

An Atlas for Industrial Bottomfish Fishermen in the Northern Gulf of Mexico

Sea Grant Advisory Service/Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service



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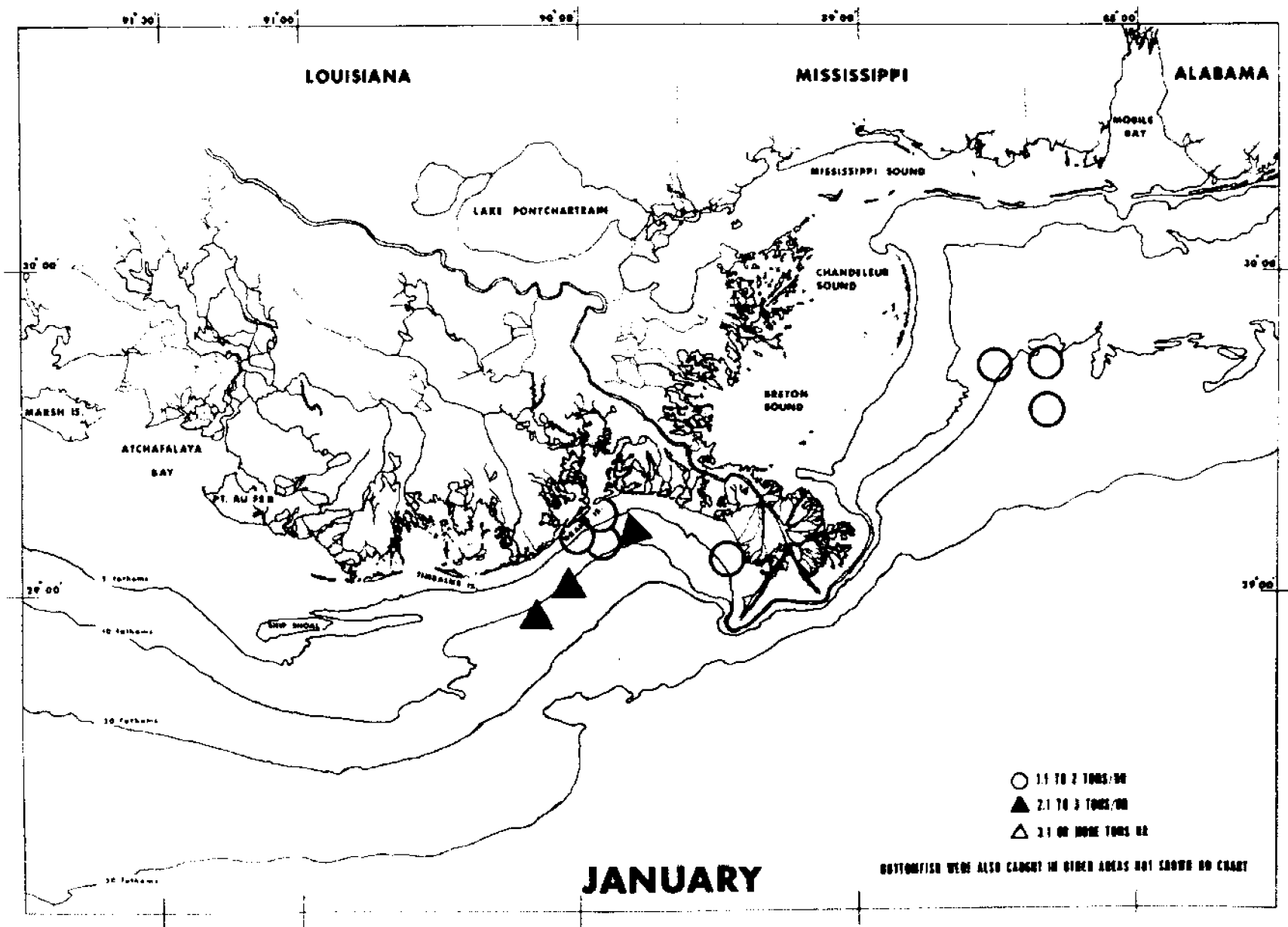
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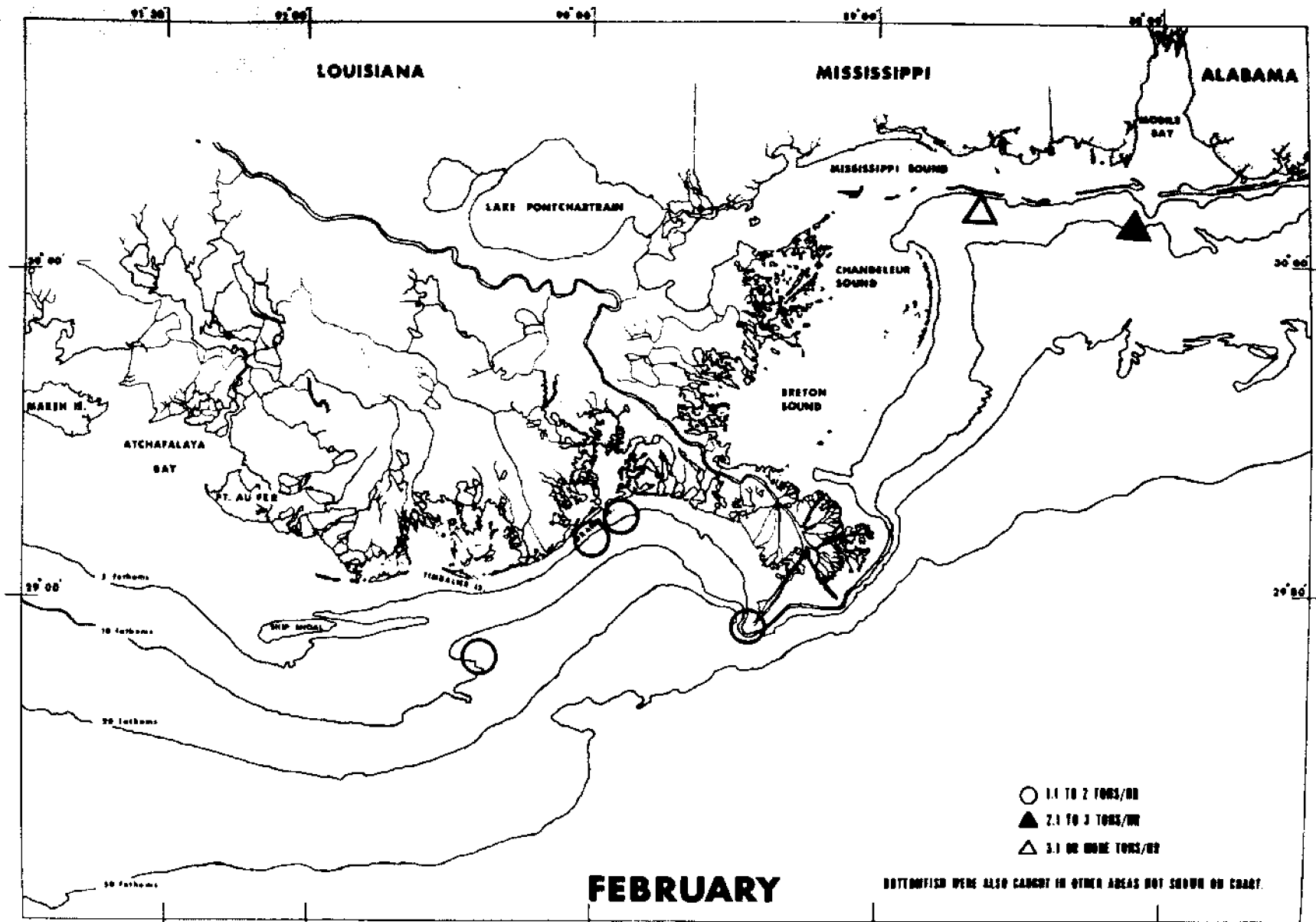
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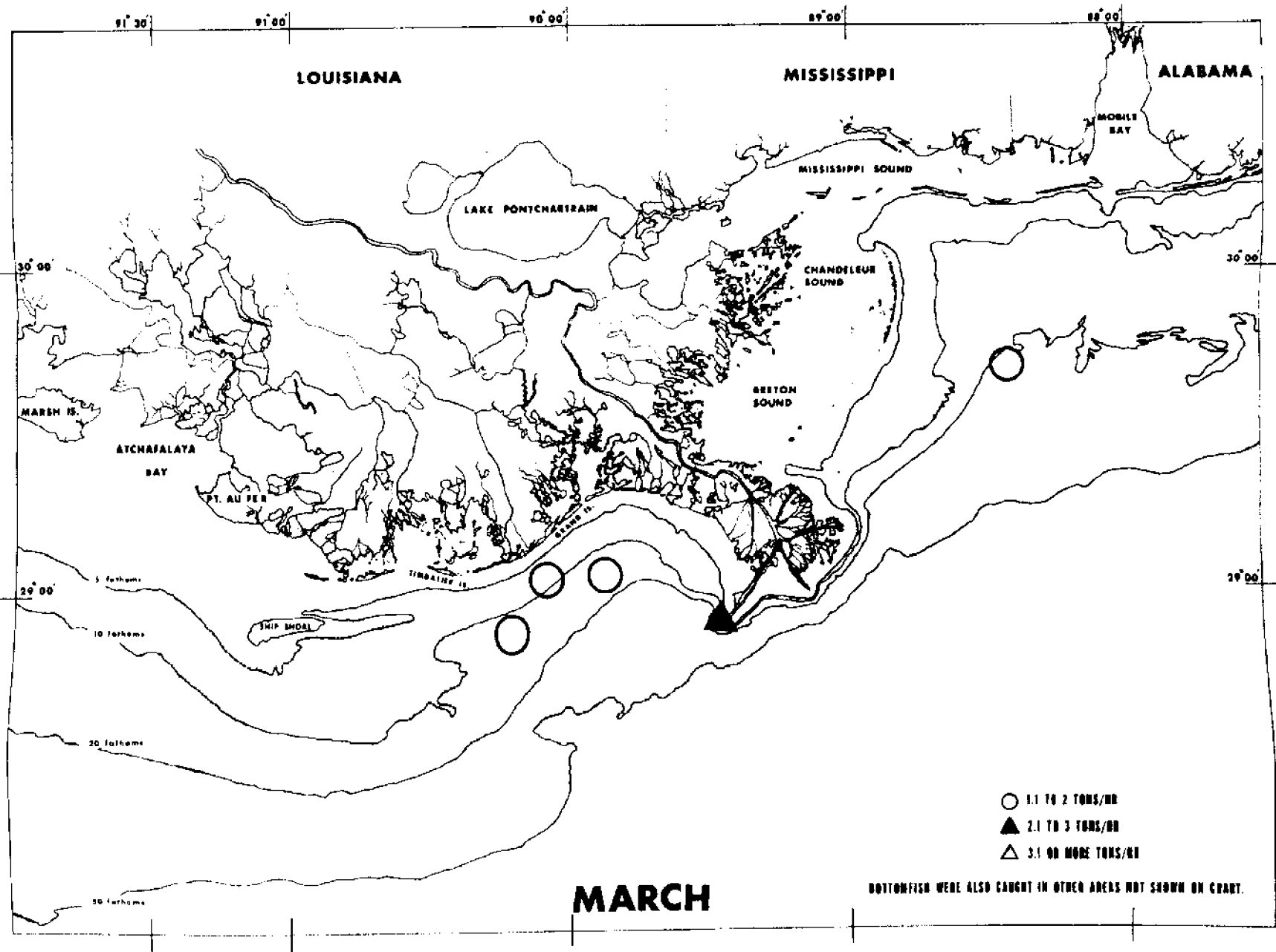
Industrial bottomfish landings have exceeded 90 million pounds annually since 1969. Concentrations of these bottomfish occur from Mobile Bay, Alabama, to Trinity Shoals, Louisiana, from shore out to depths of 50 fathoms. The information in this atlas could improve fishermen's success and reduce effort and time spent searching for commercial concentrations of bottomfish.

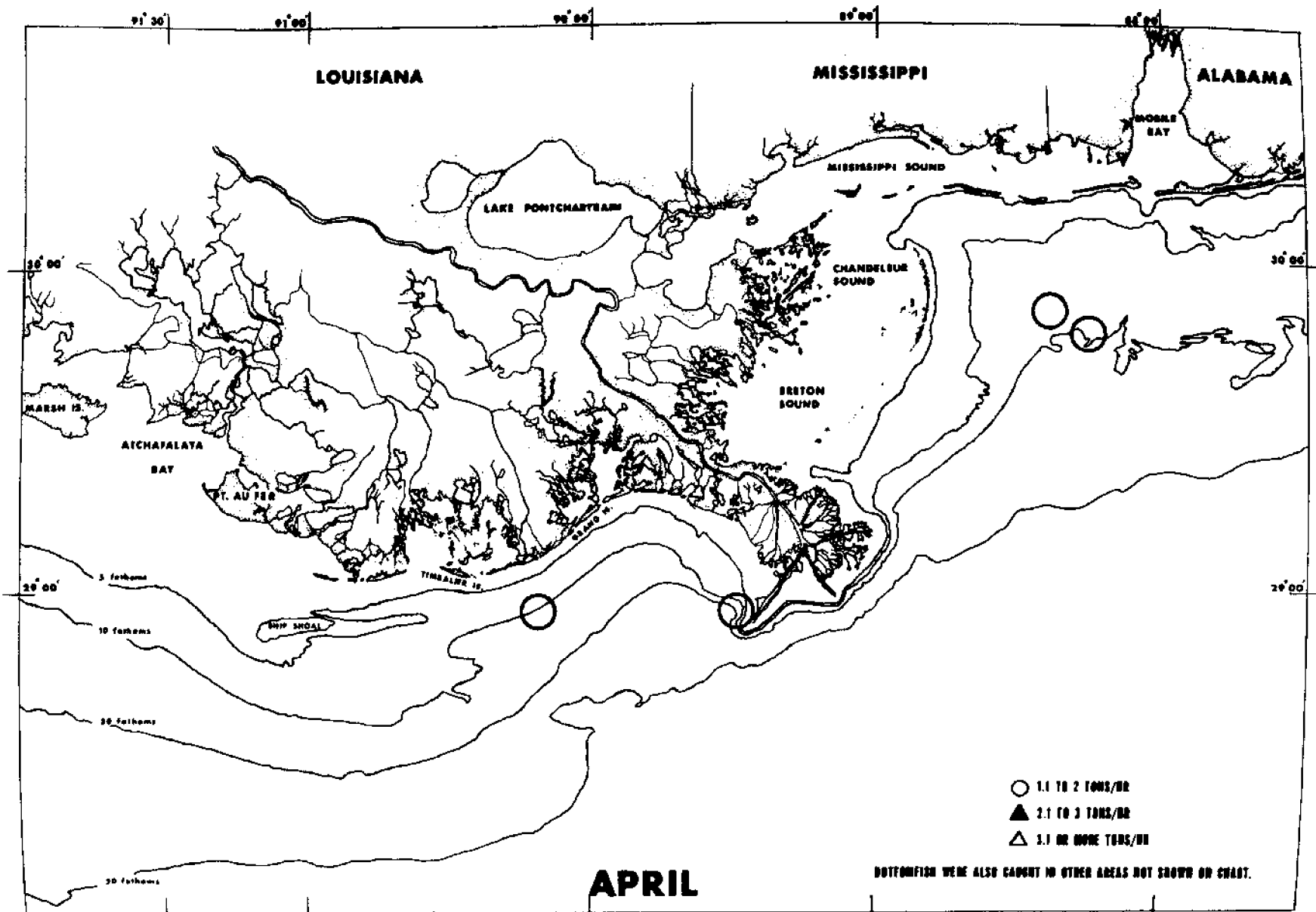
This atlas depicts areas which consistently produced high catch rates of industrial bottomfish in the northern Gulf of Mexico from 1969-1973. Seasonal and area changes in catch rates are shown. Fish found inside 20 fathoms from May to November move into deeper offshore water during the remaining months. In conjunction with this offshore movement is an accompanying reduction in catch per unit effort. During each month, however, certain areas are more productive.

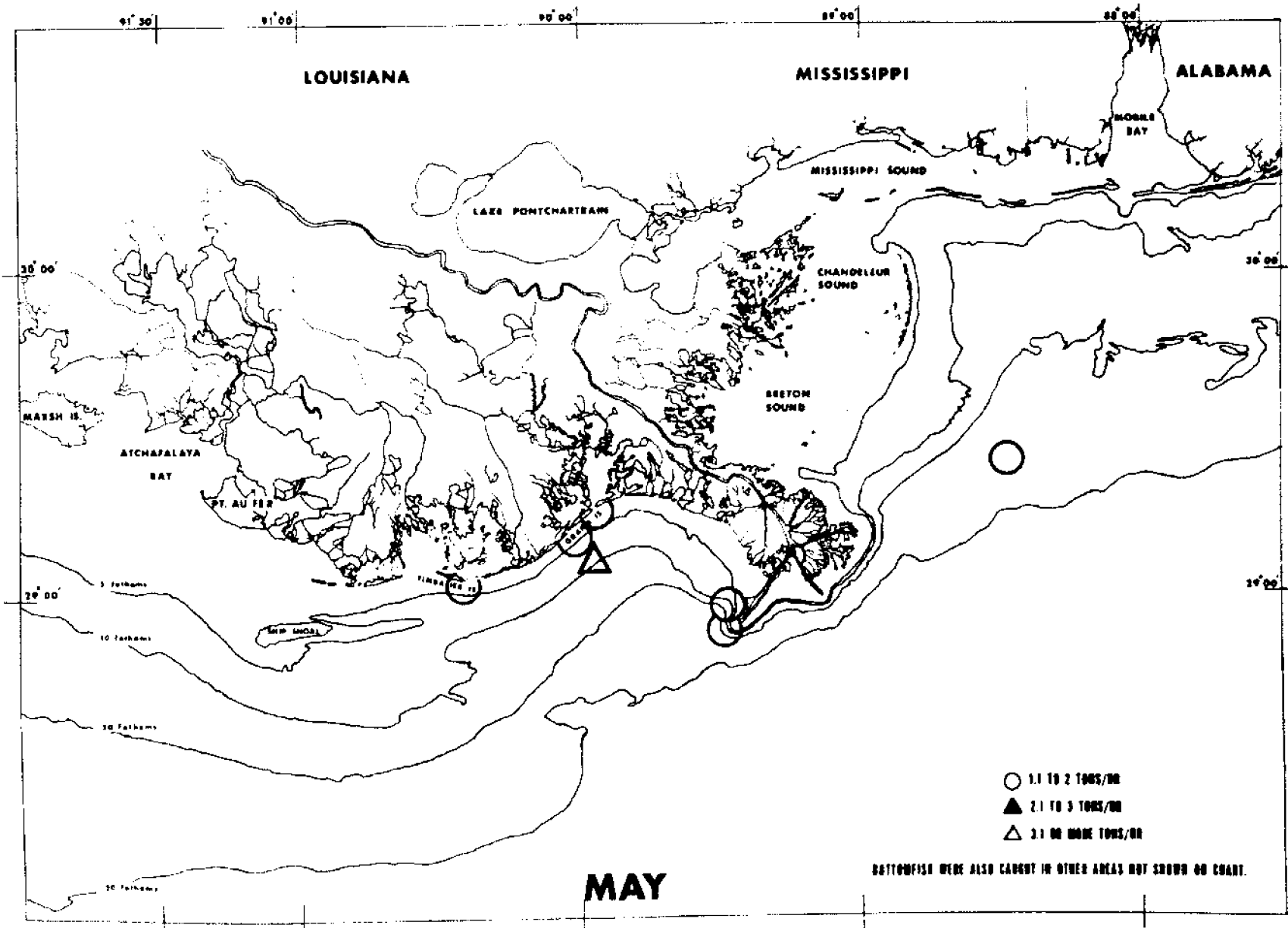
The fishing data provided by vessel captains in the industrial fleet were: location, depth, date, hours trawled, estimated tons caught per drag, and total landings. Monthly catch rates were computed for each location. Areas with commercial quantities of industrial bottom-fish for more than one year are shown on the appropriate monthly charts.

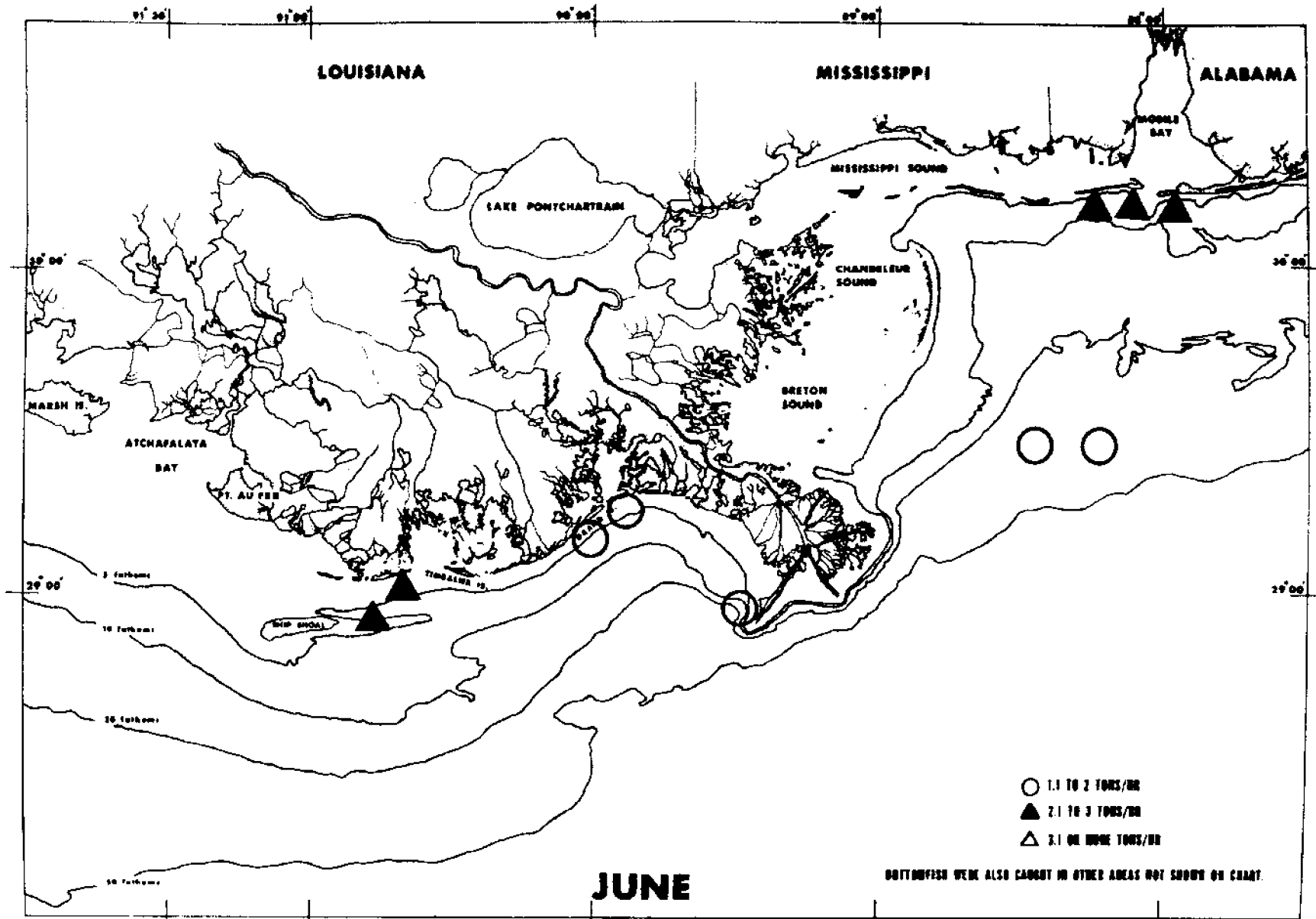


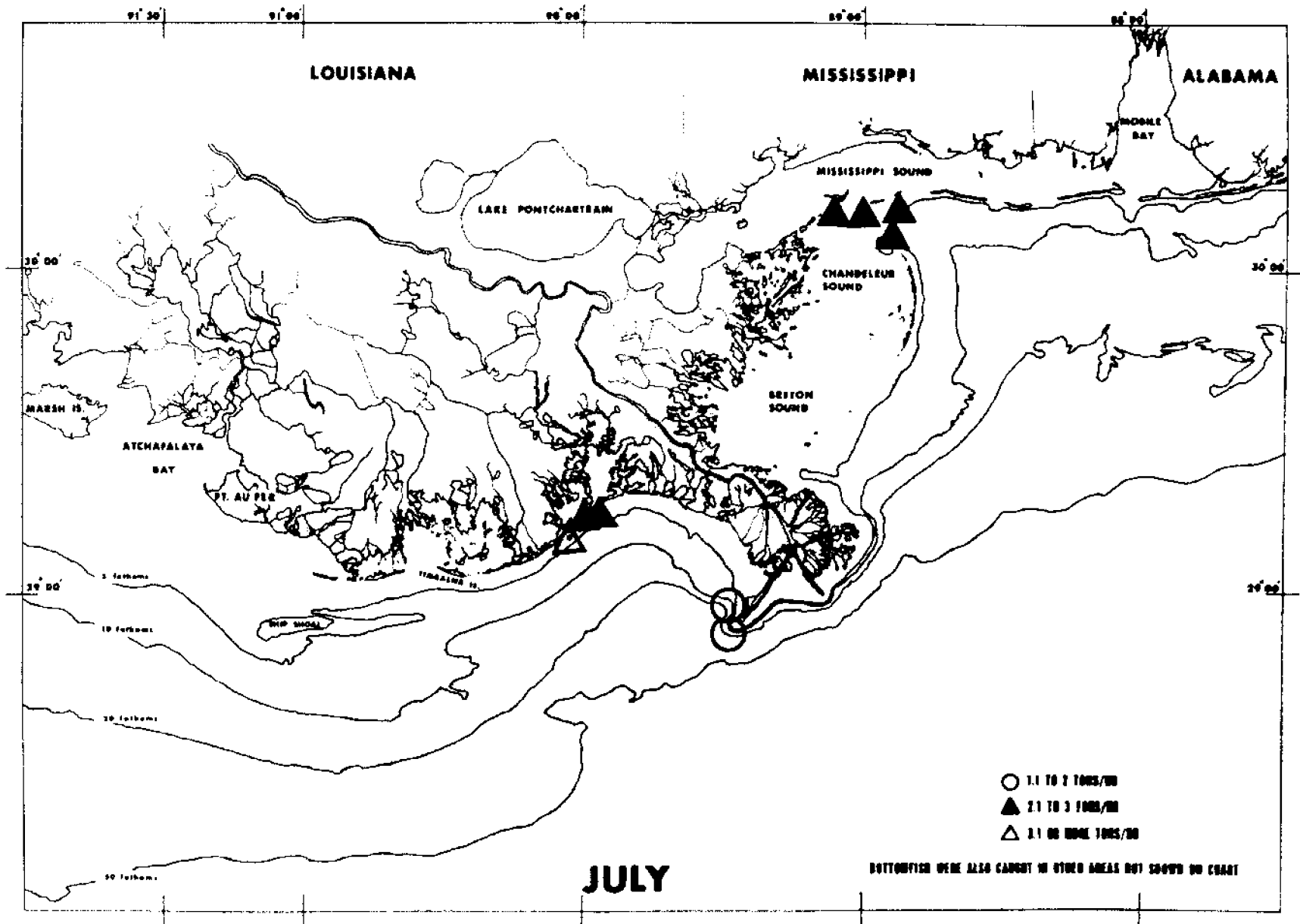


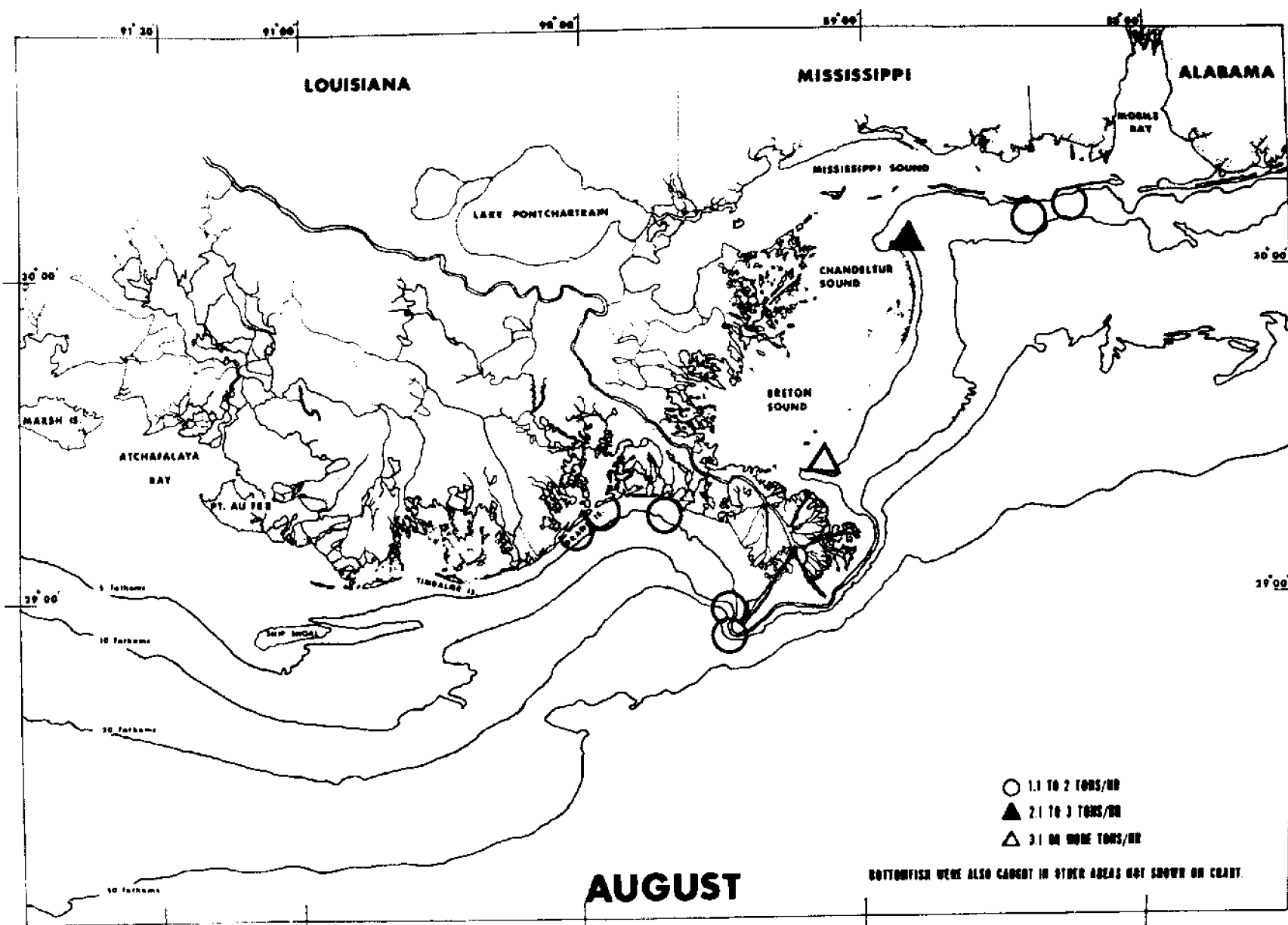


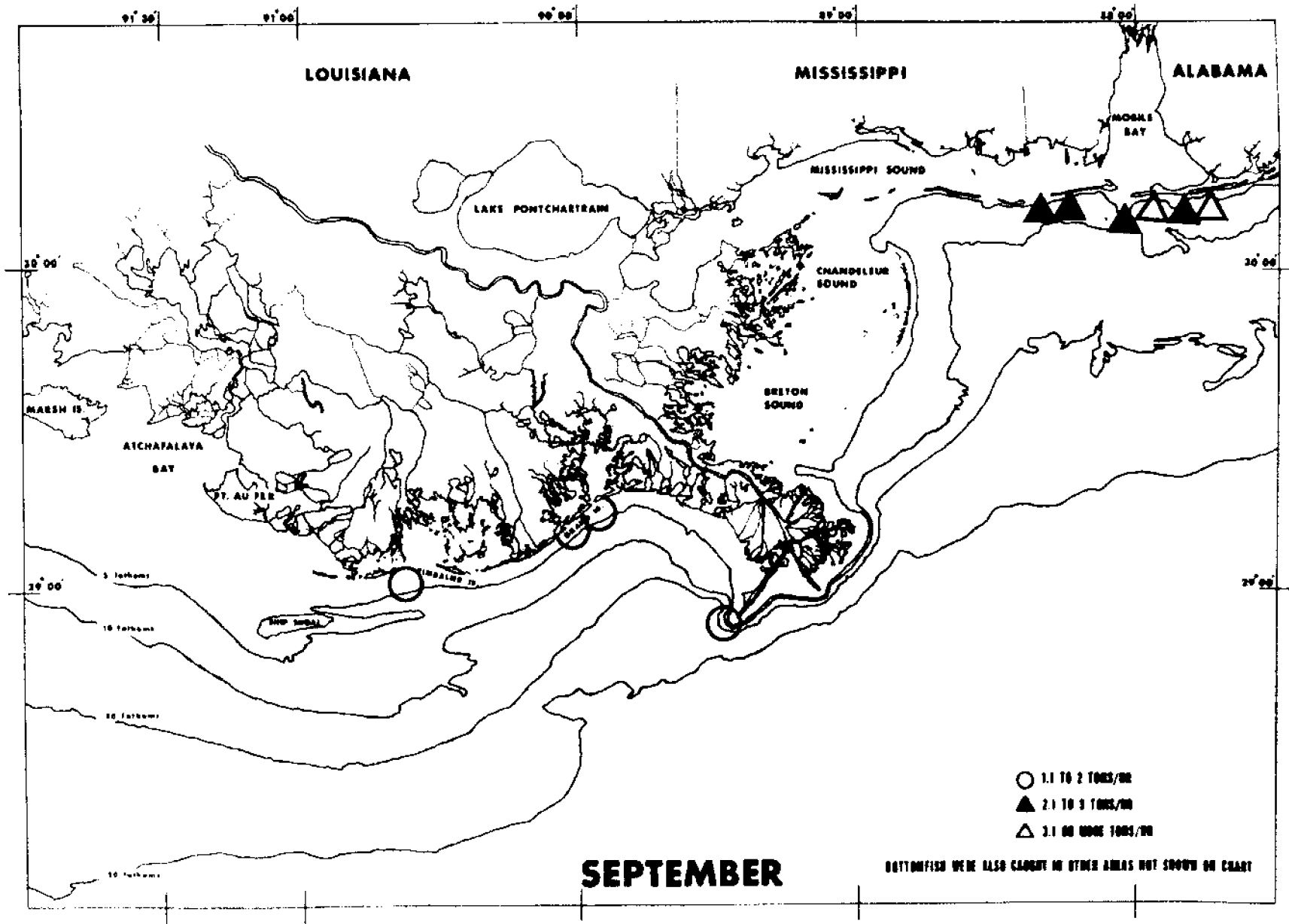


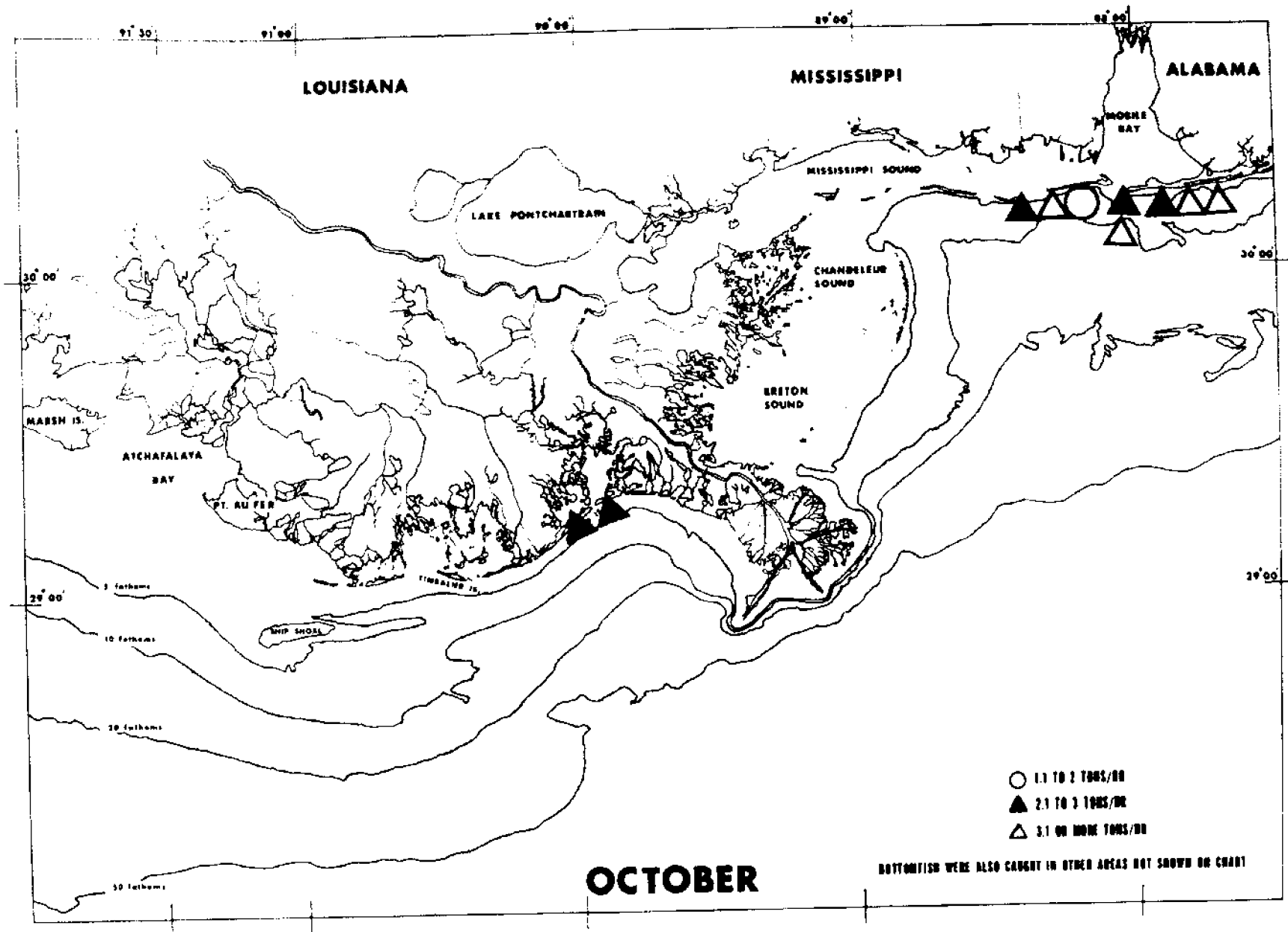


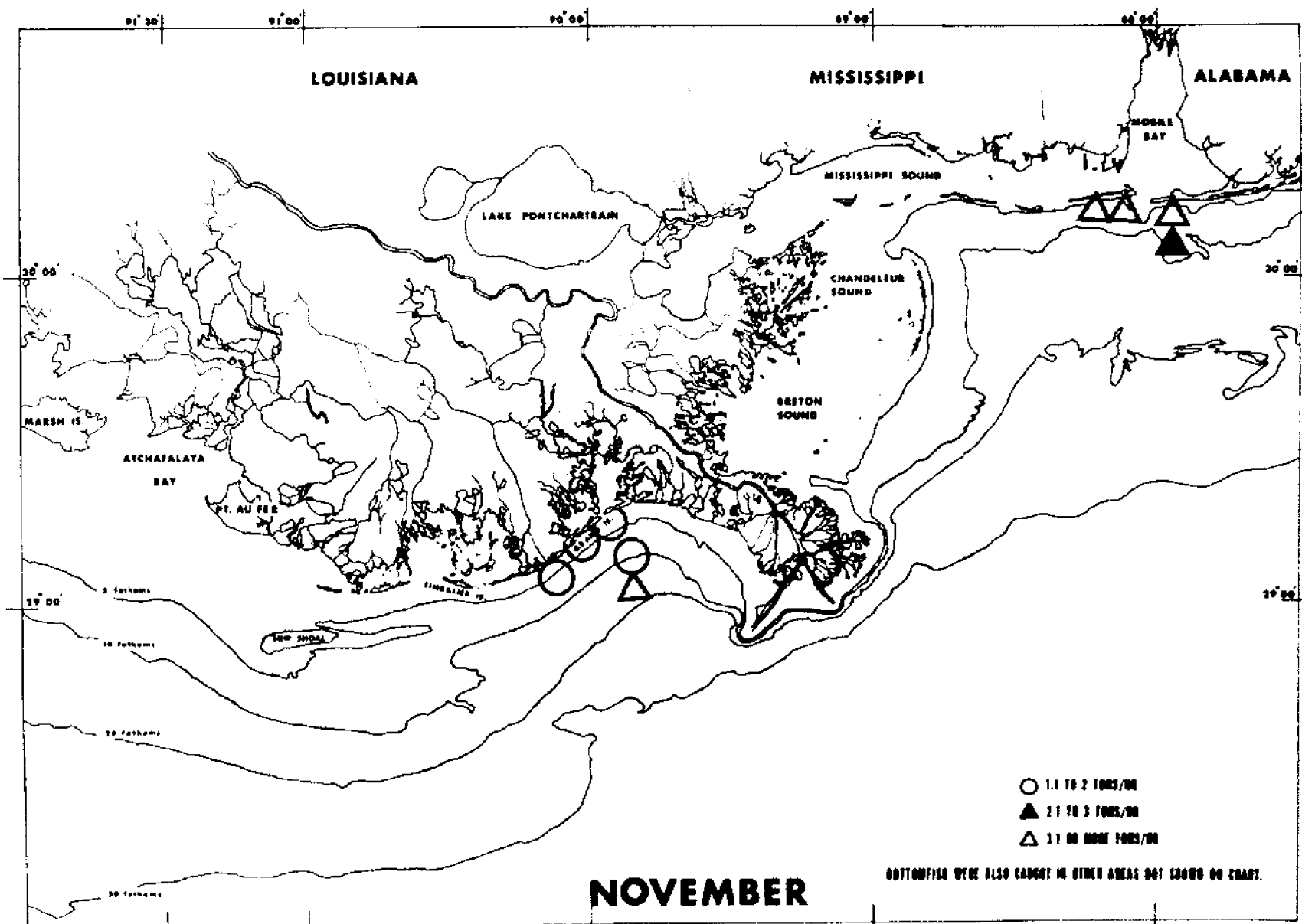












NOVEMBER

BOTTOMFISH WERE ALSO CAUGHT IN OTHER AREAS NOT SHOWN ON CHART.

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