



The CRAYFISH TALE

A TRAPPY TIP

For those who use the bait container when catching crayfish with the Trappy, here's a tip from one of my customers. As we all know, or at least should know, the bait that lures the crayfish into the trap with its scent, should be placed as close to the middle of the trap as possible. That will induce the crays to seek to enter through a funnel entry. If the bait is lying on the bottom of the trap, it is possible that the crayfish will try to get to the bait from outside the trap without actually entering the trap. That suggestion makes sense to me.

So, whether you are using the Trappy, Trapper or Jackpot, try to secure bait so that it stays somewhere in the middle of the trap. The Trapper and Jackpot have their bait clips which make this rule easy to follow. In the Trappy, I suggest, as my thinking customer did, hang the bait container with a string or a piece of wire so that it will hover in the middle of the trap. One suggestion is to use a short bungee, 10 inch or so, and run it through the bait box with each end of the cord attached to opposing sides inside the Trappy. A knot or two on the cord may help the bait box stay in place.

WHY BRIGHT YELLOW FUNNELS ON THE TRAPPY?

One day I asked the Trappy manufacturer why the funnels were made from bright yellow plastic while the main body is made from black.

He answered like this: During dark nights, light colored traps fish better than dark. During daytime or moon-lit sessions, the dark colors fish better. And as most crayfish catching occurs during dark nights, they chose to make the funnels bright yellow.

He adds, they are also easier to see in the boat and it is easier to find lost traps when the funnels are bright yellow.

TRAPPER IMPROVEMENT

A customer with a Jumbo crayfish trap had a problem with frayed knot ends on the netting in the entry funnel to the trap. If a knot opens up, a large enough hole may develop so that crayfish can escape. This can occur at the outer and large end of the funnel, and one of my own traps, old that it was, had developed the same trouble. When this happens, it seems the crayfish find the hole soon. Maybe they even create it in their attempt to tail-flip their way out of the trap. It is relatively easy to fix by re-tying the ends of the netting and then maybe singeing or gluing the ends to prevent further frayed ends.

New Trapper traps now are manufactured with a dab of Super Glue on each tied knot at each end of the outer rings of the entry funnel so that fraying of the ends will not occur. Maybe we are, after all, a little smarter than the average crayfish.

TESTIMONIALS

Now and then I receive letters that are just plain testimonials, intentionally or not. Here is one from a crayfish devotee in Colorado, who writes: *"I trapped over 50 lbs in two nights with four traps; two traps were your traps and two from a competitor from Oregon. I want to let you know that your traps were twice as productive with the same bait, set location and soak time. The first night I set up in different locations and found the "spot" for the next nights trap setting. The crawdads were most prevalent in a large weed bed twenty feet from the shore of the lake and I trapped the majority of them in the weed bed. I brought along a friend that was*

very suspicious of the venture and he didn't think we would have much luck. Gear in tow and plenty of beer to drink for the duration, I set the traps and we proceeded to ply the banks for the next hour catching our prey by hand along the bank. With the first hour soak complete and the anticipation of a full trap; I promptly waded out to one of your traps and yanked up a full trap. Packed full of crawdads! My friend almost fell in the lake with laughter and accolades. I proceeded to pull your competitor's traps with ... disappointment from half full traps. I proceeded to the last trap; yours of course, and was delighted to find it too was packed full of crawdads. We proceeded to re-bait and set the traps again in the same weed bed for another three hours that night. Unfortunately; we ran out of beer and needed a friend of ours to come give us a ride home from our excursion. He too was in disbelief of our catch and will be a participant in this year's trapping excursions. I want to thank you for producing your traps and the great service you provide for trappers everywhere."

Testimonials like that keep me going for a long time...

CRAYFISH HAVE INVADED THE HOLY LAND

Recently I received an email from an Israeli department for Nature and Parks in Jerusalem. The writer described how some of the Israeli waterways have been invaded with crayfish from, believe it or not, Louisiana. And as usual, when non-native species enter an area, they often raise havoc among the old habitants of the area. So also with crayfish.

A large shipment of Trappy crayfish traps is now on its way to the Middle East to help them fight this invasion of crayfish from the US. How they came to invade the Holy Land, is not known, but probably the cause of soft hearted crayfish devotees with aquariums. Instead of killing the crustaceans, they prefer to release them in the nearest waterways to fend for themselves. And fend they do, often with dire results for the local native populations.

With this order from Israel, Trapper Arne adds another country to its international group that also includes Canada, England and Finland

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