

Seines



Seines (pronounced “Sanes”) look similar to gill nets and are used to catch smaller fish. These nets have weights on bottom and floats on top with poles on each end.

Seine nets are pulled by two people and trap fish as the net is pulled towards the bank.

At the hatchery, ponds are drained to collect fish. Fish collect in the catch basin where seines are used to gather fish together in one area of the basin. Hatchery staff then use dip nets to catch fingerlings and put them into a truck. The fish will be stocked in lakes around the state.



Dip Nets



Dip nets come in all sizes and is determined by the size of the frame and the mesh of the net.

Some nets are used by hatcheries like the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery to collect and move fingerlings.



References:

Hoop Net Information partially obtained from the Illinois State Museum at http://www.museum.state.il.us/RiverWeb/harvesting/harvest/fish/tools_techniques/hoop_nets.html. Trammel Net Information partially obtained from the FAO website at <http://www.fao.org/fishery/geartype/223/en>.

Additional information and photographs provided by MDWFP Fisheries personnel.

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Fishing Language:

Common Fishing Terms,
Fishing Gear, and
Fishing Slang



Nets, Nets, Nets!



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Hoop Nets

(Also known as **Barrel Nets** or **Fiddler Nets**)



Many commercial fishers use these nets to catch fish.

This type of net is made with hoops, thus is commonly called a **hoop net**.

Nets are anchored at one end to a stump or to a pole. They are usually fished in flowing water which keeps the net open to fish. A float helps the fisherman find the net. Hoops made of fiberglass or metal are connected with netting. Netting is made of nylon today, but long ago cotton nets were dipped in tar to keep the nets from rotting.

Fish enter at the front or mouth of the net and swim through mesh funnels (seen in the following picture) to the rear of the net. The fish squeeze through the funnel but do not usually swim back out of it so they are trapped inside the net. They are free to swim around within the net. Smaller hoop nets catch smaller fish while larger hoop nets catch larger fish.

Lead or Trap Net

A **lead net**, also called a trap net, is a box-shaped net with a hoop net at one end (seen below).



Some people bait their hoop nets on the closed end with items like cheese baits to lure fish inside.

After the net has “fished” for a few days, the closed end of the net is brought out of the water and the fish are lifted into the boat. The end is untied and the fish are taken out.

What is *bycatch*?

(Pronunciation: Bye - catch)

Bycatch is the term used to describe any type of fish caught that a fisher did not intend to catch.

Bycatch may be released or-- if legal -- kept as food or bait.

Gill Nets



Gill nets are panels or walls of netting that are very stretchable. These nets have weights on bottom and floats on top and are stretched out to fish. They are mostly used in waters with little flow such as lakes, bayous, and sloughs.

Since most kinds of fish cannot detect a gill net, they will swim into it and their gills, fins, spines, or body gets caught by the net webbing. When fish feel the net, they try to escape from it but by then, they are usually trapped in the netting. The net is retrieved after fishing and the fish are removed.

Trammel nets are a lot like gill nets and are harder for fish to get out of. However, unlike gill nets that have only one layer of netting, trammel nets have three layers. Fish swim through the outer layers getting caught in the middle layer.