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Discarding Of Fish In The Commercial FisheryFor Canada (Nfld.) In 1963

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The various fish processing plants have established minimum acceptable sizes of each species that they use for commercial processing; the amounts discarded by various vessels to a large extent depends upon these minimum sizes. The minimum size of acceptance for a particular species may change during the season, being lowered in times of scarcity and raised in times of abundance. There is also some variation between plants in minimum acceptable sizes.

Minimum sizes of fish generally acceptable at processing plants in Canada (Nfld.) in 1963 are as follows:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Length of Fish to Midfork of Tail</u>	
	<u>cm</u>	<u>inches</u>
Cod - whole	41-43	16-17
- head on, gutted	56-50	18-20
Haddock - whole	36-38	14-15
- head on, gutted	46	18
Redfish - whole	23	9½
Plaice - whole	36	14
Witch - whole	36	14

For cod, haddock and redfish a slight lowering of the minimum acceptable sizes occurred (when compared with 1962) as some processing plants were able to accept smaller fish for production. (See Document No. 70, Serial No. 1141, 1963 Annual Meeting.)

Information has been gathered on the discarding of fish at sea by otter trawlers landing their catches in Newfoundland through log book records in which ships' officers have recorded amounts of fish caught and discarded. However, good records have not been obtainable from all ships, but after an examination of the returns, records of seven ships of the 151-500 gross tons class appeared sufficiently reliable to be used and these are summarized in the attached table.

The data indicate that from Newfoundland otter trawlers the commercial species discarded at sea were principally haddock and American plaice, whereas the amounts of cod and redfish discarded were negligible.

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Percent discarded is percent of landing plus discards.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<u>Haddock 3-0</u>													
Total landing (Nfld.)*	2,714	902	299	437	426		2,205	643	516	973	970	133	12,594
Landings with discard data	779	207	39	157	207		684	225	114	187	216	0	3,589
Discards	1	0	0	2	3		10	0	0	0	0	0	37
Landings + discards	780	207	39	159	210		694	225	114	187	216	0	3,626
Percent discarded	0.1	N11	N11	1.3	1.4		1.4	N11	N11	N11	N11	N11	1.0
3-N total landing (Nfld.)*	19	12	3								15	11	38
Landings with discard data	19	12	0										31
Discards	0	0	0										0
Landings + discards	19	12	0								0	0	31
Percent discarded	N11	N11	N11								N11	N11	N11
<u>Plaice 3-1</u>													
Total landings (Nfld.)**	14		2,620	818	1,852	2,668	2,205	643	516	973	970	133	12,594
Landings with discard data	14		10	828	302	1,029	684	225	114	187	216	0	3,589
Discards	0		10	10	0	17	10	0	0	0	0	0	37
Landings + discards	14		828	828	302	1,046	694	225	114	187	216	0	3,626
Percent discarded	N11		1.2	1.2	N11	1.6	1.4	N11	N11	N11	N11	N11	1.0
3-N total landings (Nfld.)**	325	498	241	2	47	47	374	761	690	1,729	1,088	687	6,442
Landings with discard data	323	399	109	2	3	3	299	457	614	1,021	626	247	4,100
Discards	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Landings + discards	323	407	109	2	3	3	299	457	614	1,021	626	247	4,108
Percent discarded	N11	2.0	N11	N11	N11	N11	N11	N11	N11	N11	N11	N11	0.2

* By otter trawler 151-500 gross tons, when haddock was the main species sought.

** By otter trawler 151-500 gross tons, when plaice was the main species sought.

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