

SOUNDSIDE LEARNING

THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND



February 26, 2024

COMING UP AT CORE SOUND...

- **March 1:** NC 100 County Quilt on Display @ 806
- **March 13:** Community Night--Coming Home: Portsmouth & Diamond City
- [Click Here for More Upcoming Events!](#)

Sound Reading Material For You and Your Child



Don't Worry, Little Crab

By Chris Haughton

Little Crab and Very Big Crab live in a tiny pool near the sea. Today they're going for a dip in the big ocean. Then comes the waves. WHOOSH! Maybe it's better if they don't go in? With vivid colors, bold shapes, and his trademark visual humor, Chris Haughton shows that sometimes a gentle "don't worry, I'm here!" can keep tentative little crabs sidestepping ahead — and help them discover the brilliant world that awaits when they take the plunge.

Pages: 46
Grades: preK-1

Crabbing with Trotlines

A traditional trotline is a heavy fishing line with short, baited branch lines commonly referred to as *snoods*. Snoods dangle at intervals using clips or swivels, with a hook at the free end of each snood. But did you know that trotlines used to be a common method for crabbing? When Daddy told me this, I had to learn more.

When used to catch crabs, a trotline was a long line that was lowered overboard and rested on the bottom. It was anchored at both ends, to which a series of baits were attached at intervals of two to six feet. The baits were attached to the main line by simple slipknots or shorter lines. Crab trotlines were baited with chicken necks, chicken livers, eels, and other inexpensive baits. The rotten meat stunk terribly and is the part Daddy remembers the old-timers talking about most.

When crabs were caught by trotlines, the line was set and the boat moved slowly end to end, bringing the line to the surface where the fishermen would either allow the crabs to fall off the line into their boats or into a handheld scoop net. You see, crabs on the trotline were not hooked; they simply clamped themselves tightly onto the bait. The boat moved slowly through the water, so the crabs did not discern movement as they ate their meals. After the line was raised and crabs were caught, the trotline was returned overboard often with the same bait intact to attract more crabs.

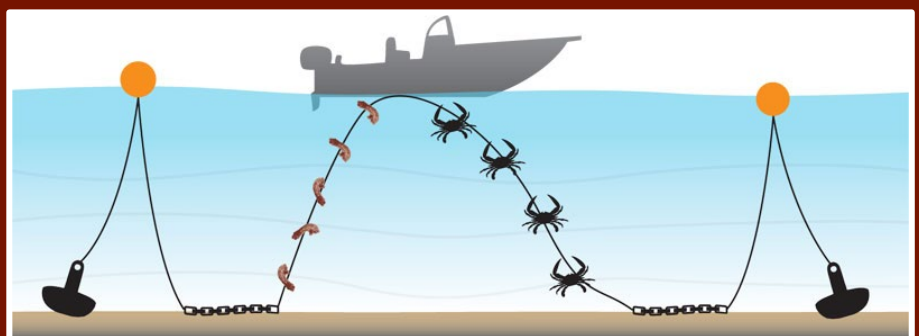


diagram from <https://fishtalkmag.com>

Crab Nature Art Frames

SCIENCE
for YOU

Nature art frames are simple to make, fun to play with, and will create wonderful images. You only need a piece of cardboard, a pen, and some scissors. To make your nature frame, draw a shape or picture (like a crab) onto your cardboard. Your shape should have some easy-to-cut-out sections that you can then look through. When you have cut out the sections of your frame, you can take it outside to hold up against any interesting natural objects, textures, patterns, and shapes that you can find. In our area, using the shore, sea, sky, trees, flowers, grass, shells, or sand works very well.



Welcome, Little Sand Crabs

The sand crab breeding season occurs from now until October. Sand crabs' reproduction occurs in huge numbers, with a female laying up to 45,000 eggs at one time! *Isn't that just mind-blowing?* Once laid, sand crab eggs drift out to the ocean and take about a month to hatch. After hatching, they will take an additional four or five months to become fully adult sand crabs.

Inevitably, numerous eggs become lost during the incubation period to predators as well as rough ocean surf, but enough will survive to create what scientists call "recruits" that live along our beaches. These baby sand crabs can also be found during the summer and are distinguished by their nearly iridescent bodies and incredibly small sizes. Most of them are a mere centimeter in length. These young sand crabs are visible along our beaches in mid to late spring when they appear in clusters along incoming ocean waves.



photo from
<https://www.earthtouchnews.com>