

All About Crabs



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Catching Crabs

Dip Netting:

- Supplies: Dip net (At least 3ft long, 1x1 ft opening), container to hold crabs, crab gauge/ruler
- Location: Tidal creeks, saltwater marshes, shallow areas of rivers
- Method: Spot the crab. Wade slowly towards it without making any splashes. Once 3-5 ft away, quickly scoop up the crab from behind



Crab Pots:

- Supplies: 50- 100 ft of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. poly rope, lead weights for rope, buoy, bait box, crab pot
- Location: any semi-shallow body of water containing crabs or off a dock
- Method: Tie your rope to the crab pot. Attach a bait box with zip ties inside your pot. Put your bait into the bait box then lower your trap into the water attached to a buoy or a dock. Check every couple of days to make sure it hasn't drifted or moved.



Hand Line:

- Supplies: weighted line, bait (preferably chicken necks), dip net, cooler, crab gauge

- Location: on the shore or in shallow water
- Method: Throw the line about 10 feet out in the water. Once you feel the crab pulling your bait, slowly draw the line in, making sure the crab still follows it. Finally, once the crab is close enough, quickly scoop it up with your dip net and throw it in your cooler.

Trot Line:

- Supplies: Braided Nylon (#4-#5) or Tarred Line, Chicken Necks, Two 3-4 foot Sections of Chain, Two 50 ft Sections of larger Rope, Two Anchors that will Drag, Two Brass Snap Swivels, Cooler or Large Bucket, Heavy Working Gloves, Wire Crab Net, Bushel Basket, Ruler, PVC Roller
- Location: Depths vary, mostly near shore or in any river or creek off the Chesapeake Bay
- Method-Rigging:



Start by rigging your two ends together:

One side of the 50ft section is tied to the anchor. Measure 25ft to find the middle of the line, then thread your line through the large float twice to keep it at the middle. The other end of the line gets tied to the chain section. Use a basket or 5 gal. bucket to store & separate the two, if possible

-Baiting your Line:

The first step is to get your bait. Tie a brass snap swivel to the end of your main line. Using a sliding loop knot, rig your chicken necks every 5ft-7ft along the line. As you tie the necks, the rigged part of the line should be put in the cooler. As the line starts to build up, you can gently press the rigged line down to pack it in the cooler to keep it from tangling. At the end of the line, tie the last brass swivel to the end.

-Setting Your Line:

Any river or creek off of the bay has potential for great crabbing. The key is to find long stretches (as long as your line runs) in the 4-8 ft range

-Laying the Line:

Start at a slow speed and let your anchor down, followed by line, float and chain in a straight line with some tension. When you get to the end of the chain, snap the brass swivel attached to your main line. The key to laying your main line is to keep tension on the line as you lay it, and to be driving in a straight line the whole time. At the end of the rigged line, snap the brass swivel to the last chain and lay the last anchor rig down with some tension.

Snap Traps:

- Supplies: Trap, weighted line, bait (Chicken necks/livers), cooler
- Location: Off a dock or pier



- Method: Tie your line to the trap, then set it and lay it on the bottom off of a dock or pier. Wait for at most a couple of hours, then quickly pull the trap up, gather the crabs, and place them in your cooler.

Cooking Crabs

- Broiling
- Steaming
- Boiling
- Baking
- Frying
- Sauté

Our personal recommendation is to try boiling your crab

Diet

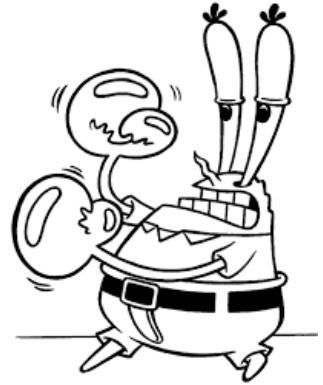
- Crabs
- Mussels
- Oysters
- small crustaceans
- Decaying plant and animal matter

Predators

Cobia



- People
- red drum
- croaker
- blue catfish
- cobia
- Birds
- Other crabs



Homes

- Sea grass
- Oyster Reefs

THEIR HOMES ARE GOING AWAY!!!

Cooking Recipe

thespruceeats.com/easy-ways-to-cook-crab-2216082



How To Help:

- Donate Money to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Raise awareness in your community
- Decrease the amount of crabs you catch
- Keep your bay clean

Learn More at:

Cbf.org

Crabbinghub.com

