

## Shellfish Landings From Waquoit Bay and Eel Pond 1965 - 2002

Quahog landings have been fairly consistent through the years. Of the three species listed here, quahogs grow the slowest and live the longest. All three species have been important food items for many years. All were harvested by native Americans long before Europeans arrived on Cape Cod.



**Quahogs**

Softshell landings appear to have been somewhat cyclical. In Waquoit Bay and Eel Pond, catches declined until 1978. Landings recovered during the 1980's and held throughout the 90's. There was a marked decline in 2001.



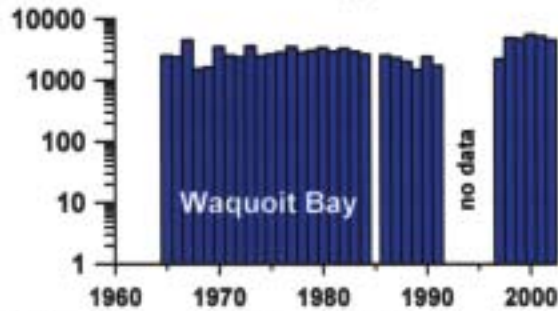
**Softshells**

Landings of bay scallops typically vary, even when a population is healthy. Catches from Waquoit Bay held fairly well until the 1990's, when there was a marked decline. Landings had recovered somewhat by 2002. The decline in Eel Pond landings has been much more drastic. Catches declined in the 1970's and 1980's. By the 1990's, the fishery had collapsed. Since then, landings from Eel Pond have been negligible.



**Bay Scallops**

Landings in Bushels



\* No data for 1985

