

67-10

THIRD QUARTER
STOCK CATALOGUE

1967

GROUND FISH AND SEA SCALLOPS FISHED BY NEW ENGLAND FLEET

BY

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HADDOCK

Third quarter abundance indices for Georges Bank haddock (Table 1) indicate a 70 per cent decrease in scrod compared to the third quarter of 1966. While there is a slight gain in large haddock abundance, total haddock abundance is 57 per cent below third quarter, 1966. The decrease in scrod abundance (Figure 1) is due to the weak 1964 and 1965 year classes. Large haddock abundance (Figure 2) is being maintained by recruitment of the 1962 and 1963 year classes into the large category. Declining haddock abundance on Georges Bank has caused a 28 per cent drop in U.S. Georges Bank landings (Table 1) in 1967.

The 1962 and 1963 year classes (four and five year olds) predominate in the catch (Figure 3). The 1963 year class alone represents about 61 per cent of the numbers landed. The 1962 year class has decreased in the third quarter to about 70 per cent of its contribution in first and second quarters. It now appears that this year class has been fished down to a fairly low level and probably will not add much to the fishery in the months to come. The 1963 year class has held up quite well considering the tremendous fishing pressure in the past three years, but the 40 per cent decrease between the second and third quarter in 1967 indicates the end of its contribution to landings. 1968 will undoubtedly be one of the poorest haddock years the industry has had to face on Georges Bank.

Catches of the 1967 year class on the Albatross IV fall groundfish survey were among the poorest experienced since the surveys began (Figure 4). This fourth successive year class failure leaves little hope for improved fishing on Georges Bank at least through 1970.

On Browns Bank things look a little brighter, with about a 140 per cent increase in scrod abundance (Table 1 and Figure 5) in the third quarter of 1967 compared to 1966. The increase is because the 1962 and 1963 year classes are now being recruited into the Browns Bank fishery. Slower growth on these grounds usually delays year class recruitment two or three years compared to Georges Bank. Thus, although total catch is small, we expect this trend of increased abundance to continue through 1968, perhaps making up for some of the expected poor fishing on Georges Bank.

TABLE 1

HADDOCK THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS
(Landings in thousands of pounds)

Area		Third Quarter				Accumulative			
		Landings		Landings/Day		Landings		Landings/Day	
		1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966
Georges Bank	Scrod	10,580	20,330	3,003	10,112	38,120	58,438	4,721	6,748
	Large	6,952	5,990	1,814	1,092	20,031	26,334	2,713	2,227
	Total	17,532	26,320	4,817	11,204	58,151	84,772	7,434	8,975
Browns Bank	Scrod	203	83	7,647	2,912	2,601	933	7,157	4,892
	Large	44	33	1,276	1,224	1,297	842	3,350	3,692
	Total	247	116	8,923	4,136	3,898	1,775	10,507	8,584
Gulf of Maine	Scrod	1,606	1,622	--	--	4,679	3,540	--	--
	Large	757	892	--	--	2,451	2,834	--	--
	Total	2,363	2,514	--	--	7,130	6,374	--	--
Bay of Fundy	Scrod	2,427	1,855	6,195	5,836	2,817	1,855	6,195	5,836
	Large	446	664	1,129	1,964	553	664	1,129	1,964
	Total	2,873	2,519	7,324	7,800	3,370	2,519	7,324	7,800
Total	Scrod	14,816	23,890	3,351	9,452	48,217	64,766	4,841	6,677
	Large	8,199	7,579	1,746	1,143	24,332	30,674	2,716	2,247
	Total	23,015	31,469	5,097	10,595	72,548	95,440	7,557	8,924

Figure 1

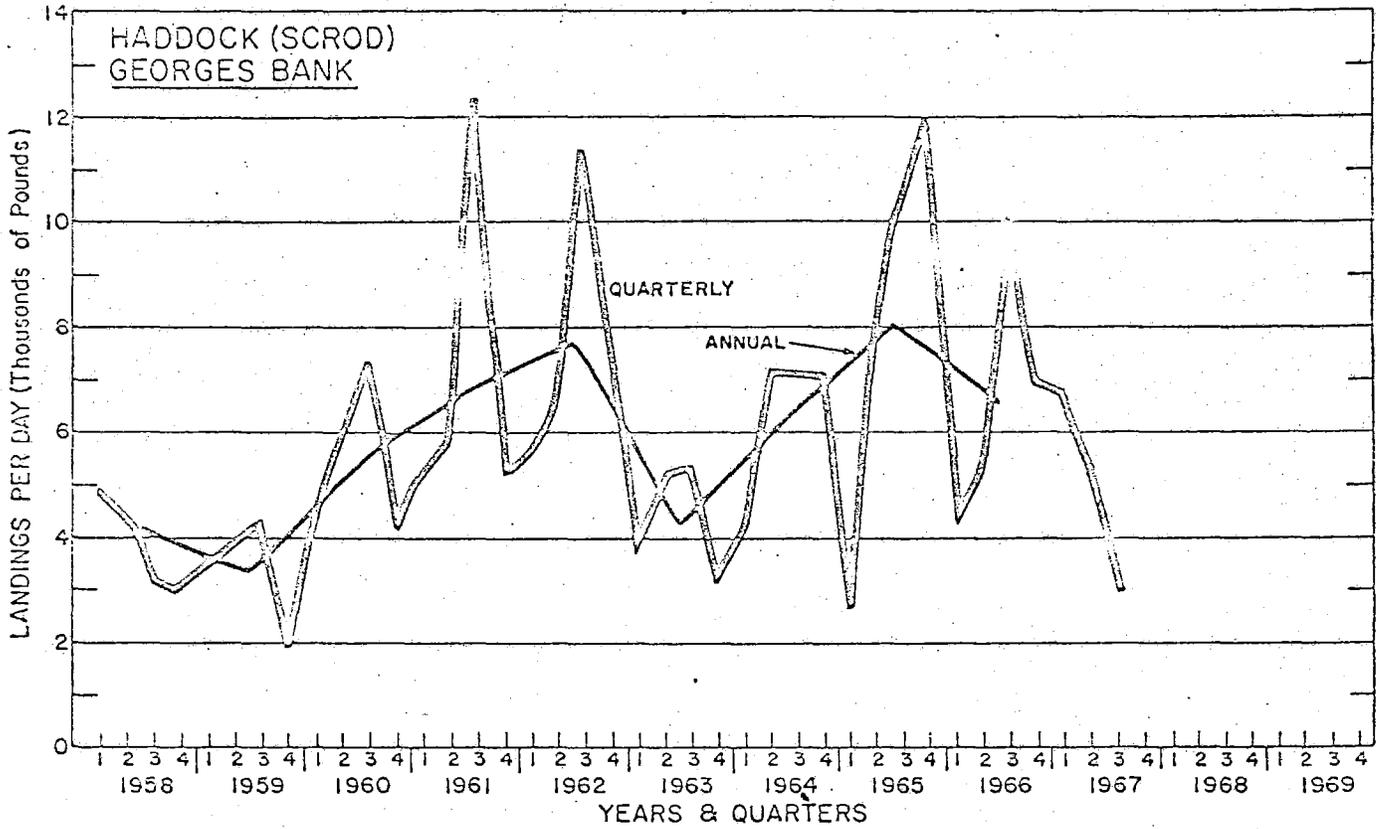


Figure 2

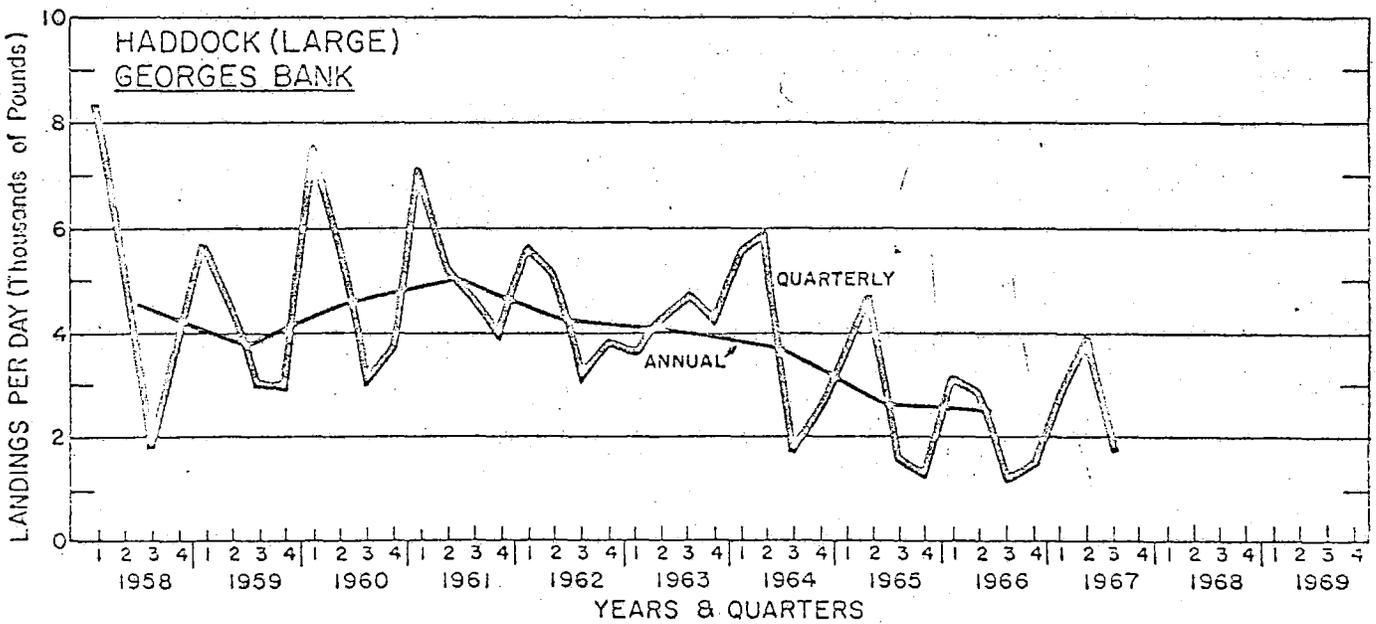


Figure 3

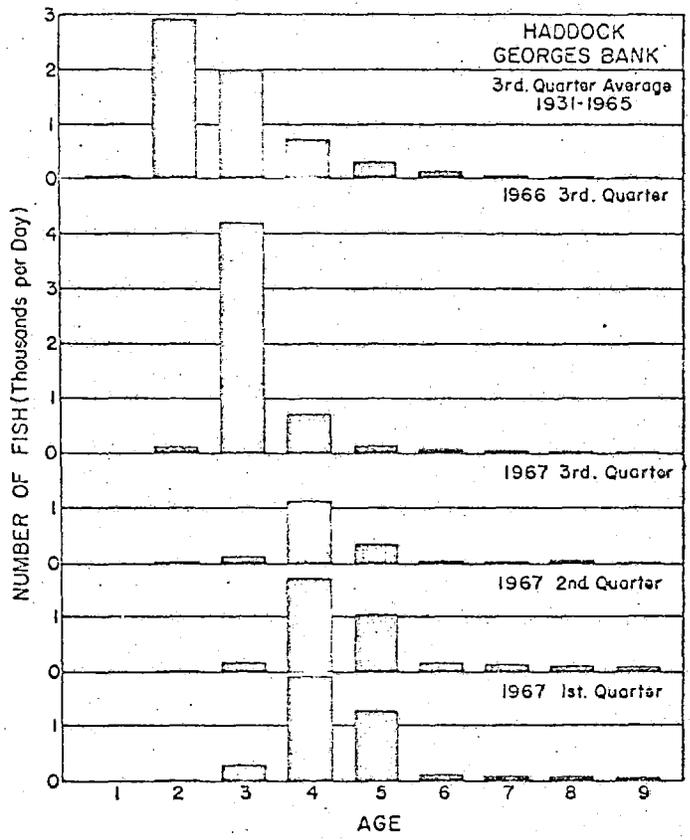


Figure 4

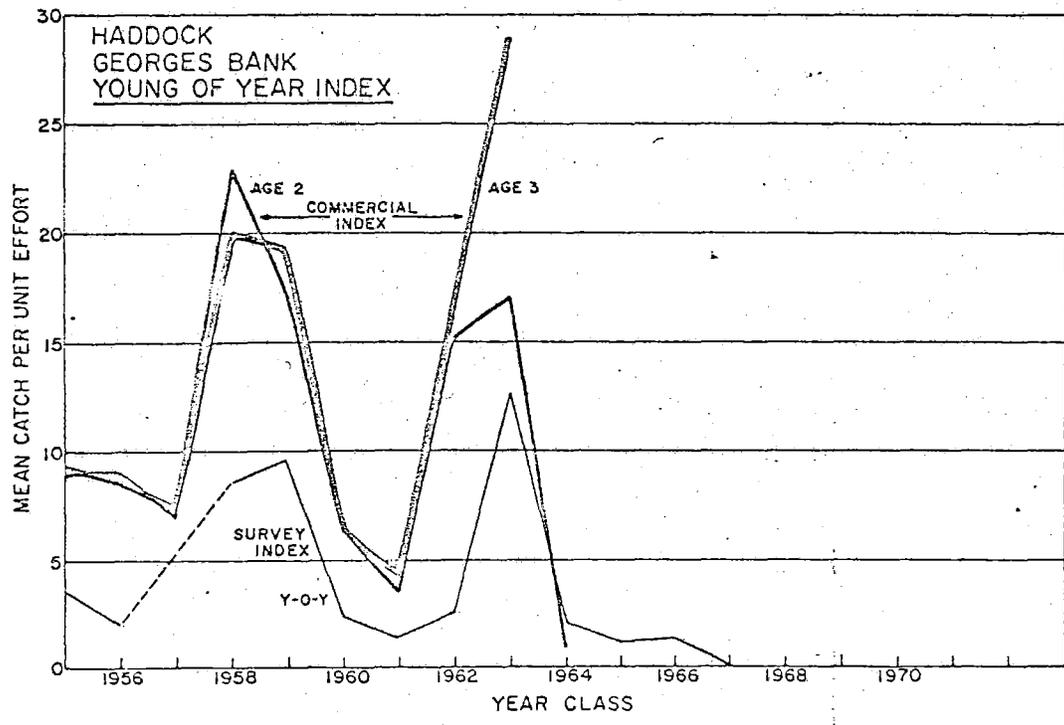
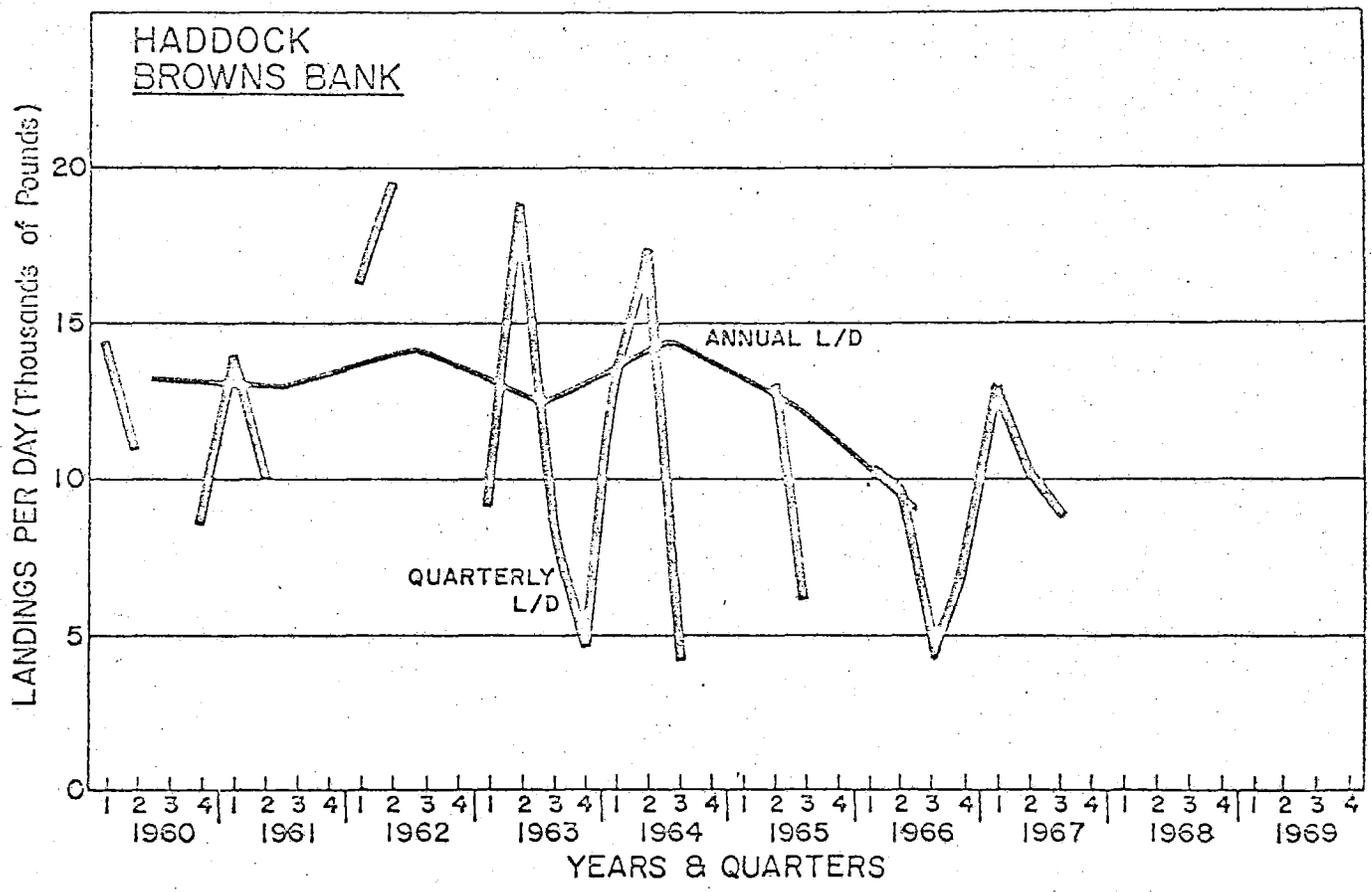


Figure 5



YELLOWTAIL

Total yellowtail landings in the third quarter (Table 2) of 1967 were 15.0 million pounds as opposed to 18.5 million pounds last year. Nine months landings in 1967 were 37.4 million pounds compared to 49.4 million pounds in 1966, a 25 per cent drop.

Abundance indices (Figure 6) for Southern New England (S.N.E.) yellowtail show about a 35 per cent increase in the third quarter of 1967 compared to third quarter 1966. Abundance on Georges Bank (Figure 7) was about the same as in 1966. Comparisons show a 30 per cent increase for all areas for the first nine months of 1967 versus 1966 (Table 2).

Landings per day at age (Figure 8) for S.N.E. yellowtail in the third quarter depicts clearly the reason for increased abundance. The 1964 and 1965 year classes are very strong on these grounds. Georges Bank age distributions (Figure 9) indicate the 1965 year class has exceptional strength; the 1964 year class however, is what might be considered average. On the strength of these data it is believed a trend of increased abundance and higher landings should continue, especially on S.N.E. grounds.

Despite the apparent increases in abundance in 1967, landings have declined. This downward trend in landings is a result of reduced effort, (Figures 6 and 7) caused by market conditions.

TABLE 2

YELLOWTAIL THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS
(Landings in thousands of pounds)

Area	Third Quarter				Accumulative			
	Landings		Landings/Day		Landings		Landings/Day	
	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966
So. New England	7,187	11,856	5.7	4.2	17,170	26,127	5.1	4.7
Georges Bank	6,419	5,682	5.4	5.4	11,433	19,158	5.0	4.4
Mid-Atlantic	886	449	13.4	6.9	6,279	855	7.1	6.7
Cape Cod Bay	583	600	3.2	2.7	2,593	3,347	3.1	3.9
Total	15,075	18,587	5.7	4.7	37,475	49,487	5.4	4.6

Figure 6

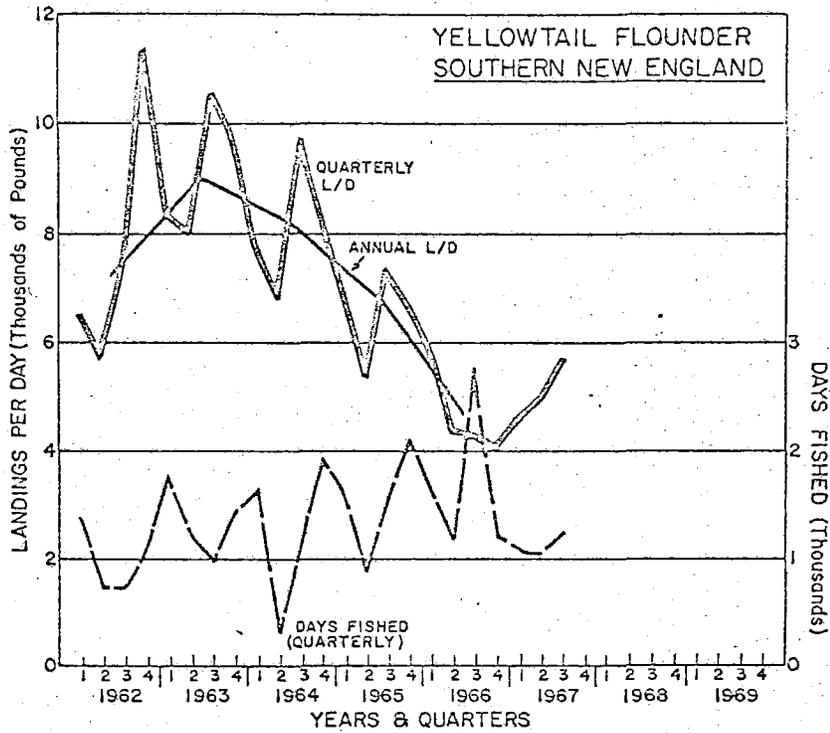


Figure 7

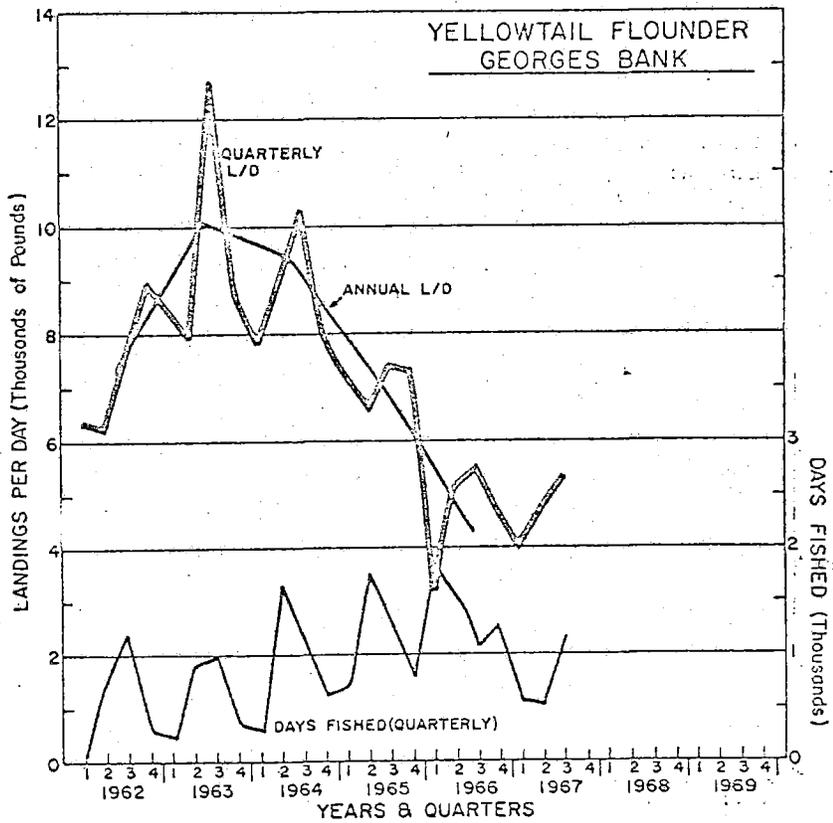


Figure 8.

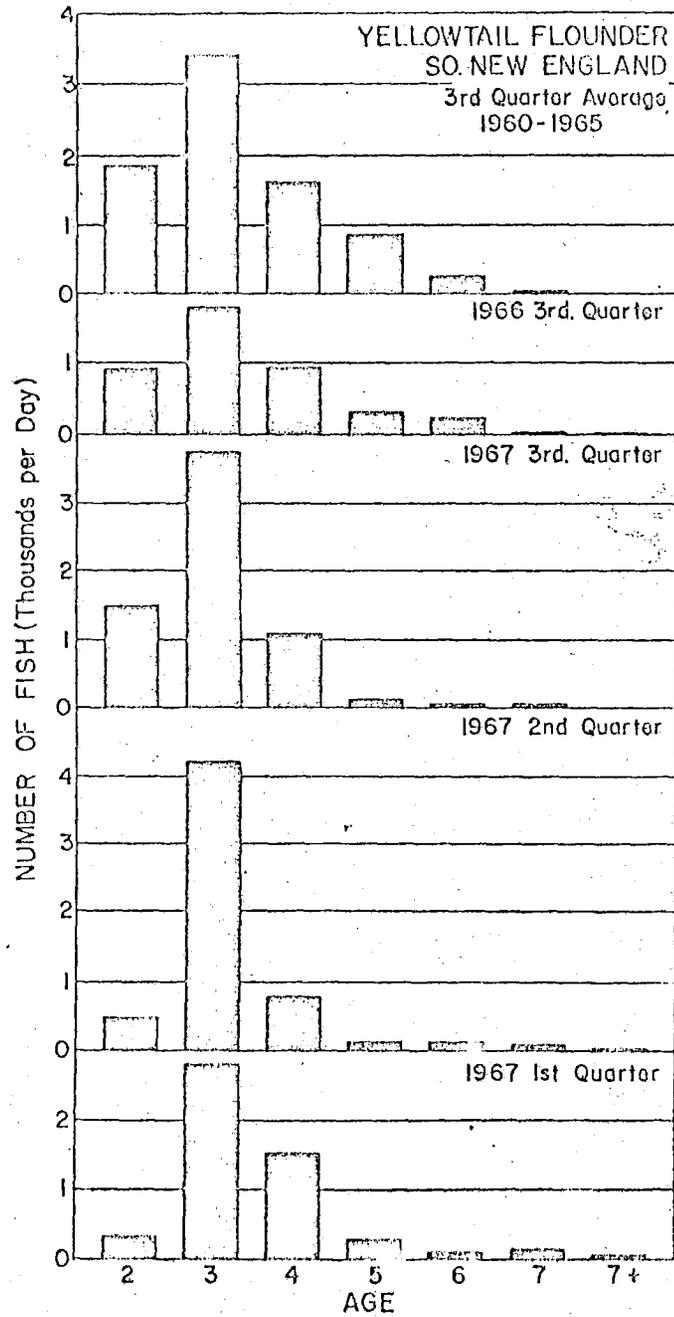
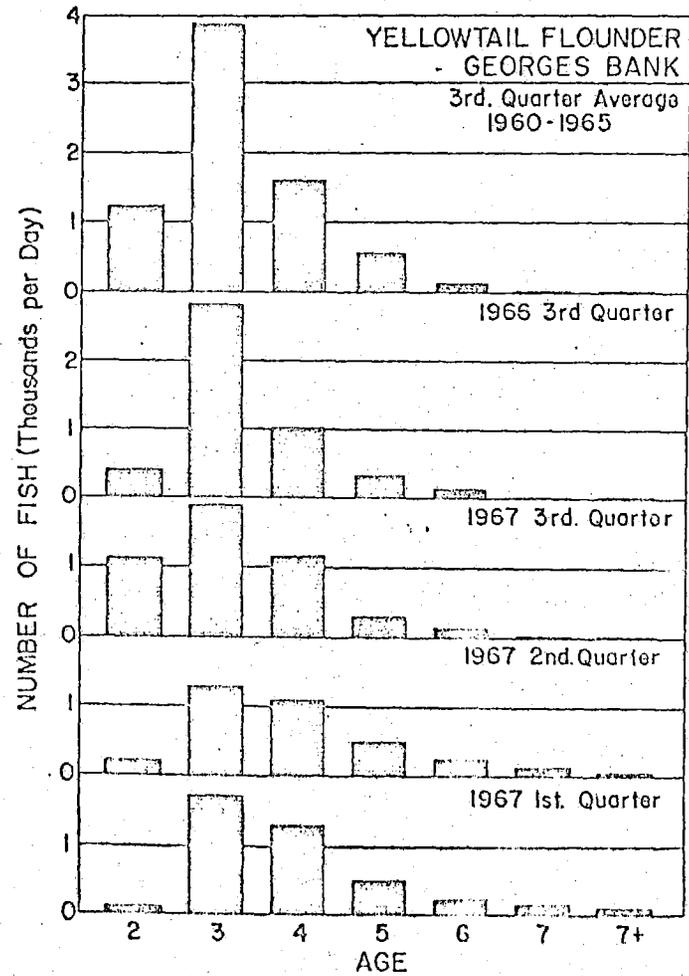


Figure 9.



COD

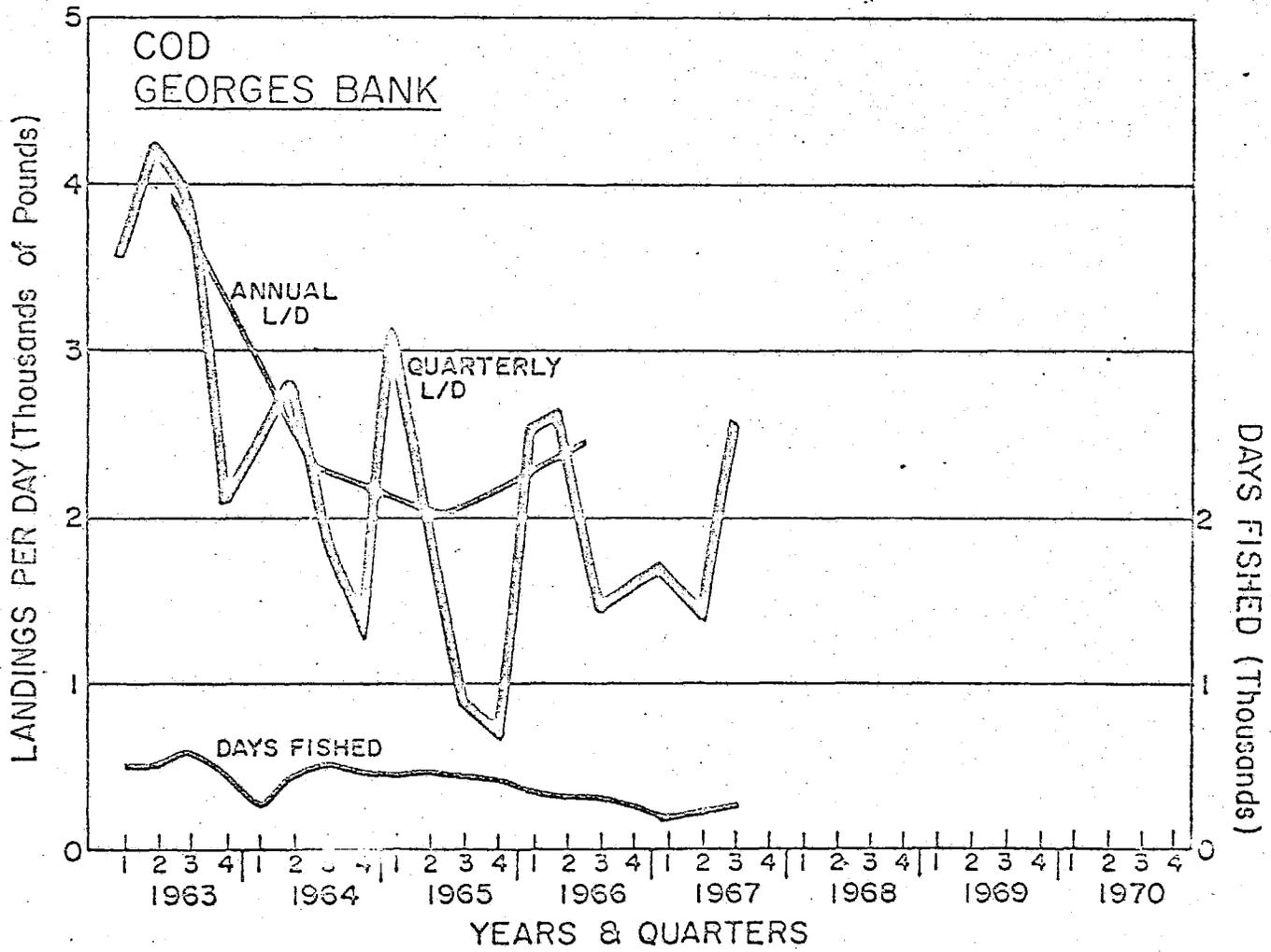
Accumulative U.S. cod landings for Georges Bank (Table 3) in 1967 show about a million pound increase compared to 1966. Third quarter comparisons show about a two million pound increase between 1966 and 1967.

Landings per day (Figure 10) are down slightly for the first nine months of 1967, but there was a 78 per cent increase in the third quarter. This sharp increase in the third quarter suggests a strong year class is entering the fishery, but the lack of samples makes it impossible to corroborate this feeling.

TABLE 3
 COD THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS
 (Landings in thousands of pounds)

Area	Third Quarter				Accumulative			
	Landings		Landings/Day		Landings		Landings/Day	
	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966
Georges Bank	7,598	5,455	2,576	1,405	18,638	17,196	1,860	2,229

Figure 10



SILVER HAKE
(Food Fish)

United States silver hake landings from the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank (Table 4) for the first nine months of 1967 were lower by 23 million pounds than those of the same period in 1966. Third quarter landings in 1967 for these two areas were also less than last years by about 12 million pounds.

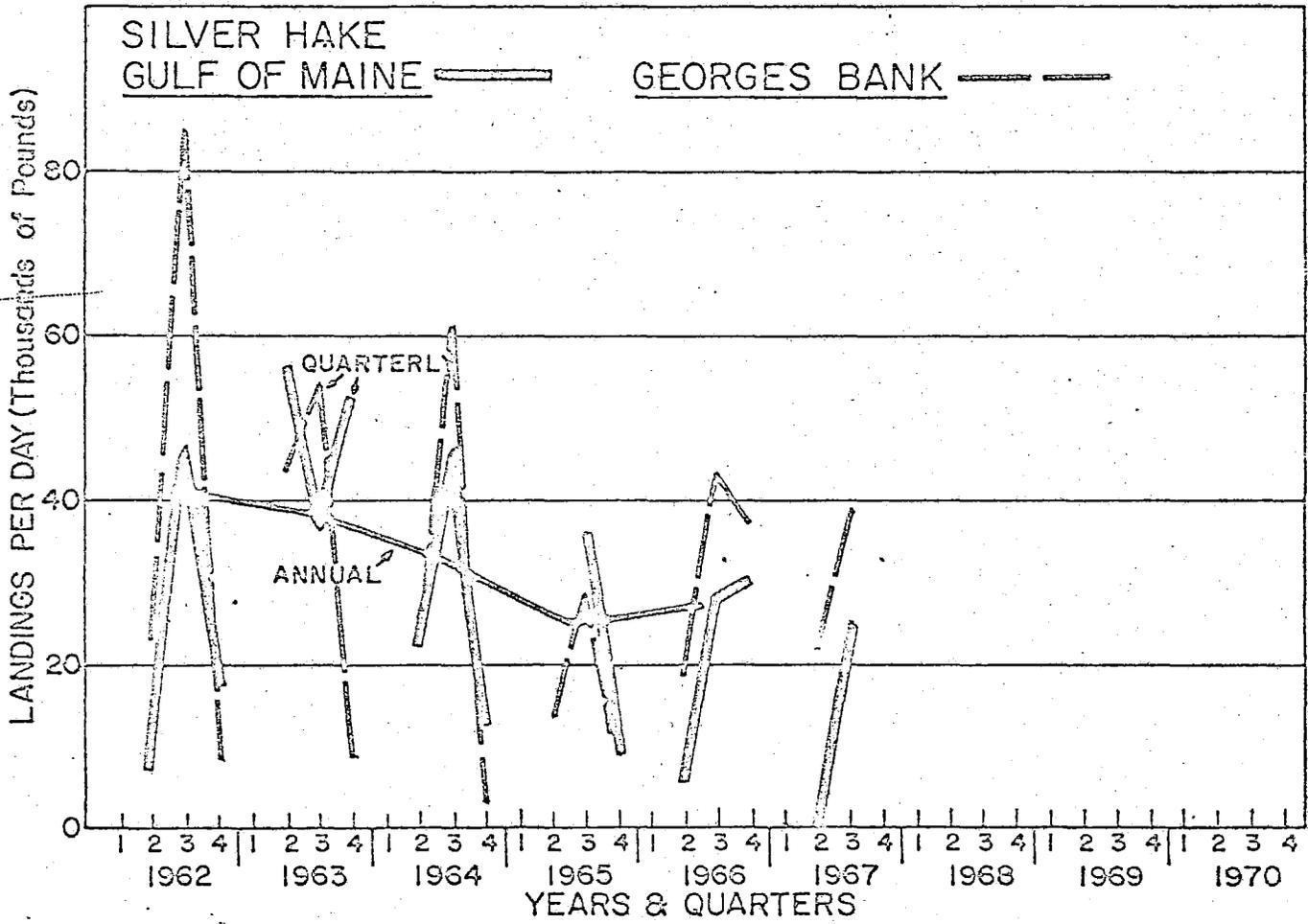
Landings per day for the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank (Figure 11) in the third quarter of 1967 were somewhat lower than in 1966. Gulf of Maine abundance for the first nine months of 1967 decreased about 25 per cent compared to 1966. Georges Bank abundance for the same period showed about a 12 per cent increase in 1967. Accumulative abundance for both areas showed no change (Table 4) in 1967. The biggest single factor contributing to lower landings in 1967 was a sharp reduction in effort due to price disputes and tie ups early in the season.

TABLE 4

SILVER HAKE THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS
(Landings in thousands of pounds)

Area	Third Quarter				Accumulative			
	Landings		Landings/Day		Landings		Landings/Day	
	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966
Gulf of Maine	24,937	39,257	25.2	28.4	26,961	42,415	18.7	24.2
Georges Bank	24,434	22,617	38.7	42.6	26,270	33,423	38.1	32.0
Total	49,371	61,874	32.7	34.3	53,231	75,838	28.1	28.3

Figure 11



REDFISH

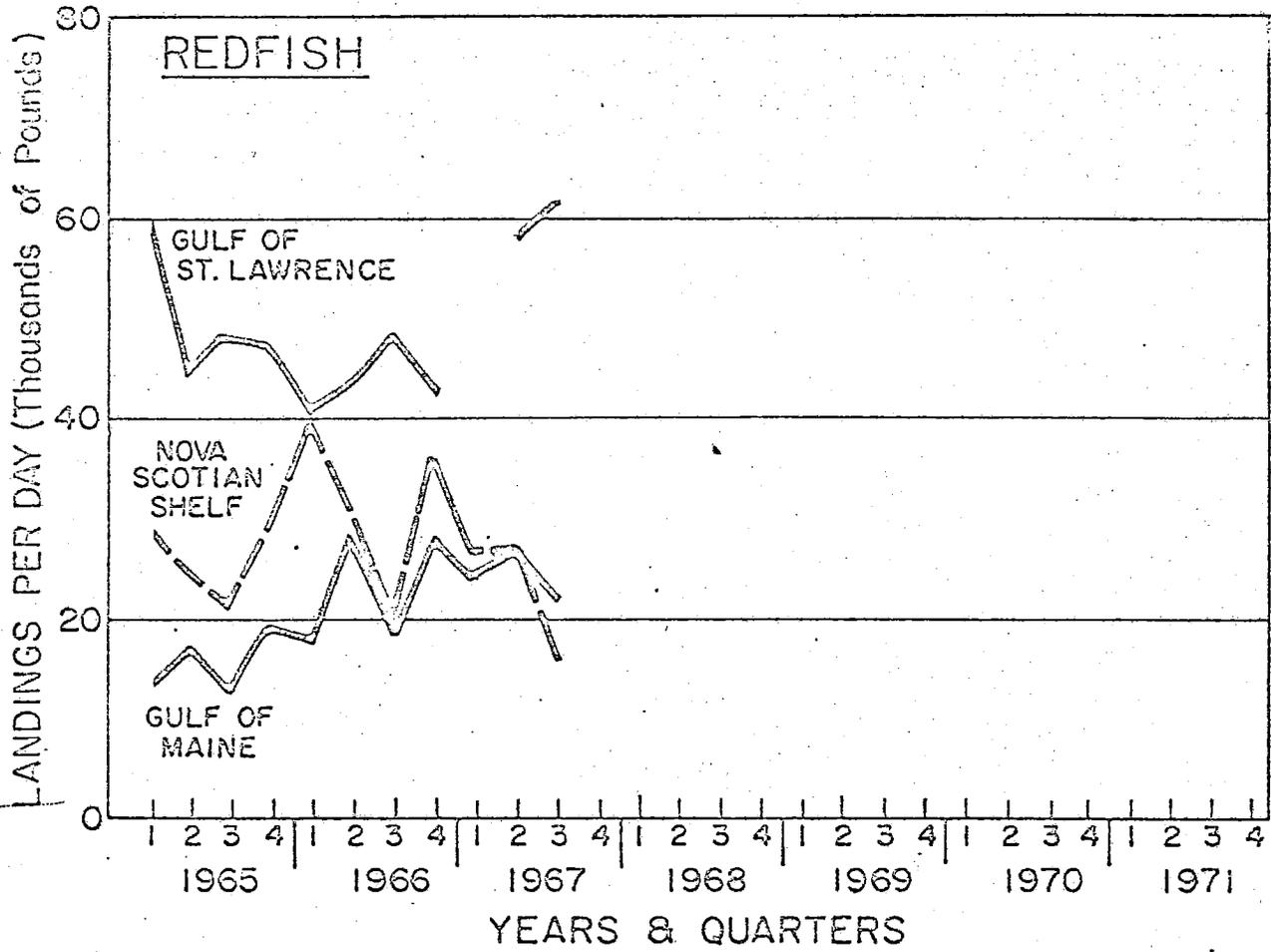
United States redfish landings for the first nine months of 1967 (Table 5) were 47.6 million pounds, about 13 million pounds less than in 1966. Third quarter redfish landings were about the same in 1966 and 1967.

Landings per day (Figure 12) for redfish in the Gulf of Maine has remained at a fairly constant level through 1967, but somewhat higher than in 1966. Second and third quarter abundance estimates in 1967 show about a 30 per cent increase in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Nova Scotia redfish abundance showed a definite downward trend in 1967. Accumulative abundance for all areas in the first nine months has remained steady in 1967 compared to 1966 (Table 5). Lack of interest in this fishery by the industry is evident in a 25 per cent decline in effort in 1967.

TABLE 5
REDFISH THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS
(Landings in thousands of pounds)

Area	Third Quarter				Accumulative			
	Landings		Landings/Day		Landings		Landings/Day	
	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966
Gulf of Maine	3,831	2,406	22.2	18.4	12,066	8,364	24.7	24.8
Nova Scotia	1,264	4,784	15.2	19.6	13,162	30,712	24.2	30.2
Gulf of St. Lawrence	19,137	18,736	61.9	48.0	22,449	21,396	61.2	47.4
Total	24,232	25,926	42.6	33.2	47,677	60,472	34.2	32.9

Figure 12.



INDUSTRIAL RED AND SILVER HAKE

United States industrial red and silver hake landings (Table 6) from Southern New England (S.N.E.) were 13.3 million pounds in the first nine months of 1967 versus 13.1 million pounds in 1966. Middle Atlantic landings for these two species have declined from 4.8 million pounds in 1966 to 1.7 million pounds in the first nine months of 1967; a 65 per cent decrease. Total industrial landings, including all species have fallen off about 12 million pounds or about 15 per cent from 1966.

Although hake landings have decreased in 1967, abundance has climbed (Figures 13 and 14). Red hake abundance (Figure 13) on S.N.E. grounds increased 125 per cent in the third quarter of 1967 and 138 per cent for the first nine months of 1967 versus 1966. Middle Atlantic catch rates are also up in 1967 (Table 6). Silver hake catch rates indicated moderate increases (Figure 14) on both grounds.

Despite increasing abundance, reductions in effort in 1967 have affected a decline in landings. This decline in effort maybe partly due to the closing of the Ammagansett plant on Long Island and the Vio-Bin plant in New Bedford; but perhaps the low level of red hake catch rates, particularly, has discouraged fishing.

TABLE 6

INDUSTRIAL RED AND SILVER HAKE THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS
(Landings in thousands of pounds)

Area and Species	Third Quarter				Accumulative			
	Landings		Landings/Day		Landings		Landings/Day	
	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966
<u>So. New England</u>								
Red Hake	4,385	3,875	24.2	9.2	8,992	8,522	11.9	5.0
Silver Hake	3,120	4,874	17.2	12.1	4,384	4,582	5.9	4.3
Total	7,505	8,749	41.4	21.3	13,376	13,104	17.8	9.3
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u>								
Red Hake	991	3,631	25.4	16.0	1,026	3,631	17.1	16.0
Silver Hake	590	1,081	17.2	9.5	710	1,171	11.7	8.0
Total	1,581	4,712	42.6	25.5	1,736	4,802	28.8	24.0
Total Red Hake	5,376	7,506	24.4	12.5	10,018	12,153	12.3	6.3
Total Silver Hake	3,710	5,955	17.2	11.6	5,094	5,753	6.3	4.8
Total Industrial	17,464	33,535	79.3	53.8	69,155	81,137	81.2	47.4
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1/ Amagansett closed '67.

Figure 13

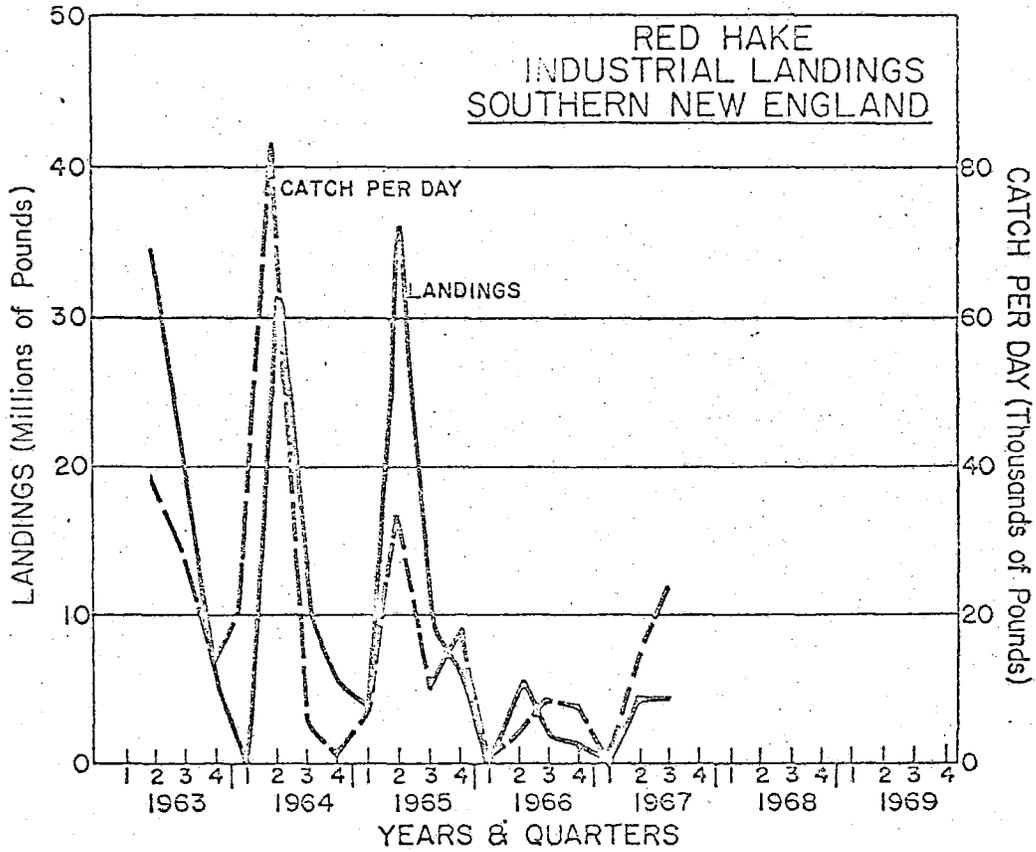
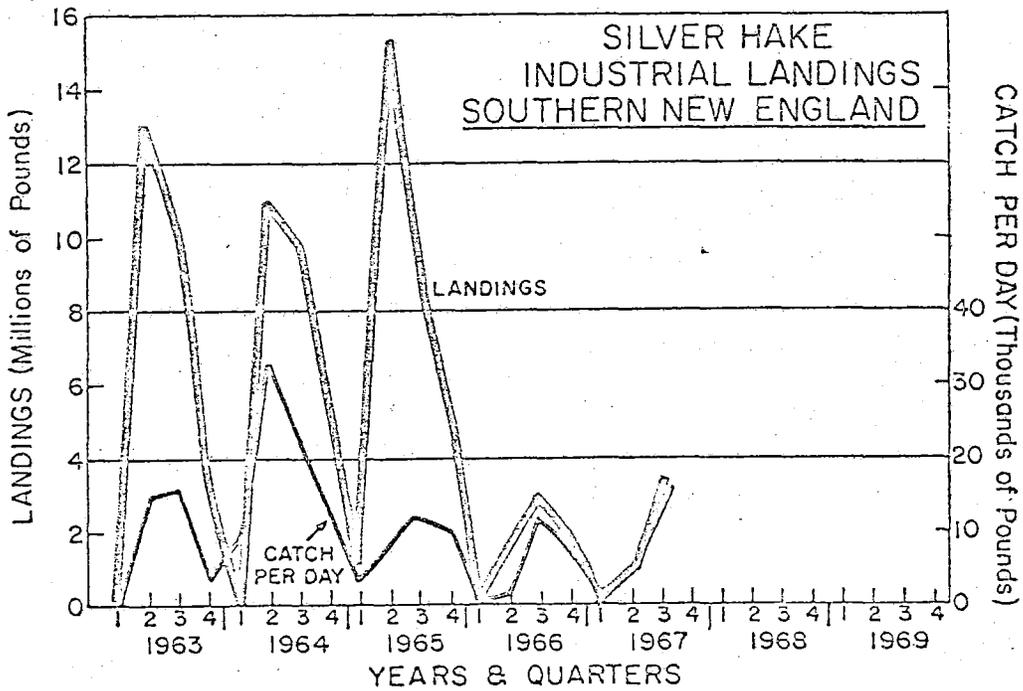


Figure 14



SEA SCALLOPS

Total U.S. sea scallop landings (Table 7) through September 1967 were down about 37 per cent from 1966. Georges Bank landings have doubled in this period while Middle Atlantic landings have fallen off about 45 per cent.

Middle Atlantic scallop abundance (Figure 15) has dropped off about 25 per cent. Estimates of abundance on Georges Bank (Figure 16) in the third quarter were about the same as in 1966, but greater than the second quarter level. Despite the third quarter increase in abundance on Georges Bank, the nine month average is down 25 per cent from 1966. This is also true for Middle Atlantic abundance.

TABLE 7

U.S. SEA SCALLOP THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS
(Landings in thousands of pounds)

Area	Third Quarter				Accumulative			
	Landings		Landings/Day		Landings		Landings/Day	
	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966
Georges Bank	1,109	196	1,578	1,584	1,714	933	1,567	2,021
Middle Atlantic	1,400	3,213	1,505	2,009	4,595	9,549	1,621	2,058
Total	2,509	3,409	1,536	1,978	6,309	10,481	1,606	2,055

Figure 15

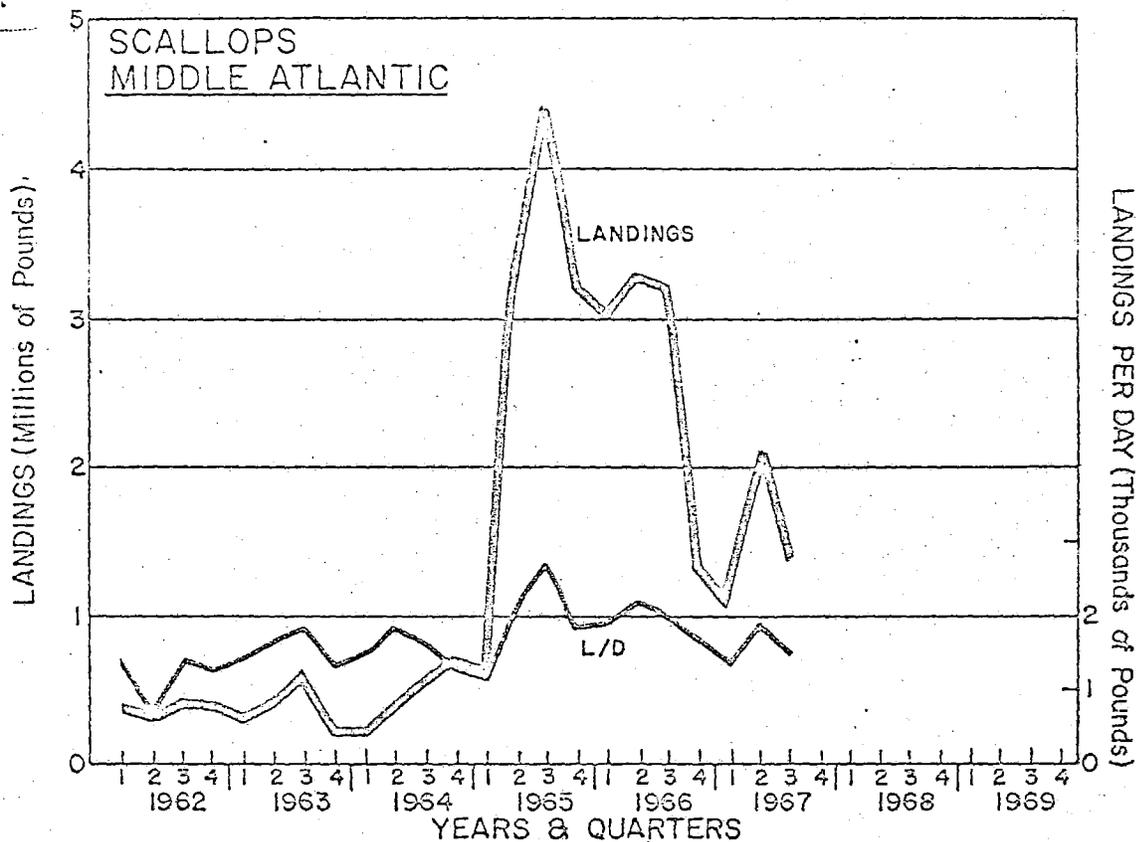


Figure 16

