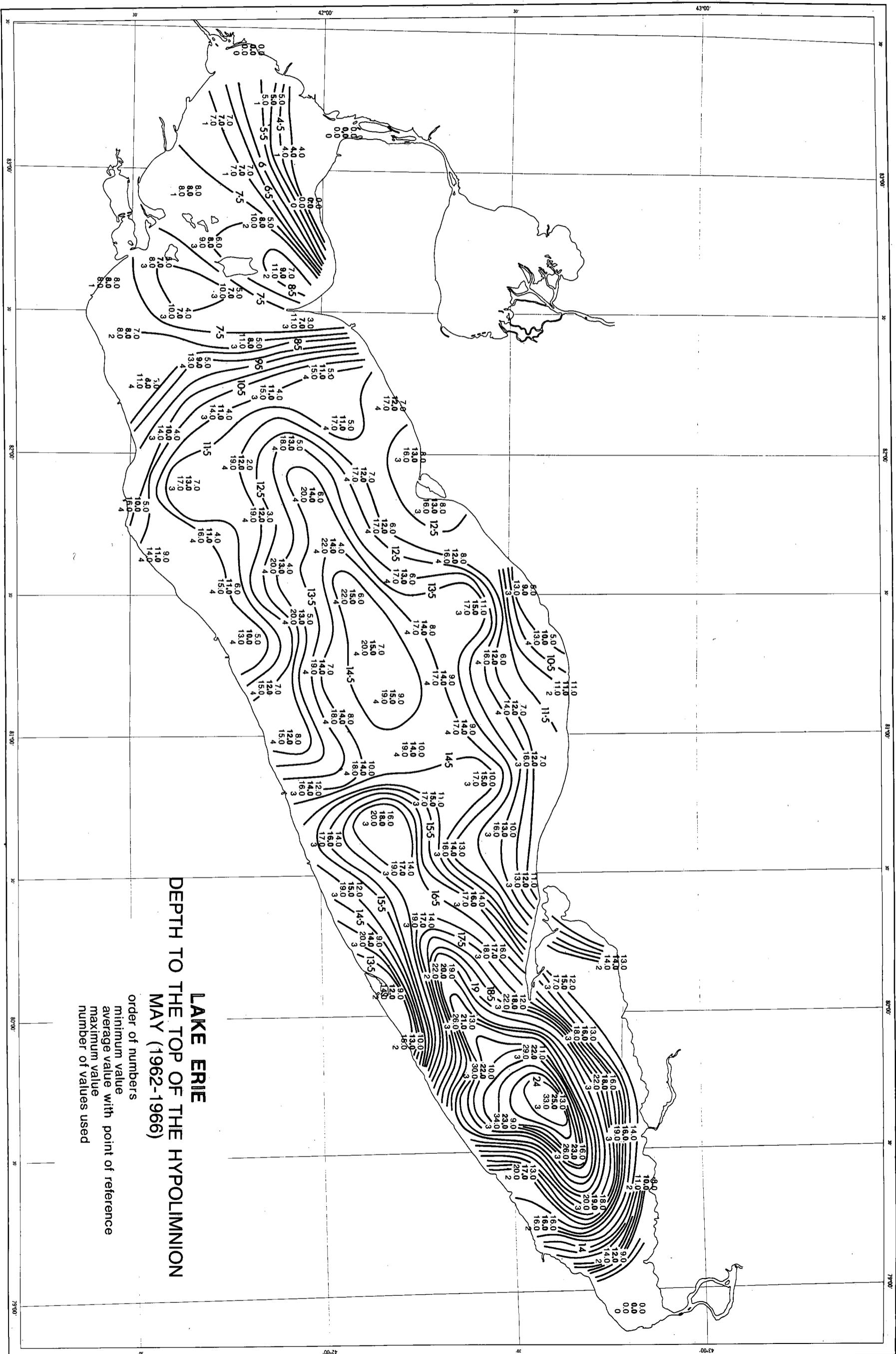


Figure 56

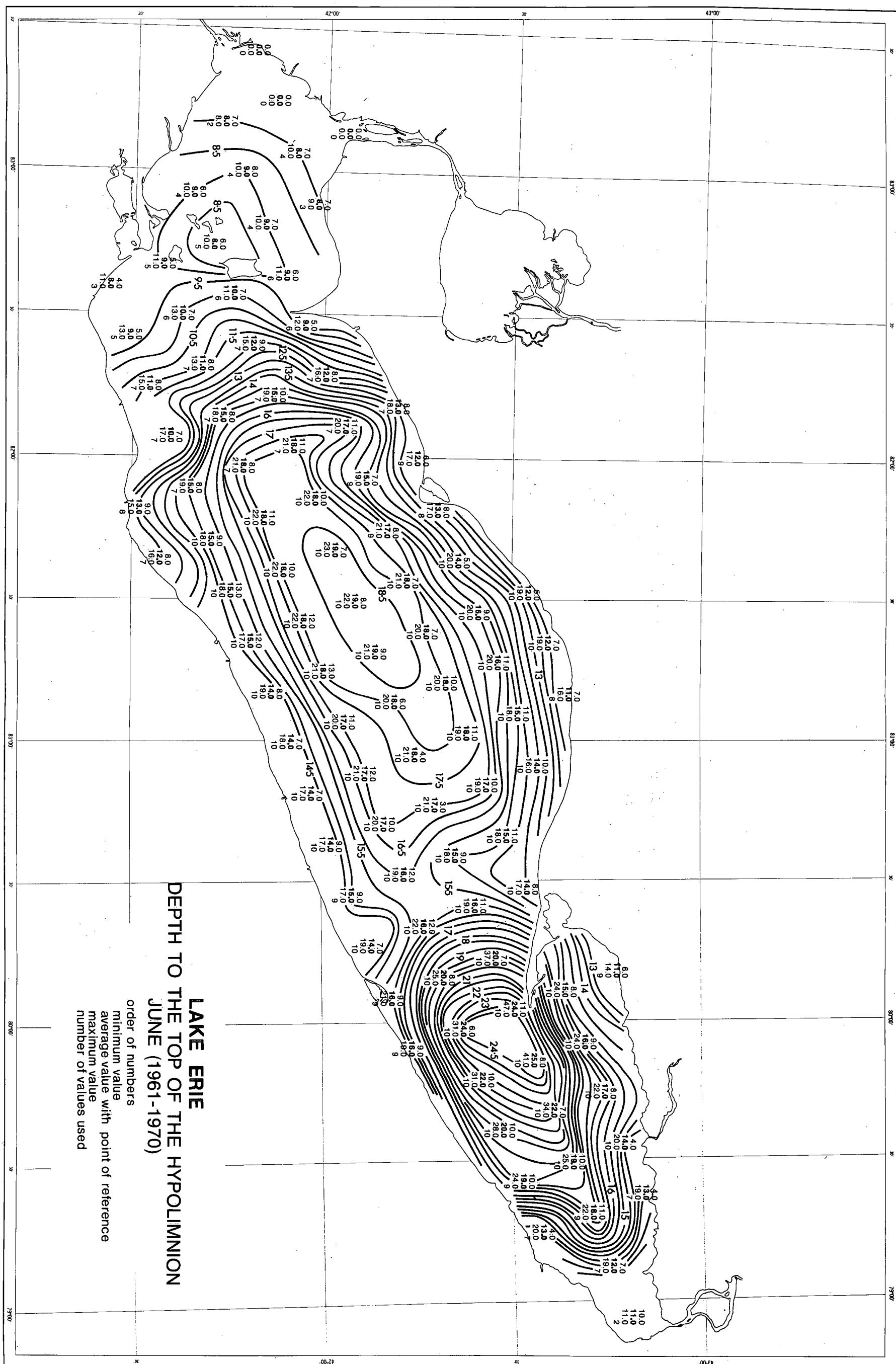


Figure 57

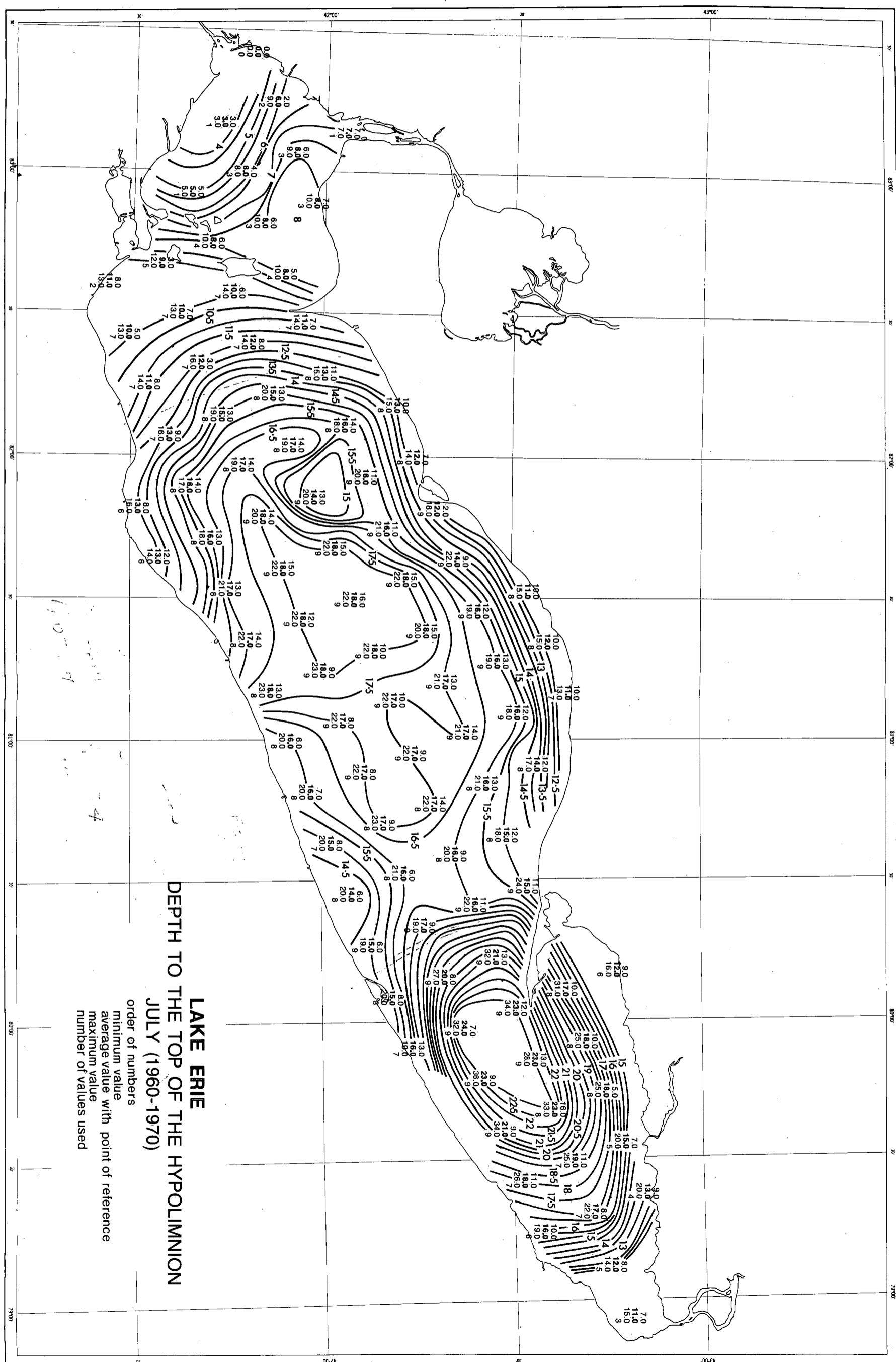


Figure 58

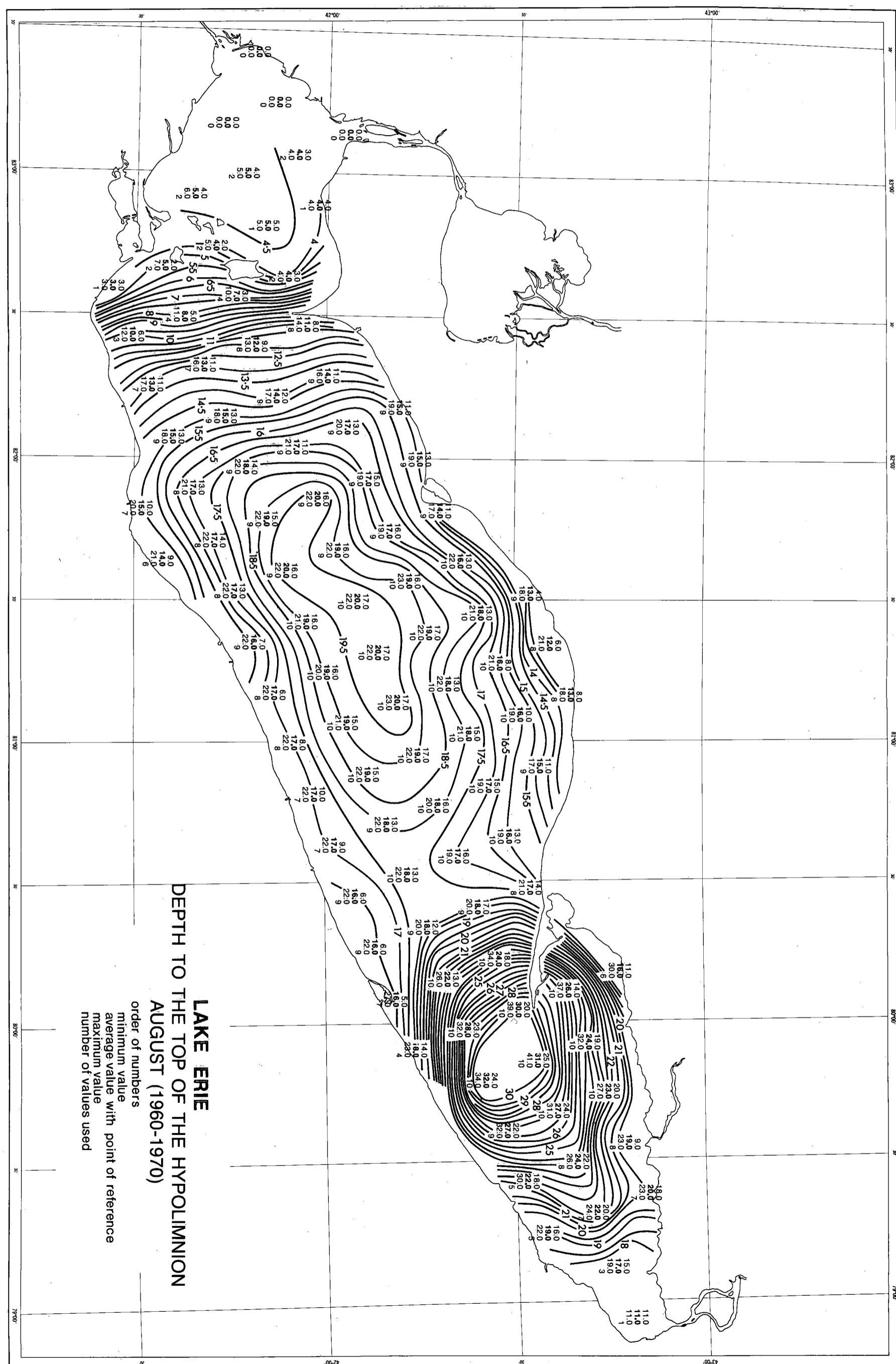


Figure 59

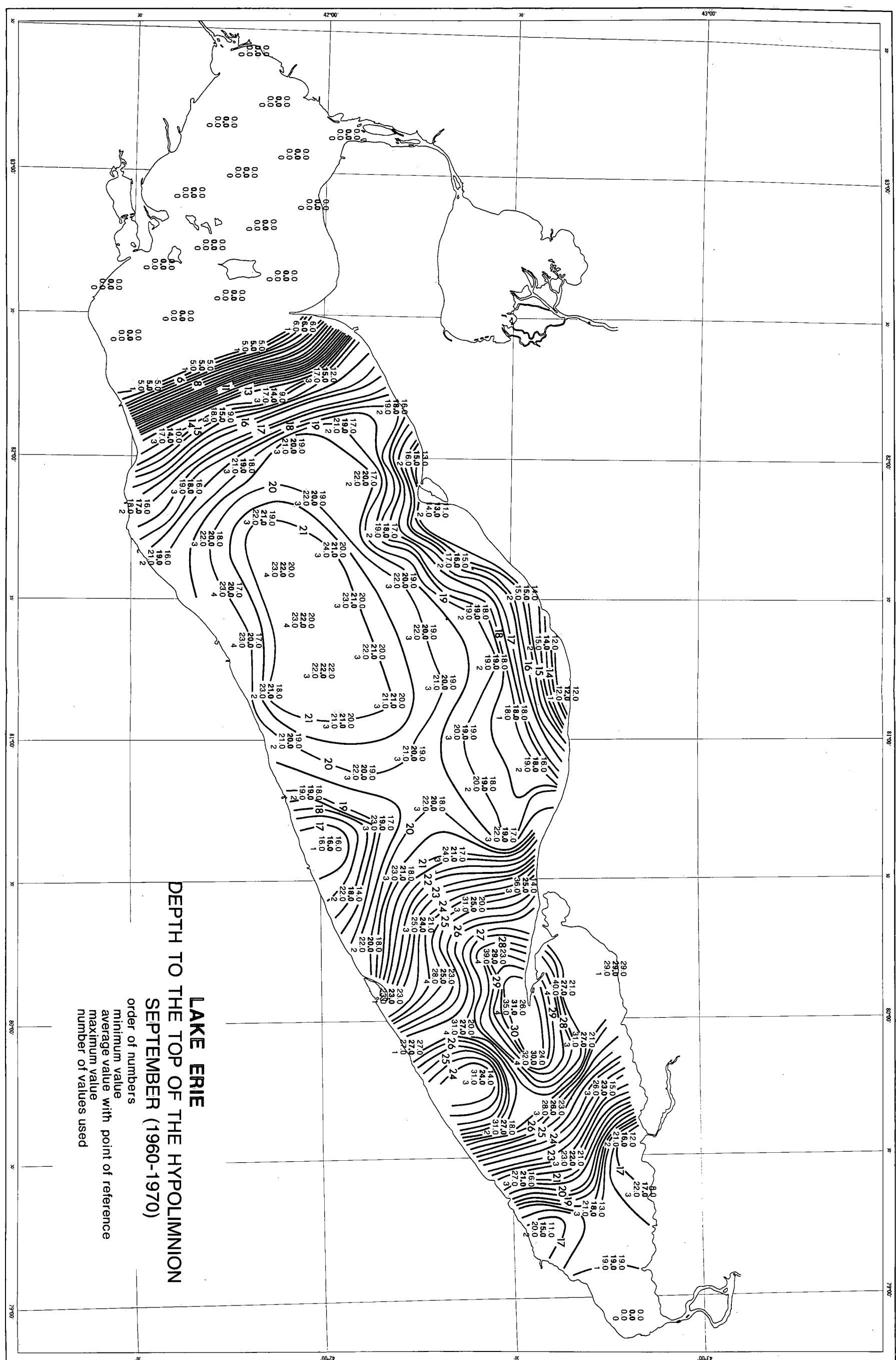


Figure 60

**Figures 61 to 69. Bottom Percent Saturation
of Dissolved Oxygen (Averages and Extremes),
Lake Erie, April to December**

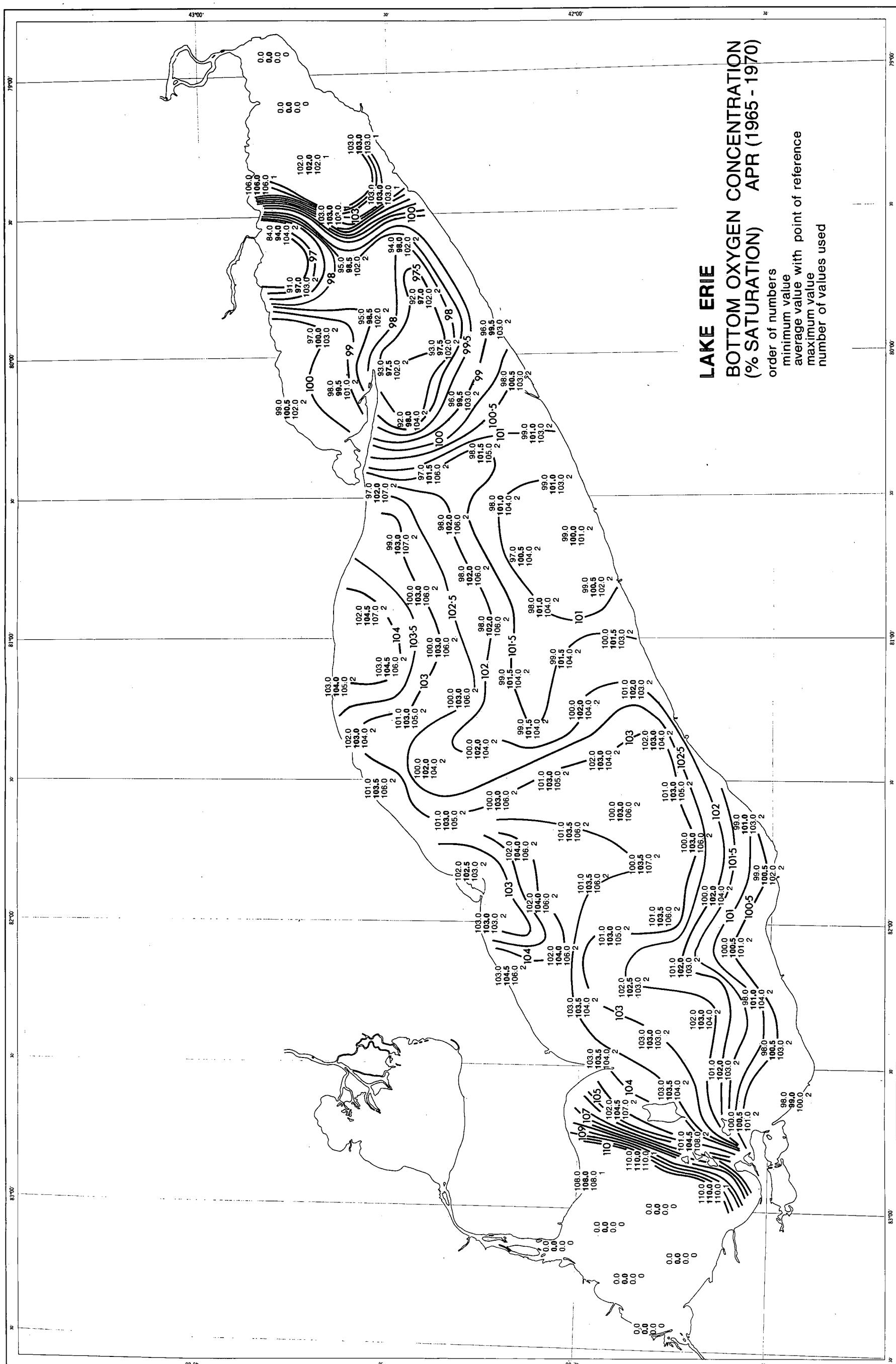


Figure 61

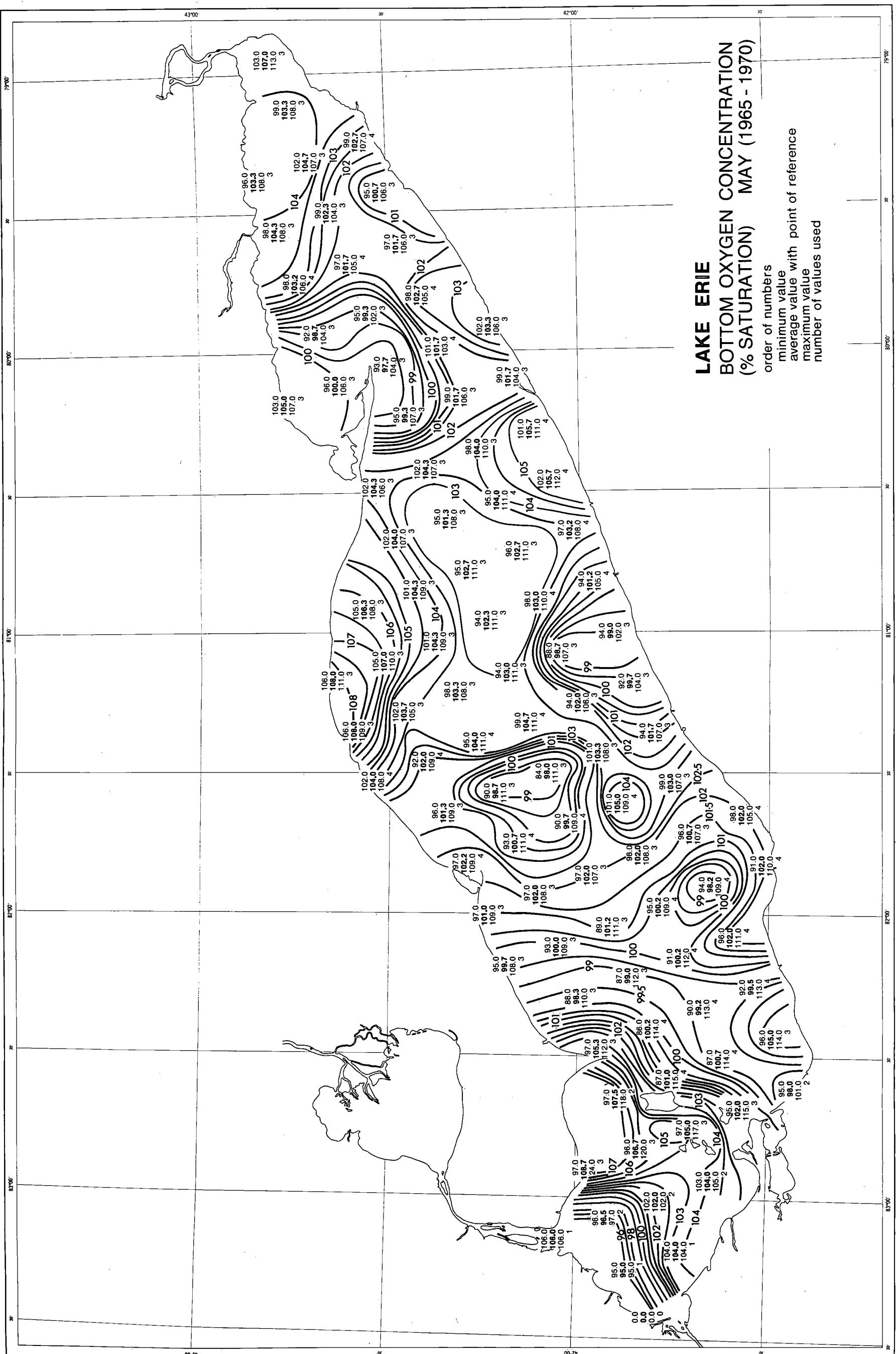


Figure 62

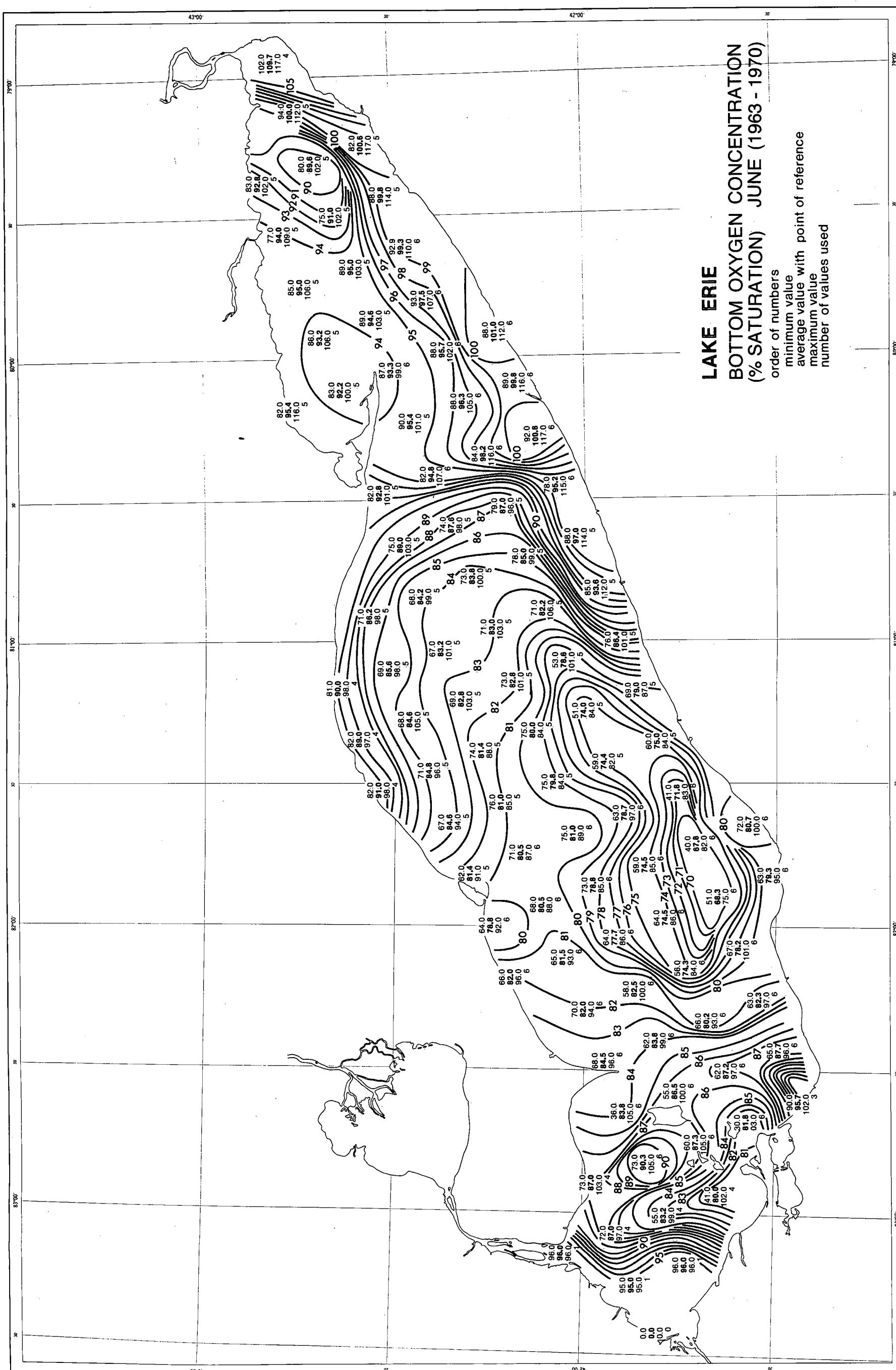


Figure 63

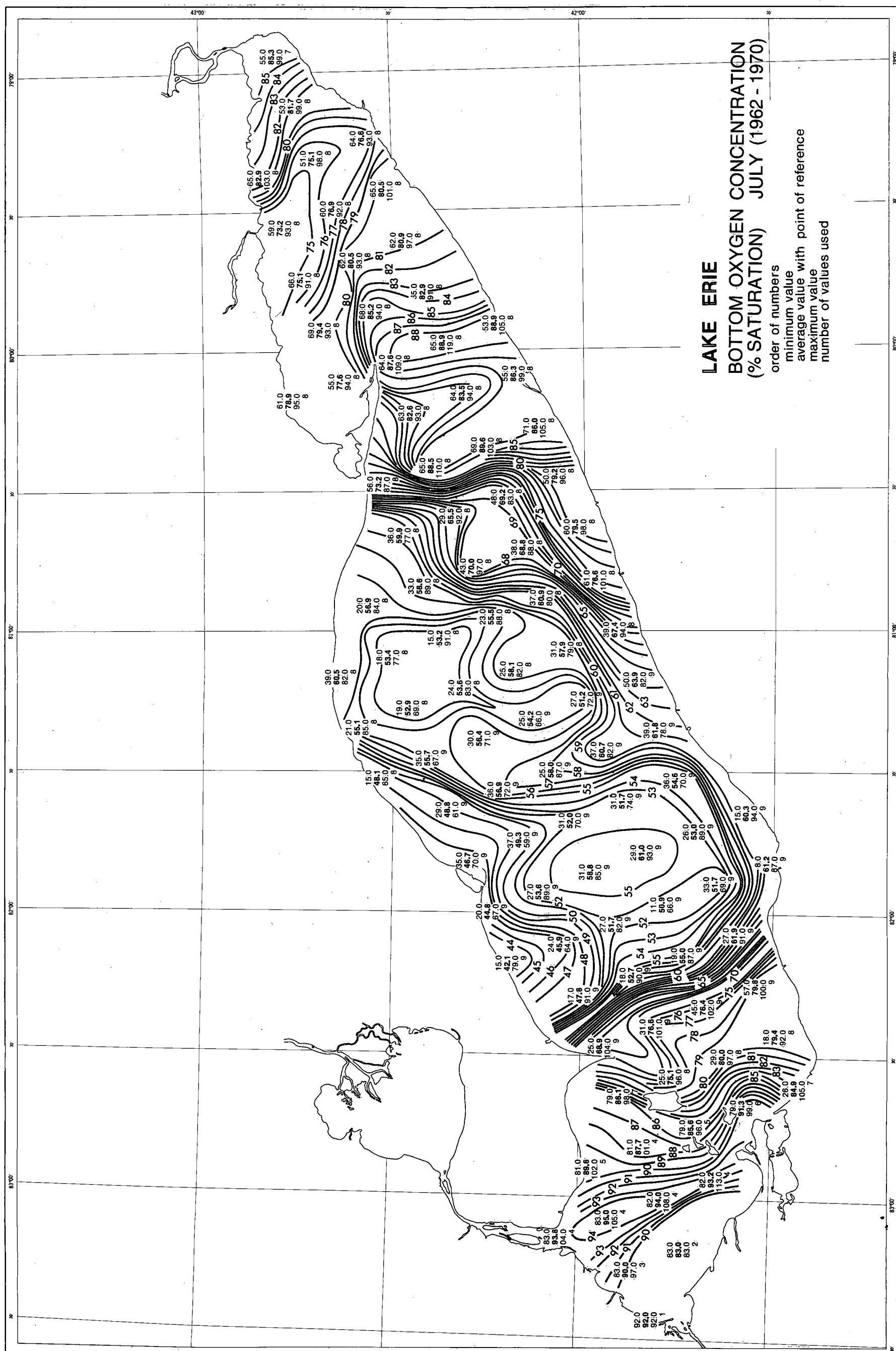


Figure 64

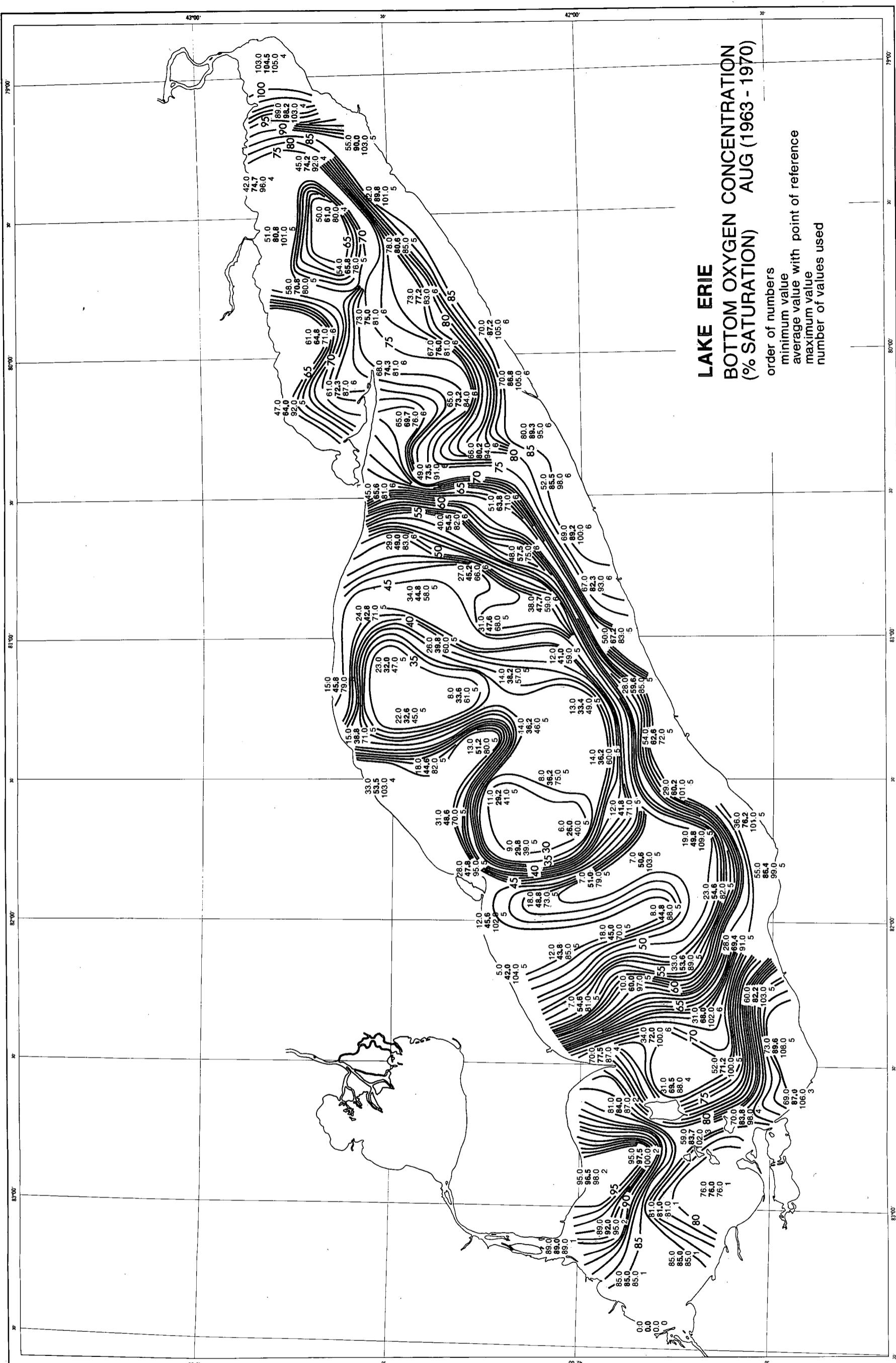


Figure 65

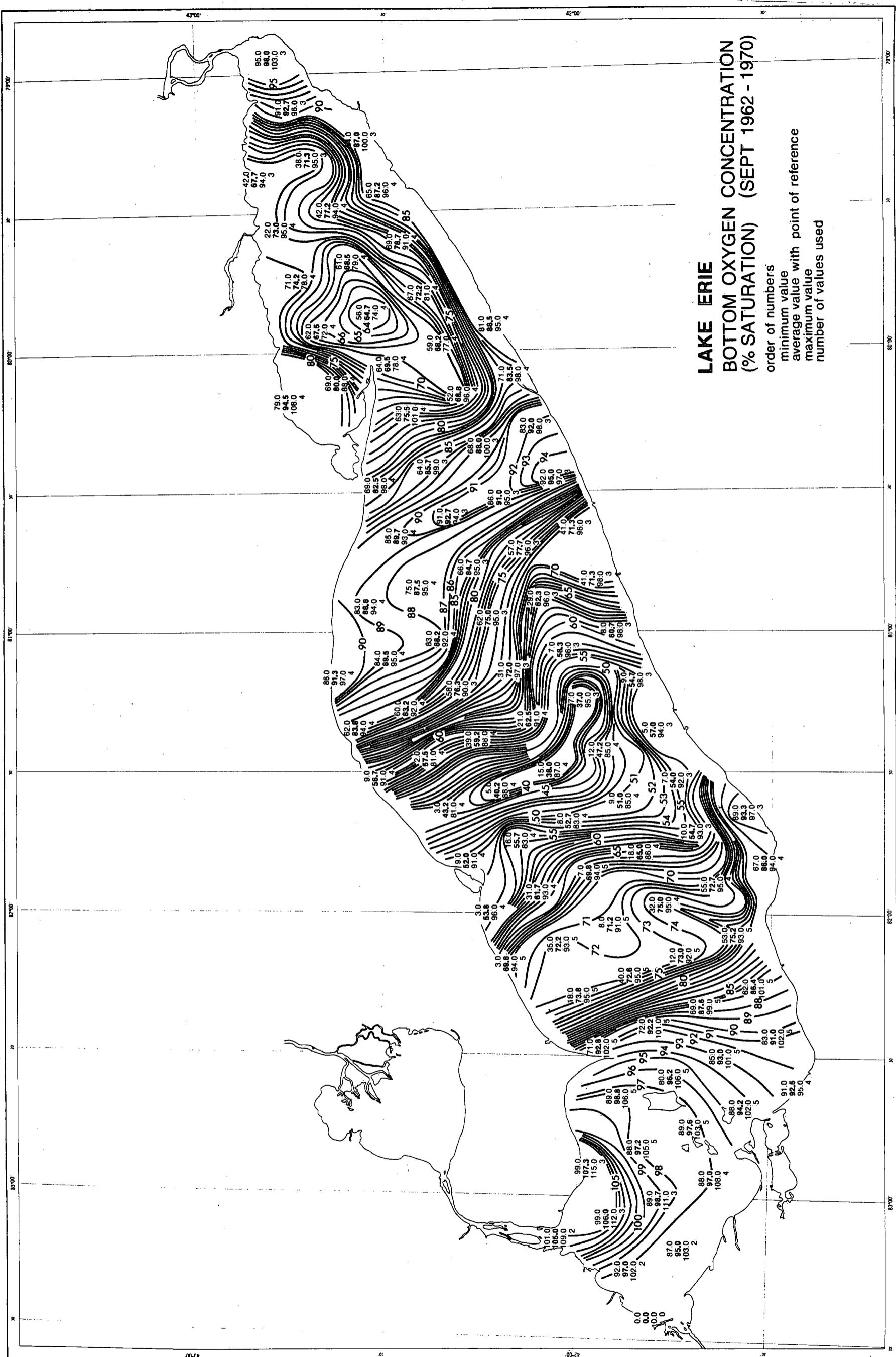


Figure 66



Figure 67

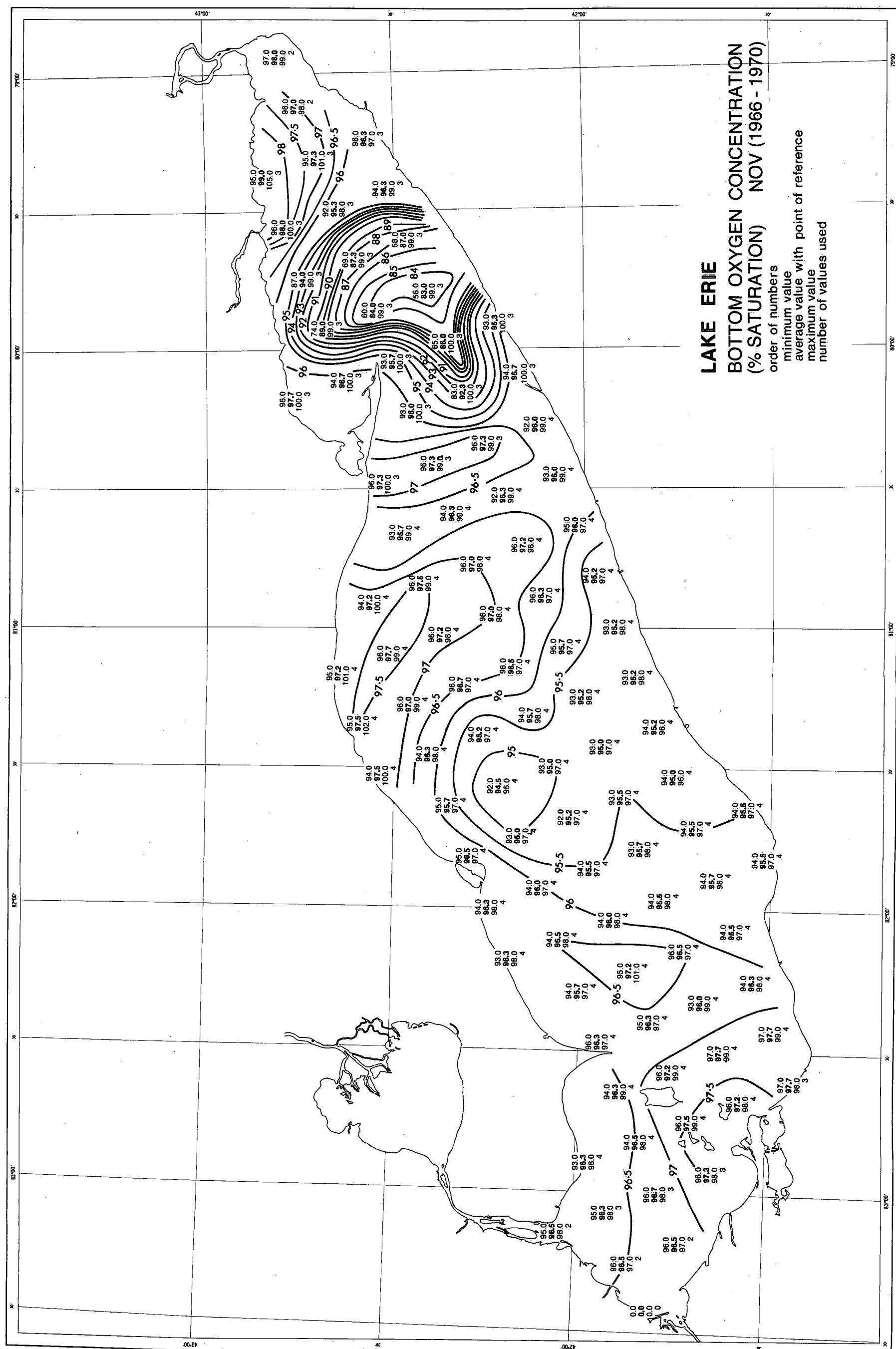


Figure 68

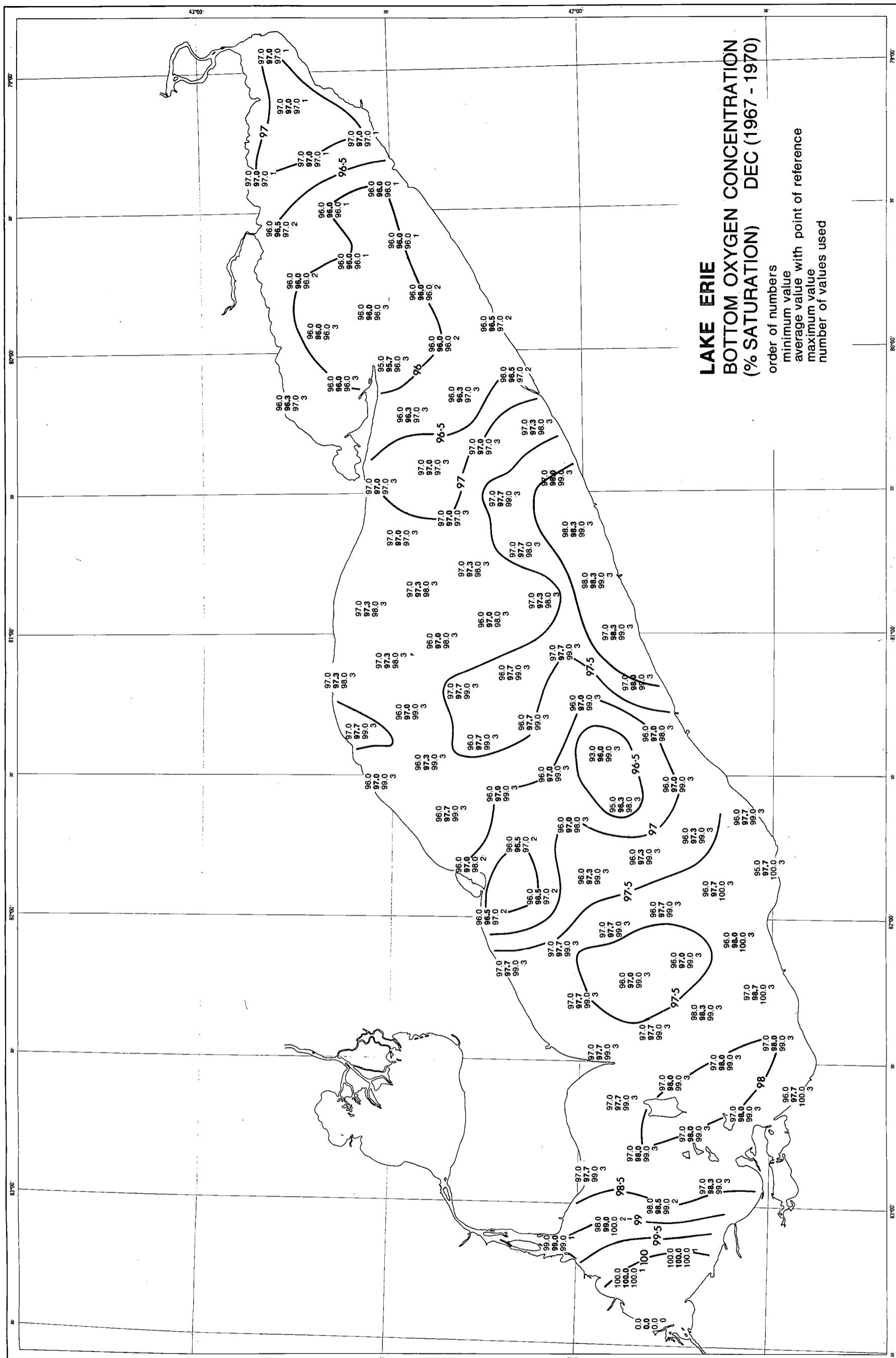


Figure 69