



the
CRAYFISH TALE

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CATCHING CRAYFISH WITH TROT LINES

At a Louisiana Parish Seafood Festival you could choose from a menu with a myriad of seafood items. There was boiled crayfish, fried shrimp, seafood Jambalaya and even a "Slap ya Mamma" Burger. But the main attraction was, of course, crayfish. Or, as they call them down there, crawfish.

While the Parish Festival attracted lots of culinary friends of seafood, unfortunately, it also attracted some undesirable characters out looking for crayfish traps. Nearby, two unscrupulous hoods, Tom and Dick, had decided to get their crayfish, and some traps too, for free. They easily spotted some traps by their colorful markers bobbing in the water. Fortunately for the owners of the traps, some of the gendarmes of the community were alerted and staked the area and were able to catch the trap thieves who were eventually given a four year sentence for thievery and a fine of several thousand dollars.

This would not have happened had the owners of the traps read some pages in my crayfish website; the pages about how to secure crayfish traps by making them invisible to people like Tom and Dick. All you have to do is use a crayfish trot line and nobody will know where your traps are hiding.

Strangely, I have never had the unfortunate experience of losing crayfish traps to thieves. Yes, I have lost a few for other causes, but not to thieves. For years I used to mark my traps with colored, even fluorescent, floating markers to easily find my ten or twelve traps the following morning. I always did, but mainly because I hovered nearby keeping a wary eye on people lurking in the vicinity, such as Tom, Dick, and maybe even, Harry.

Then one day I decided to experiment with a trot line. I had just read Terry Bullard's excellent treatise on the subject and I decided to give it a try. But apparently I did not read it close enough, because when I tried it, everything went wrong. To start with, I did not use a floating rope between each trap. What happened was that the line between each trap, instead of floating free from the debris on the bottom of the lake, sank and found whatever there was to get entangled in. Consequently, as I started to pull up the traps the next morning, I also pulled up some of the junk the line got entangled in. One line even broke and the trap had to be rescued with a home made grappling hook. Not only that, when I finally got the line into the boat, it soon got tangled up in whatever I had lying there. It became pretty obvious I had not digested Bullard's article very well.

I gave up the idea of a trot line for a while and relied on my individually marked traps for a few more years.

But finally I came to my senses. After re-reading the article about trap trot lines, I prepared myself the correct way. I found a strong floating ¼ inch polyethylene rope that stays away from debris on the bottom. I located a container for the rope that would keep it free from other gadgets in the boat. I marked the floating rope with loops and a Quick Clip every 20 feet or so. Now the line went out effortlessly and came back into the container without getting entangled in everything around. Now, at last, I was in business.

Since that time I use a crayfish trap trot line every time I go cray fishing, and I would never go back to the old method of easily noticed trap markers. And then one day my son asked, why don't you offer a trap trot line on your web site?

Good question that I should have asked myself a long time ago. So I

CRAYFISH NEWSLETTERS

Finally I have archived my entire collection of newsletters and articles from way back to current date. While on the website TrapperArne.com, go to **NEWSLETTERS** and click on the item you'd like to read about, and up it will pop for you to read. Try it!

(Your computer should have the Adobe Reader to perform this feat. If it doesn't have Adobe, you can download it for free from the internet.)

JACKPOT TRAPS AND CRAYFISH BAIT ARE BACK IN STOCK AGAIN!

Greetings.

Trapper Arne

started planning for two sets of crayfish trap trot lines, one with capacity for five traps and one for ten traps. I found a reliable source for poly rope and asked my Swedish importer to supply Quick Clips to attach to the rope. Using my iron picket fence as a guide, spacing out five and ten lengths of the poly line, I attached the Quick Clips and, at the end, an inconspicuous float on a 20' nylon string, twirled the rope and clips into a 5 gallon plastic container, and I was done.

Now, If you plan to place several crayfish traps securely for a day or overnight session, consider using a crayfish trap trot line kit. This way you are sure to see your traps again when you look for them to harvest your catch. Don't let thieving elements deprive you of your traps and your catch.

Take a look at my website at **HOW TO CATCH'EM**, go to **USING GROUND LINES/TROT LINES** and a link to how to use a trot line. And on the **ORDER HERE** menu, you'll find the two trot line kits for sale. Take a look!

