

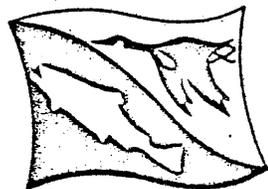
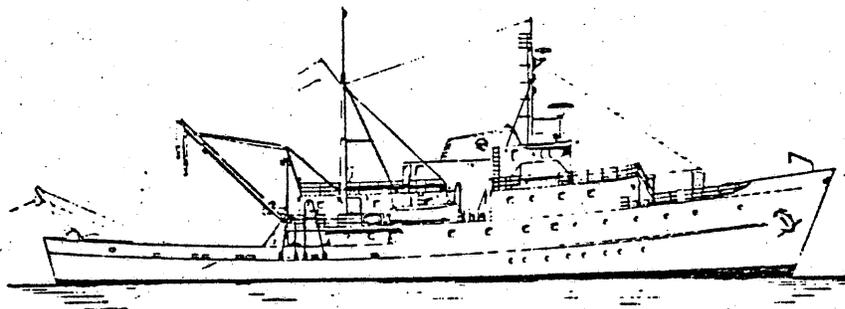
69-1

THIRD QUARTER
STOCK CATALOGUE 1968

GROUND FISH AND SEA SCALLOPS FISHED BY NEW ENGLAND FLEETS

by

R. L. Schultz and F. A. Dreyer



Bureau of Commercial Fisheries
Biological Laboratory
Woods Hole, Massachusetts 02543
Laboratory Reference No. 69-1

HADDOCK

Total haddock landings from Georges Bank in the first nine months of 1968 (Table 1) was 29 percent less than in 1967. Large haddock landings increased about 4 million pounds, not enough to offset the 54 percent decline in scrod.

Poor recruitment for three successive years (64-66 year classes) on Georges Bank is the immediate cause of the present decline in the US haddock fishery. The 1962 and 1963 year classes are the major contributors to the fishery at this time (Figure 1), and they have been fished down to the level where they will support the fishery at a much lower level in 1969.

The annual Groundfish Survey aboard the Albatross IV this past fall, found the 1968 year class of haddock to be another poor one (Figure 2). Because of the absence of fish less than five years old on the Bank (Figure 1) and another poor year class, 1971 would be the earliest any relief could be felt, providing of course, the 1969 year class is a strong one.

There has been much speculation as to why there hasn't been a successful year class since 1963, but as yet this question has not been answered.

Scrod abundance (Figure 3) on Georges Bank for the Third Quarter was down about half compared to the Third Quarter of 1967. Large haddock, on the other hand, was slightly more abundant this year (Figure 4). Large haddock abundance however, should begin to decline in 1969 and continue downward into the 1970's.

Earlier it was predicted that the 1963 year class, when it was fully recruited on Browns Bank, would do much to bolster lagging Georges Bank landings. Browns Bank landings (Table 1) have increased slightly but not nearly as much as expected. A preliminary analysis of Browns Bank age frequencies indicates that the 1963 year class has been fished quite heavily since 1966 (by countries other than the US). This year class supported 60 to 70 percent of the landings from Browns in 1967. Data for 1968 is not available so it is impossible to tell what the 1963 year class looks like this year.

From all indications it now appears that New England haddock fishery is in store for a lean period which should extend well into the 70's. New England haddock landings will reach 71 million pounds in 1968, and much less in 1969.

TABLE 1

HADDOCK THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS
(Live Weight)

Area		Third Quarter				Accumulative	
		Landings in thou- sands of pounds		Landing/Day in pounds		Landings in thou- sands of pounds	
		1968	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967
Georges Bank	Scrod	5,915	12,061	1,723	3,423	20,076	43,457
	Large	10,242	7,925	2,609	2,068	27,083	22,835
	Total	16,157	19,986	4,332	5,491	47,159	66,292
Browns Bank	Scrod	13	231	--	8,718	3,303	2,965
	Large	10	50	--	1,455	1,663	1,479
	Total	23	281	--	10,173	4,966	4,444
Gulf of Maine	Scrod	660	1,831	--	--	3,298	5,334
	Large	1,007	863	--	--	2,929	2,794
	Total	1,667	2,694	--	--	6,227	8,128
Bay of Fundy	Scrod	833	2,767	3,249	7,062	969	3,211
	Large	424	508	1,385	1,287	474	630
	Total	1,257	3,275	4,634	8,349	1,443	3,841
Total	Scrod	7,421	16,890	1,930	3,820	27,646	54,967
	Large	11,683	9,346	2,555	1,990	31,148	27,738
	Total	19,104	26,236	4,485	5,810	59,795	82,705

Figure 1.

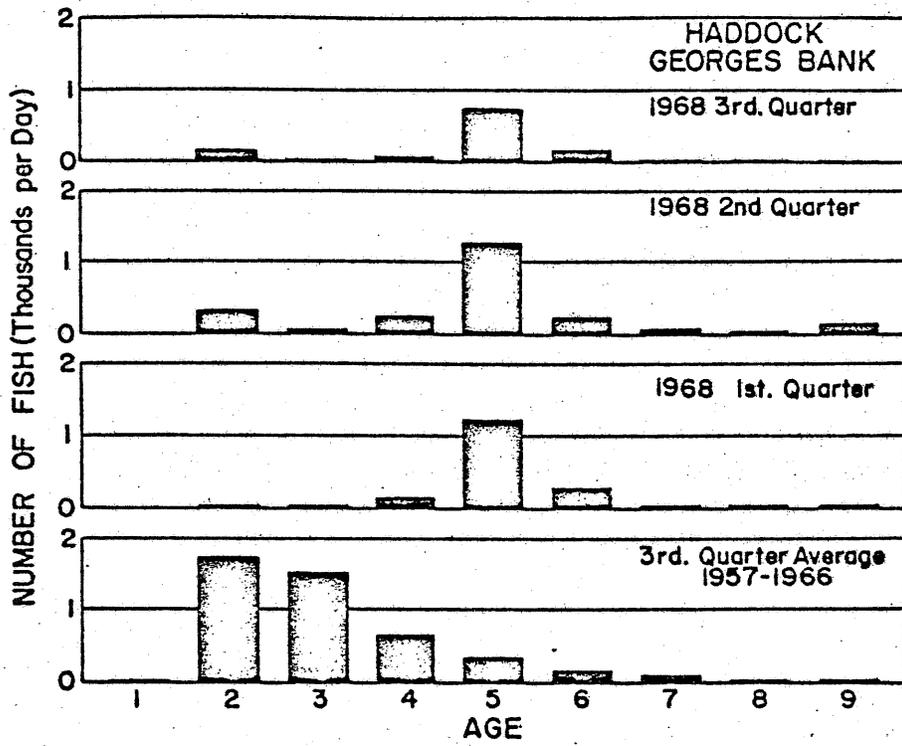


Figure 2.

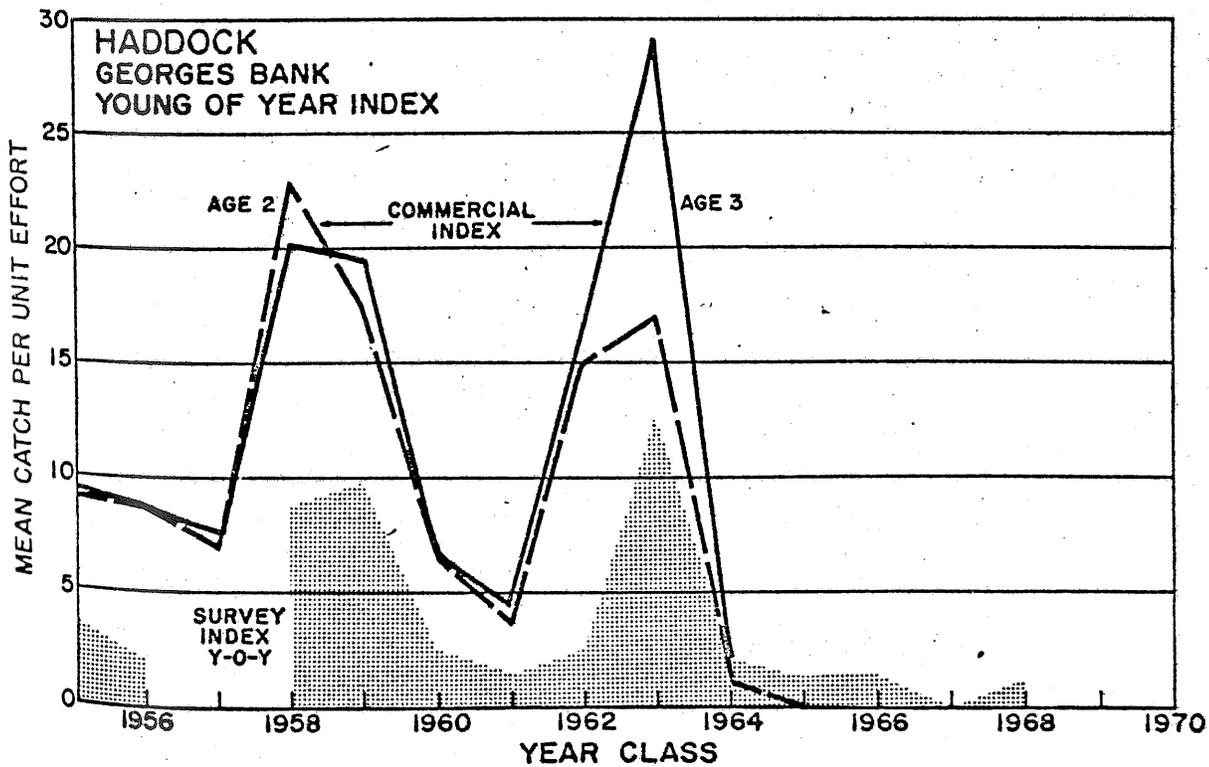


Figure 3.

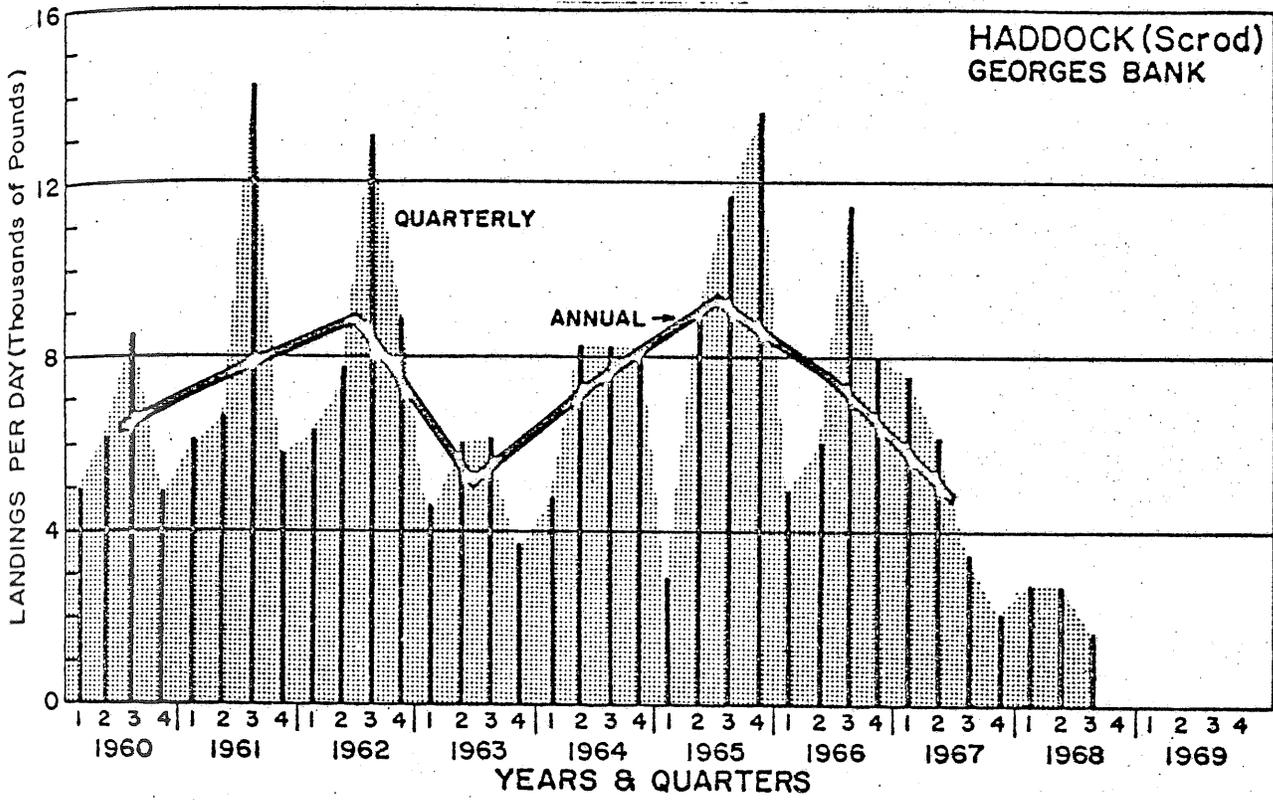
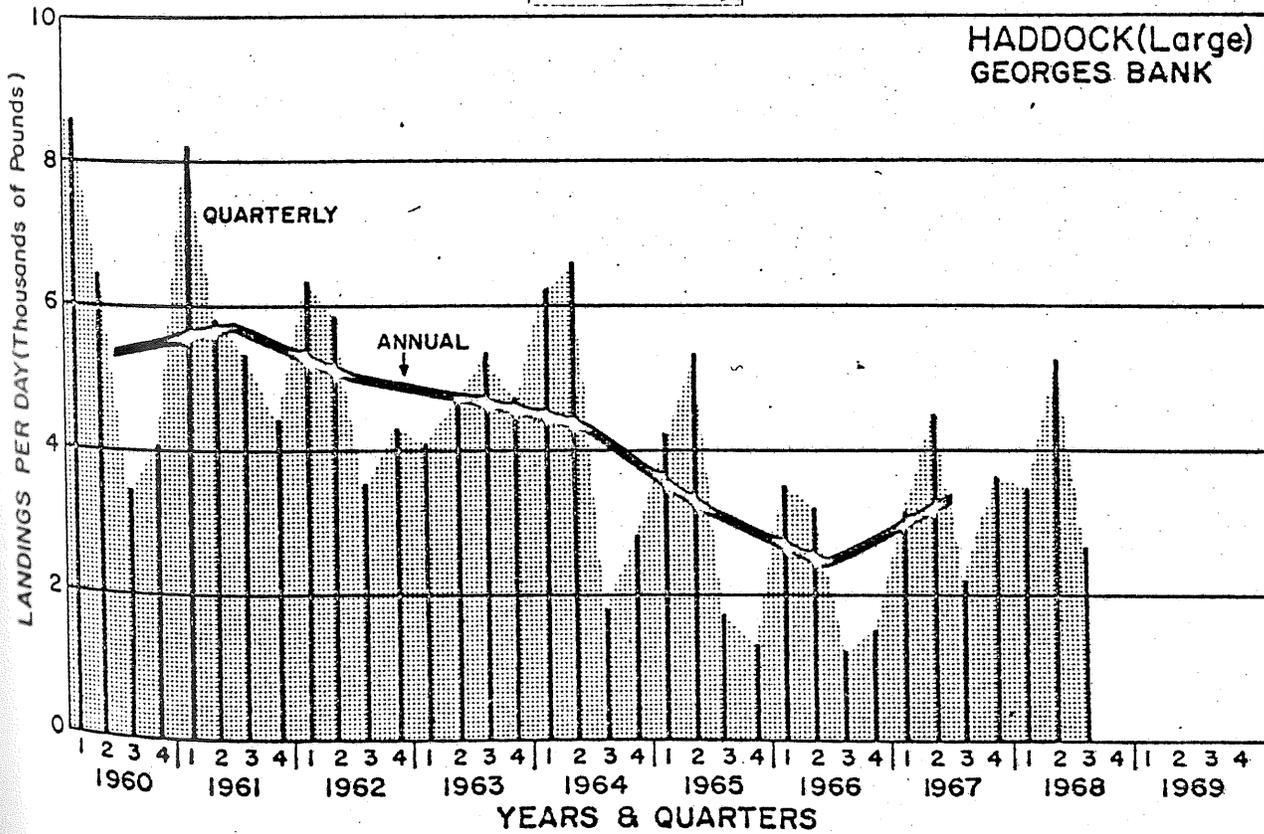


Figure 4.



YELLOWTAIL

Total yellowtail landing (9 months) in 1968 (Table 2) was 46.5 million pounds. This was about 9 million pounds higher than for the first nine months of 1967. Landings should reach 65 million pounds this year.

Abundance on both grounds was higher in the Third Quarter of 1968 (Figures 5 and 6) than in 1967 and almost as high as in 1965. This year's increase in abundance and landings was a result of the large 1964 and 1965 year classes (Figures 7 and 8). These two year classes were comparable in strength to the 1960-1965 average, the period of highest landings and abundance in the history of the yellowtail fishery. The 1966 year class (two's) does not appear as strong as the two previous year classes (three's and four's) on either grounds but it is about average on Georges Bank for the Third Quarter. Because of the smaller size of this year class on Southern New England grounds, we can probably expect slightly lower abundance in 1969. Landings could remain high if the effort increases.

The Middle Atlantic grounds (off Long Island) contribution to landings in 1968 is about one-sixth of what it was in 1967. I think however, that this is a result of a shift in effort to the more desirable and abundant large yellowtail found on other grounds.

Figure 5.

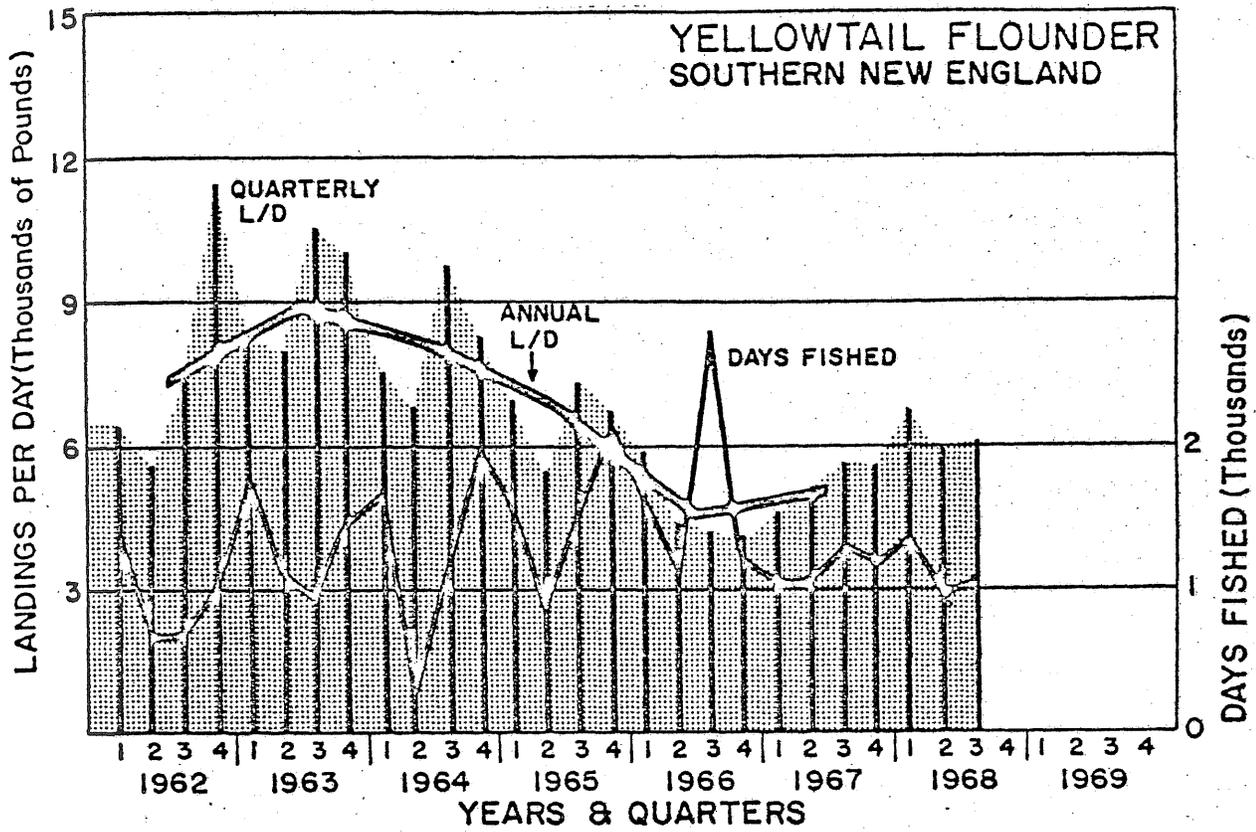
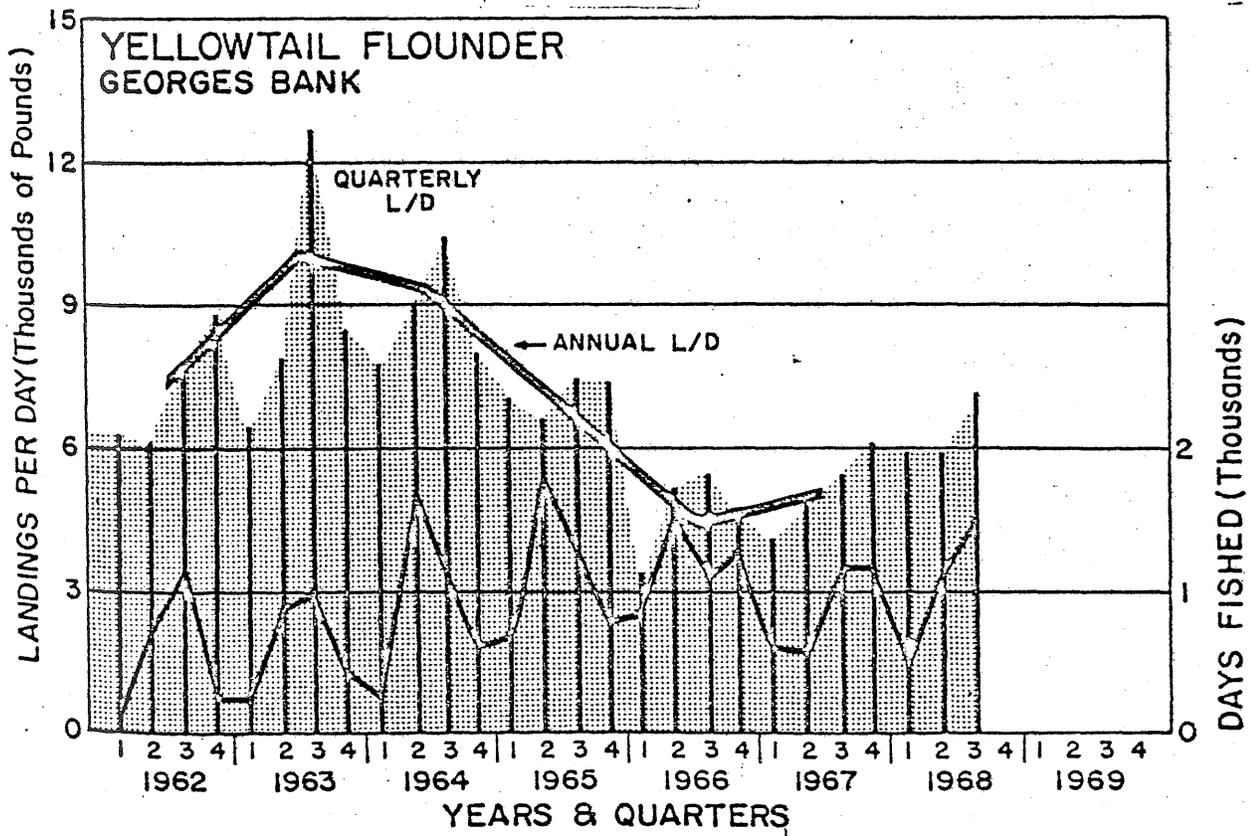


Figure 6.



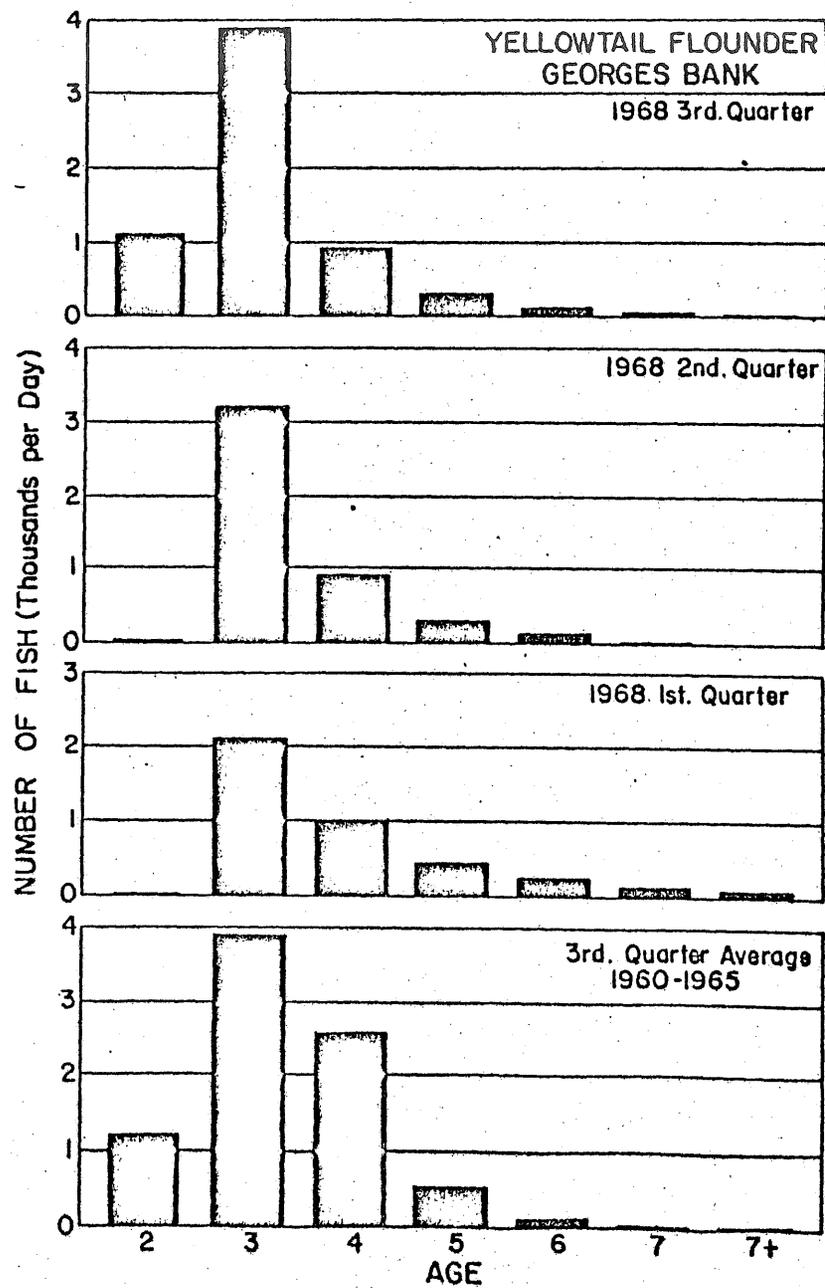
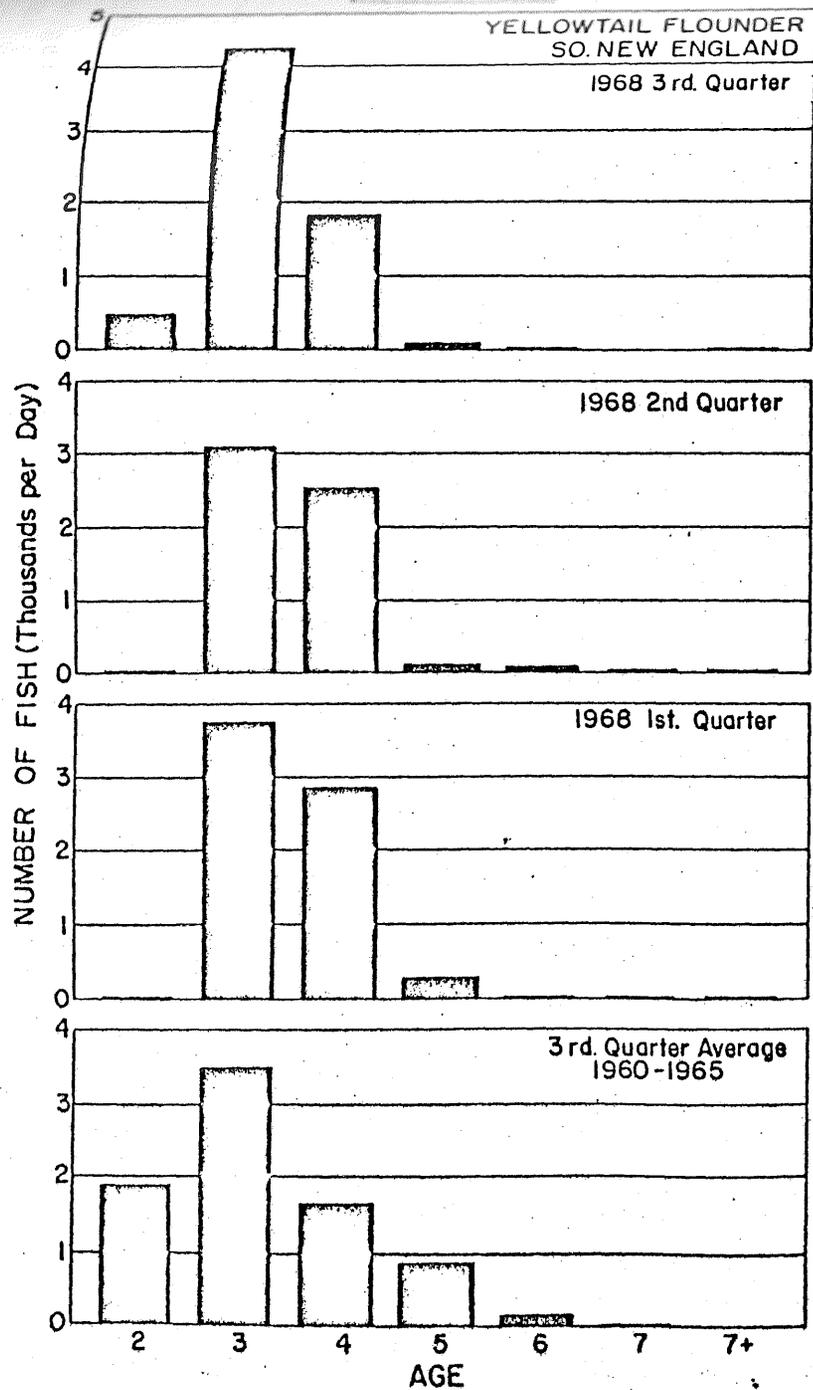


TABLE 2

YELLOWTAIL THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS
(Live Weight)

Area	Third Quarter				Accumulative	
	Landings in thou- sands of pounds		Landings/Day in pounds		Landings in thou- sands of pounds	
	1968	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967
So. New England	6,805	7,187	6,156	5,706	22,320	17,170
Georges Bank	11,698	6,419	7,002	5,386	20,625	11,433
Mid- Atlantic	222	886	6,891	13,398	889	6,279
Cape Cod Bay	560	583	3,521	3,174	2,694	2,593
Total	19,285	15,075	6,757	5,721	46,528	37,475

COD

Cod abundance and landings have increased somewhat in 1968 (Table 3). This increase, while not great, has been steady through 1967-68 and is expected to continue in 1969.

TABLE 3

COD THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS
(Live Weight)

Area	Third Quarter				Accumulative	
	Landings in thou- sands of pounds		Landings/Day in pounds		Landings in thou- sands of pounds	
	1968	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967
Georges Bank	9,594	8,890	3,437	3,014	25,242	21,806

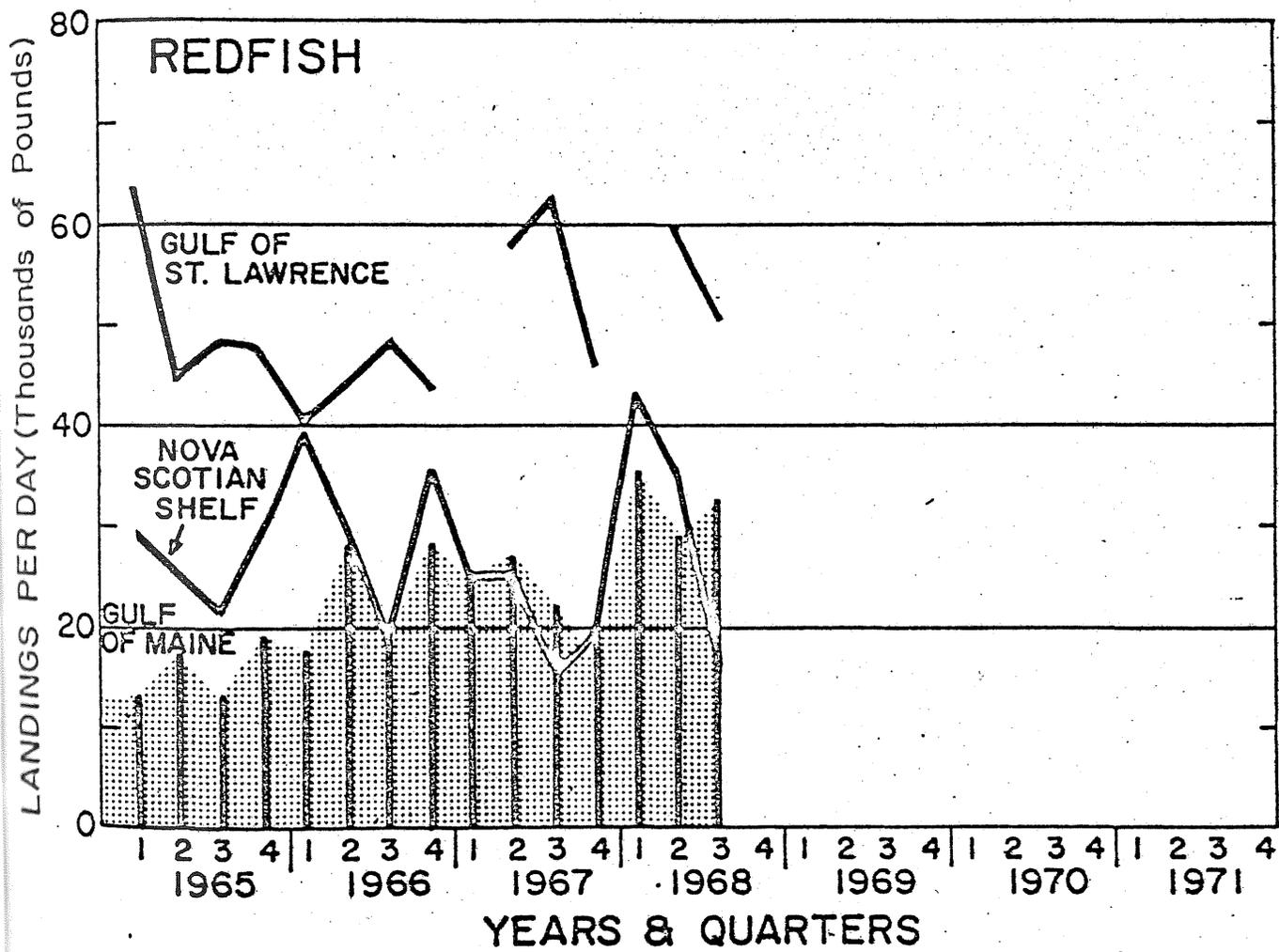
REDFISH

Total landings of redfish (Table 4) were down about eight percent through the Third Quarter of 1968. This is contrasted by the fact that abundance (Figure 9) in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Gulf of Maine has increased.

TABLE 4
REDFISH THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS
(Live Weight)

Area	Third Quarter				Accumulative	
	Landings in thou- sands of pounds		Landings/Day in pounds		Landings in thou- sands of pounds	
	1968	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967
Gulf of Maine	1,136	3,831	32,738	22,217	8,150	12,066
Nova Scotia	474	1,264	15,474	15,231	9,293	13,162
Gulf of St. Lawrence	19,011	19,137	50,534	61,943	26,594	22,449
Total	20,621	24,232	48,748	42,624	44,037	47,677

Figure 9.



SILVER HAKE

The silver hake fishery in the Gulf of Maine has made a significant come-back in 1968, but has deteriorated on Georges Bank (Table 5). Total landings in 1968 will probably be lower than in 1967 (but the increase in silver hake abundance in the Gulf of Maine may help to increase landings in 1969.)

TABLE 5

SILVER HAKE THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS (Live Weight)

Area	Third Quarter				Accumulative	
	Landings in thou- sands of pounds		Landings/Day in pounds		Landings in thou- sands of pounds	
	1968	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967
Gulf of Maine	44,133	24,937	37,825	25,241	49,724	42,415
Georges Bank	12,402	24,434	34,294	38,716	15,930	33,423
Total	56,535	49,371	37,024	32,733	65,654	75,838

INDUSTRIAL FISHERY

Industrial landings (Table 6) from Southern New England grounds were down about nine percent for the first nine months of 1968. This decrease occurred among species other than red and silver hake, whose landings were about the same as last year.

Silver hake abundance (Figure 10) was up for the Third Quarter compared to 1967 as was red hake abundance (Figure 11). Further agreements for reducing foreign fishing activity in southern New England waters is a requisite for the continuance of increasing abundance in 1969.

TABLE 6

INDUSTRIAL RED AND SILVER HAKE THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS
(Live Weight)

Area and Species	Third Quarter				Accumulative	
	Landings in thousands of pounds		Landings/Day in pounds		Landings in thousands of pounds	
	1968	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967
<u>So. New England</u>						
Red Hake	5,185	4,385	29,919	24,212	9,519	9,143
Silver Hake	4,203	3,120	24,254	17,247	6,016	4,514
Total	9,388	7,505	54,173	41,459	15,535	13,657
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u>						
Red Hake	15	991	5,491	25,410	72	1,026
Silver Hake	13	590	4,936	17,211	246	710
Total	28	1,581	10,427	42,621	318	1,736
Total Red Hake	5,200	5,376	29,848	24,414	9,591	10,169
Total Silver Hake	4,216	3,710	24,194	17,221	6,262	5,224
Total Industrial	17,392	17,464	99,415	79,340	60,632	66,660

Figure 10.

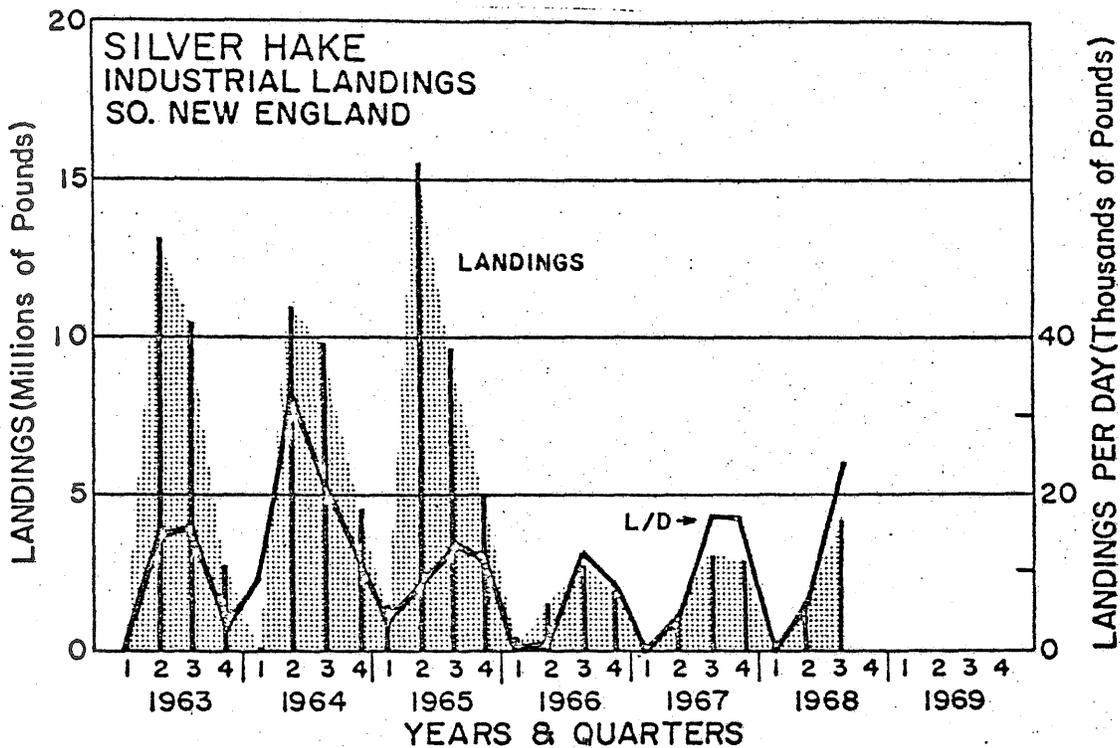
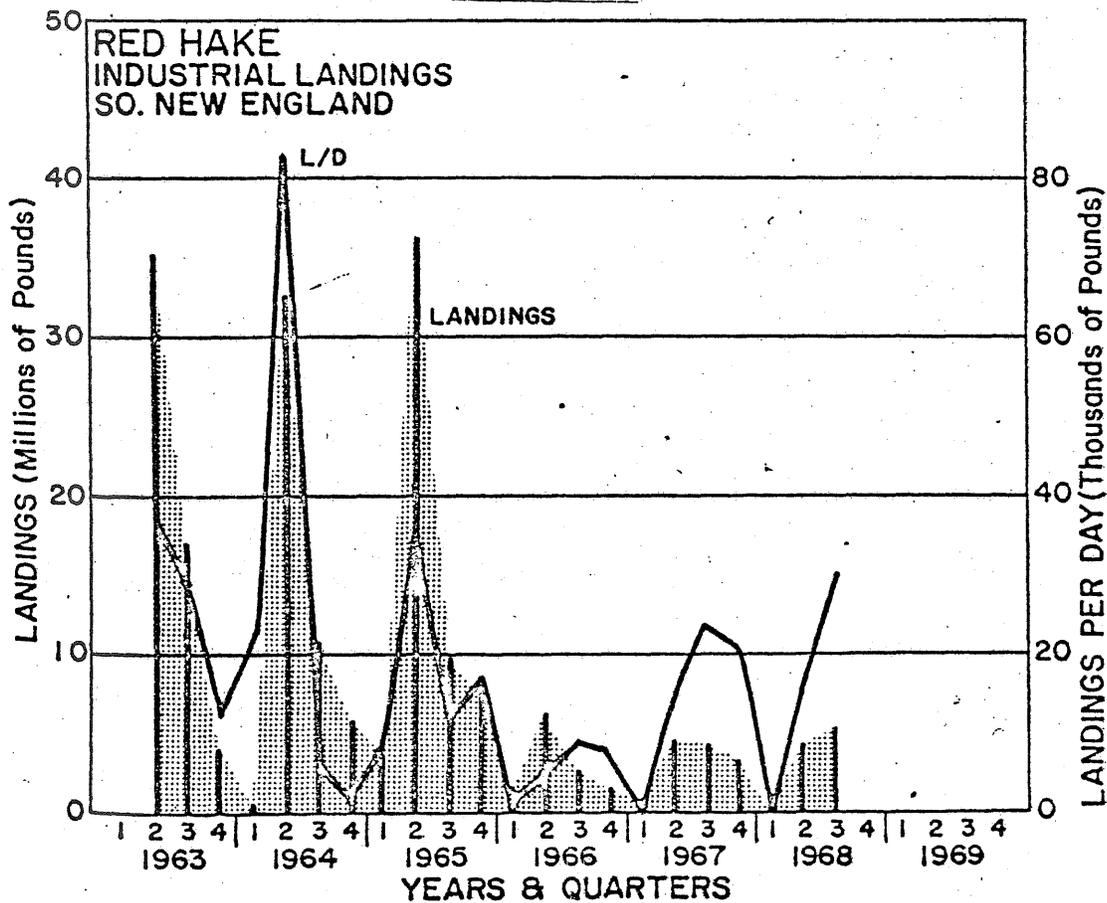


Figure 11.



SEA SCALLOPS

The decline in sea scallop landings and fishing success on Georges Bank (Table 7) continued through the Third Quarter. Middle Atlantic landings while slightly higher in 1968, are still far below the record levels achieved in 1965 and 1966. Abundance on both grounds (Figures 12 and 13) continues to trend downward, reflecting the lack of recruitment in the past few years.

The 1968 scallop survey aboard the Albatross IV indicated that a continued low level of abundance can be expected on Georges Bank in 1969.

TABLE 7

SEA SCALLOP THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS (Meat Weight)

Area	Third Quarter				Accumulative	
	Landings in thou- sands of pounds		Landings/Day in pounds		Landings in thou- sands of pounds	
	1968	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967
Georges Bank	760	1,109	1,213	1,578	1,563	1,714
Middle Atlantic	1,968	1,400	1,292	1,505	5,939	4,595
Total	2,728	2,509	1,269	1,536	7,502	6,309

Figure 12.

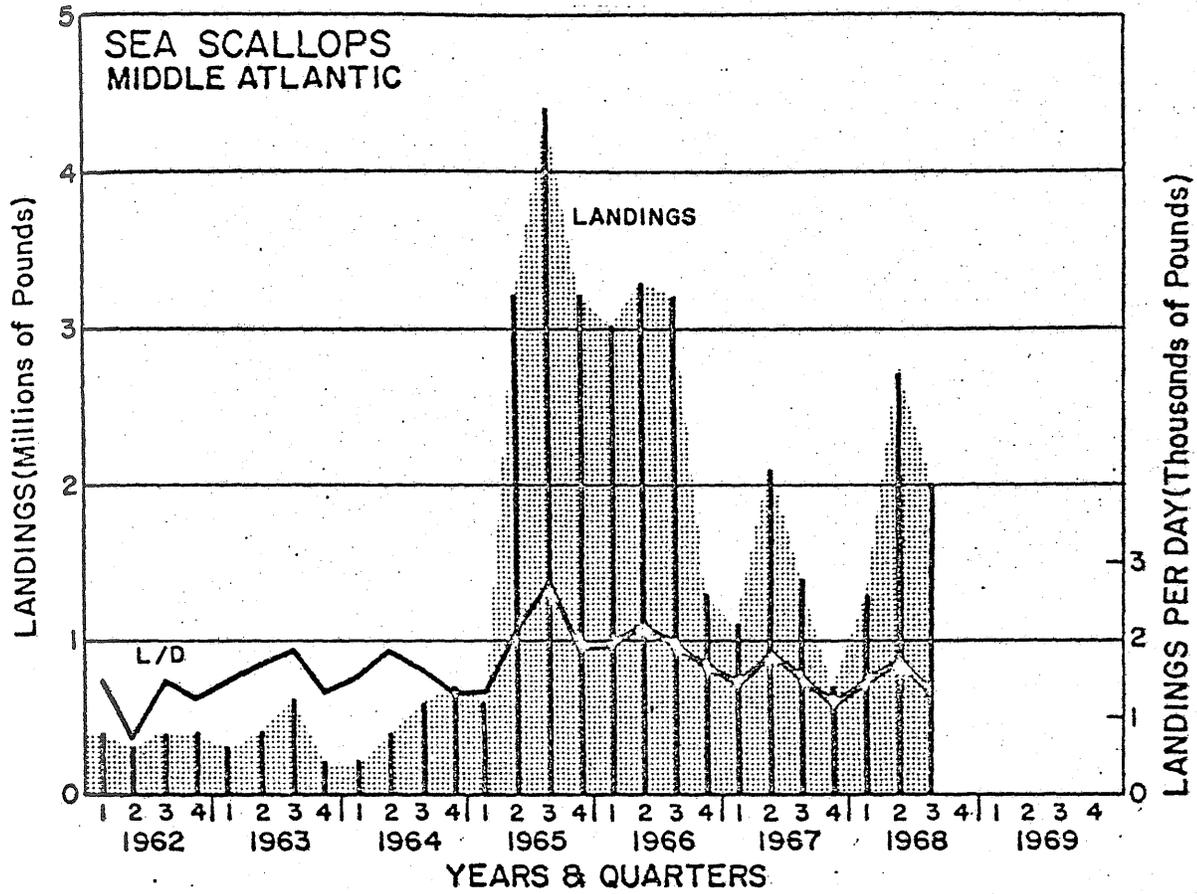


Figure 13.

