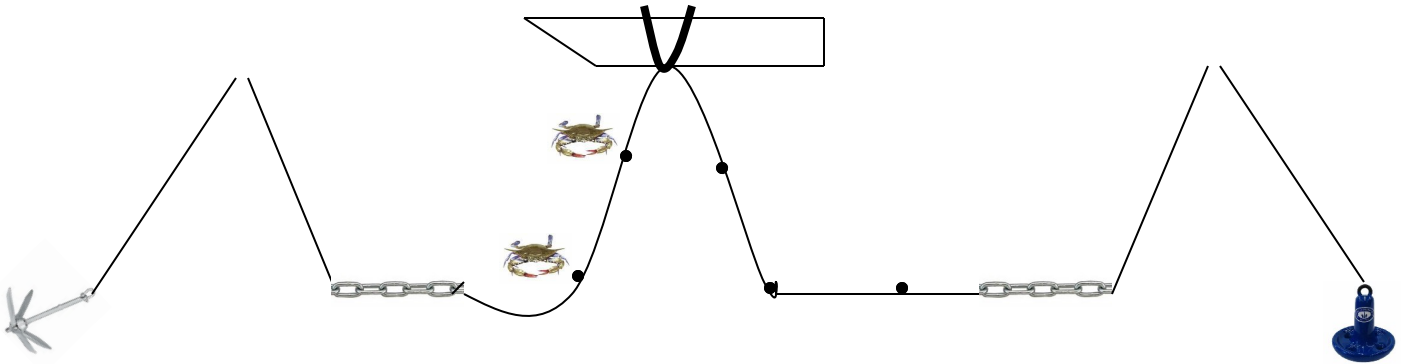


How to Set Up a Trot Line for Crabs



- Braided nylon (#4-#5) or Tarred Line
- Chicken Necks
- Two 3-4 foot sections of chain
- Two 50 foot sections of larger rope
- Two large floats
- Two anchors that will drag (mushroom or flat)
- Two brass snap swivels
- Cooler or large bucket
- Heavy working gloves
- Wire crab net
- Bushel basket
- Ruler
- PVC Roller

Rigging :

Start by rigging your two ends together

- One side of the 50 ft. section is tied to the anchor
- Measure 25 ft. 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 basket or 5 gal. bucket to store, separate the two if possible

Baiting your line

- The first step is to get your bait. Approx. 10 lb. of chicken necks (2-4 inch pieces) for a 1,000 ft. line
- Either thaw it out overnight or fill a 5 gal. bucket with water and put in the necks. You should be able to start within an hour
- Tie a brass snap swivel to the end of your main line
- Using a sliding loop knot, rig your chicken necks every 5-7 ft along the line
- As you tie the necks, the rigged part of the line should be put in the cooler.* Note: As the line starts to build up you can gently press the rigged line down to pack it in the cooler and keep it from tangling
- Using any type of spool or coil method will tangle the line. Let it go naturally into the cooler
- At the end of the line, tie the last brass swivel to the end
- It's much easier to do the night before you crab. You can put a bag of ice on top of the line and close the cooler. You will be ready to go in the morning without your chicken necks rotting

Setting your line:

Where to ?

- 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 on a straight line the whole time.
- If you go off track and leave a bow in the line while you are laying it you will end up with trouble. It's worth taking the time to re-lay it
- 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
- If you need to tighten your line you can hold an anchor at one end and drive till it pulls to your liking

Catching Crabs

- Starting at one end of the line, pull the float over your PVC roller while running at a reasonable speed. The rest of the line should roll over along with the chain
- Once you are past the chain you can slow down and begin crabbing!!
- The line should come up at a 30-45 angle. As the line necks come up you can dip the crabs and put them in the bushel baskets
- If the line dips while running you can assume there's a crab coming
- When you get to the end of the line, dump it off the PVC roller. Now you can check your crabs with your heavy work gloves and ruler and discard the t throw backs
- Drive around to where you started and repeat

Tips for success

- Start early or late, crabs generally don't like high sun
- **Stay at least 100 ft. from other crabbers, it's a law!**
- If you're not catching in the first few runs, move your line...it takes less time then you think and could save your day
- Run with the sun to avoid casting a shadow on the crabs coming up your line

Good Luck!

You're welcome to call us with any questions: 410-757-3442