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Note on the catches of Cod by French
Trawlers in the NW-Atlantic, 1954-59.

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The present note deals with statistical data from the fisheries in the last six years and concerns the catches of cod by French metropolitan trawlers operating in the various ICNAF subareas. The quantities are given as metric tons of salted cod.

I. Quantities fished by subdivision and by month.

The attached map (Fig.I) in connection with Figs 2-5 presents the catches made by subdivision and by month 1954-59. It appears that in general the fishing season begins in February-March in the region of St. Pierre Bank, Banquereau, off Nova Scotia and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, - where the activities of the trawlers continue until in April. Then from May and onwards the fishery takes place off the W-Coast of Greenland, first in the southern half (Lille Hellefiske Banke, Fyllas Banke) in May-June. Thereafter - following stop in mid-summer - in the northern half in August, September and October. In October, also fishery starts off Labrador (Hamilton Bank) and continues here right to December. In the same way from October to December, in the last two years even from August, fishery is carried out on the northern part of the Grand Bank, in the so-called "Grand-North". Finally the region of Woolfall (northern half of Grand Bank) is exploited from March-April, and after a stop in June-July-the region is again frequently visited by the trawlers unto November-December.

The graphs of the catches in the attached figures 2-5 (the small figures indicate year; 1 cm. of vertical line = 1000 tons of salt cod) permit the investigation of any noteworthy annual changes within the same region and the same month during the period of years considered. In fact considerable variations appear several times, but no general trend towards an increase or a decrease of catches. Only in May-June off W.Greenland a clear decrease in quantities caught is observed, specially in Subdivision ID (Fyllas Banks). Also at Woolfall there appears to be a tendency of decrease. Contrary, off Labrador (Hamilton Bank) the cod catches in October-November are increasing.

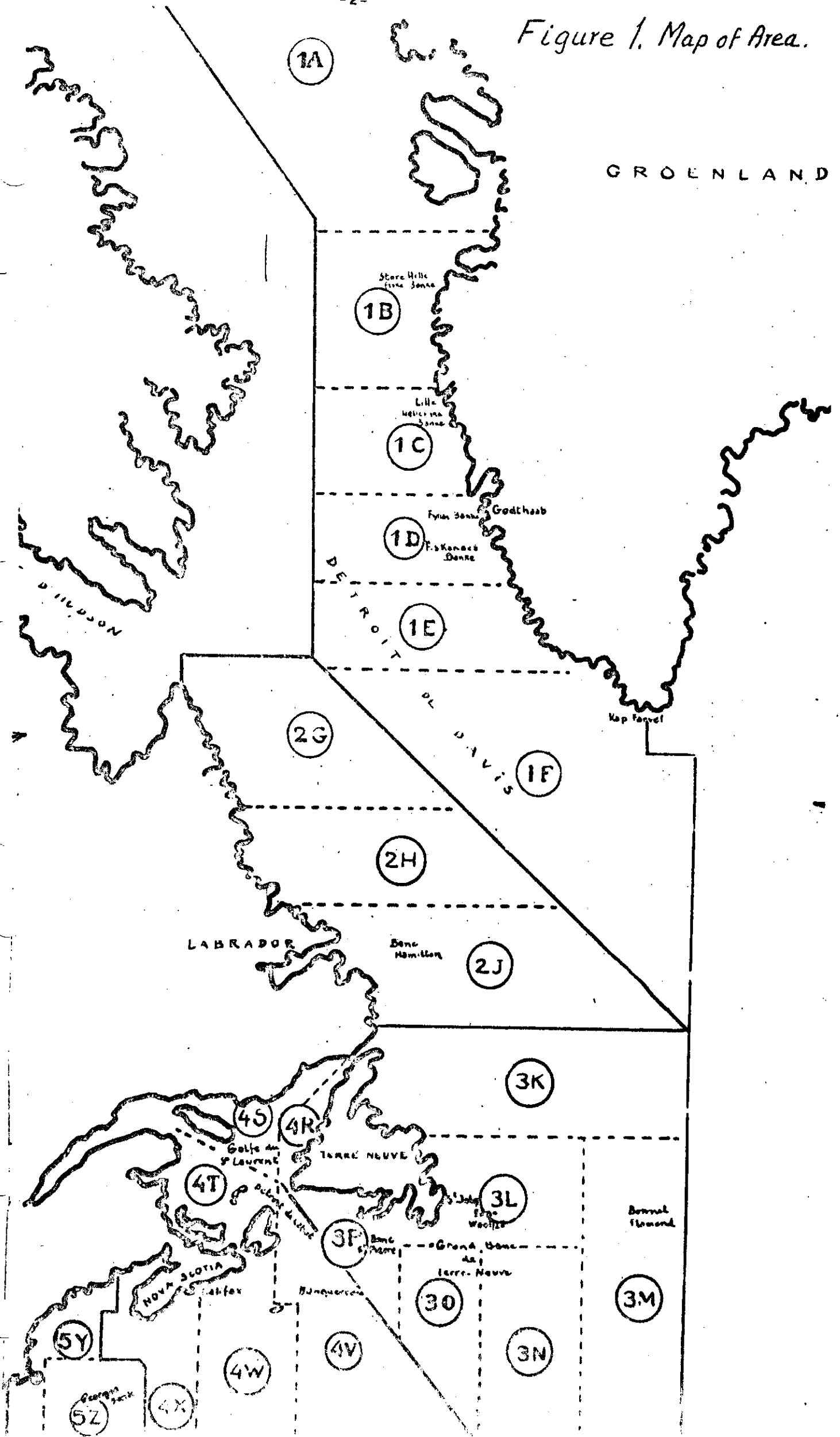
The other data do not show any pronounced changes; it can, however, be noted that the fisheries along the SW-edge of the Grand Bank, virtually have come to an end since 1955.

II. Number of Vessels. Total Catches.

The number of vessels does not vary much during the period considered. The figures (metropolitan trawlers 1200-1400 reg. tons) are given in the following table together with the total catch in the ICNAF area for 1954-1959.

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Trawlers</u>	<u>Total Landings (Weight of Salt Cod)</u>
1954	33	49,200 tons
1955	34	44,900 "
1956	32	36,300 "
1957	34	38,900 "
1959	31	41,800 "

Figure 1. Map of Area.



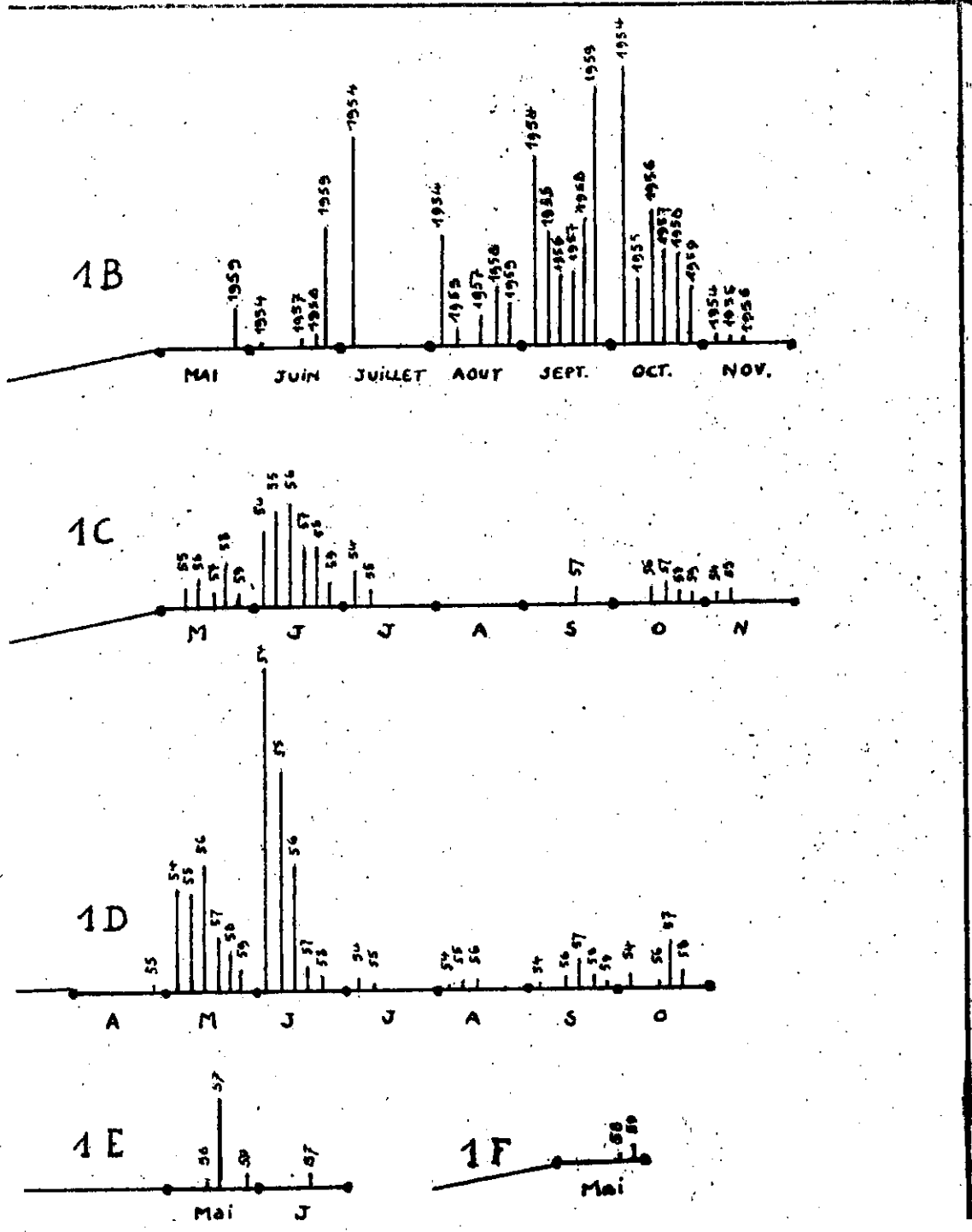


Figure 2. Graphs of catches by month. in sub-divisions 1 B - 1 F.

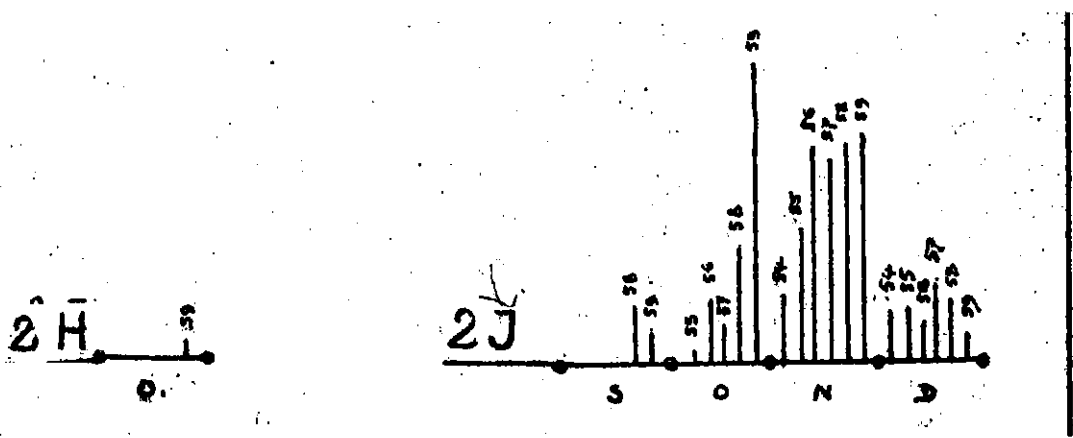


Figure 3. Graphs of catches by month in sub-divisions 2 H and 2 J.

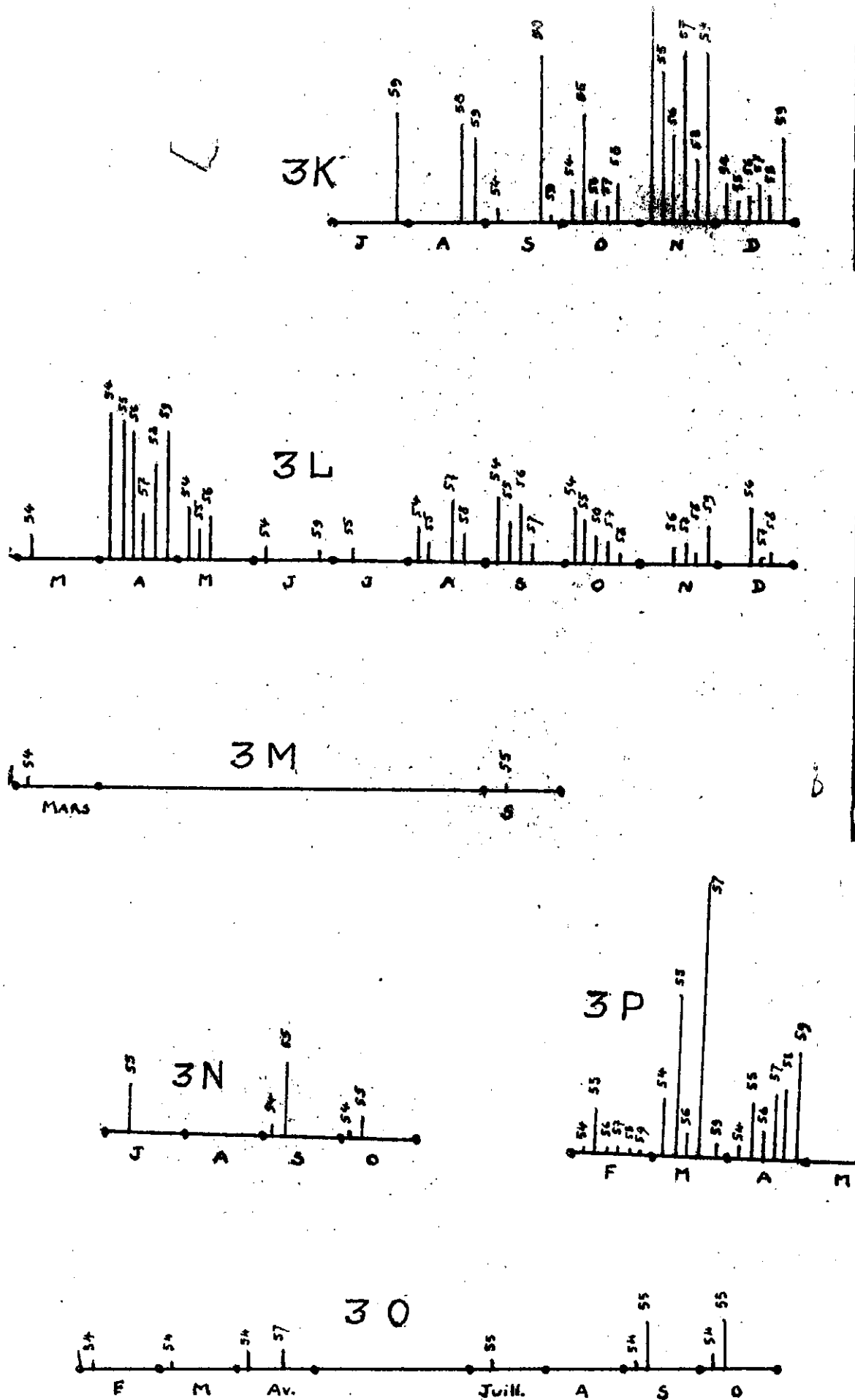


Figure 4. Graphs of catches by month in sub-divisions 3 K - P.

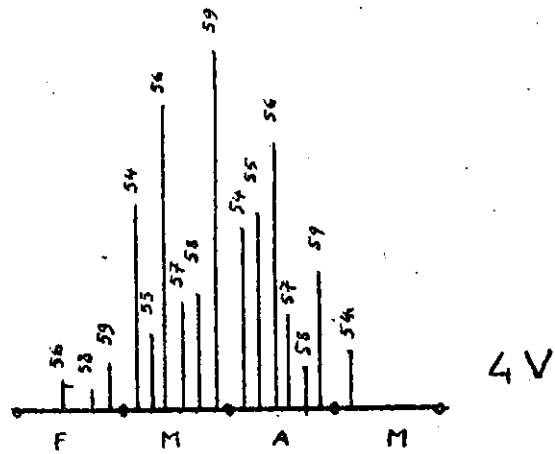
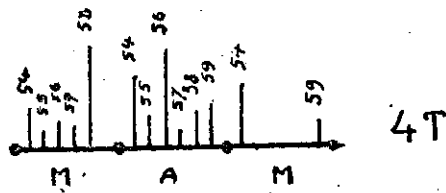
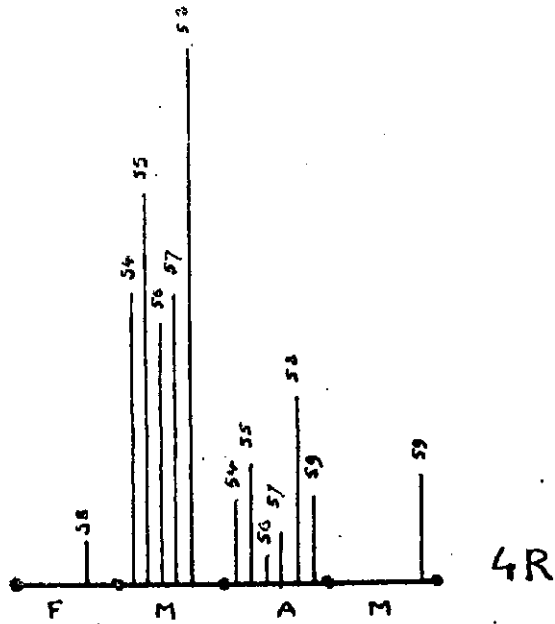


Figure 5. Graphs of catches by month in sub-divisions 4 R, 4 T, 4 V, 4 W.