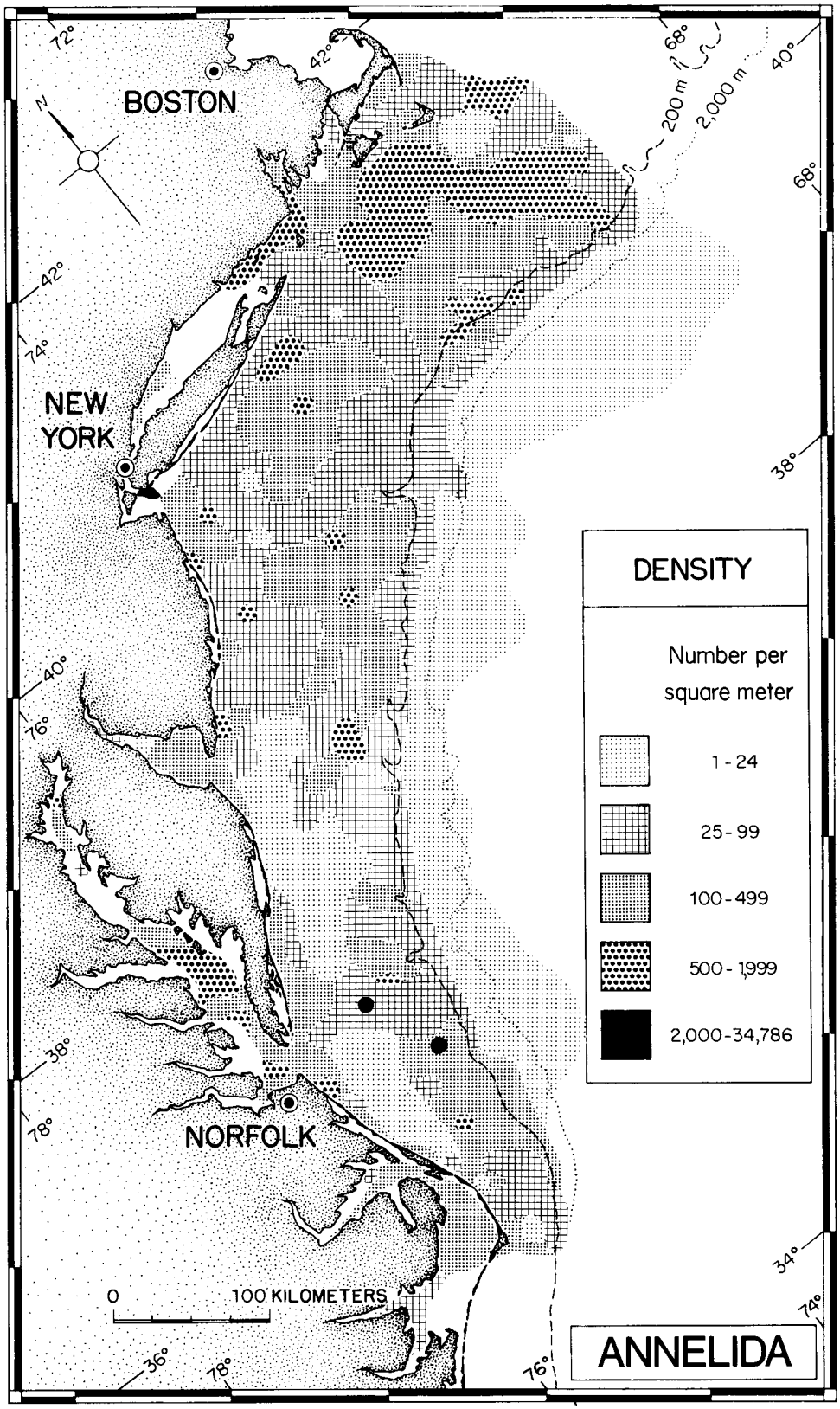

FIGURE 25.—Geographic distribution of the density of Annelida, expressed as number of individuals per square meter of bottom area.

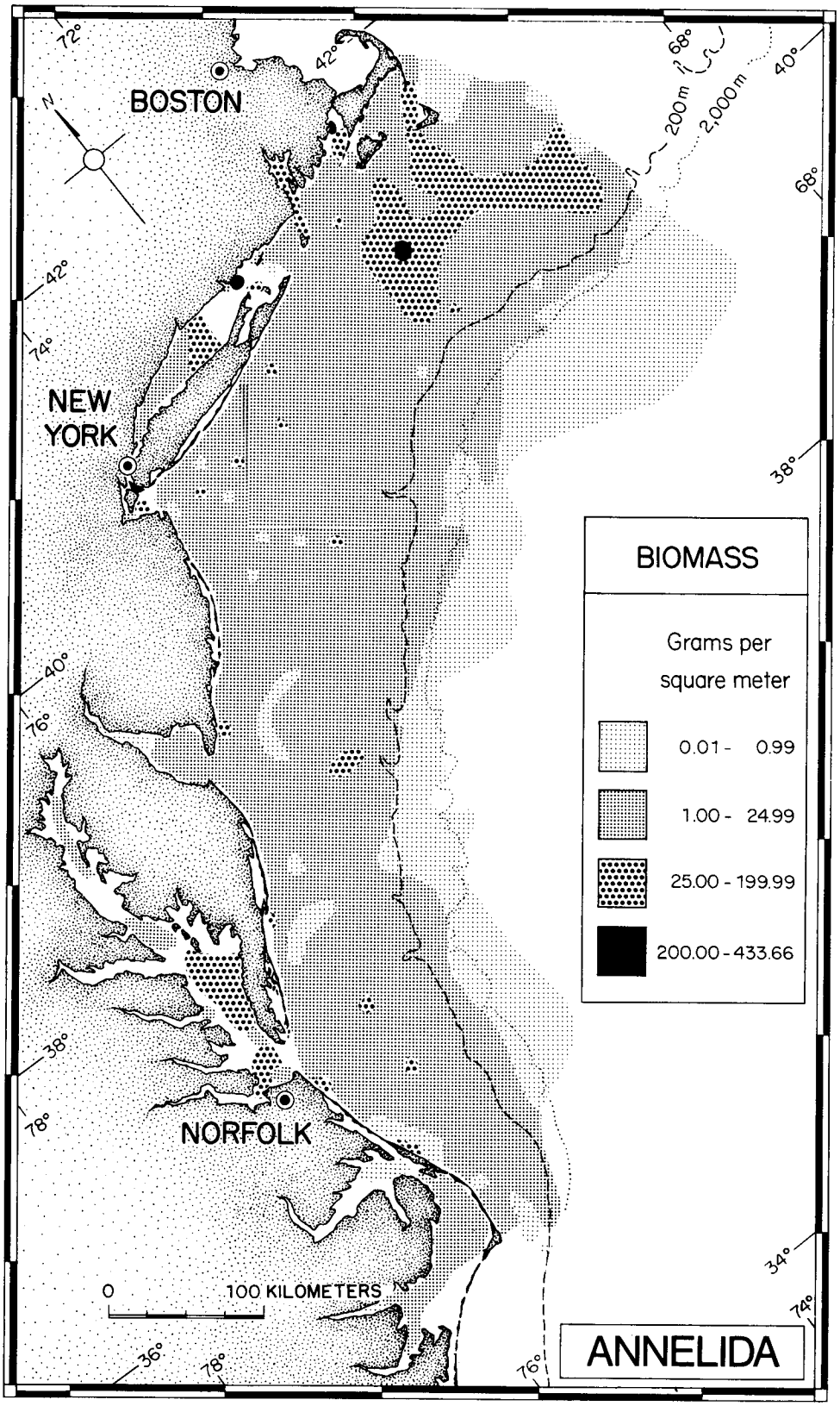

FIGURE 26.—Geographic distribution of the biomass of Annelida, expressed as damp weight per square meter of bottom area.

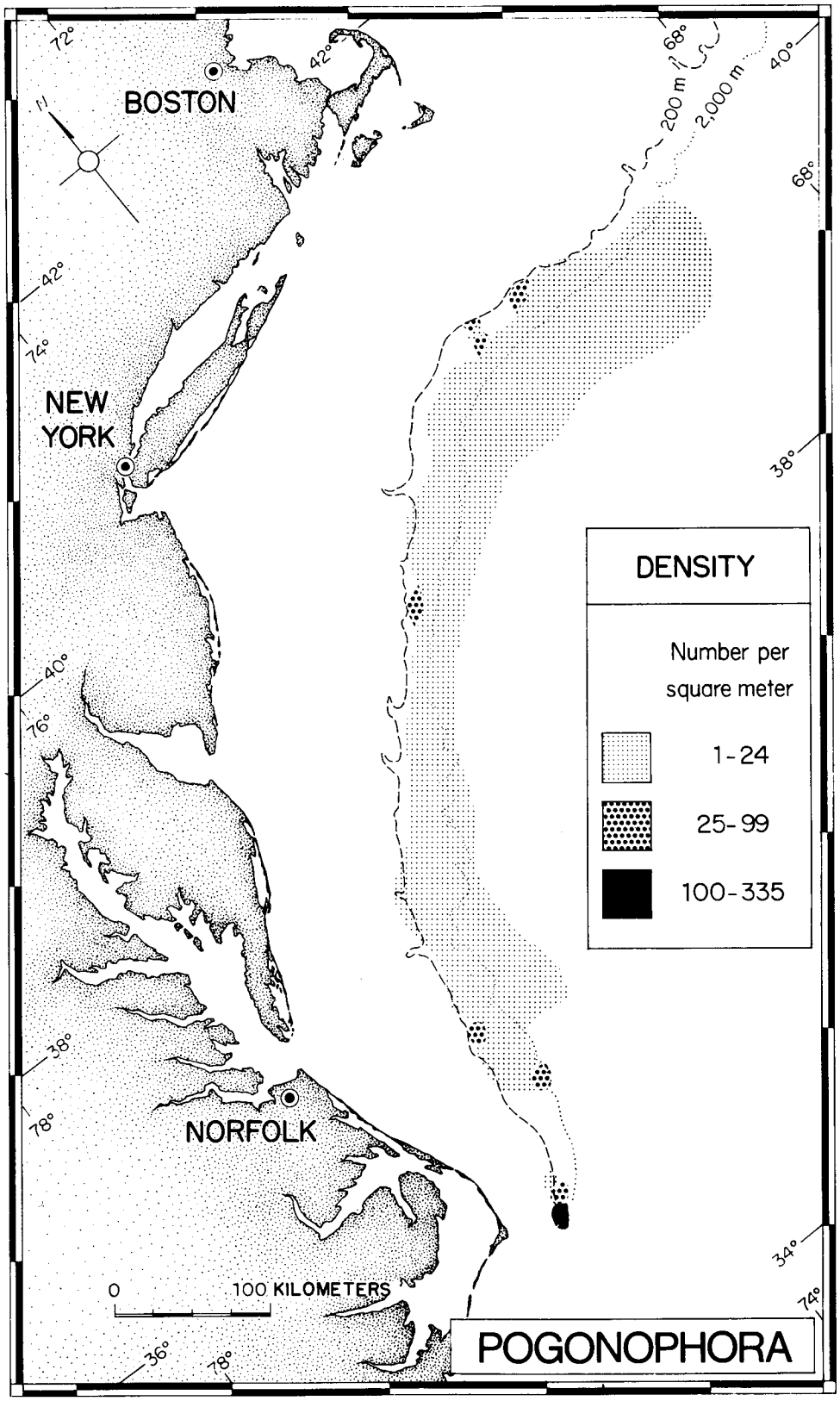

FIGURE 27.—Geographic distribution of the density of Pogonophora, expressed as number of individuals per square meter of bottom area.

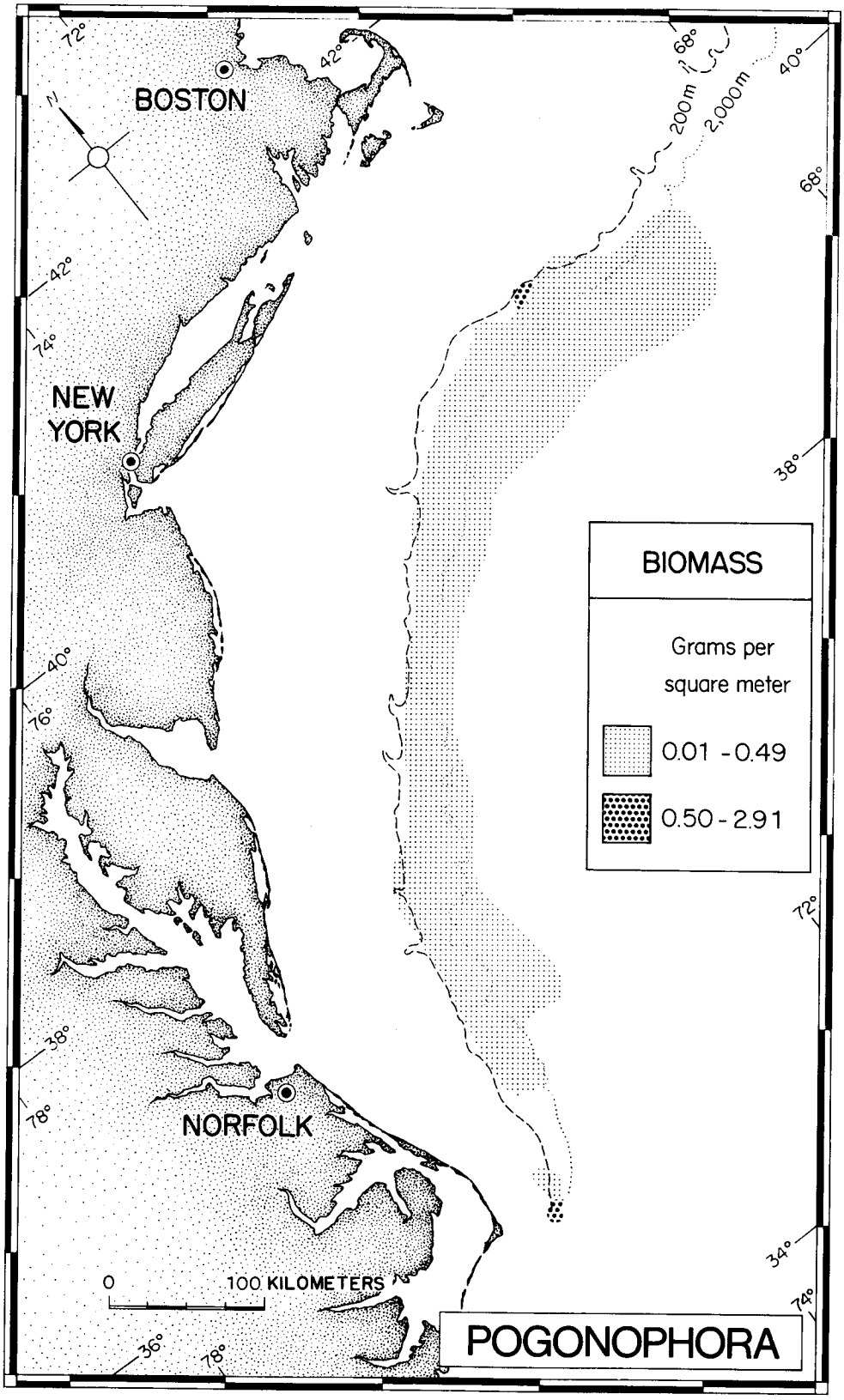

FIGURE 28.—Geographic distribution of the biomass of Pogonophora, expressed as damp weight per square meter of bottom area.

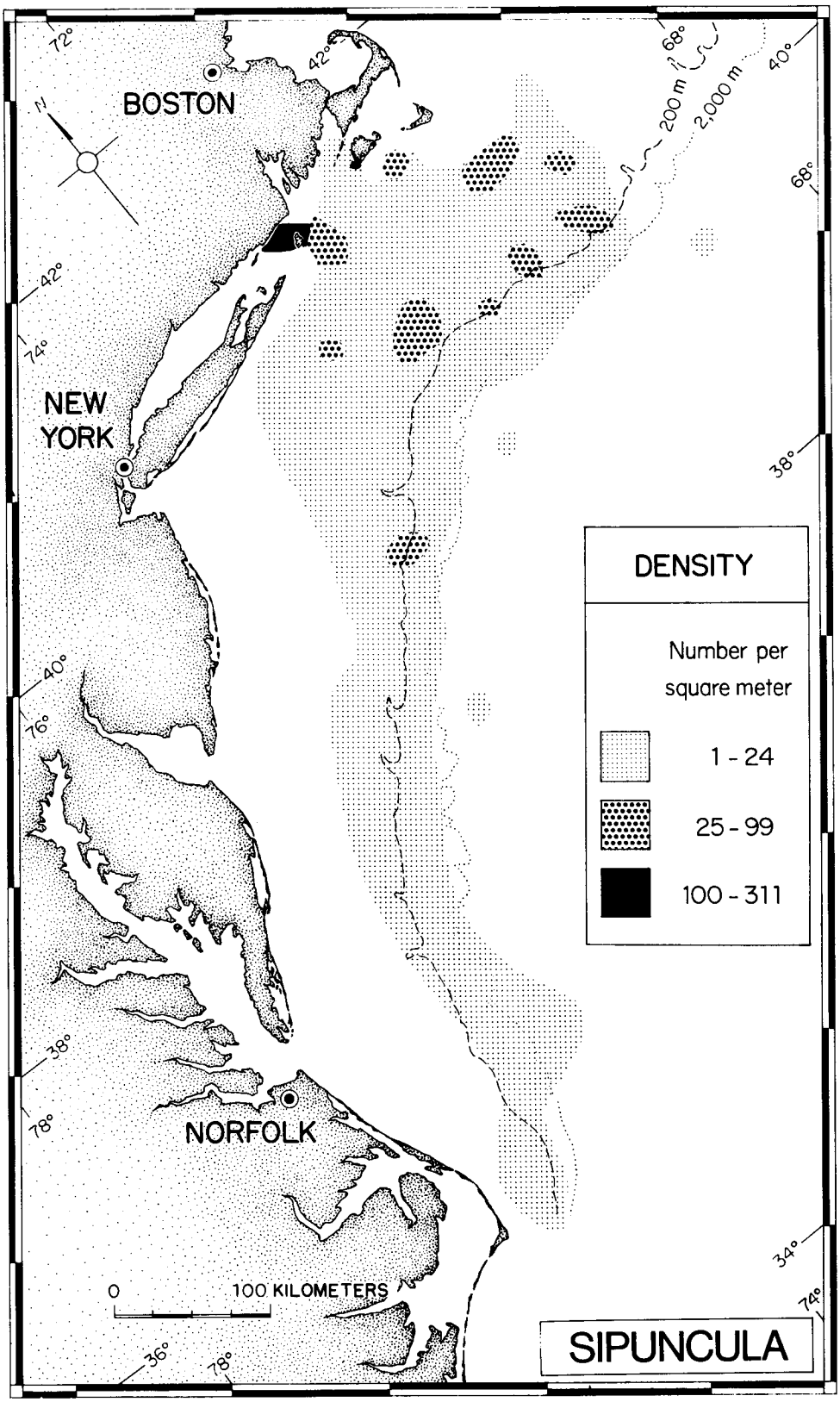

FIGURE 29.—Geographic distribution of the density of Sipuncula, expressed as number of individuals per square meter of bottom area.

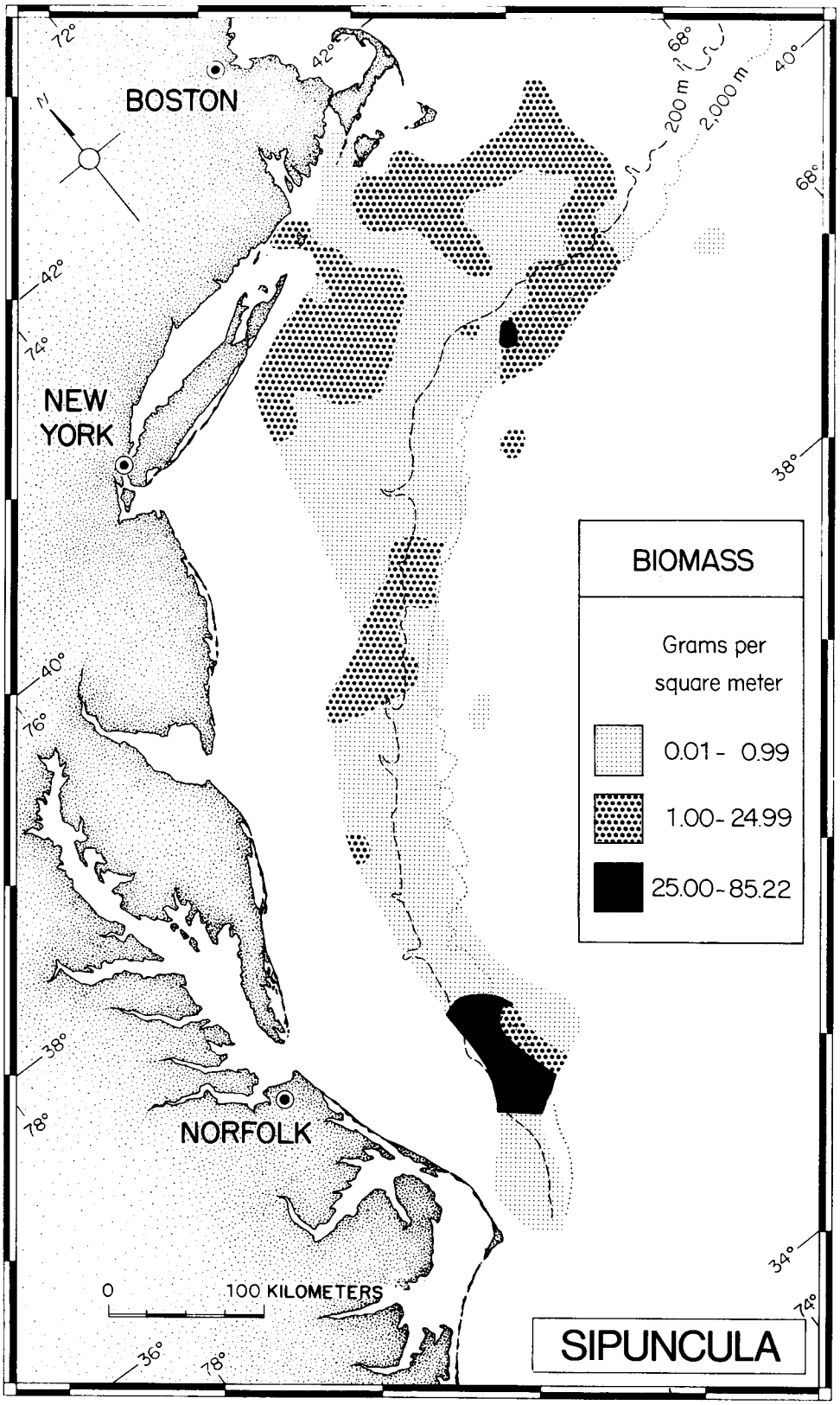

FIGURE 30.—Geographic distribution of the biomass of Sipuncula, expressed as damp weight per square meter of bottom area.

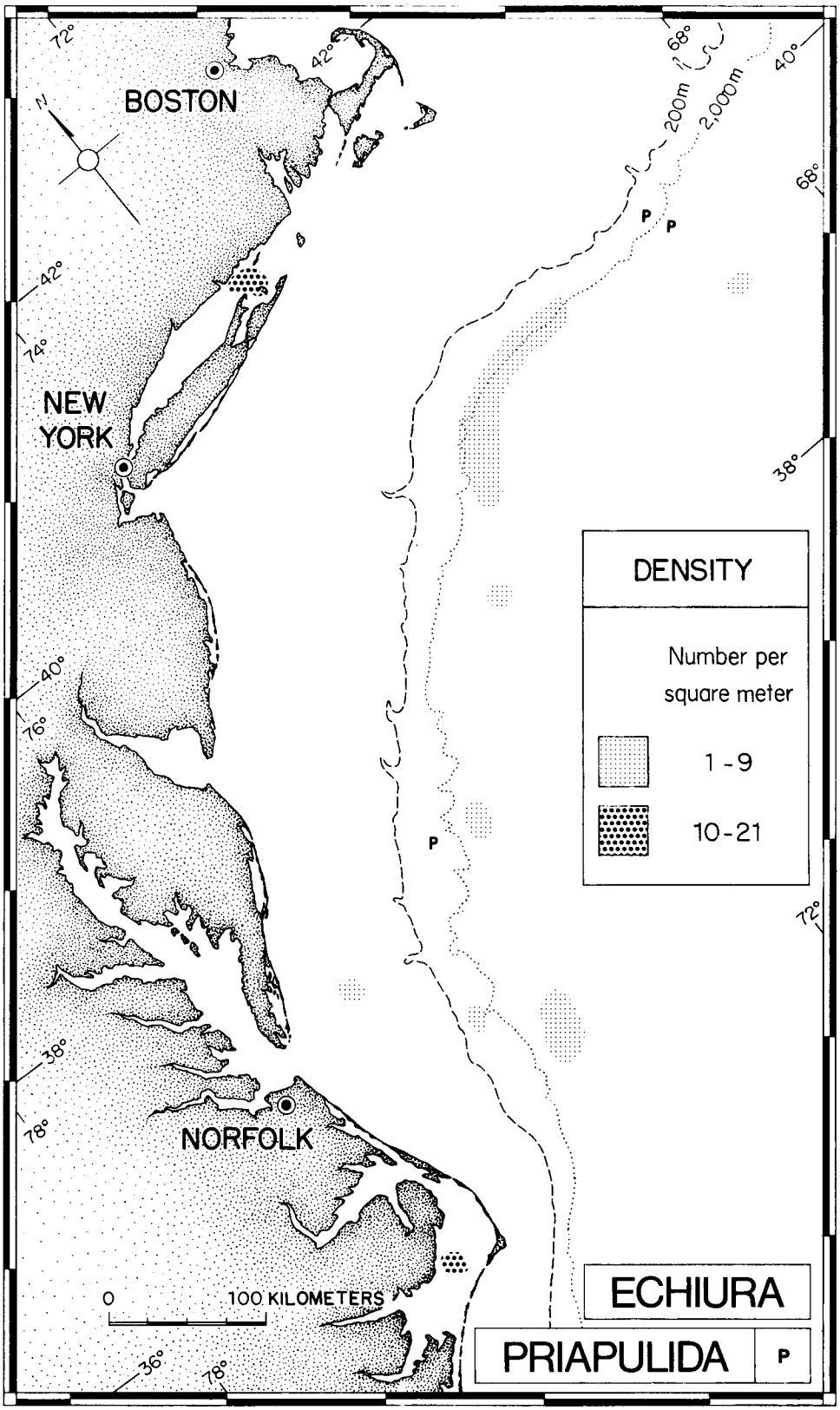

FIGURE 31.—Geographic distribution of the density of Echiura and Priapulida (*P*), expressed as number of individuals per square meter of bottom area.

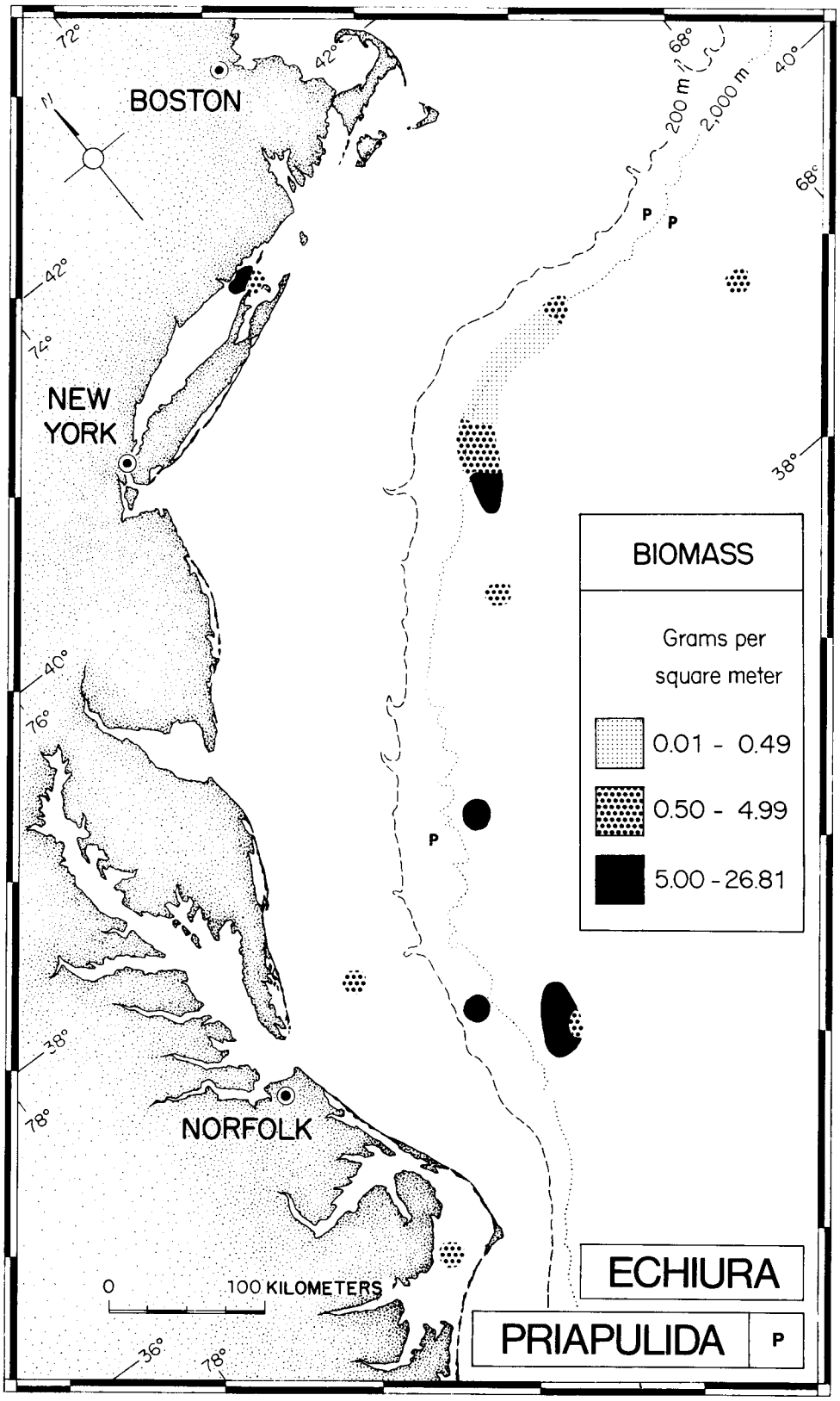

FIGURE 32.—Geographic distribution of the biomass of Echiura and Priapulida (*P*), expressed as damp weight per square meter of bottom area.

Mollusca (figs. 33 and 34) were found at virtually all sampling stations in the Middle Atlantic Bight region; their geographical distribution was exceptionally broad. Density was as high as 58,000/m². Four density bands extend north to south, roughly parallel to the coast, throughout most of the region. The first band is in the bays and sounds and includes the inner Continental Shelf. This is a high-density (large areas having densities greater than 50/m²) band. The second band, parallel to the first, occupies the approximate middle of the Continental Shelf; this is a low-density (mostly less than 50/m²) band. The third band is along the Outer Continental Shelf and upper slope. This is a high density (mostly greater than 50/m²) band that broadens at the northern end. The fourth band, along the Lower Continental Slope and Continental Rise, is a low-density (fewer than 50/m²) band. Biomass of mollusks is as great as 9,555 g/m². Exceptionally large areas of large biomass (greater than 100 g/m²) occurred on the Continental Shelf, particularly between Cape Cod and Delaware Bay. Moderate quantities (5 to 99 g/m²) also prevailed in extensive areas in this region. In the Chesapeake Bight subarea, the typical biomass of mollusks was less than 5 g/m², except in some inner shelf areas and along the shelf break.

Polyplacophora (figs. 35 and 36) were distributed in small and rather widely separated patches, primarily on the Outer Continental Shelf, Slope, and Rise. They were found in only two localities in inshore waters. Density throughout most of their area of occurrence was less than 24/m², and biomass typically was smaller than 0.5 g/m².

Gastropoda (figs. 37 and 38) were distributed over extensive areas extending from the northern to the southern boundaries of the region and from inshore waters to the outermost areas sampled. Outside the bays and sounds, their distribution generally formed bands parallel to the coastline. A moderately high density (10/m² to 99/m²) band was present along the coast. Just seaward of this high-density band was a low-density (less than 10/m²) band. In the central and outer parts of the Continental Shelf, gastropods were absent, except in the area south of Rhode Island and Massachusetts where a density of 10/m² to 999/m² was found. Along the Upper Continental Slope, the density was moderately high, and low-density bands were on either side. Biomass was small to moderate (0.01 to 5/m²) over most areas of gastropod distribution. Intermediate (5 to 25 g/m²) patches of biomasses were distributed primarily along the inner shelf areas and in bays and sounds, but a few patches were found in the midshelf regions south of Cape Cod and south of Long Island. Large biomasses (25 to 394 g/m²) were restricted almost exclusively to bays and sounds, except for one small area in midshelf depths south of Nantucket Shoals.

Bivalvia (figs. 39 and 40) were ubiquitous throughout the Middle Atlantic Bight region .Their pattern of density formed bands more or less parallel to the coastline. A narrow band of moderate density (50 to 500/m²) was found along the coast. A somewhat broader band of low density (less than 25/m²) ran through the central part of the shelf. Another band of moderate density, very broad in the Southern New England area and narrower in the southern section, extended the entire length of the region. Biomass patterns were essentially similar to those of density. Two bands of small biomass (0.01 to 5 g/m²) were found, one offshore beginning on the outer part of the Continental Shelf and extending to the deepest depths sampled; the other occupied the midshelf regions east of Long Island and below New York City. Two bands of moderate biomasses (5 to 50 g/m²) were situated on the Inner and Outer Continental Shelf. Patches of large biomasses (50 to 19,300+g/m²) were found in bays and sounds throughout the entire region and on the middle to outer shelf region of Southern New England and New York Bight. Large offshore biomasses in the more southerly regions were confined to the outer shelf.

Scaphopoda (figs. 41 and 42) were distributed in a narrow (25 to 50 km) band along the Outer Continental Shelf and Slope extending the entire length of the Middle Atlantic Bight region. Density was low (less than 24/m²) throughout this band, except at four localized areas where it ranged from 25/m² to 77/m². Biomass was small (less than 0.5 g/m²) throughout most of this band, and reached a maximum of only 2.46 g/m².

Cephalopoda (figs. 35 and 36) were represented entirely by eggs. They occurred in moderately small quantities at only two localities on the Outer Continental Shelf off southern Massachusetts.

Arthropoda (figs. 43 and 44) were nearly ubiquitous throughout the entire region. They were one of the most comman taxonomic groups found; maximum density was 19,171/m². High densities (greater than 2,000/m²) were prevalent in large areas of the Continental Shelf in the Southern New England subarea and in the northern half of the New York Bight. Moderately high densities (200/m² to 1,999/m²) were found over extensive areas in

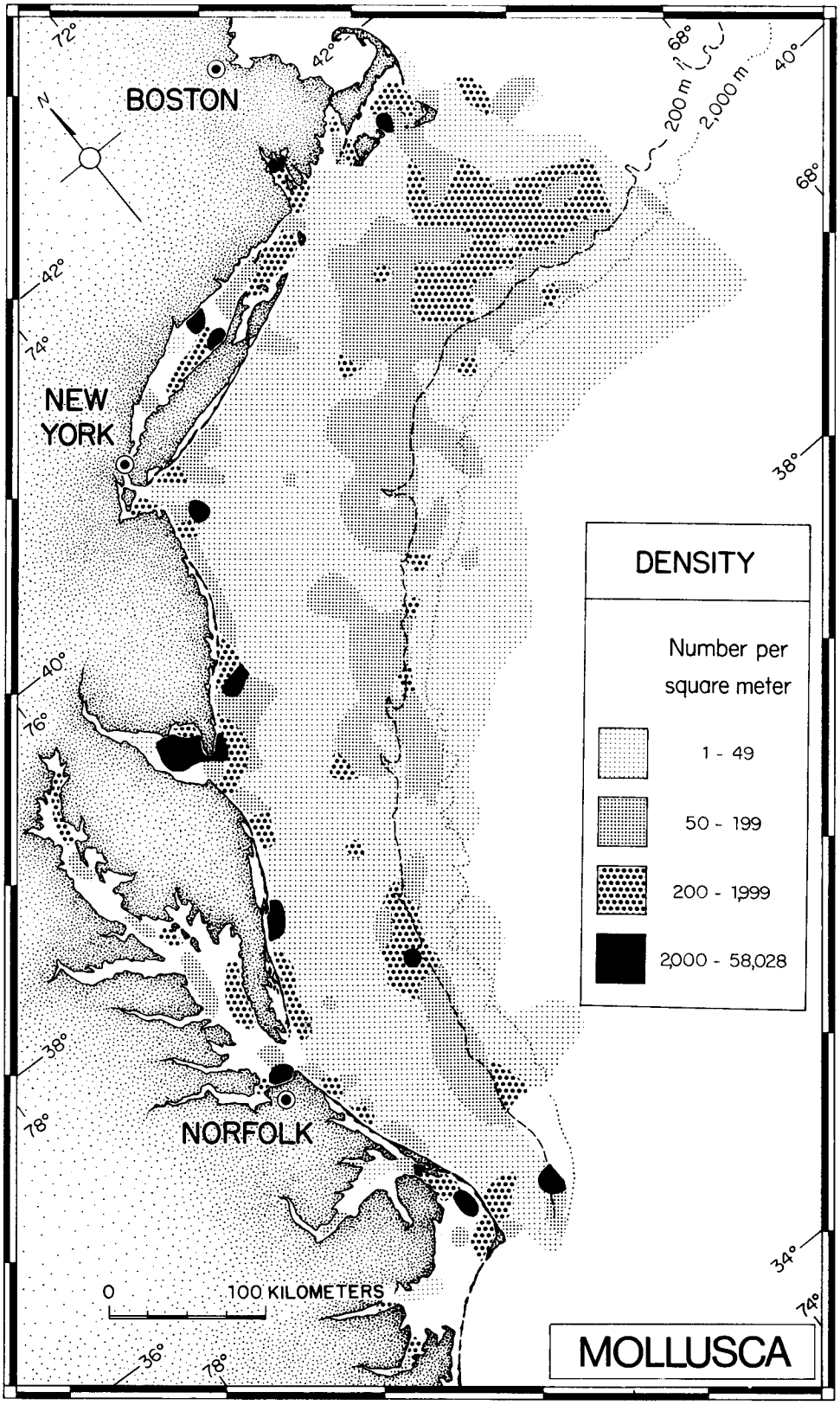

FIGURE 33.—Geographic distribution of the density of Mollusca, expressed as number of individuals per square meter of bottom area.

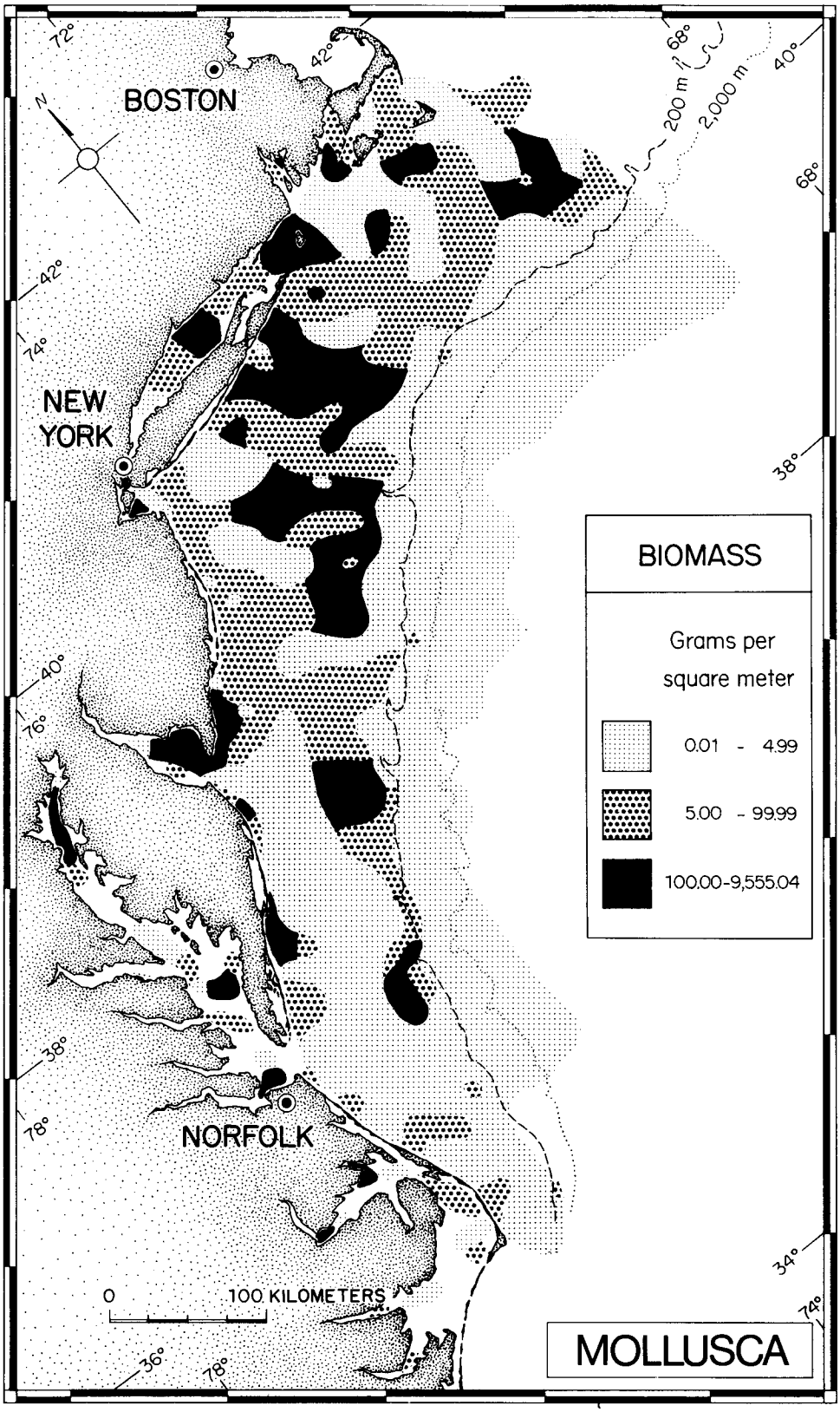

FIGURE 34.—Geographic distribution of the biomass of Mollusca, expressed as damp weight per square meter of bottom area.

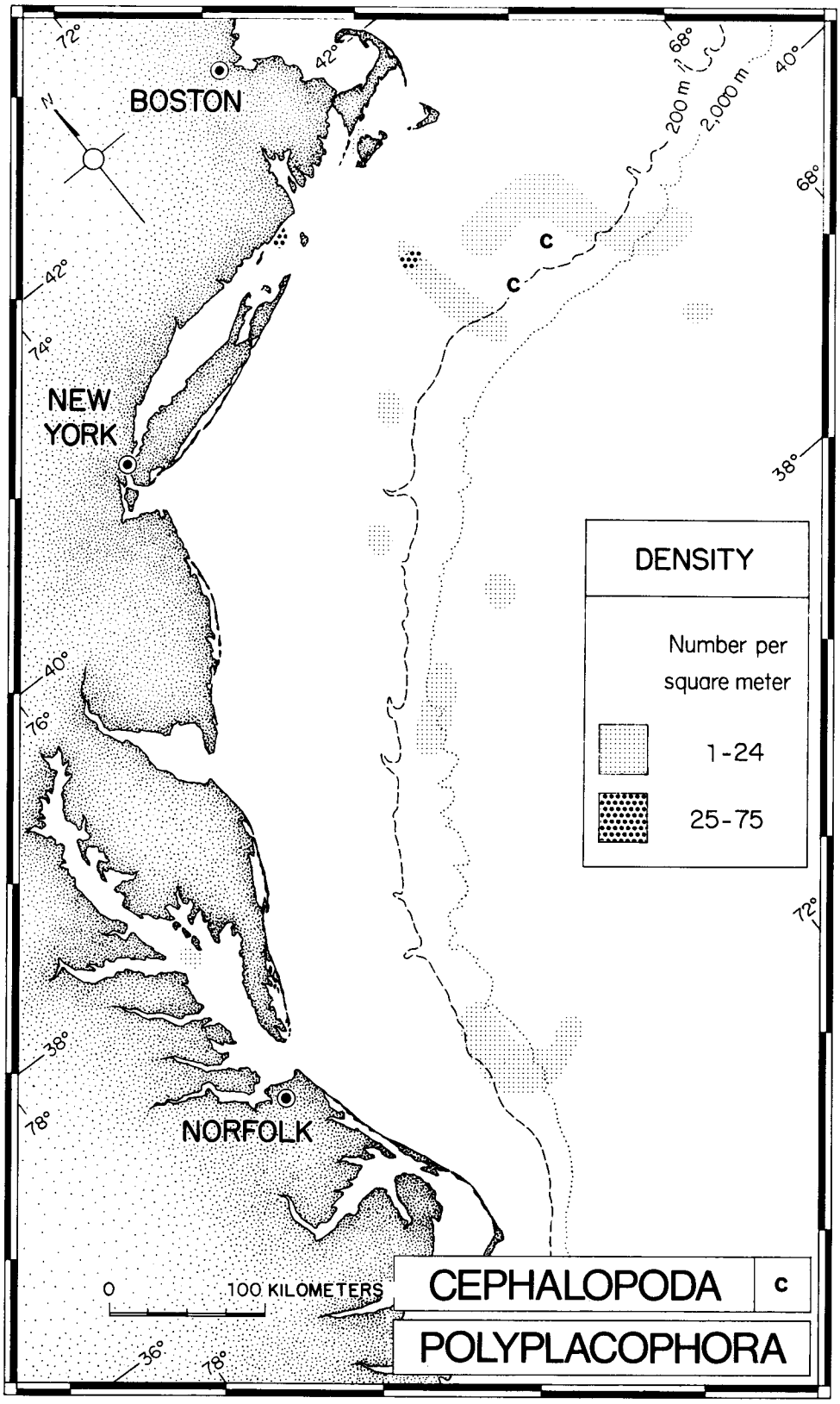

FIGURE 35.—Geographic distribution of the density of Cephalopoda (*C*) and Polyplacophora, expressed as number of individuals per square meter of bottom area.

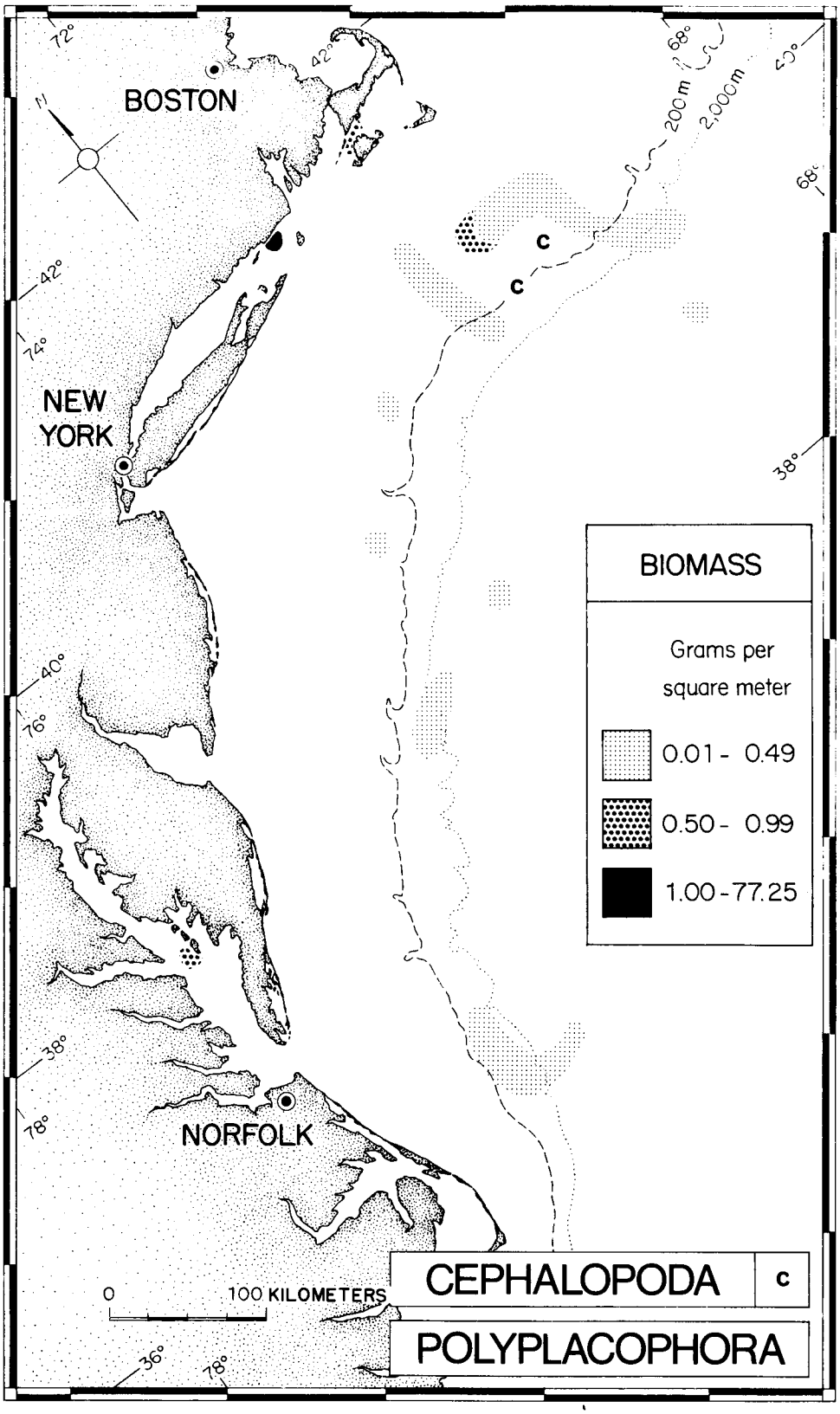

FIGURE 36.—Geographic distribution of the biomass of Cephalopoda (*C*) and Polyplacophora, expressed as damp weight per square meter of bottom area.

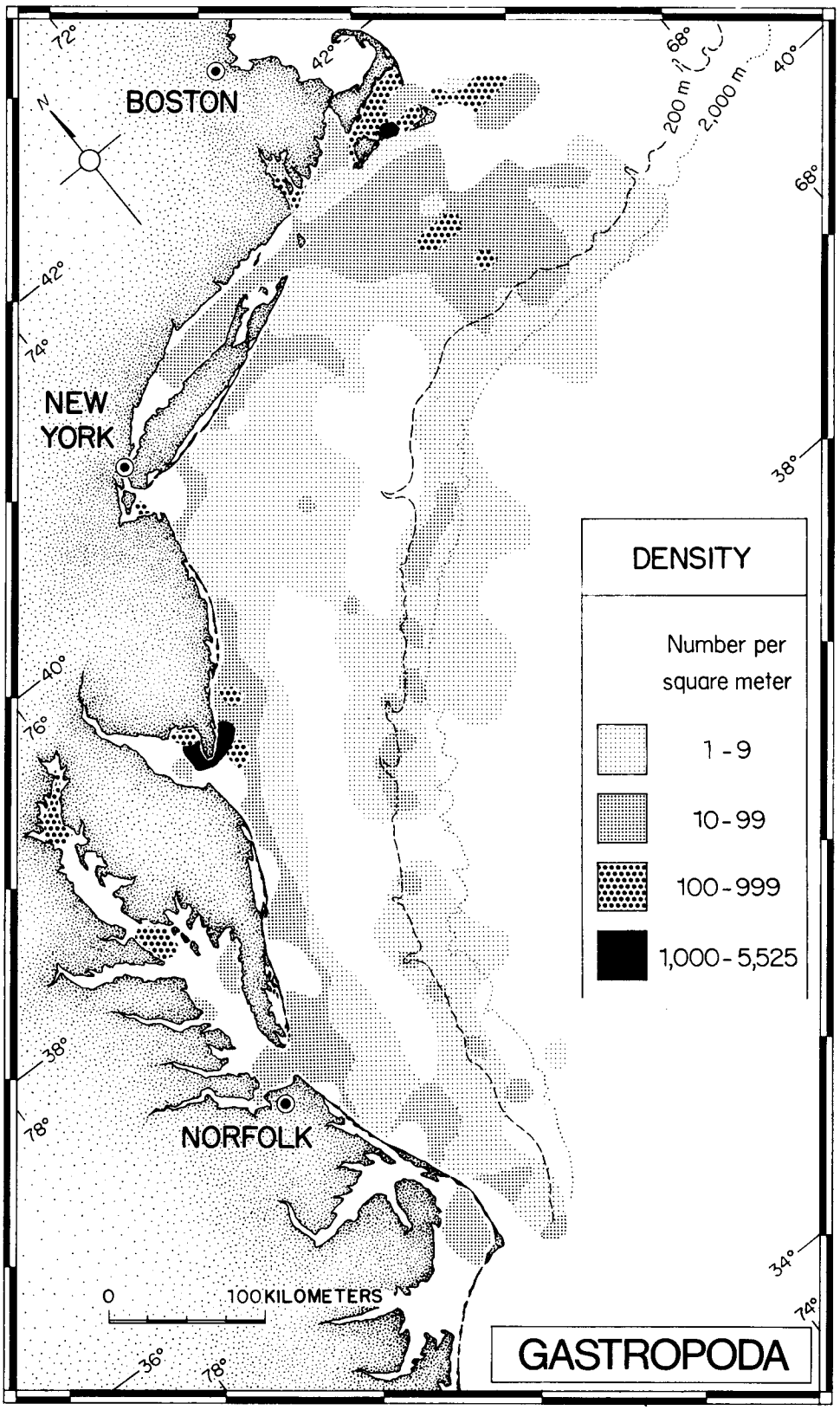

FIGURE 37.—Geographic distribution of the density of Gastropoda, expressed as number of individuals per square meter of bottom area.

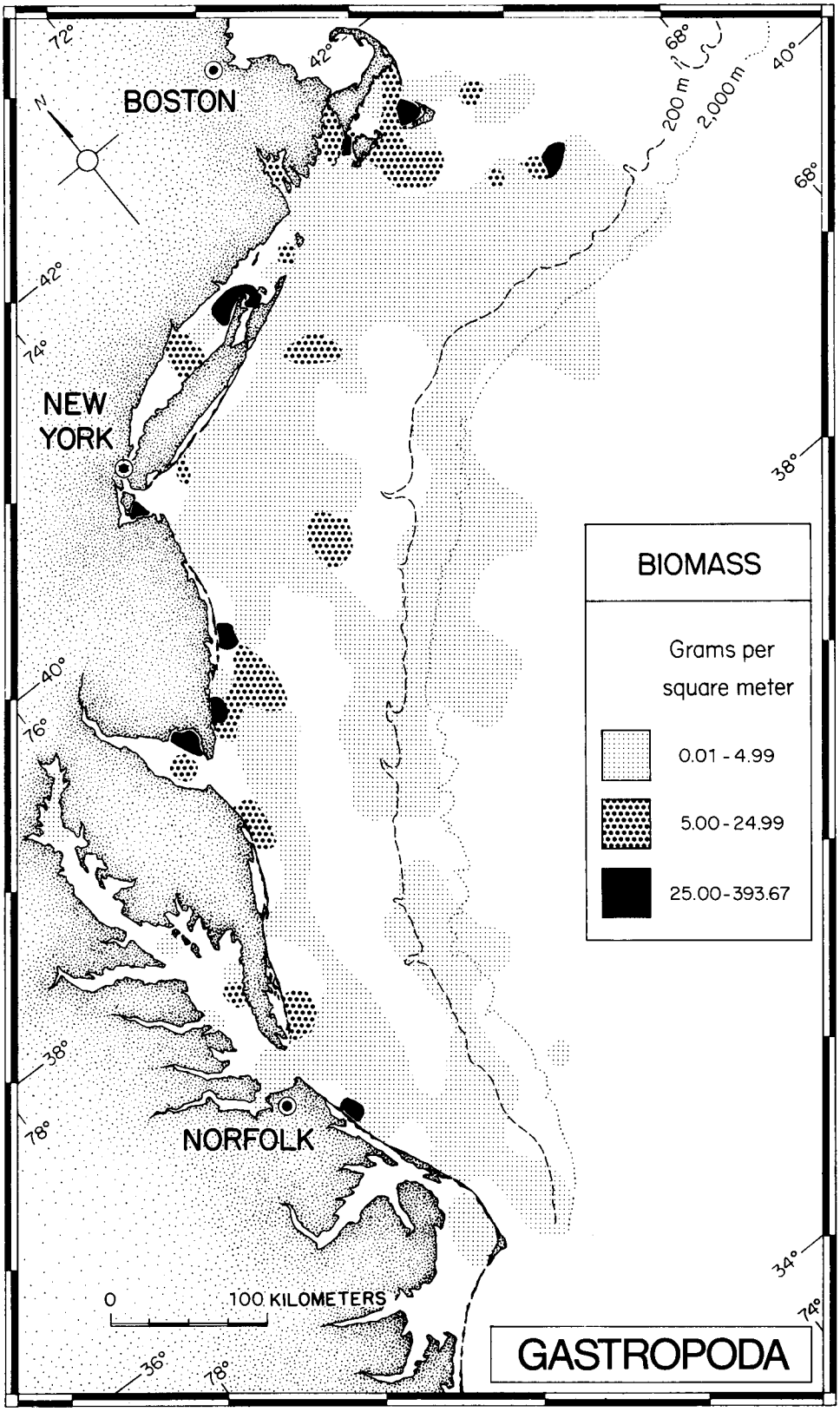

FIGURE 38.—Geographic distribution of the biomass of Gastropoda, expressed as damp weight per square meter of bottom area.

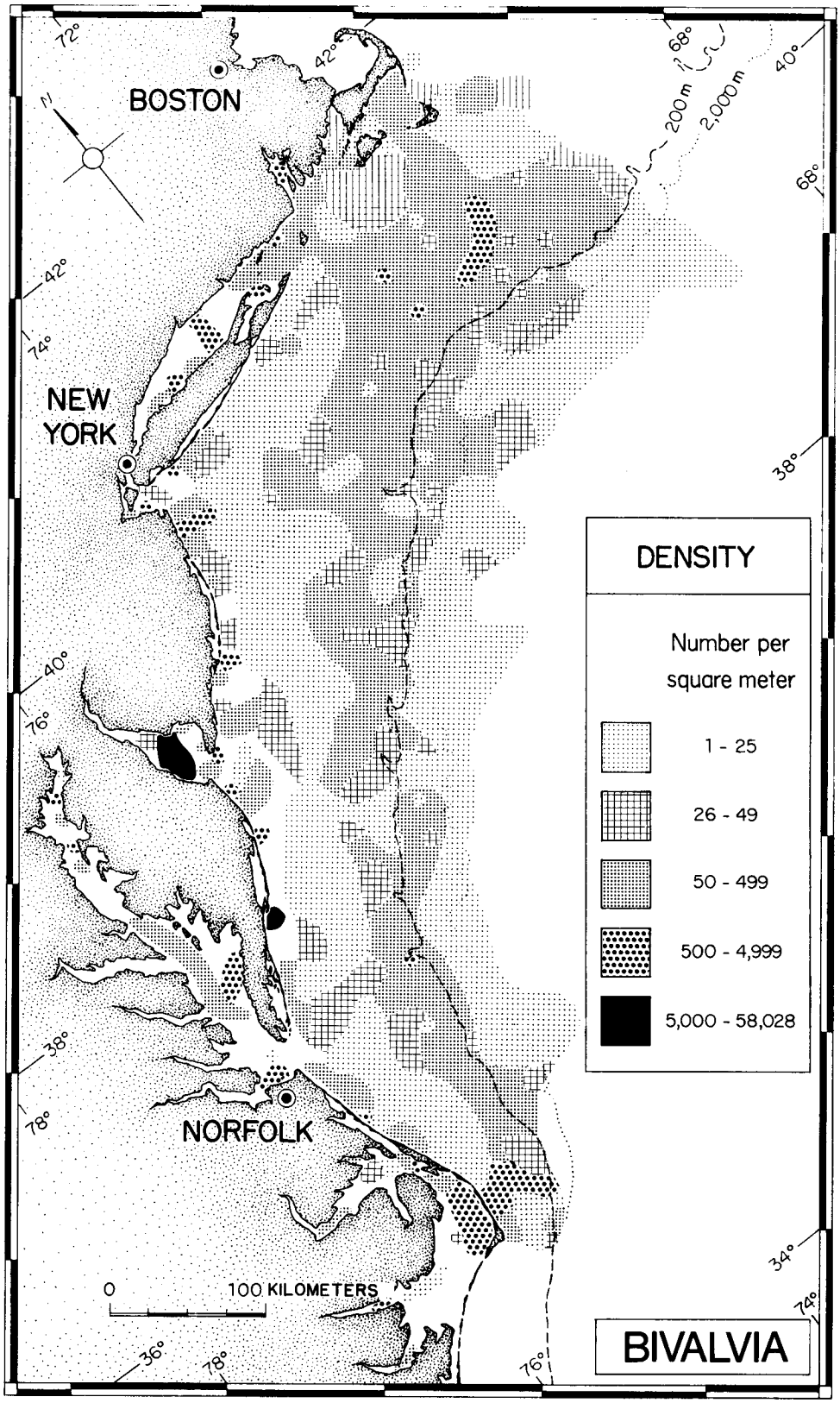

FIGURE 39.—Geographic distribution of the density of Bivalvia, expressed as number of individuals per square meter of bottom area.

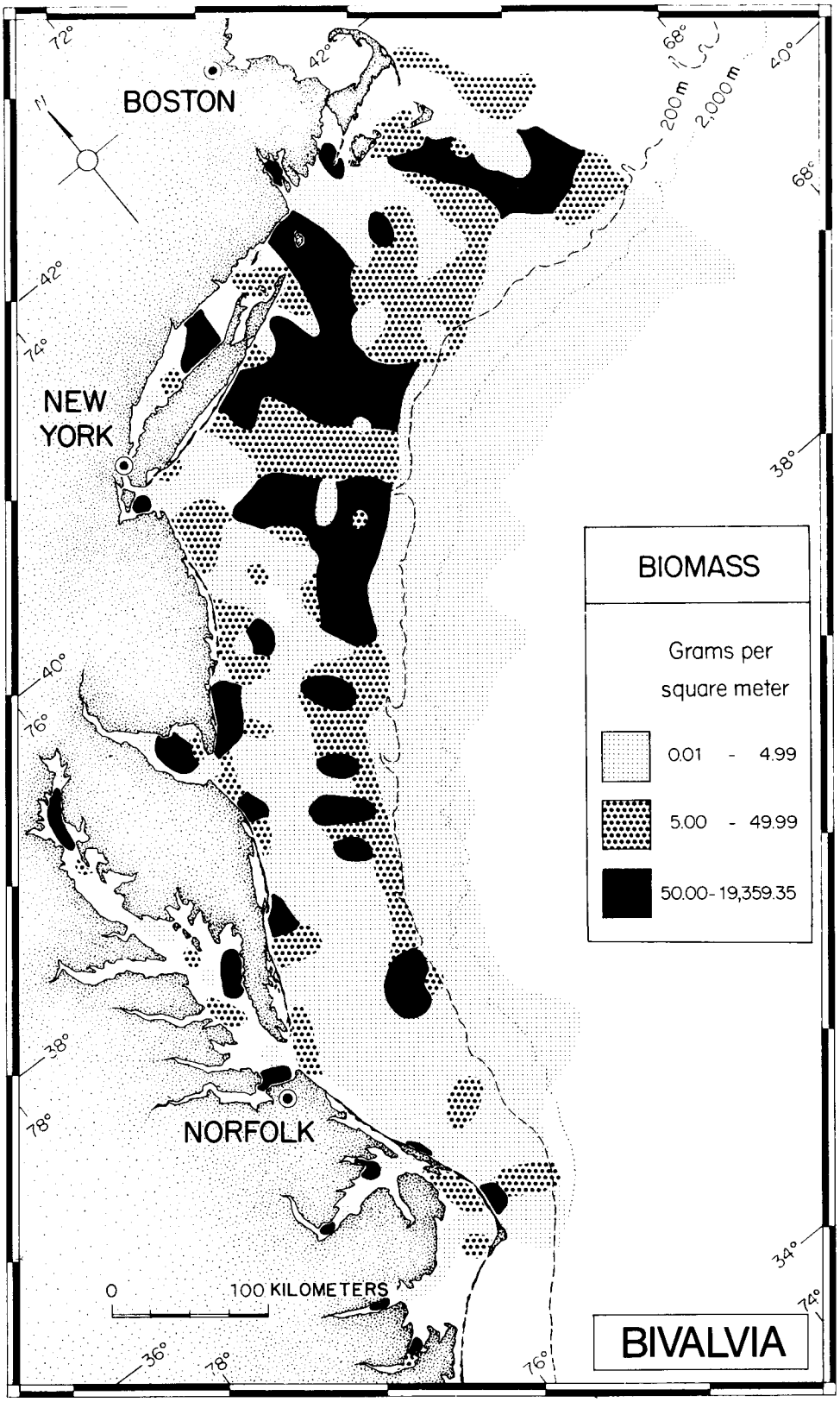

FIGURE 40.—Geographic distribution of the biomass of Bivalvia, expressed as damp weight per square meter of bottom area.

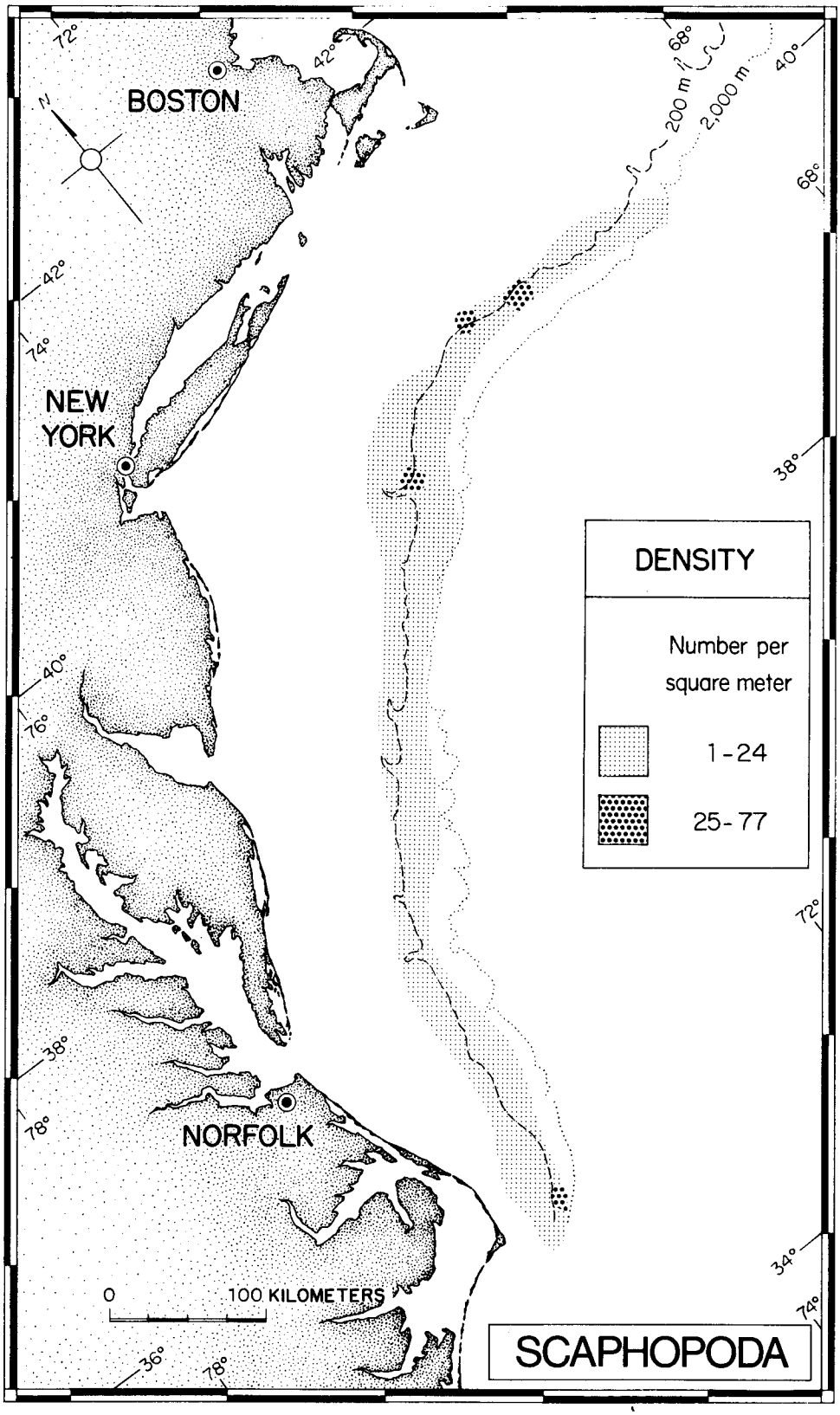

FIGURE 41.—Geographic distribution of the density of Scaphopoda, expressed as number of individuals per square meter of bottom area.

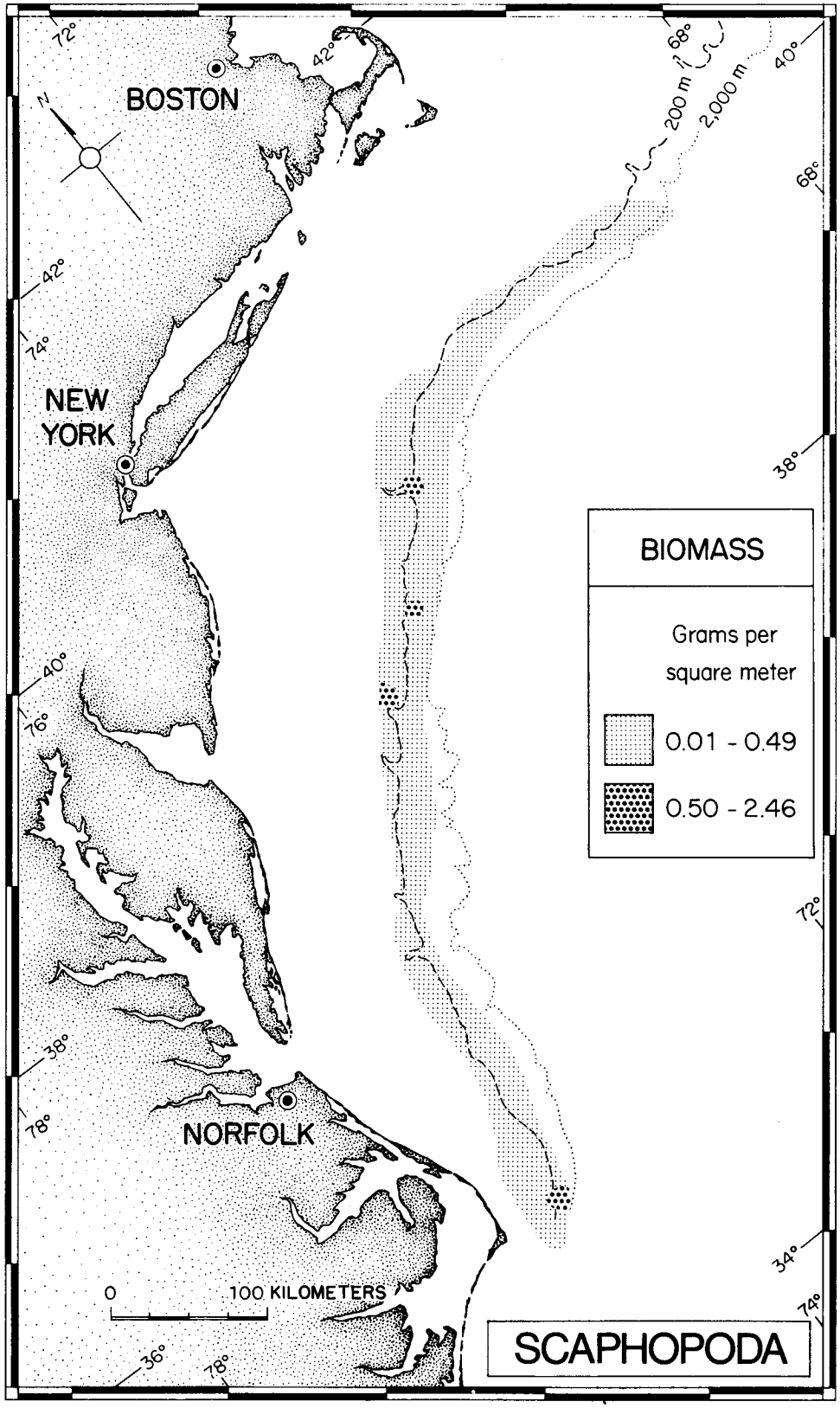

FIGURE 42.—Geographic distribution of the biomass of Scaphopoda, expressed as damp weight per square meter of bottom area.

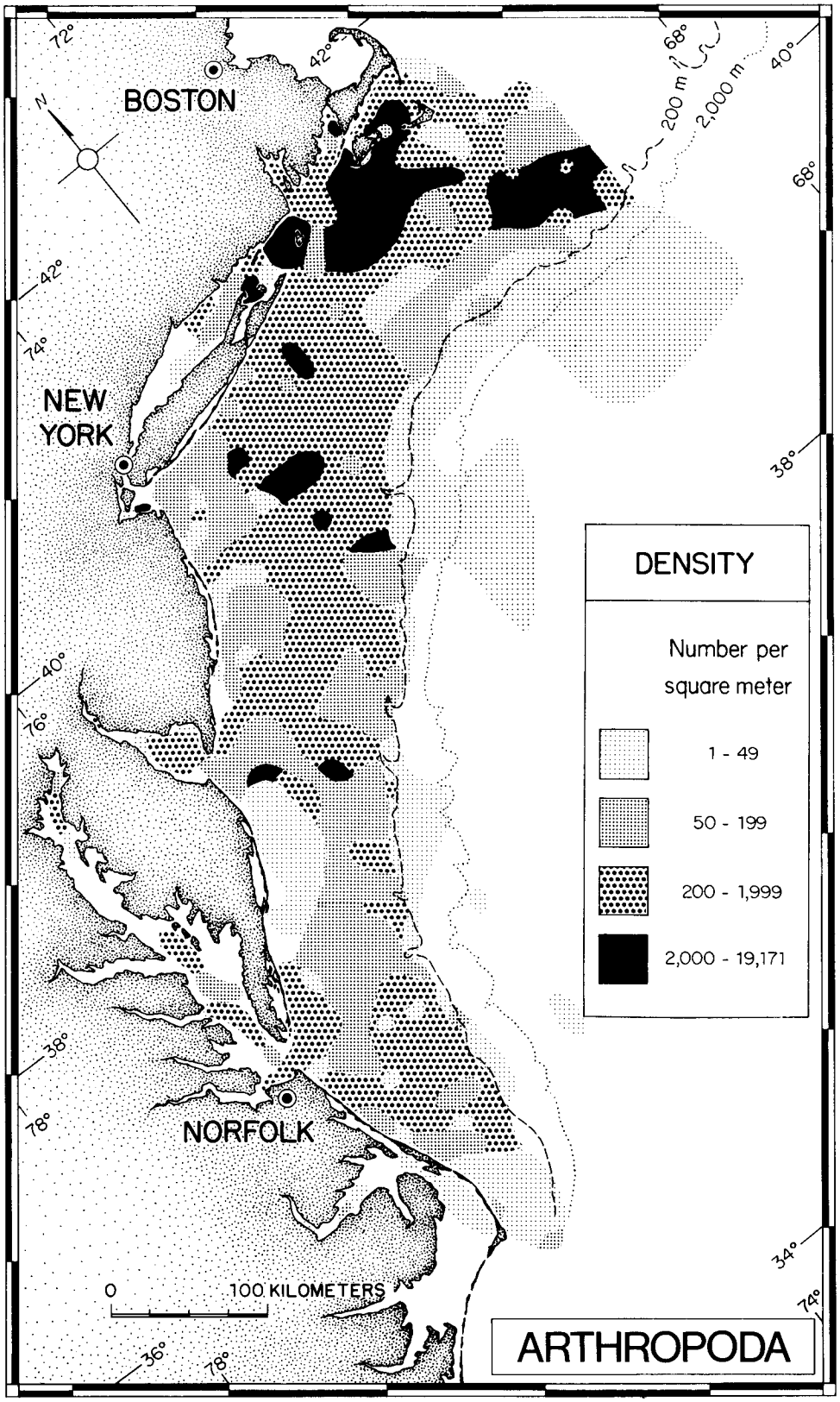

FIGURE 43.—Geographic distribution of the density of Arthropoda, expressed as number of individuals per square meter of bottom area.

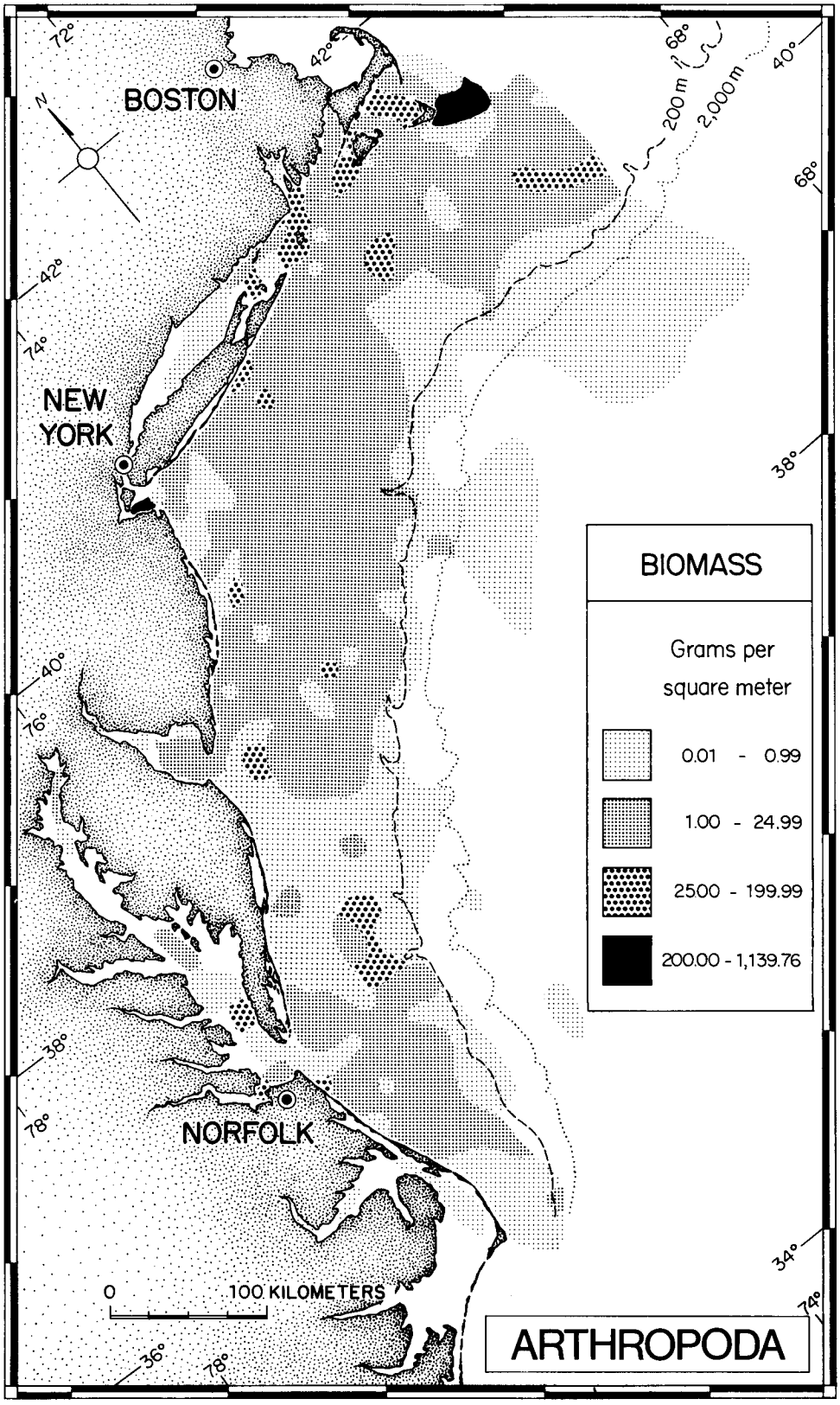

FIGURE 44.—Geographic distribution of the biomass of Arthropoda, expressed as damp weight per square meter of bottom area.