

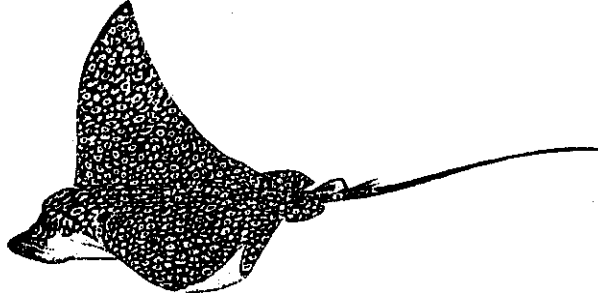
### SPECIAL NOTICE

The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service and LSU Sea Grant will be holding a workshop for fishermen who want to get into the softshell crab shedding business. This program will have a lot of useful information for beginners but will also have detailed information for fishermen already in the softshell crab shedding business. The program is free and will include the following subjects:

- How to catch shedder crabs
- How to set up a float car system
- How to set up a flow-through system
- How to set up a closed system
- How to select the system right for you
- How much money you can expect to make

The program will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday April 13 and will be held at the Westside Recreation Center on Willie Lou Avenue in Houma, Louisiana. Be sure to allow yourself enough time to find the Recreation Center.

## SEA GRANT PROGRAM



## LAGNIAPPE

### DON'T FORGET—SHRIMP HEARING

The International Trade Commission (ITC) will be holding a public hearing on the impacts of imported shrimp on the shrimping industry, at 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 21 in New Orleans. The hearing will be in the Queen Ann Room of the Monteleone Hotel, 214 Royal Street.

The hearing will give commercial fishermen and seafood dealers the chance to speak up on the price and profit situation in the shrimp industry today. The ITC is an organization which can possibly offer some form of relief. Whether they take action or not depends partly on what they hear at these hearings.

### INSURANCE PROBLEMS

The fishing industry, not only in Louisiana, but all over the U.S., is socked with the biggest insurance rate increases in its history. Some fishermen have had their insurance rates more than doubled and others have had their policies canceled outright.

The root of the problem is the sky-rocketing number of deckhands who are filing personal injury claims and the Jones Act. The Jones Act is a piece of federal legislation which was passed in 1920. What it does is allow a seaman who claims injury to sue for any amount of money with no limit and the right of trial by jury. The juries, for their part, have awarded huge settlements, sometimes near \$1 million.

This, coupled with an increasing number of vessel losses, has meant that insurance companies are losing their shirts, both on P&I and hull insurance. When an insurance company loses money, it does one of two things, it raises rates or it stops writing that kind of insurance. Either way the vessel owner has problems. Further compounding the problem is that as many of the major insurance companies are backing out of the fishing vessel insurance business, newer, much smaller companies have begun writing insurance for fishermen.

Some of these companies may not have the experience and the money reserve to protect fishermen. If they get hit with several big claims at once, (remember the Jones Act provides for unlimited settlements) they can declare bankruptcy and the fishermen is unprotected. It will be wise for a fisherman to investigate any insurance company he plans to do business with.

Another alternative to help with this problem is self insurance. Recently a group of 20 or 25 fish draggers from Gloucester, Massachusetts has put together such an association. Each boat is contributing money toward a \$50,000 pool that would be used to pay personal injury claims. If the pool is used up, an underwriting insurance company will pick up the rest of the claim.

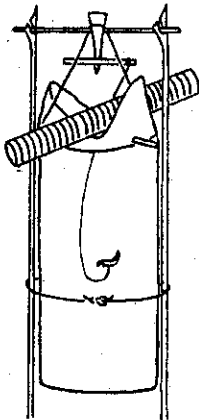
The fishermen who organized the association feel it will save them 20 to 25% on their premiums. One of the advantages in such an association is that the fishermen in the group can decide who to let in and who not. By limiting membership to those who are careful operators and maintain their equipment, insurance premiums can be further lowered.

FISHING METHODS OF THE WORLD--MECHANICAL TRAPS AND SNARES

The use of mechanical traps and snares in commercial fishing in the U.S. is not common, however in many parts of the world they are heavily used. The big disadvantage is that they can only catch one fish at a time and have to be reset before they catch again.

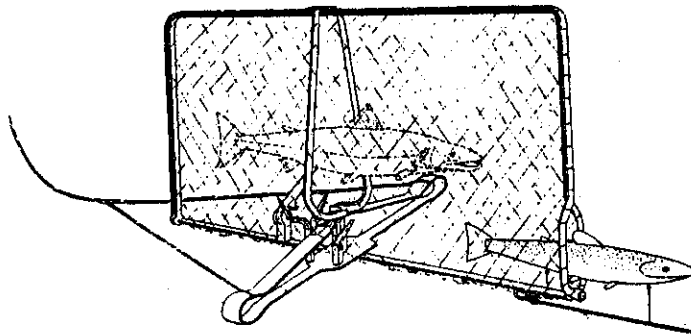
The drum gravity trap (Fig. 1) is a very simple trap. When a fish takes the bait the drum falls and the fish is trapped. On the other hand, the salmon trap used in Europe (Fig. 2) is more complicated. The one shown below has a wooden dummy fish painted like a male salmon for bait. When another male attempts to fight with the dummy, he springs the trap. The trap is very similar in design to steel traps that fur trappers use but the webbing holds the fish, not the jaws.

Figure 1



Drum gravity trap of Guyana

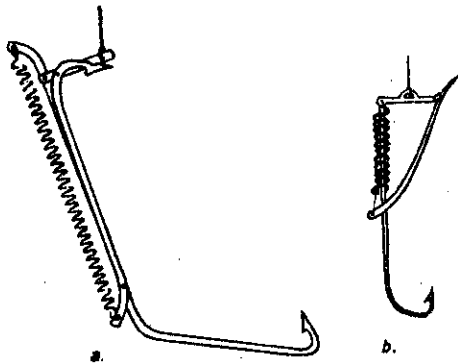
Figure 2



Salmon trap from the upper Rhine with artificial bait in the form of a wooden fish.

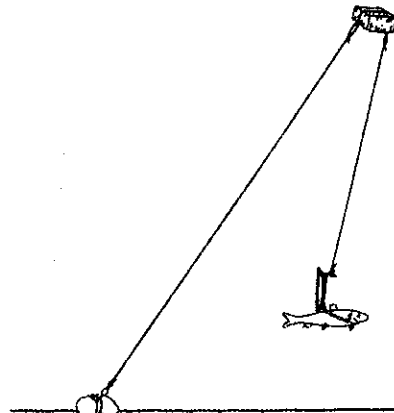
Spring-shutter traps are used in Europe, especially Scandinavia, for catching pike. When the fish bites the baited lower hook, the upper hook or spike snaps shut on the fish either killing or holding it.

Figure 3



Spring-shutter traps for line fishing: (a) from Sweden (b) from France

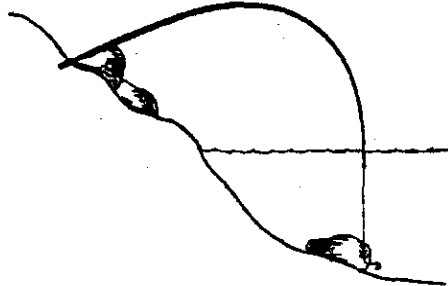
Figure 4



Longline with spring-shutter traps for pike from Gotland Island

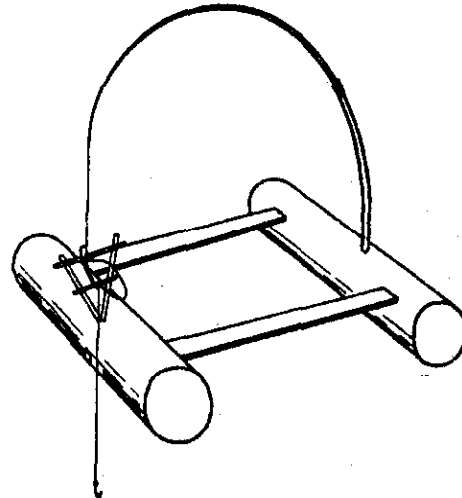
Whippy bough traps are of two different types. One type (Figs. 5 and 6) simply uses a hook. When the fish takes the bait the springs tree branch pulls the fish from the water. The line in Figure 5 uses natural thorns as hooks to attach the line to water plant rocks or underwater logs.

Figure 5



An automatic fishing line of Central Java

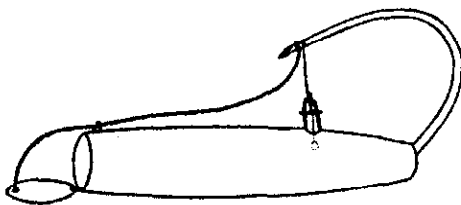
Figure 6



Automatic fishing line of Thailand

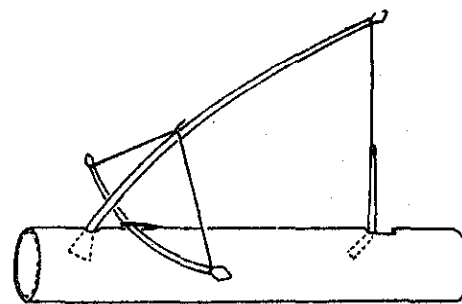
Tree branches are also used as springs on traps. Figure 7 shows one such trap used for crabs in Africa and Figure 8 a lobster trap. In either trap, when the animal goes after the bait on the trigger, it causes the trap to close.

Figure 7



Bent-rod trap of Congo area

Figure 8

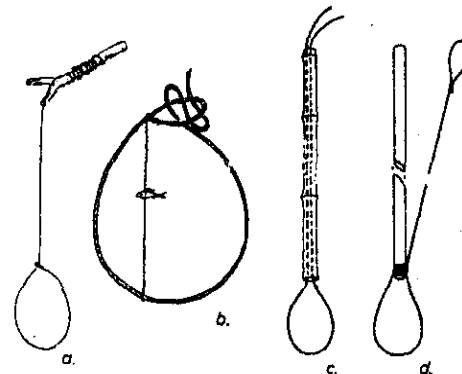


Crawfish trap of the Mariana Islands

Figure 9

Snares are another kind of trap that have been used for thousands of years. Baited snares are used for catching garfish, sharks and crocodiles. Pole snares (9c. and d.) are used to catch eels. The loop is held in front of a hole with an eel in it. With a second pole, bait is jiggled in front of the hole. When the eel comes to the bait, the snare is closed on it.

Source: Fish Catching Methods of the World. A. Brandt.



Fish snares: (a) Snares for sea-trout used in Switzerland; (b) shark snare with bait of the Western Caroline Islands (c) stick-snare of the Admiralty Islands (d) stick-snare of the Gilbert Islands

FDA CHANGES REGULATION ON SHRIMP POWDER

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has increased the amount of sodium bisulfite (shrimp powder) which can be in shrimp from 40 parts per million to 100 ppm. The new level is a more realistic level since 40 ppm was not enough to prevent black spot on shrimp.

Even with the new limits on sodium bisulfite, it will be important not to overuse it, as FDA has announced that any shrimp over 100 ppm can be seized.

Also, FDA has advised that any shrimp treated with sulfites must be labeled as such.

FREE BOOKLET ON HOMEMADE COMMERCIAL ICE CHESTS

We now have an excellent booklet in stock with instructions on how to build heavy duty ice chests out of polyurethane foam and fiberglass. Most store-bought ice chests don't really fit the bill for commercial fishermen because they are too small, have too little insulation (3/4-inch), don't last long enough and can't be custom fitted into a boat.

These homemade ice chests will keep shrimp and fish much longer and better (they have 2 inches of insulation), they can be built any size and shape, and they are much tougher than other ice chests.

If you would like a copy of this booklet, call or write my office and I'll send you one.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE GUMBO POT

Oyster Bordelais

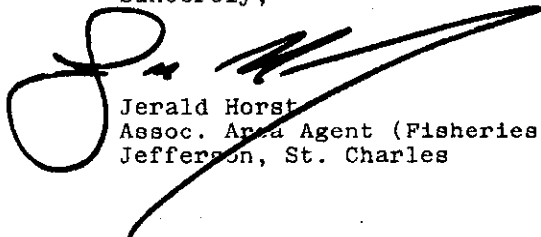
This month's recipe comes from my good friend and fellow marine advisory agent, John Supan. Anyone that knows John, knows how serious he takes his cooking. I think you will enjoy it.

- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Olive oil                   | 1/2 cup chopped green onions |
| 1 small diced onion         | 1 lemon                      |
| 5-6 toes chopped garlic     | 1 lb. spaghetti              |
| 1 quart oysters with liquor | grated parmesan cheese       |
| 1/4 cup chopped parsley     |                              |

Cover the bottom of a large skillet with olive oil and saute the diced onion and garlic. Add the oysters and liquor and bring to a boil. When the oysters curl, add parsley and green onion. Cut a 1/2 inch slice from the middle of the lemon and a squeeze the juice from the slice into the mixture, then add the slice. Cook a few minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add the mixture to a pot of cooked, drained spaghetti. Toss the ingredients together, cover the pot and set aside for 10 minutes. Serve topped with parmesan cheese. Don't forget the hot, buttered french bread.

Sincerely,



Jerald Horst  
Assoc. Area Agent (Fisheries)  
Jefferson, St. Charles

lab