

Scavenging food on the sea shore, especially in tidal pools and clam flats, was such an essential part of my childhood - that minnow trapping / potting - has it's own special place. It is how I spent most days. It was a source of both food and bait - for my childhood - and as an adult living all over the world (18 countries in 25 years).

My partner and I, in 2012, drove the length of Malaysia multiple times off 'bushwhacking' on our own adventures. We would always stop and watch young kids using string and bread (no hook) to catch minnows and small fish. When she asked what they were doing - and their answer was 'food' - it took some convincing for her to understand that it's normal - if you are poor or hungry enough.



Minnow pots (funnel traps) are the most common method I use. Fish swim in - Fish can't easily swim out.

The pots can be baited with bread or even brightly colored objects.

The pots can be set in weirs (stone walls) and the fish corralled or herded using just your shadow.

I spent a lot of time showing families how to do this during COVID in 2019 to present.

I spent a lot of time by myself doing this.

It's important to know minnows (desirable) from sticklebacks (undesirable).

It's important to know how to keep crabs and eels out.

It's important to know how to sort males (smaller - desirable) from females (larger to enormous - undesirable).

The females are consistently returned to the water to lay eggs.

This is the 5 yr old, explaining to me, how to pick sticklebacks out from minnows ... and then females out from males.

He also explains why.



