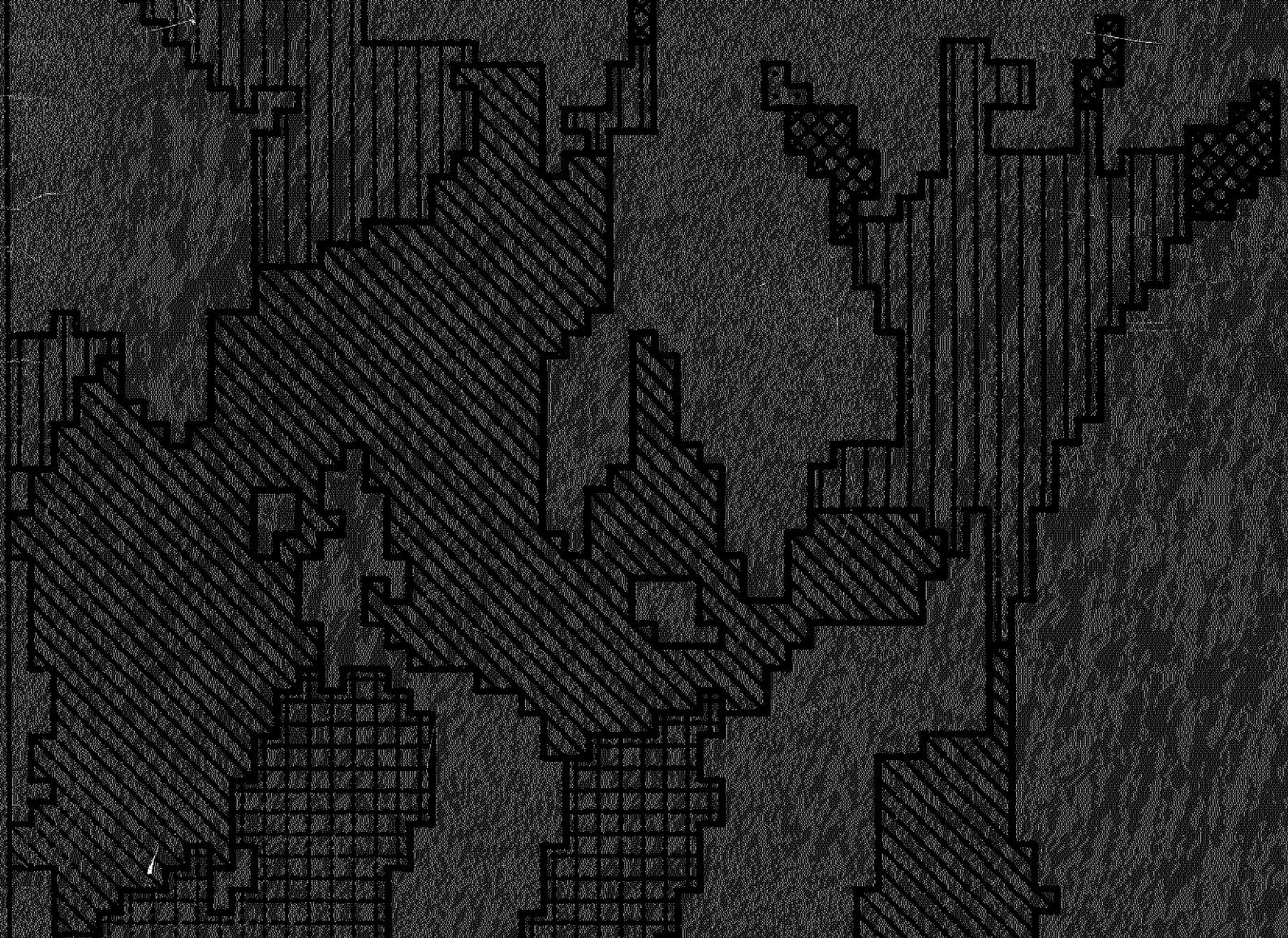


NOAA SEA GRANT/U.R.I. OCEAN ENGINEERING
TIDES AND TIDAL CURRENTS
OF NARRAGANSETT BAY

MALCOLM SPEDDING & ERIC W. STENSON

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
MARINE TECHNICAL REPORT
NUMBER 35



\$2.00

These tidal current and height charts for Narragansett Bay have been created primarily for the recreational user, notably the sailor.* Charts currently in use are based on actual measurements at approximately 80 locations in the bay, while this new set gives values at approximately 600. In addition, the new charts offer greater accuracy by being based on calculations done at the same time for all points.

These new current charts show the hourly velocity to the nearest tenth of a knot, and direction of the tidal currents by means of arrows. A series of hourly tidal height charts shows the height to the nearest tenth of a foot above mean sea level throughout the bay. Also included is a table, on which the charts are based, which gives the time and range of the tides at Newport, Rhode Island, from 1975 to 1984. This table is divided into one month per page and subdivided into columns of times and ranges for each year. The time is based on a 24-hour clock, Eastern Standard Time (EST), and the range is the difference in feet between high water at the time shown and the next low water.

These charts were generated under the assumption of no wind, constant river flow, and no atmospheric pressure gradient over the bay, i.e. no storm. Any one or all of these effects could cause variation in the magnitude and direction of the currents in the bay.

There is one tidal current chart and one tide height chart for each hour after high tide at Newport giving a total of 13 current and height charts covering one tidal cycle (about 12.4 hours). The chart to be used is determined by subtracting the time of previous high tide from the present time. The chart at the hour closest to this difference is the correct chart. If the time difference falls about equally between two charts then a more accurate approach would be to take the average of the two. This is particularly true if there is a substantial difference between the two charts in speed or direction of the tidal current.

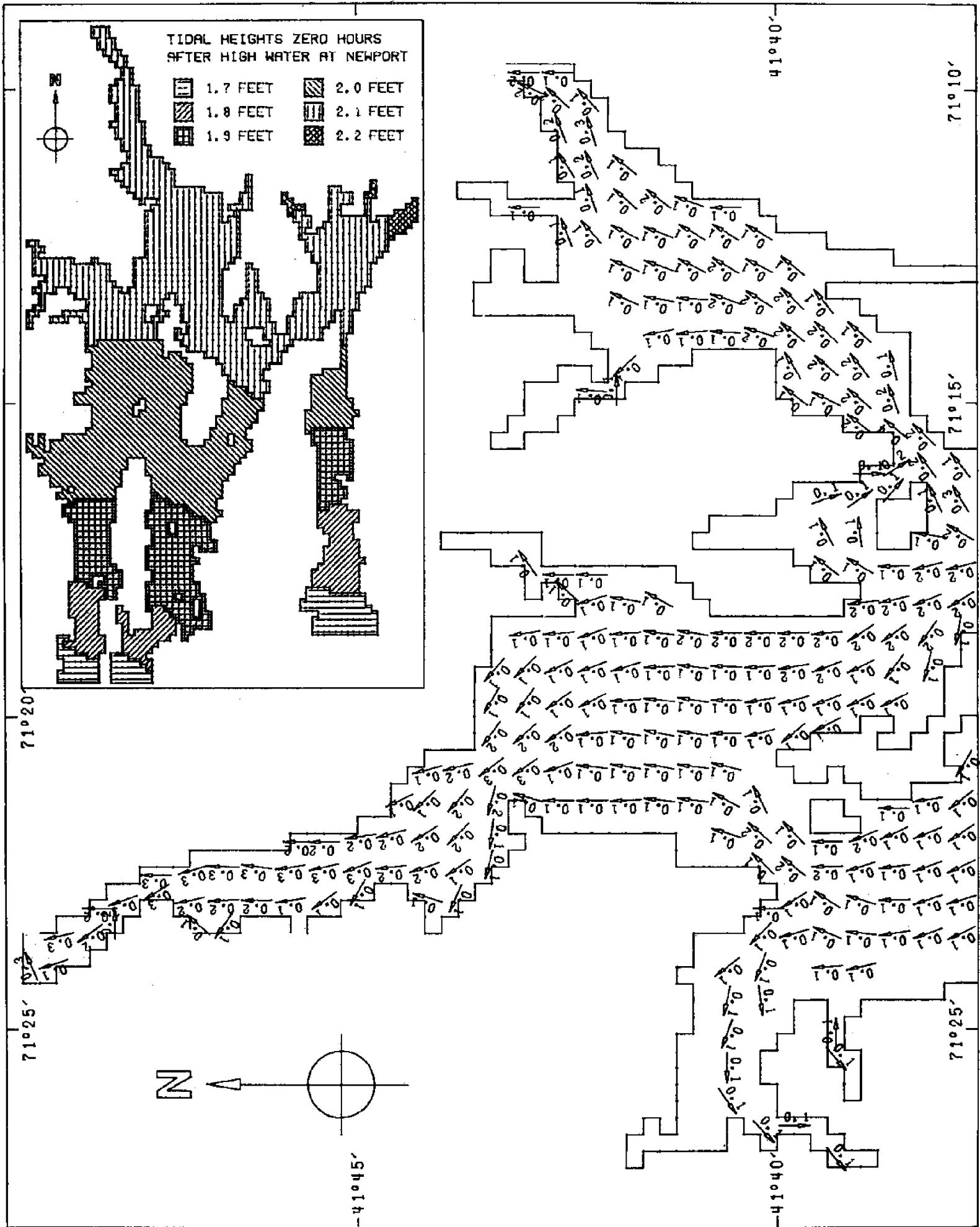
Even though the charts are based on the mean tidal cycle over the decade 1975 through 1984, it is necessary to correct the current and height charts to account for variations in tidal range because no day has the exact mean tidal cycle. Included below is a table of factors for correcting velocity and height for various tidal ranges. These ranges are found with the times of high tide and vary from 1.6 to 6.0 feet. To correct the tidal velocities and heights it is necessary to multiply the values shown on the charts by the factors shown in the table for the appropriate range.

EXAMPLE. The speed and direction of the current and the tide height just off the northern end of Dyer Island is to be found for 5:00 PM EST on August 17, 1976. From the tide time and range table for that date it is found that high water occurs at 12:51 EST with a range of 2.3 feet. Subtracting the high water time, 12:51, from 5:00 PM, or 17:00, gives a difference of 4 hours and 9 minutes. Thus the chart labelled 4 hours after high water at Newport should be used. That chart shows the current ebbing 0.8 knots in a southwesterly direction and a tide height of -1.1 feet. From the correction factor table for a range of 2.3 feet the current should be multiplied by 0.7 and the tide height by 0.6. This gives a current of 0.6 knots and a tide height of -0.7 feet at 5:00 pm on August 17, 1976.

TABLE OF CORRECTION FACTORS

| RANGE FEET | VELOCITY CORRECTION FACTOR | HEIGHT CORRECTION FACTOR | RANGE FEET | VELOCITY CORRECTION FACTOR | HEIGHT CORRECTION FACTOR |
|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1.6 to 2.0 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 4.2 to 4.4 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| 2.0 to 2.4 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 4.4 to 4.6 | 1.2 | 1.3 |
| 2.4 to 2.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 4.6 to 4.8 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| 2.6 to 2.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 4.8 to 5.0 | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| 2.8 to 3.0 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 5.0 to 5.4 | 1.4 | 1.5 |
| 3.0 to 3.4 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 5.4 to 5.6 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| 3.4 to 3.8 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 5.6 to 5.8 | 1.5 | 1.6 |
| 3.8 to 4.2 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 5.8 to 6.0 | 1.6 | 1.6 |

*The technical aspects of generating the charts are described in a University of Rhode Island Marine Technical Report in press entitled Generation of Tidal Current and Height Charts For Narragansett Bay Using a Numerical Model by C. Swanson and M. Spaulding. For additional copies of Marine Technical Report 35, please write to the Marine Advisory Service, University of Rhode Island, Narragansett Bay Campus, Narragansett, Rhode Island 02882. Please make checks payable to the University of Rhode Island.



TIDAL CURRENTS ZERO HOURS
AFTER HIGH WATER AT NEWPORT

1.00 INCH = 1.33 NAUTICAL MILES
0 1 2 NM

71°10'

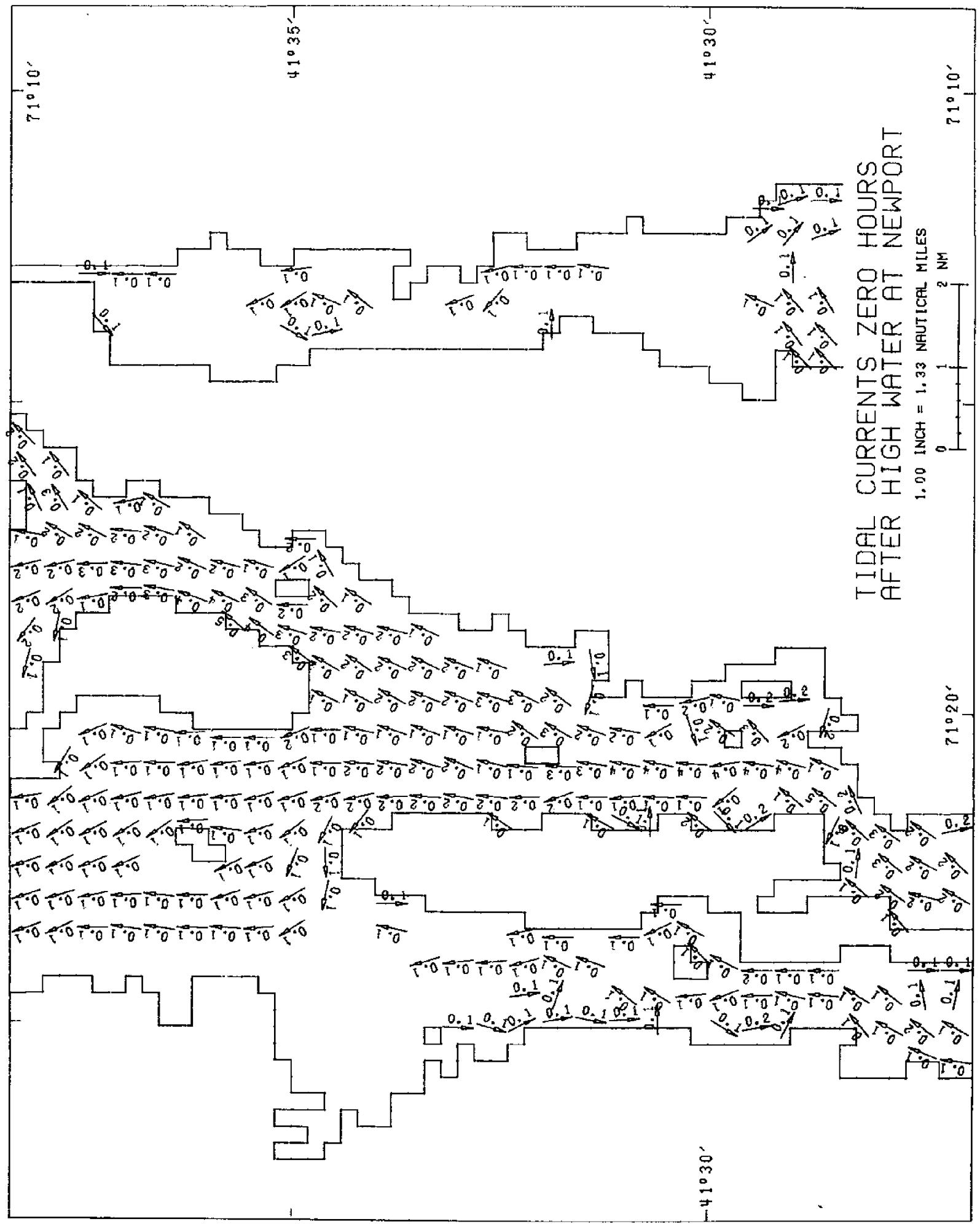
71°20'

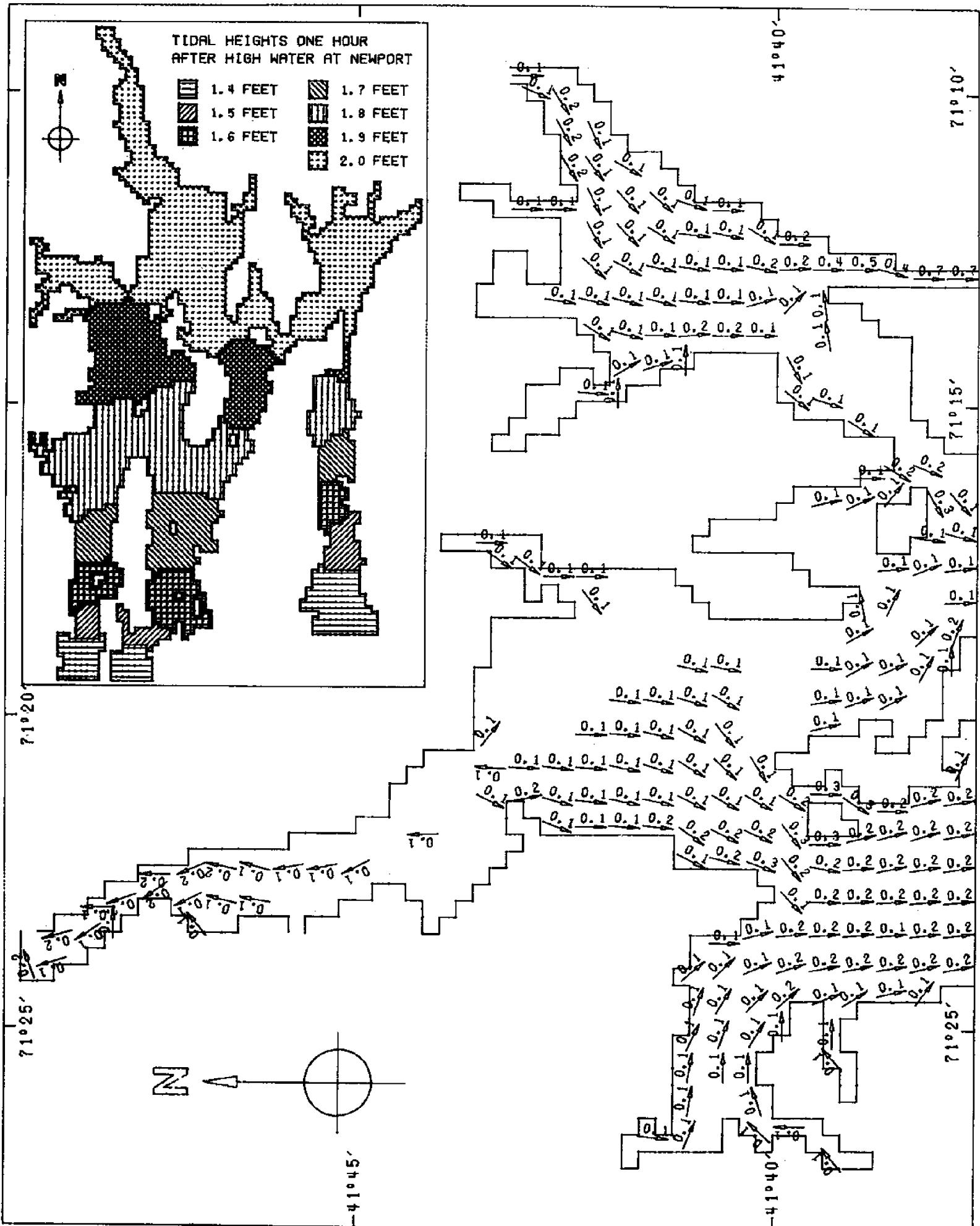
71°30'

41°30'

41°35'

71°10'





TIDAL CURRENTS ONE HOUR
AFTER HIGH WATER AT NEWPORT

1.00 INCH = 1.33 NAUTICAL MILES

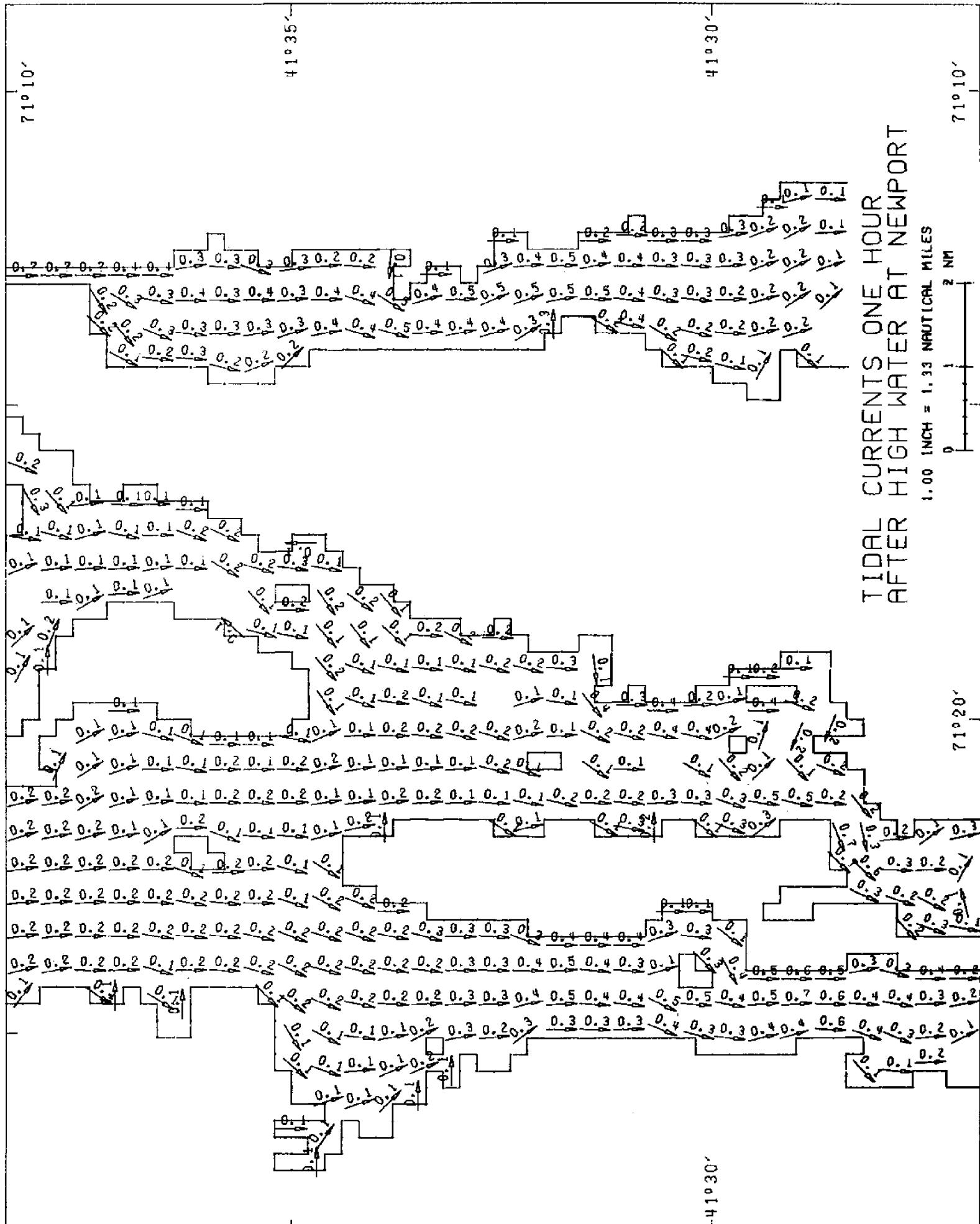
71°10'

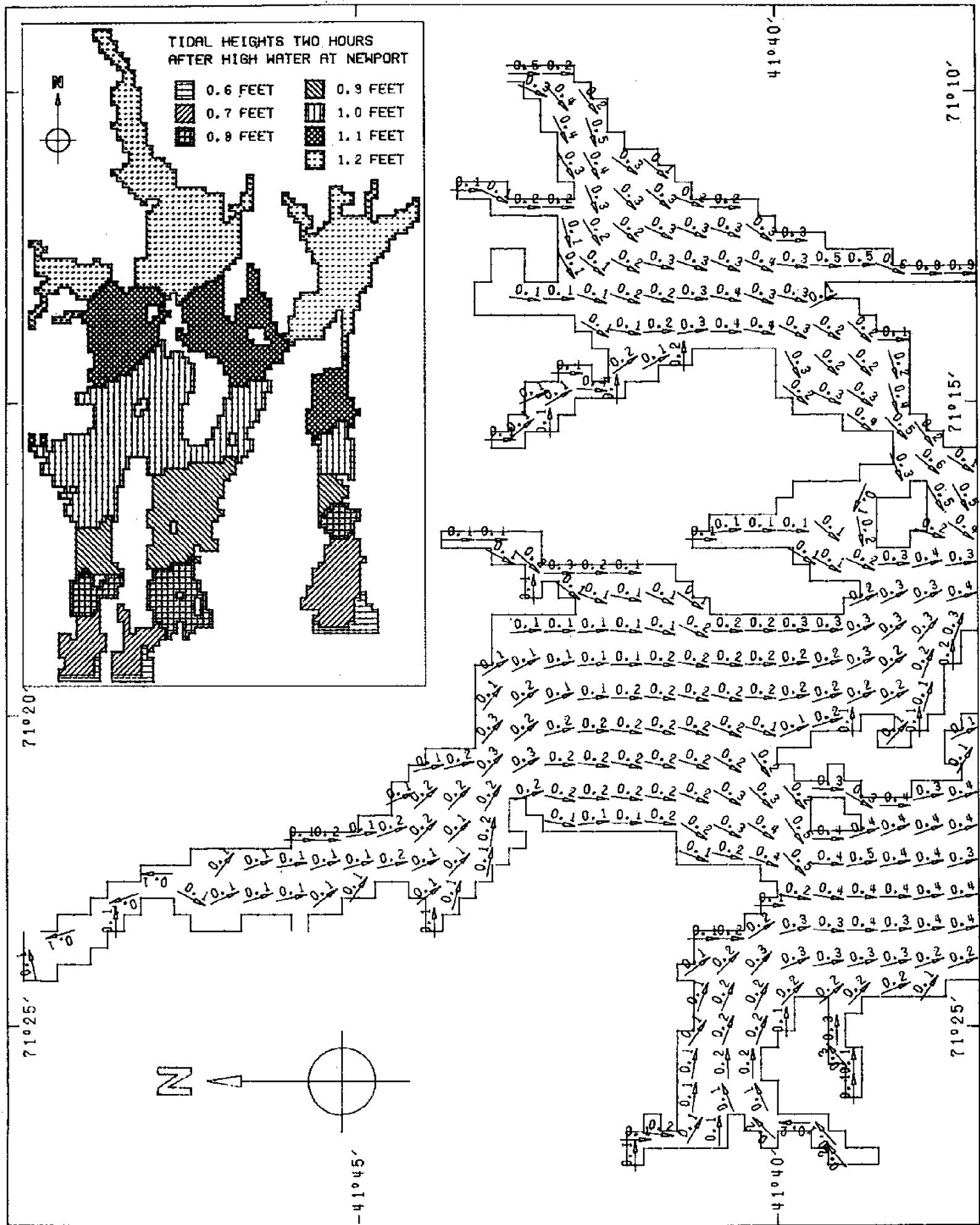
71°20'

71°30'

41°30'

41°30'





TIDAL CURRENTS TWO HOURS
AFTER HIGH WATER AT NEWPORT

1.00 INCH = 1.33 NAUTICAL MILES

71°10'

71°20'

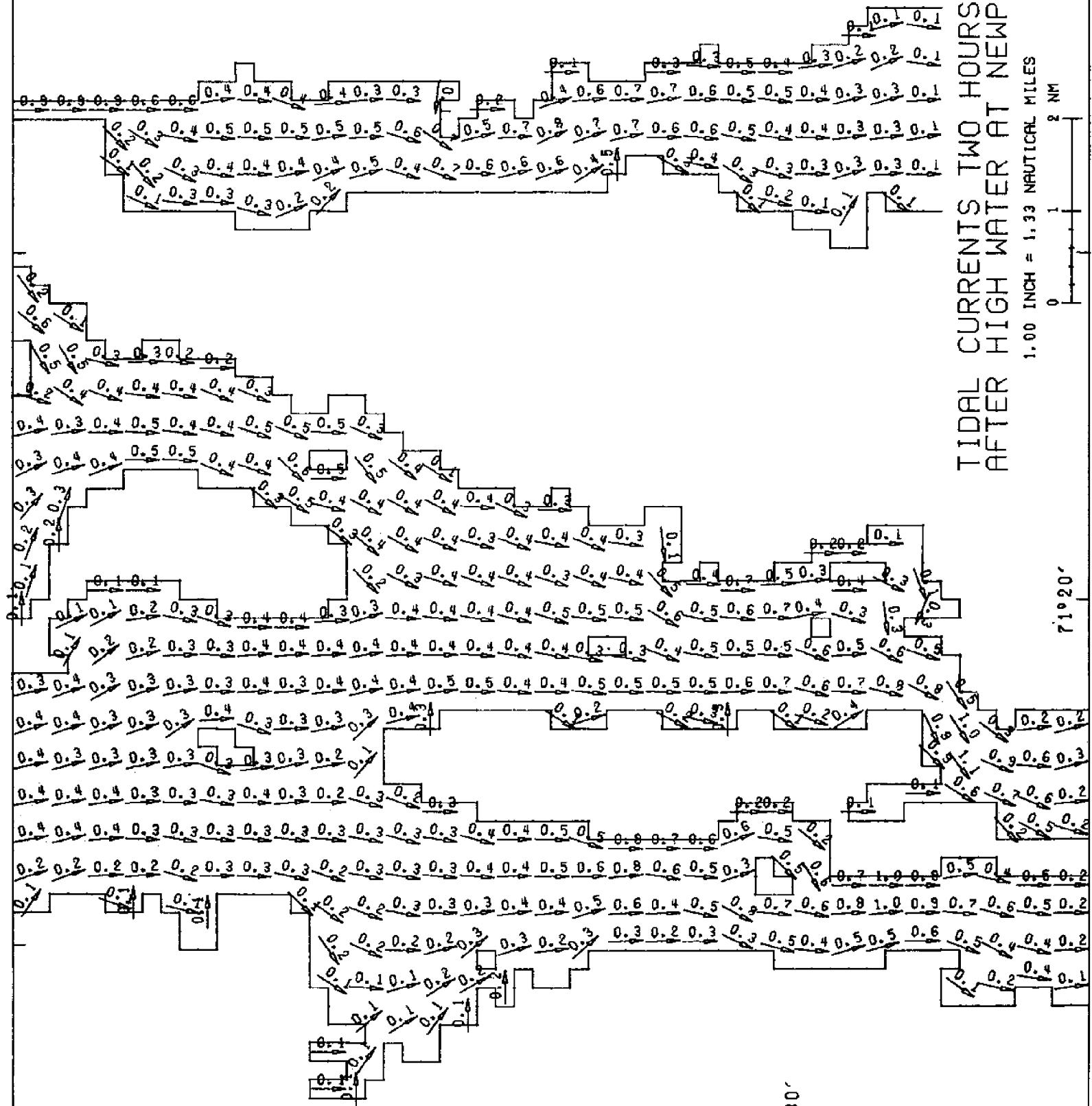
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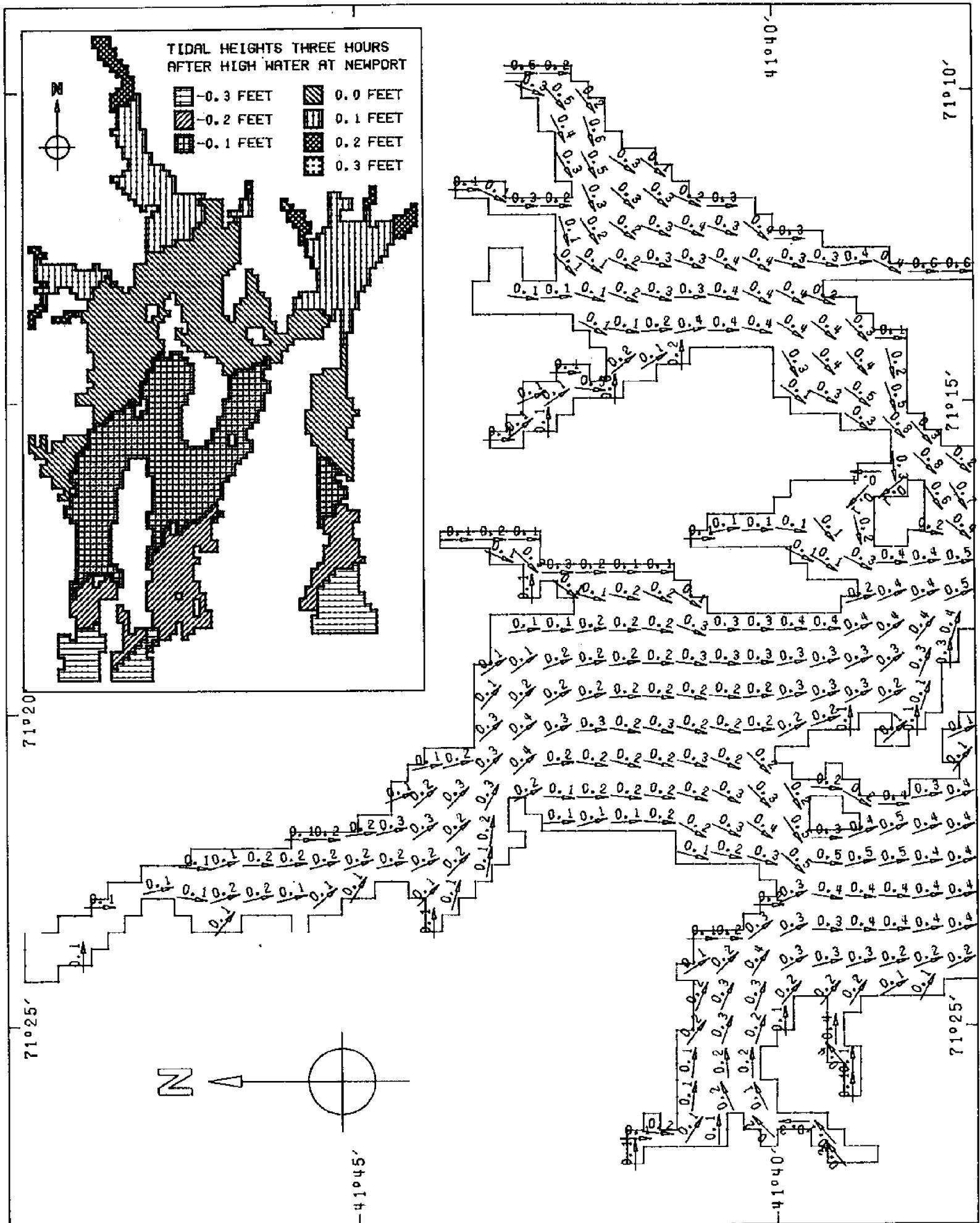
41°30'

-41°30'

41°35'

71°10'





TIDAL CURRENTS THREE HOURS
AFTER HIGH WATER AT NEWPORT

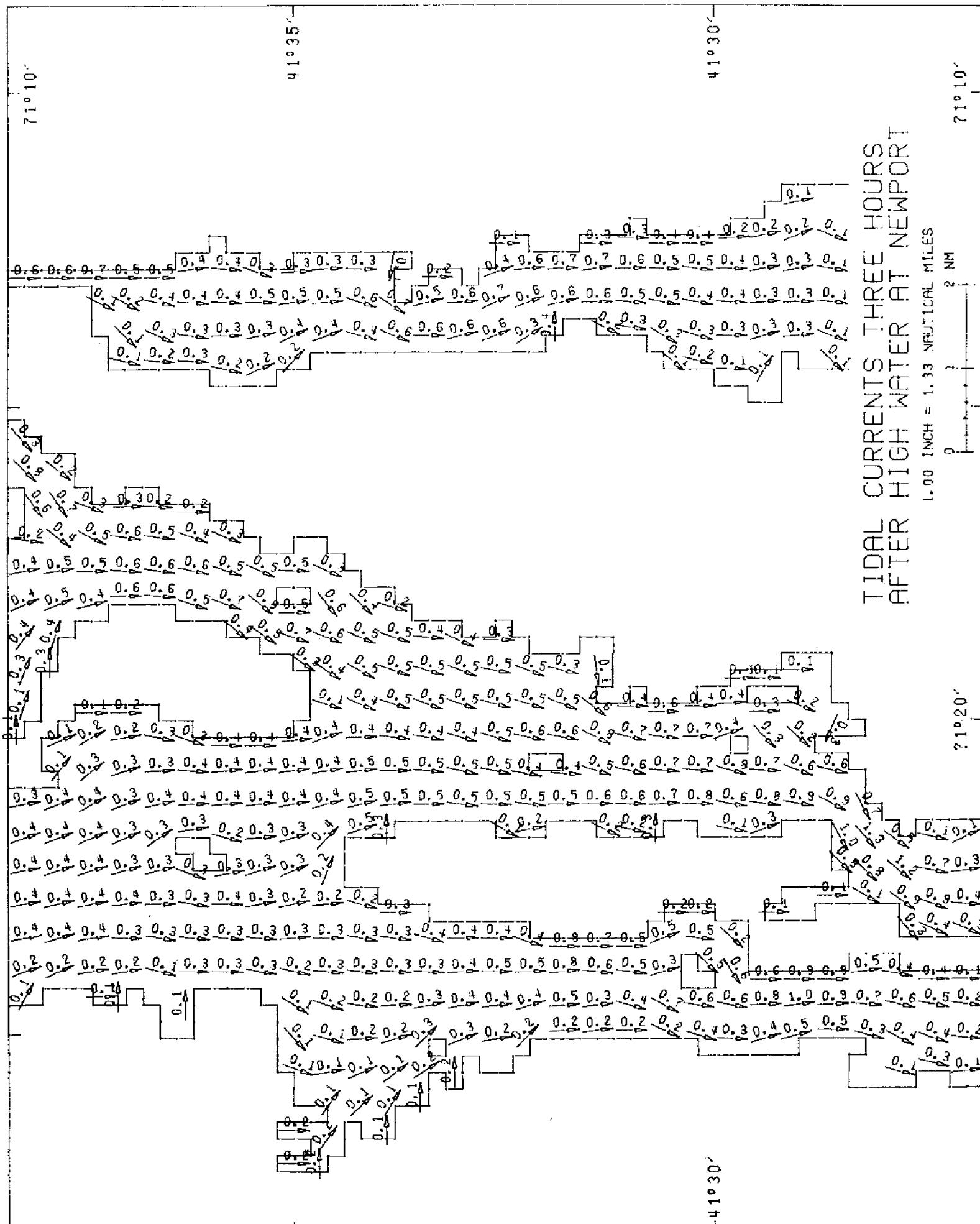
1.00 INCH = 1.33 NAUTICAL MILES

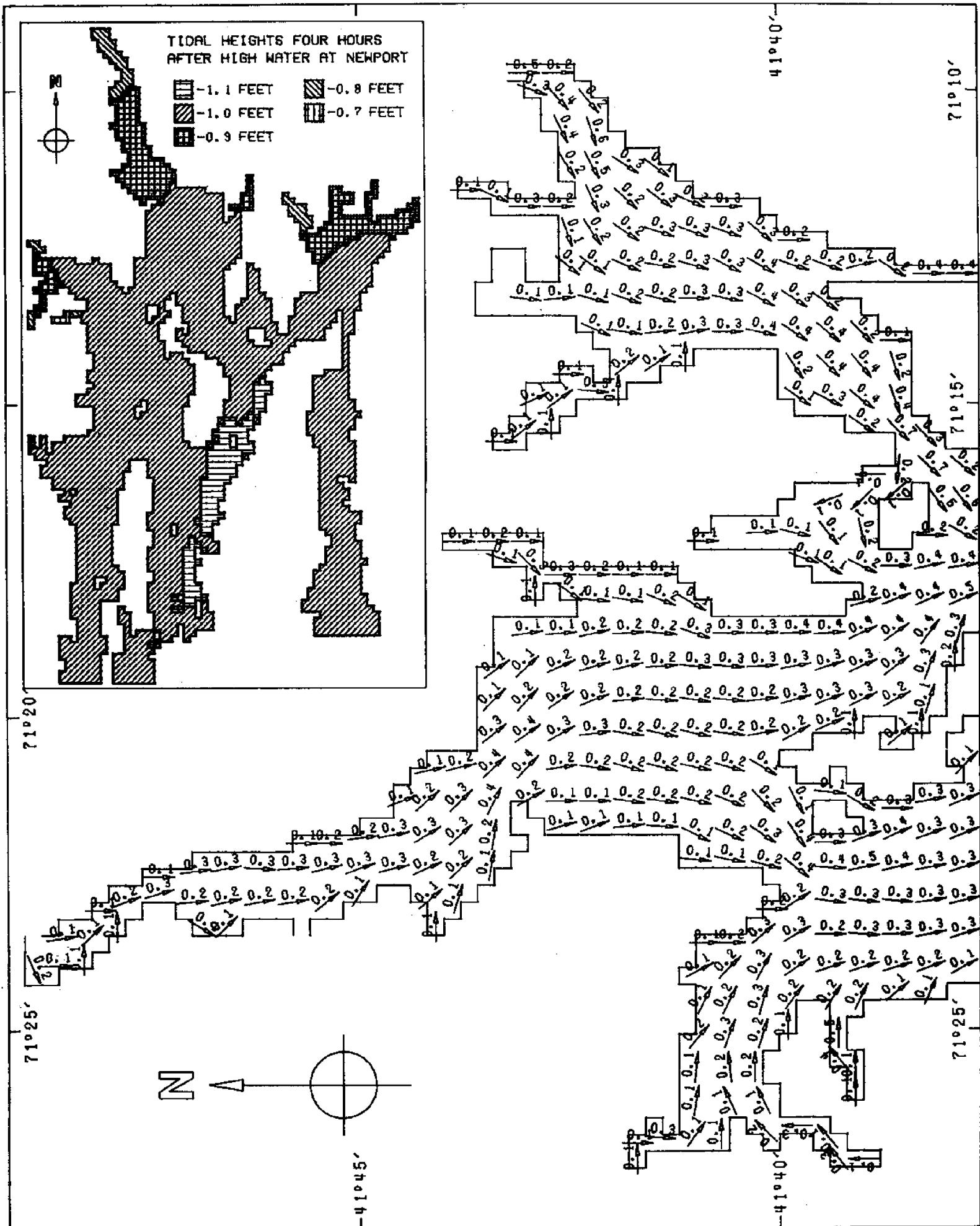
71° 10'

71° 20'

71° 30'

9





TIDAL CURRENTS FOUR HOURS
AFTER HIGH WATER AT NEWPORT

1.00 INCH = 1.33 NAUTICAL MILES

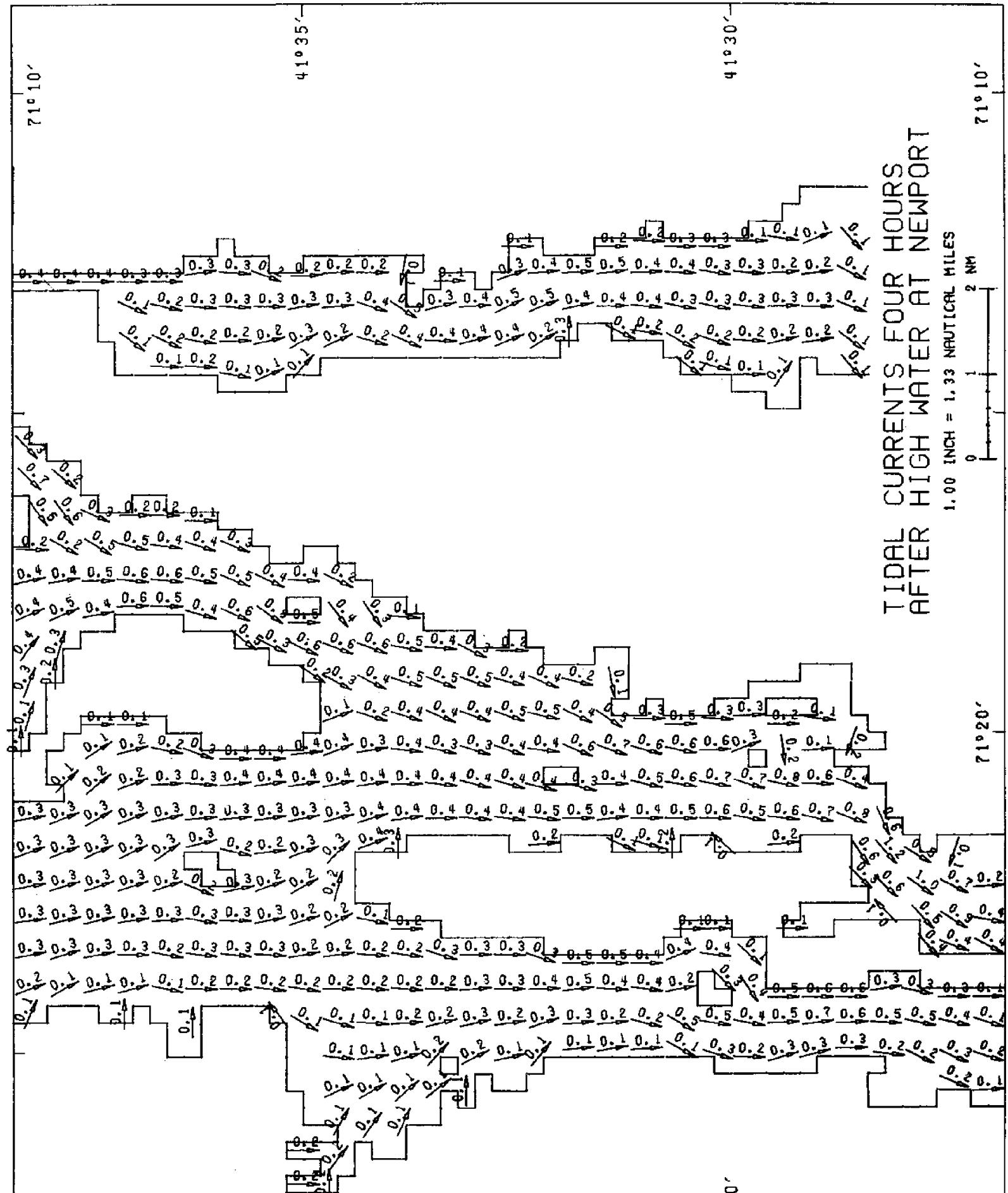
71°20'

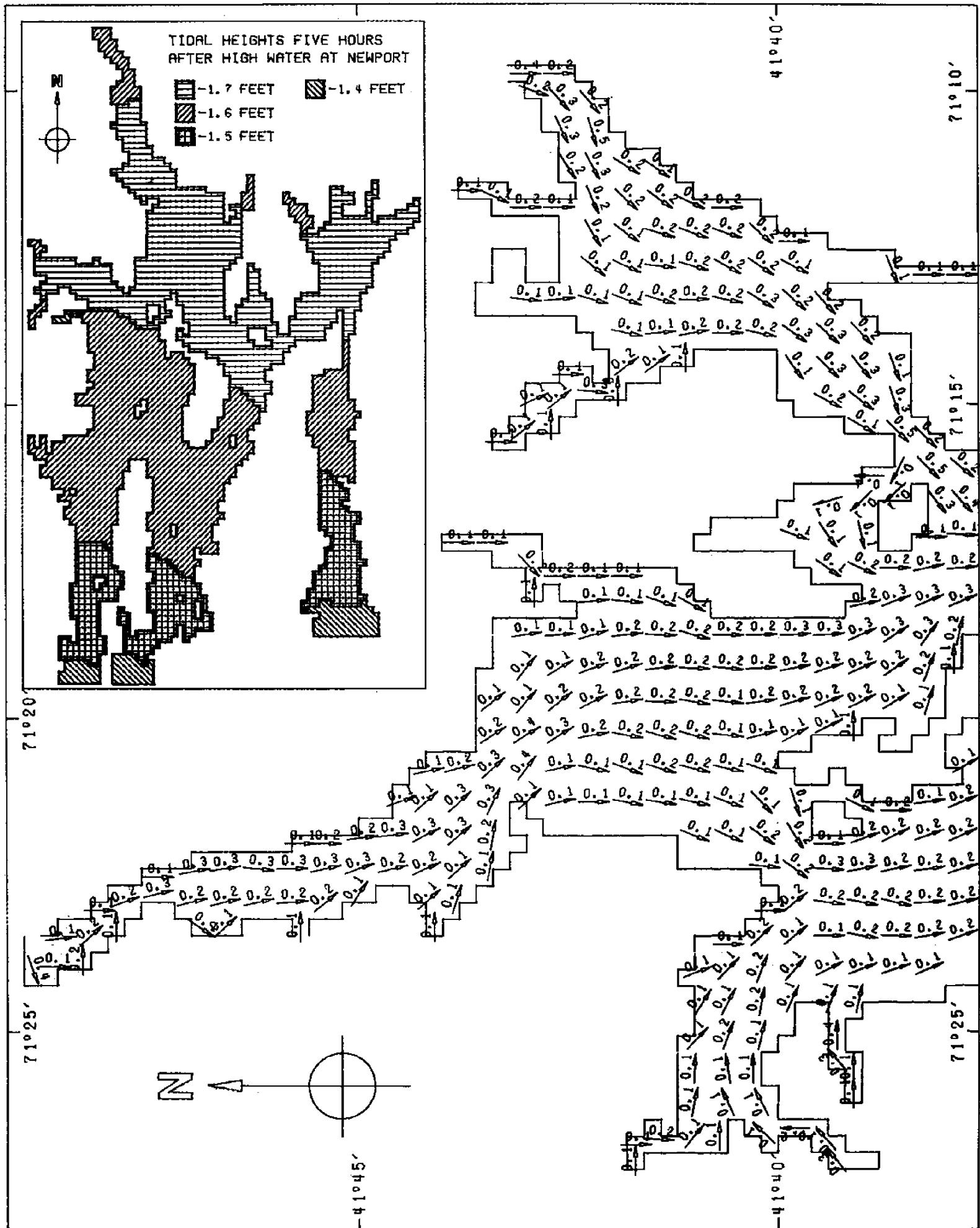
71°10'

41°30'

41°35'

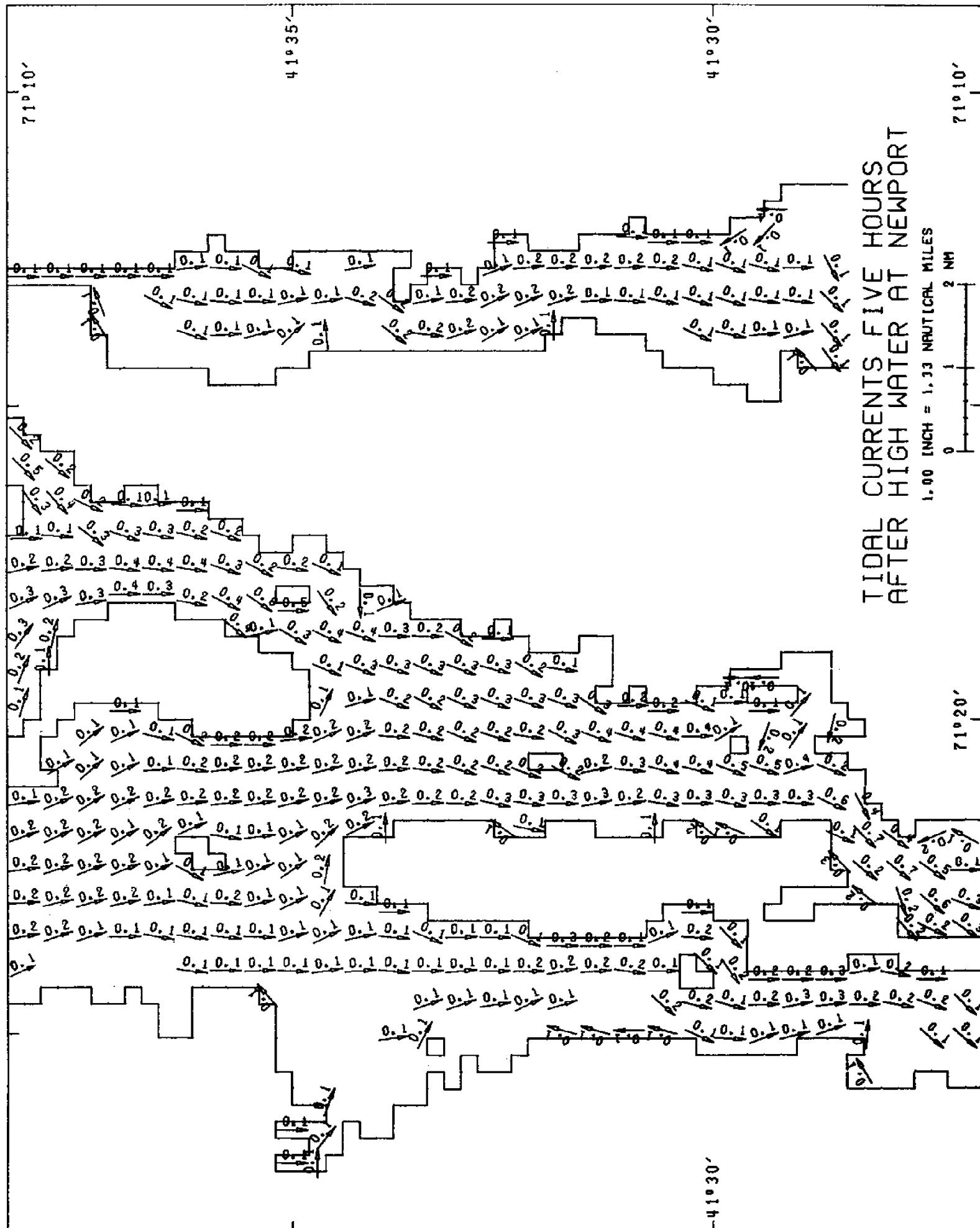
71°10'

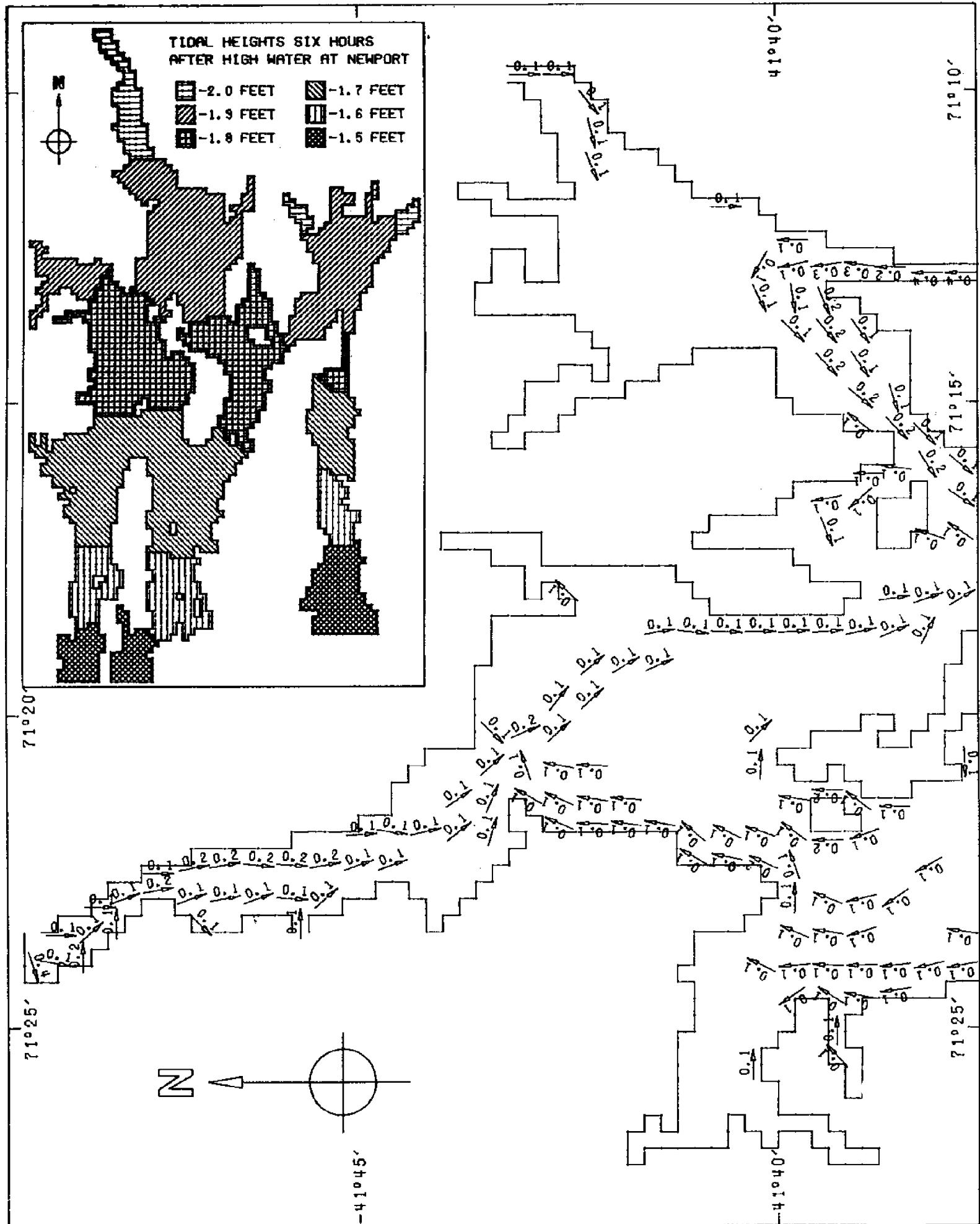




TIDAL CURRENTS FIVE HOURS
AFTER HIGH WATER AT NEWPORT

1.00 INCH = 1.13 NAUTICAL MILES
2 NM



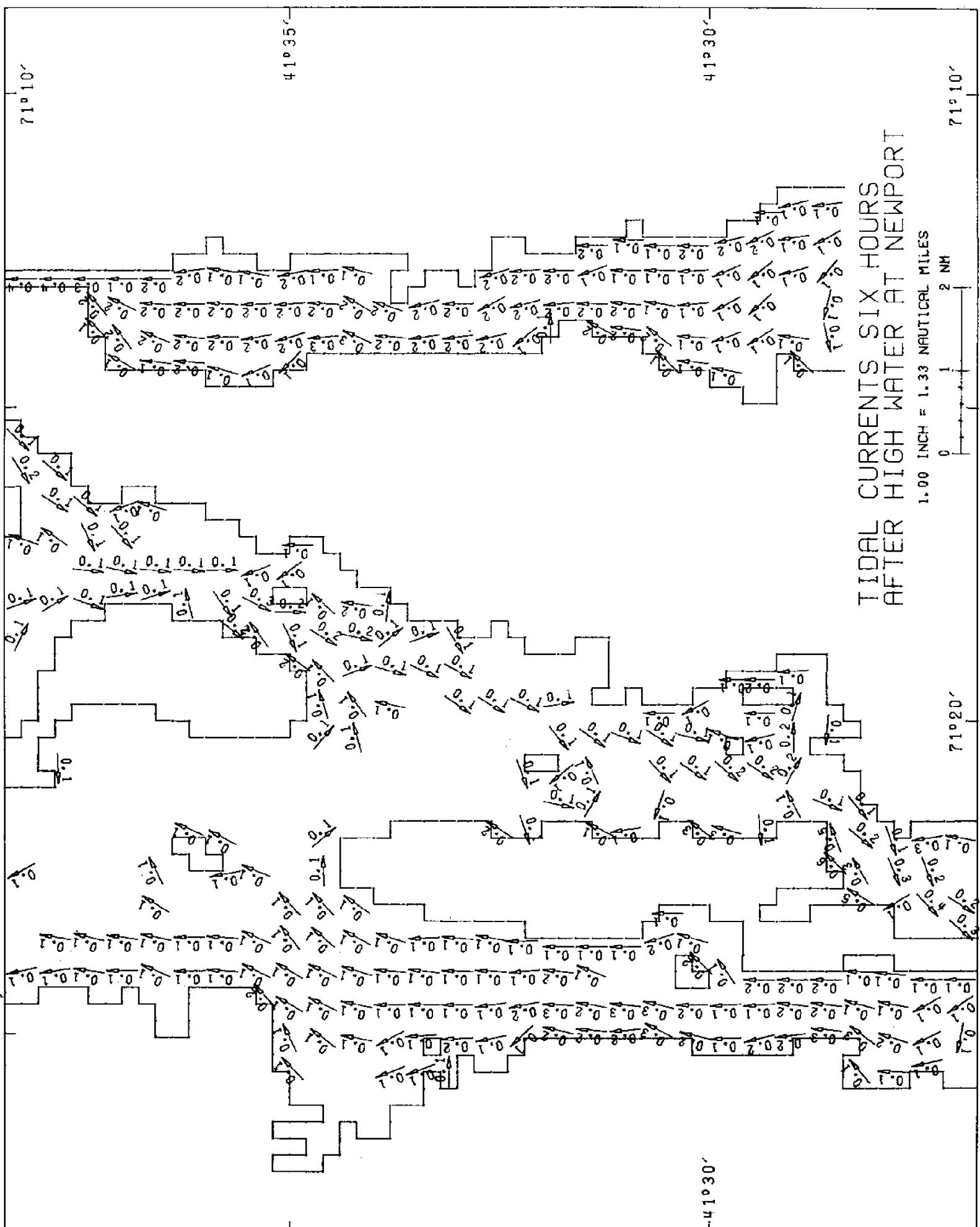


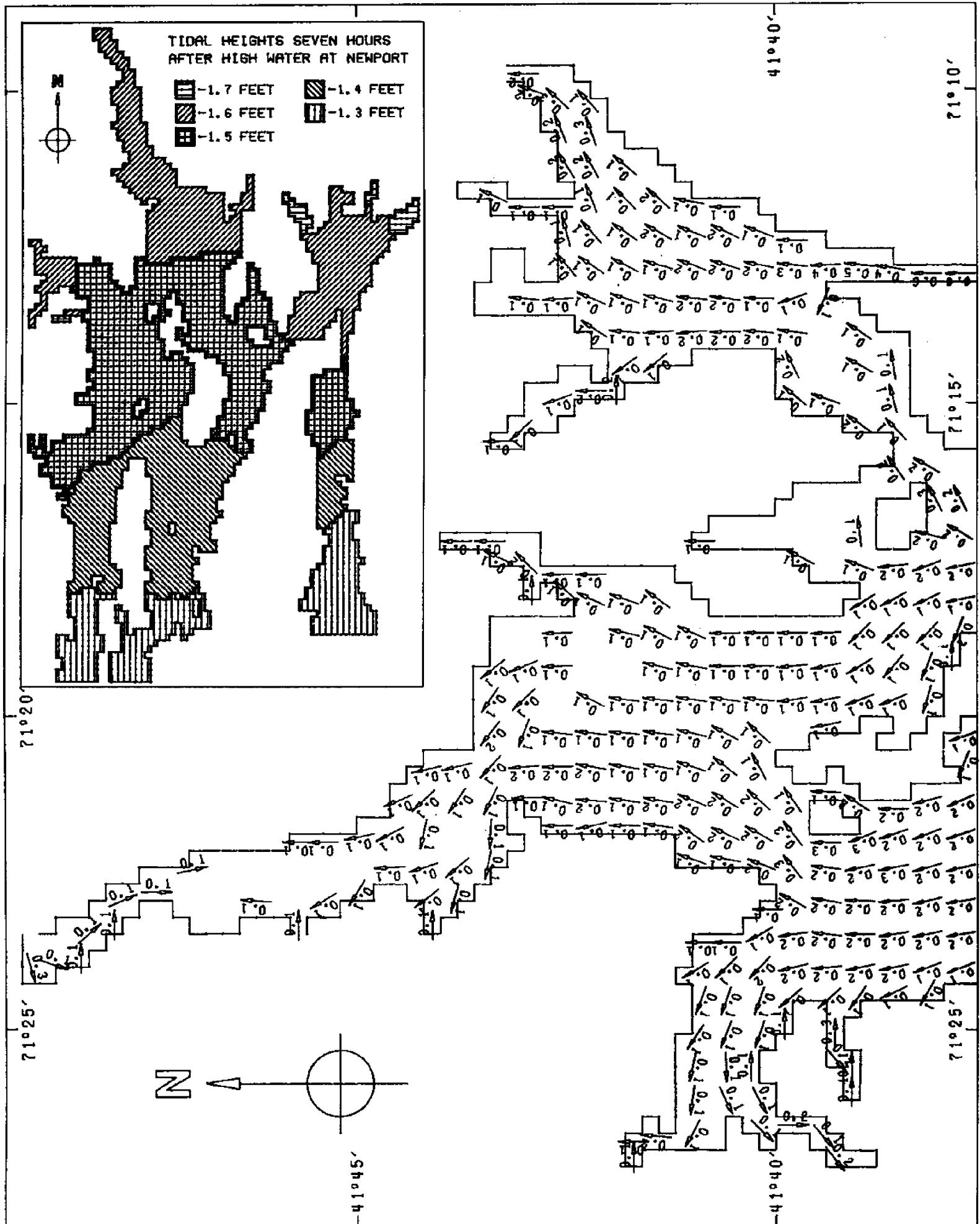
TIDAL CURRENTS SIX HOURS
AFTER HIGH WATER AT NEWPORT

1.00 INCH = 1.33 NAUTICAL MILES

71° 20'

71° 10'





TIDAL CURRENTS SEVEN HOURS
AFTER HIGH WATER AT NEWPORT

1.00 INCH = 1.33 NAUTICAL MILES

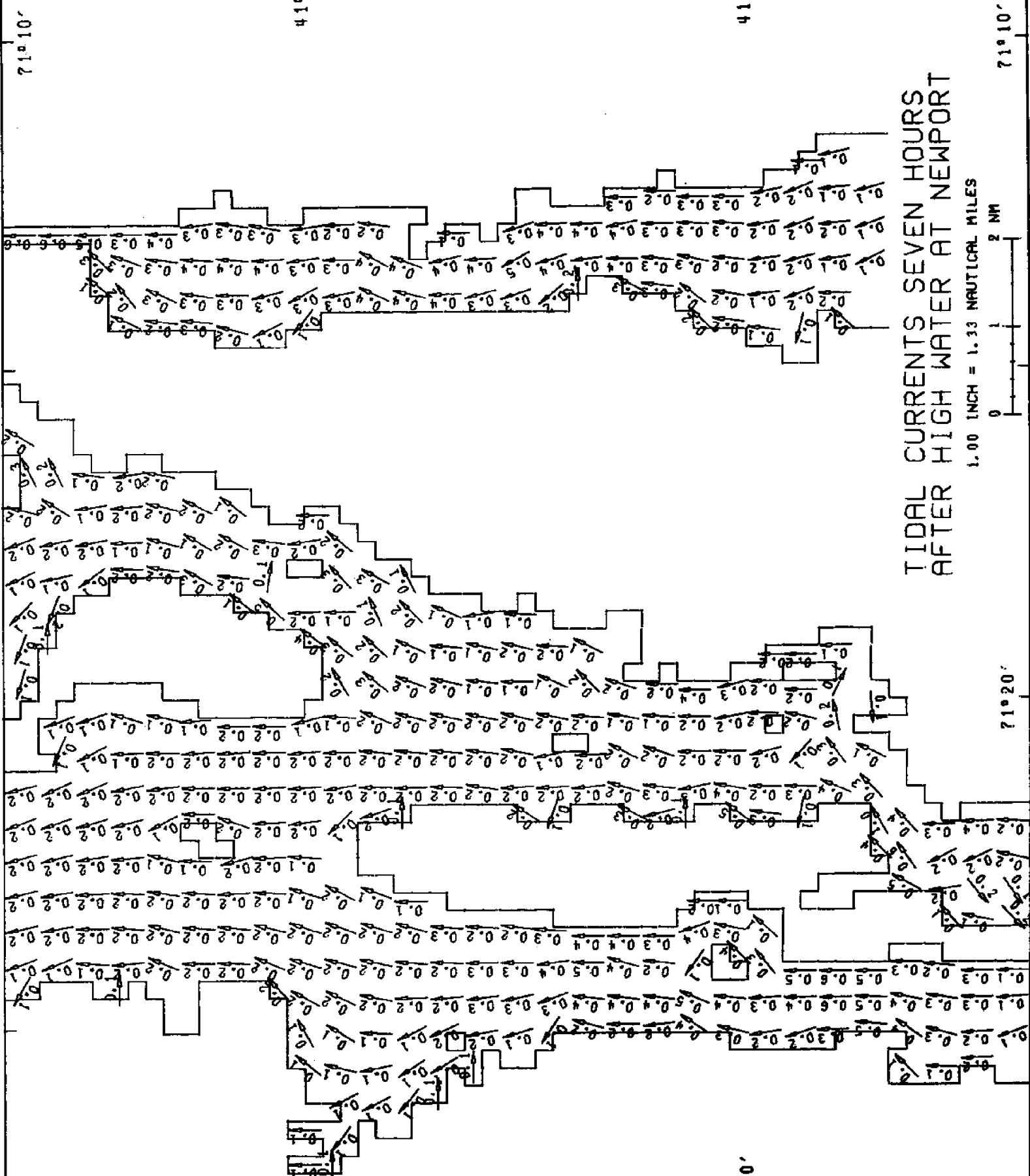
71° 20'

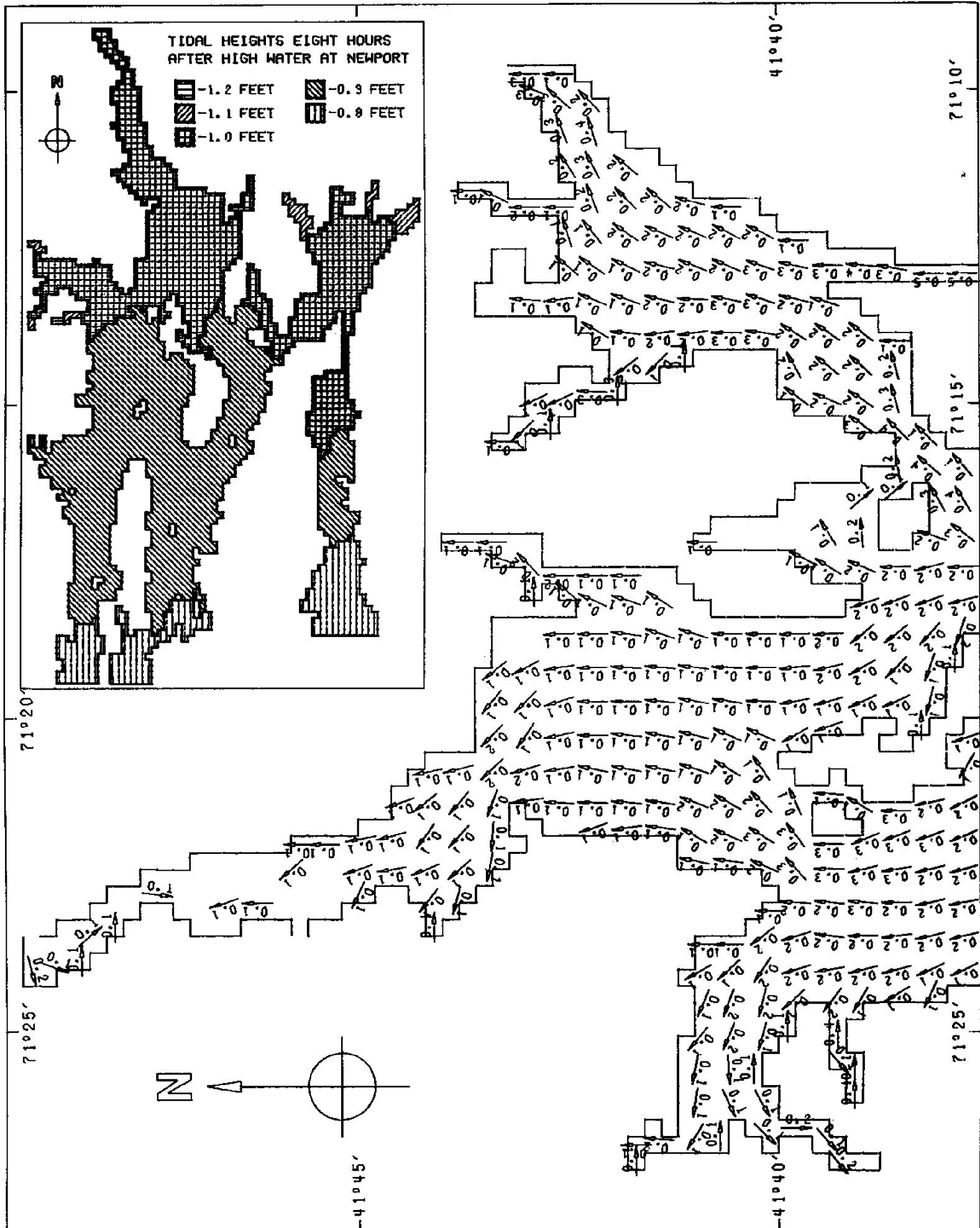
71° 10'

41° 30'

41° 30'

41° 35'





TIDAL CURRENTS EIGHT HOURS
AFTER HIGH WATER AT NEWPORT

1.00 INCH = 1.33 NAUTICAL MILES

71°20'

71°10'

2 NM

1 NM

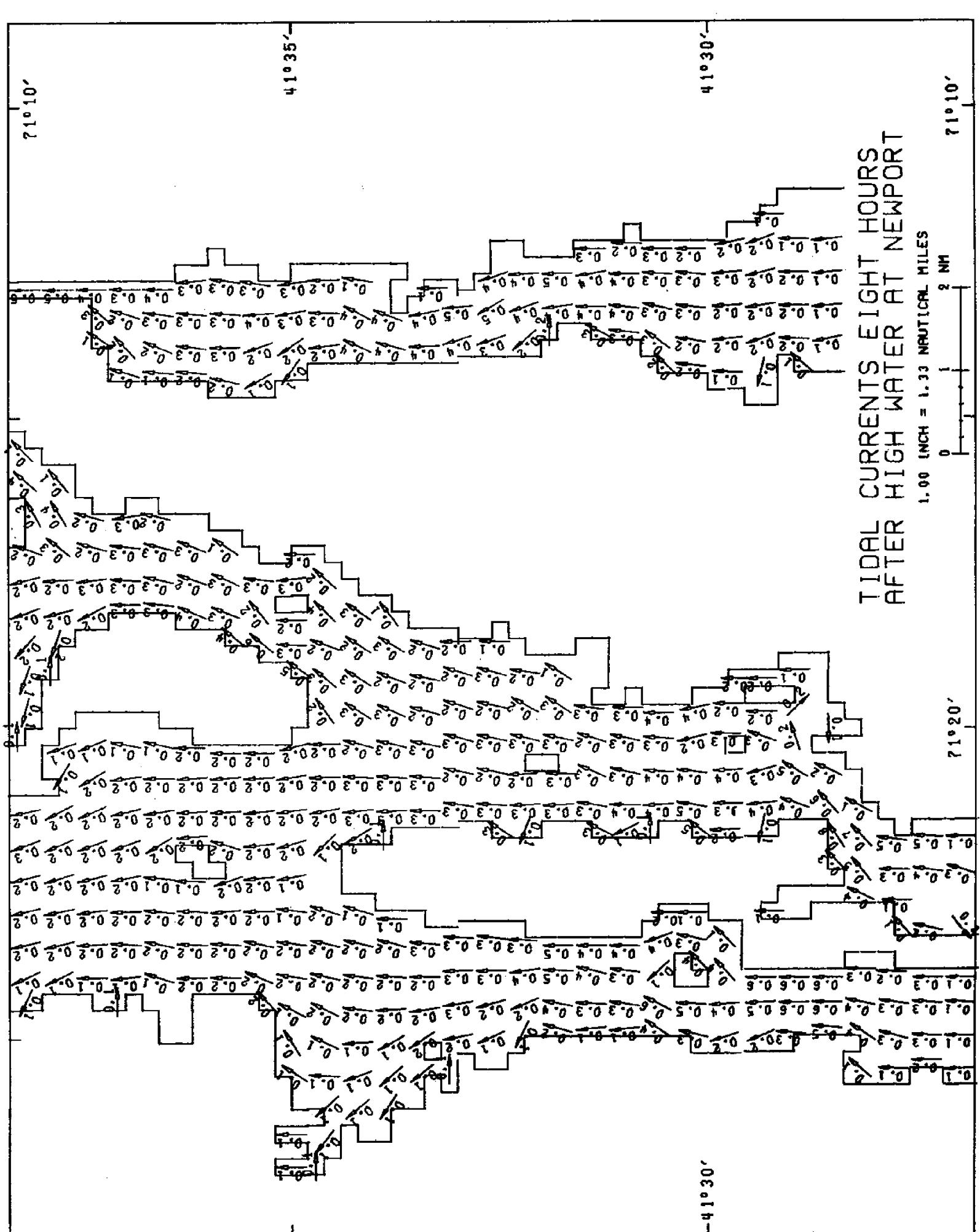
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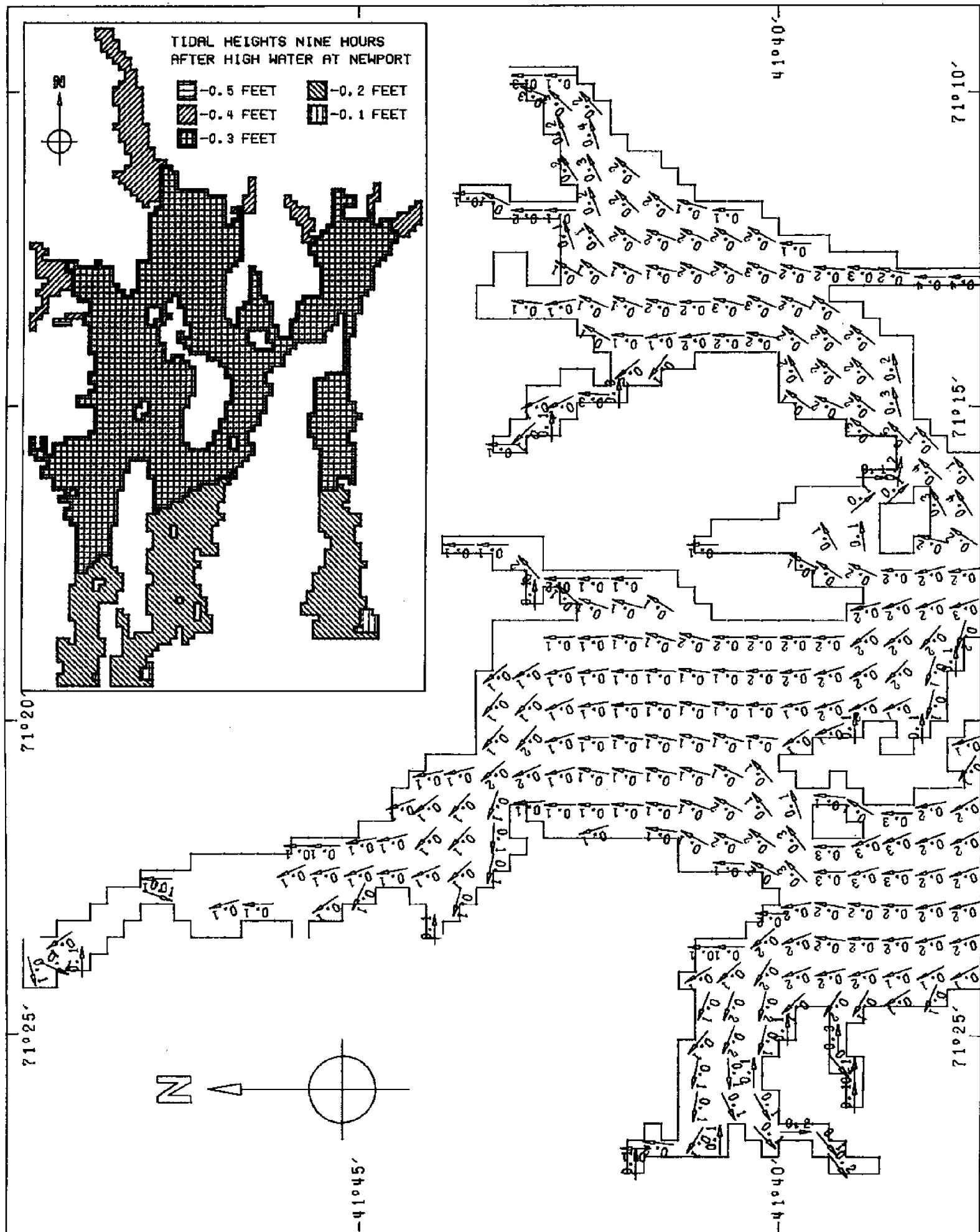
41°30'

-41°30'

41°35'

71°10'





TIDAL CURRENTS NINE HOURS
AFTER HIGH WATER AT NEWPORT

1.00 INCH = 1.33 NAUTICAL MILES

71° 10'

71° 20'

71° 30'

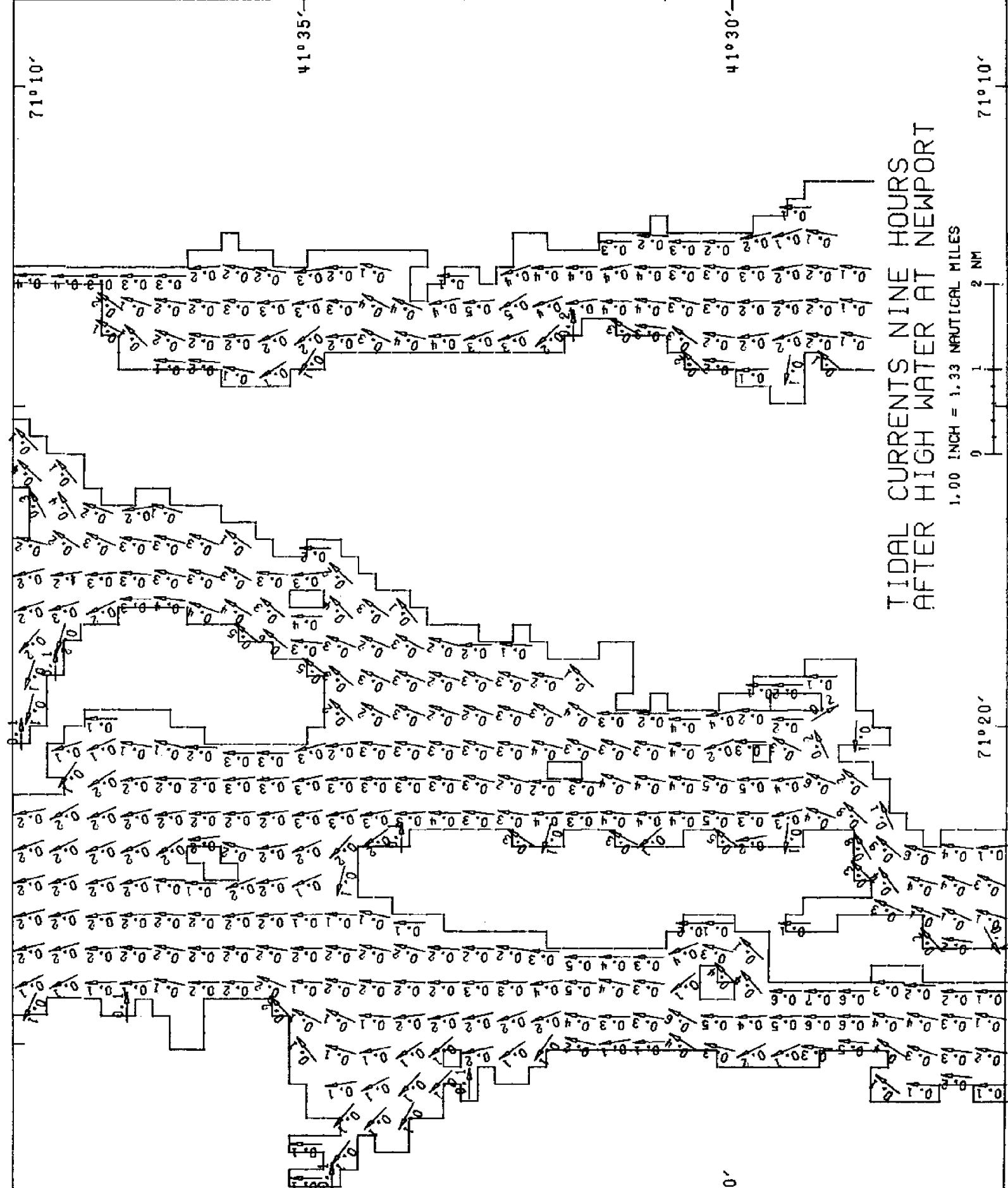
71° 40'

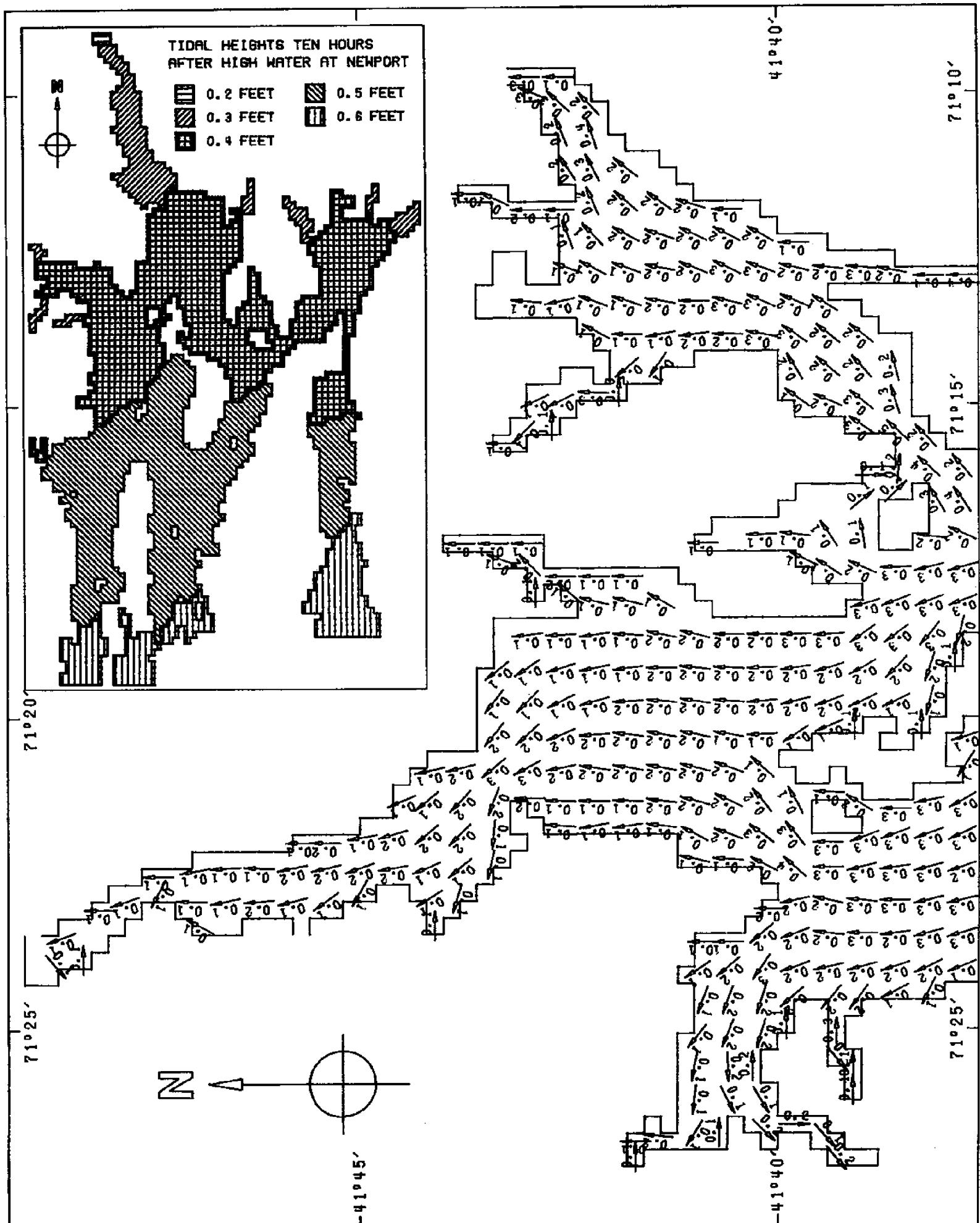
41° 30'

-41° 30'

41° 35'

71° 10'





TIDAL CURRENTS TEN HOURS
AFTER HIGH WATER AT NEWPORT

1.00 INCH = 1.33 NAUTICAL MILES

71° 20'

71° 10'

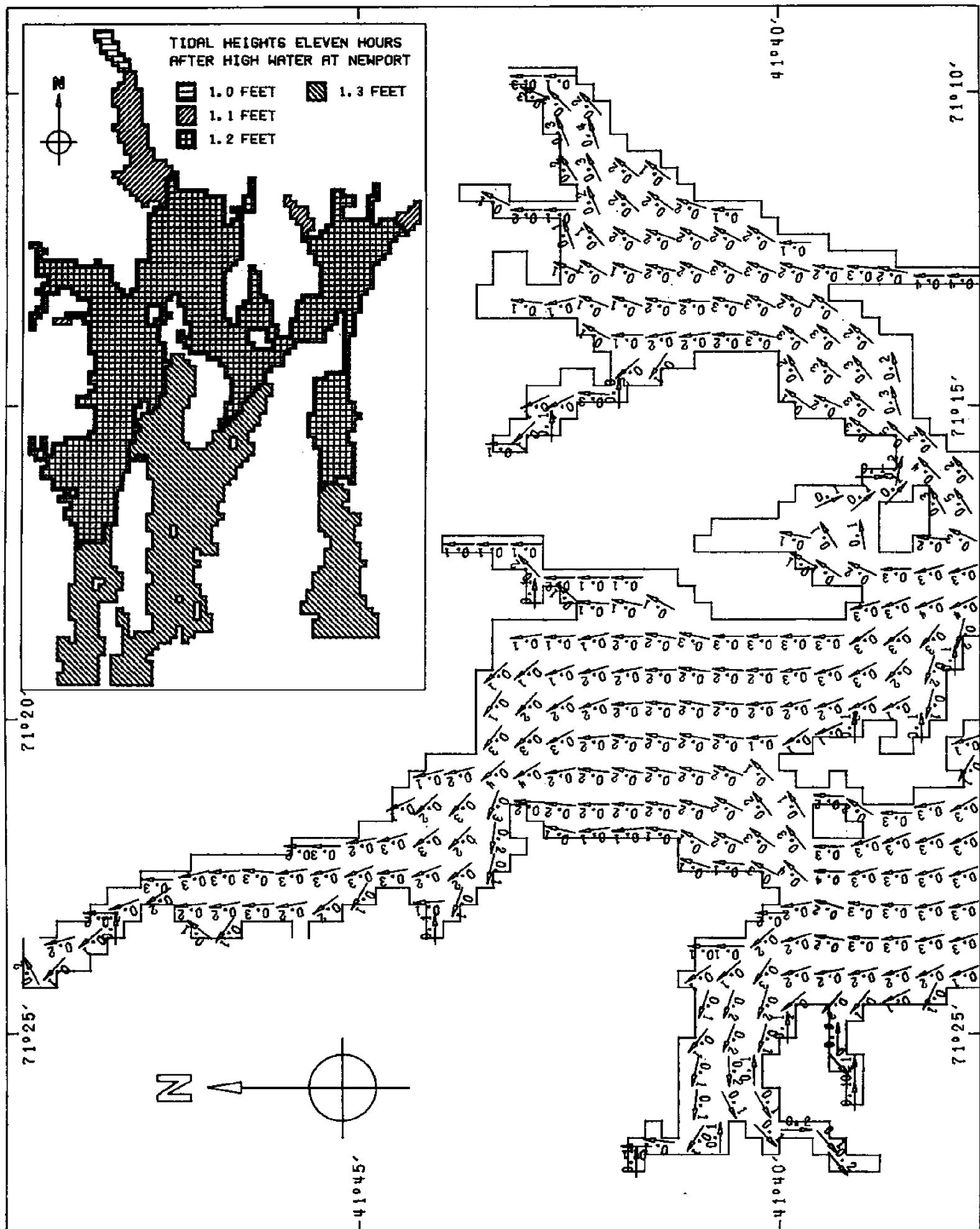
41° 30'

41° 35'

71° 10'

41° 30'

1



TIDAL CURRENTS ELEVEN HOURS
AFTER HIGH WATER AT NEWPORT

1.90 INCH = 1.33 NAUTICAL MILES

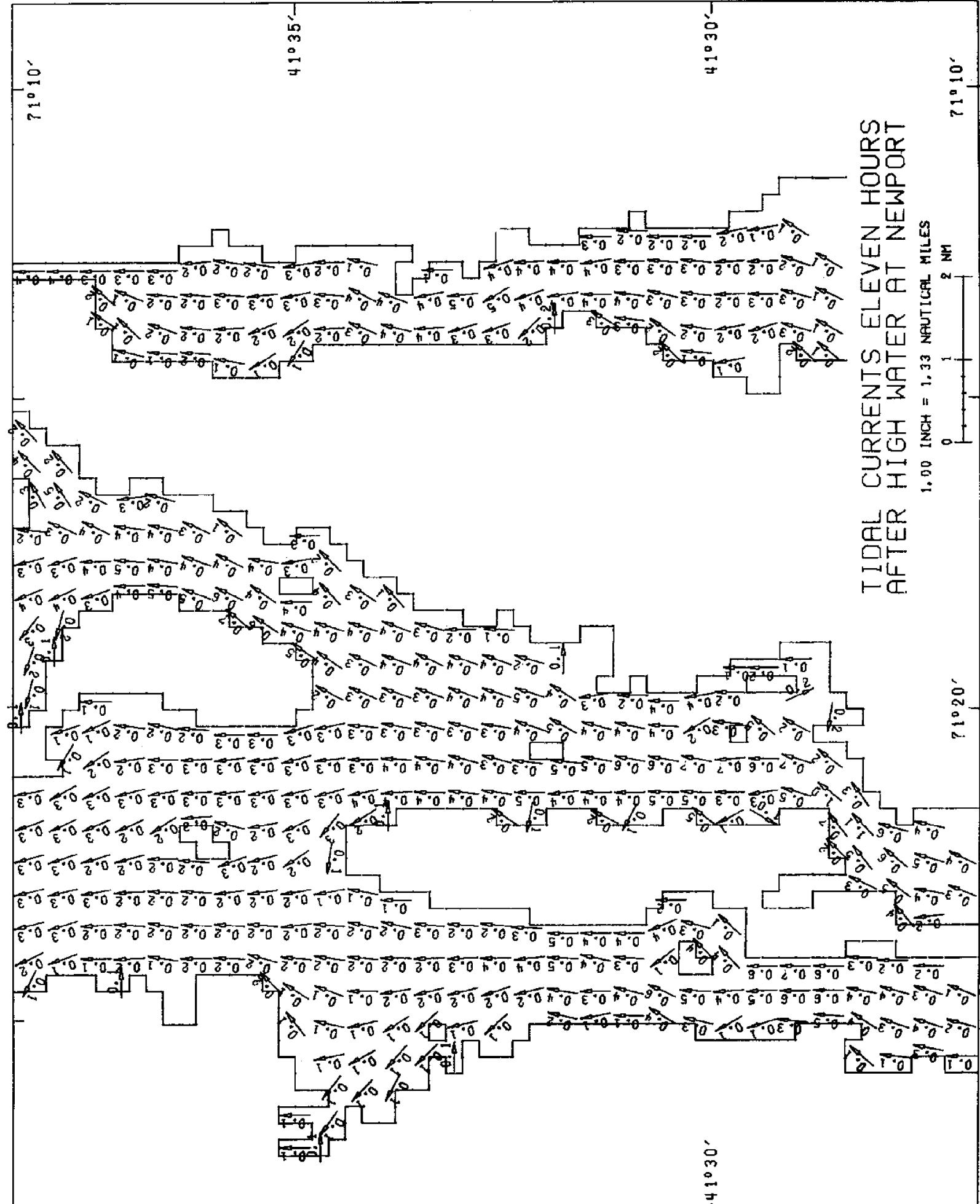
71°10'

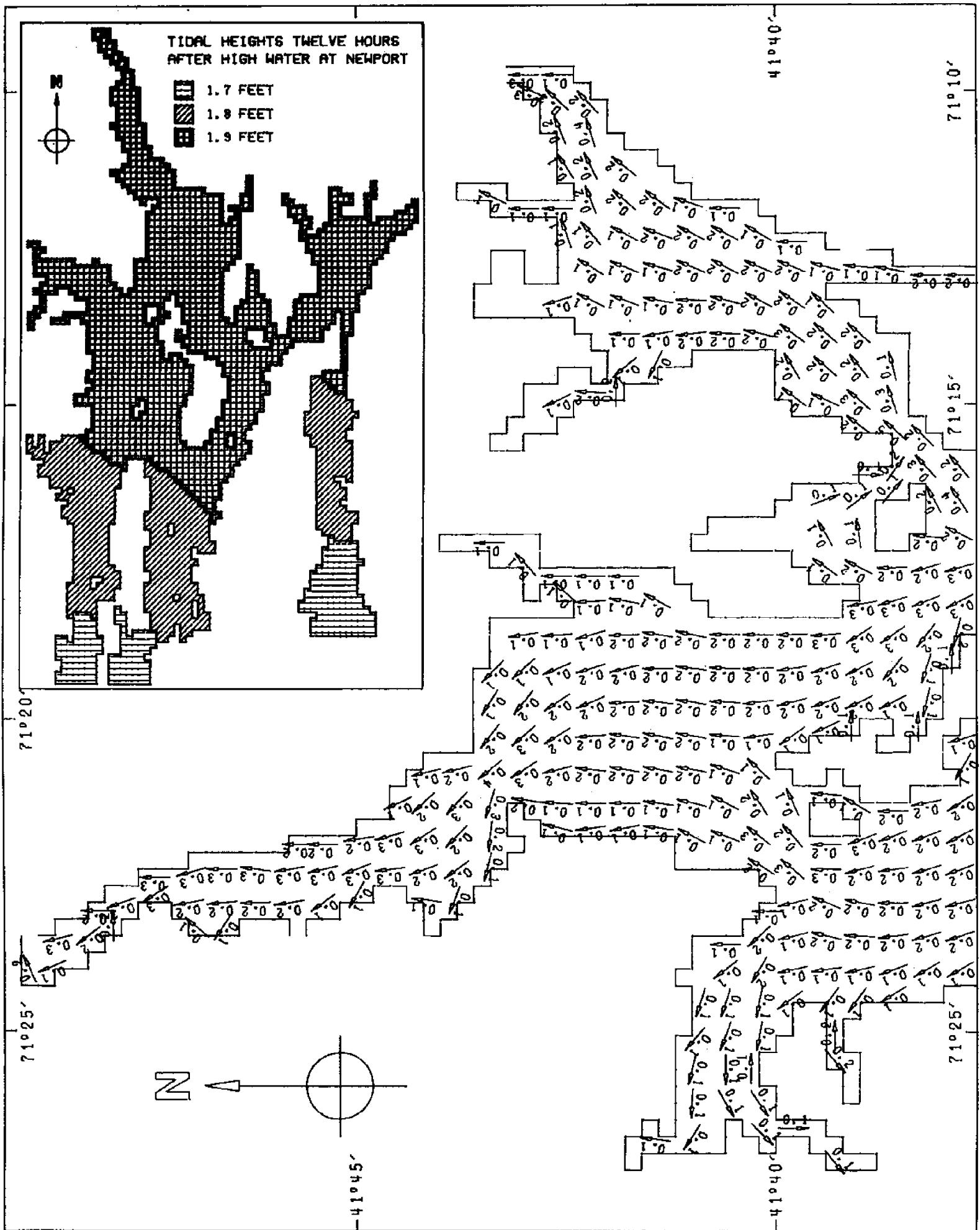
71°20'

71°30'

71°35'

71°30'





TIDAL CURRENTS TWELVE HOURS
AFTER HIGH WATER AT NEWPORT

1.00 INCH = 1.33 NAUTICAL MILES

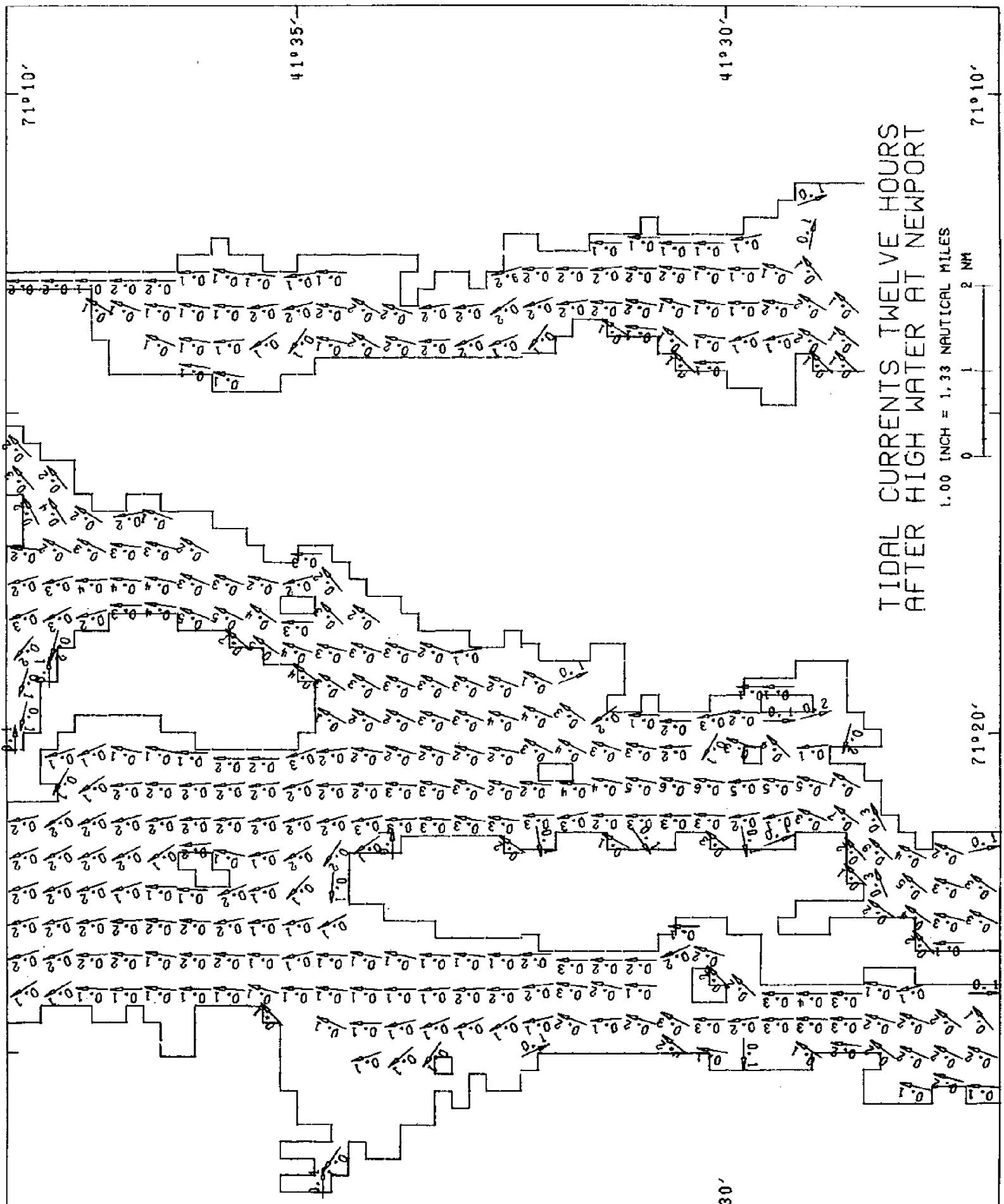
71°10'

71°20'

71°10'

41°30'

41°30'



FEBRUARY

| DAY | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1975 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1976 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1977 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1978 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1979 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1980 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1981 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1984 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| MARCH | 1975 | | 1976 | | | 1977 | | | 1978 | | | 1979 | | | 1980 | | | 1981 | | | 1982 | | | 1983 | | | 1984 | | | | | | |
|-------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|----|--|--|
| | DAY | TIME | HGT | DAY | TIME | HGT | DAY | TIME | HGT | DAY | TIME | HGT | DAY | TIME | HGT | DAY | TIME | HGT | DAY | TIME | HGT | DAY | TIME | HGT | DAY | TIME | HGT | DAY | TIME | HGT | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1975 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1976 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1977 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1978 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1979 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1980 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1981 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1984 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | DAY | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |
|-------|------|------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | TIME | HGT | DAY | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| APRIL | 1984 | 1984 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | 1983 | 1983 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| | 1982 | 1982 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| | 1981 | 1981 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| | 1980 | 1980 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| | 1979 | 1979 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | 1978 | 1978 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| | 1977 | 1977 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| | 1976 | 1976 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | |
| | 1975 | 1975 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |

| JUNE | TIME | HGT | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| DAY | TIME | HGT | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

AUGUST

| | DAY | TIME HGT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|----------|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| AUGUST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1975 | TIME HGT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1976 | TIME HGT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1977 | TIME HGT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1978 | TIME HGT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1979 | TIME HGT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1980 | TIME HGT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1981 | TIME HGT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | TIME HGT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | TIME HGT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1984 | TIME HGT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

OCTOBER

| | DAY | TIME | HGT | DAY | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|------|------|-----|------|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| OCTOBER | 1975 | TIME | HGT | 1975 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1976 | 1976 | TIME | HGT | 1976 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 1977 | 1977 | TIME | HGT | 1977 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1978 | 1978 | TIME | HGT | 1978 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1979 | 1979 | TIME | HGT | 1979 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1980 | 1980 | TIME | HGT | 1980 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1981 | 1981 | TIME | HGT | 1981 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 1982 | TIME | HGT | 1982 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 1983 | TIME | HGT | 1983 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1984 | 1984 | TIME | HGT | 1984 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

