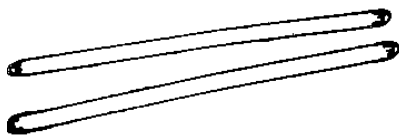


HOW TO CONSTRUCT A SEINE NET

Materials:



Two broomsticks



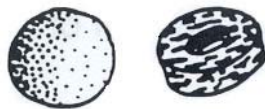
Heavy Cord



10-12 fishing
sinkers



Netting or mesh material



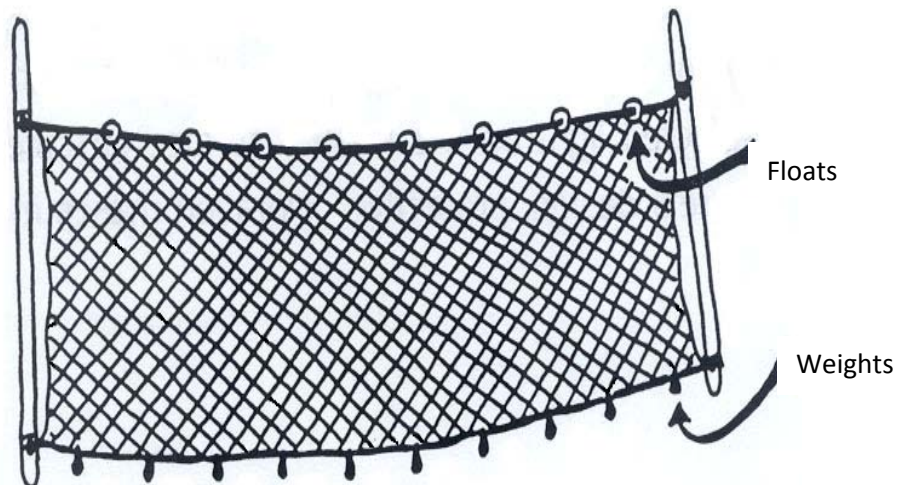
Cork floats or
Styrofoam balls

Top



Bottom

1. File grooves or drill holes at top and bottom of each broomstick. Distance between grooves/holes must equal width of net. Cut the lower groove/hole close to the end of the stick.
2. Secure four corners of the net to poles with cord tied to grooves or holes.
3. At equal intervals of about 10 inches, tie sinkers along the bottom edge of the net with short lengths of cord. Punch holes in Styrofoam balls with an awl or pencil. Tie balls along the top of the net.



The Education Program at the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium

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HOW TO CONSTRUCT A SEINE NET

There are a few simple, but important points to remember as you use the seine net.

They are:

- Two people are needed to handle the poles. A third person may walk towards the outstretched net to drive fish into it.
- Walk *slowly* with the net. Let it form a broad arc in the water
- Always walk *against* the current
- Keep the poles at an angle, with the top of the poles tilted back. The bottom of the poles should be away from you and in contact with the seabed. The net will more effectively sweep the bottom for ground dwelling marine organisms.
- Having a large bucket or pan full of seawater ready on the shore to receive your live specimens.
- For safety, *never* seine in the heavy ocean surf or water deeper than your waist. Aside from the obvious dangers, the net will not be productive. Seine in a protected bay or harbor.

The most abundant and varied catches are made in waters near a salt marsh. This is the nursery of the sea where great numbers of fish spawn. It is where the complex marine food web begins.

To seine, the pole handlers walk parallel to the shore for a short distance. The person closest to the shoreline will then stop and pivot slowly as the partner walks in a wide sweep towards the shore. When the net is parallel to the shore, tilt the pole tops sharply back and walk the net onto the beach, stretched flat out like a bed sheet.

If you've made a good sweep, the net will be jumping with anything from killies to crabs, shrimp to toadfish, eels to pipefish.

Quickly, but gently, pick the animals from the net and drop them into your collecting pan of seawater, where you can study and enjoy their behavior.

Do not worry about seining in an area where you can see no fish in the water. The reflected sunlight on the water's surface obscures your vision and, thanks to nature's design, protective coloration makes most species all but invisible.