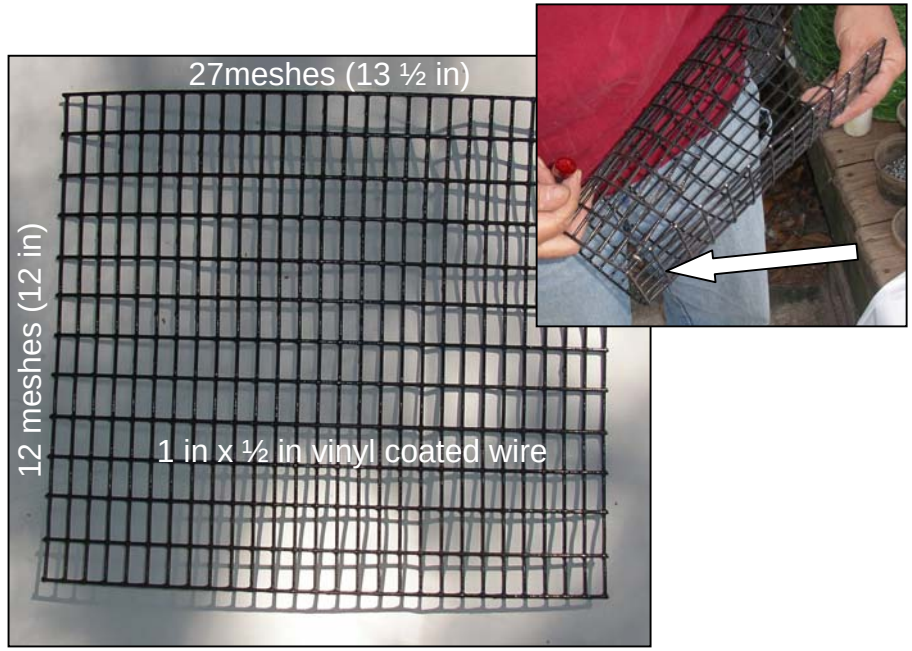
Inverted Bait Wells – A How-To Guide

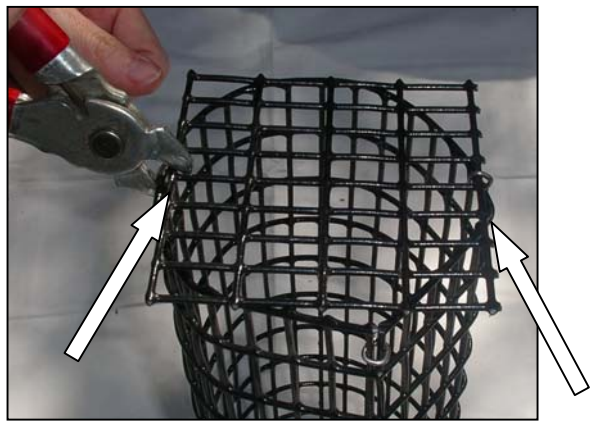
- Excellent instructions for building a standard 2 foot x 2 foot crab trap can be found at http://www.blue-crab.org.
- The only difference between the inverted bait well and the standard bottom opening bait well is that the inverted bait well is opened inward. An opening is not created in the floor of the trap as it is in a standard bottom opening trap.
- The trap still contains 4 funnels, at least 2 escape rings, and is constructed of 1-½ inch hexagonal vinyl coated wire. The bait well is constructed of 1 inch x ½ inch mesh vinyl coated wire.
- These instructions will demonstrate how to build the inverted bait well modification.

1. The bait well is created by rolling and hog ringing (3/8 inch rings) a 24 to 28 meshes wide by 12 to 14 meshes long (12 to 14 inch square) piece of wire into a tube.



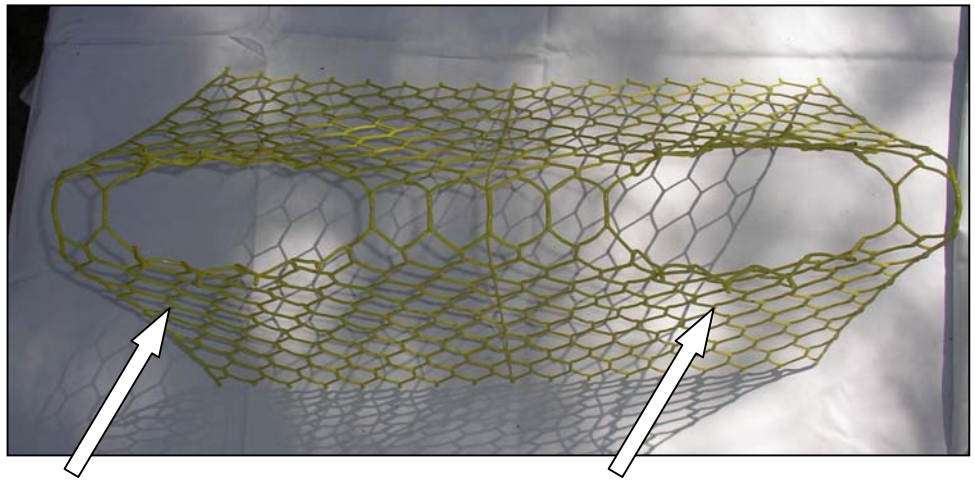
2. Two lids are cut. A 4 x 8 mesh cover for the bottom and a 5 x 8 mesh cover for the lid.

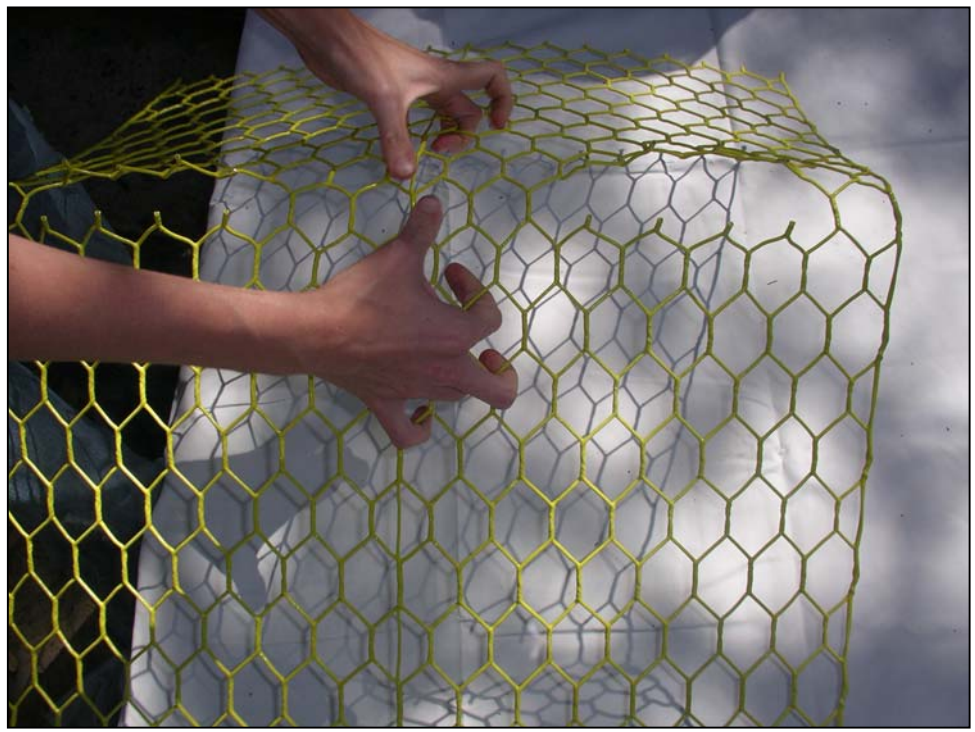
3. The bottom lid is secured with two 3/8 inch hog rings. (alternatively, the bottom of the bait well can be pinched against itself, and secured)



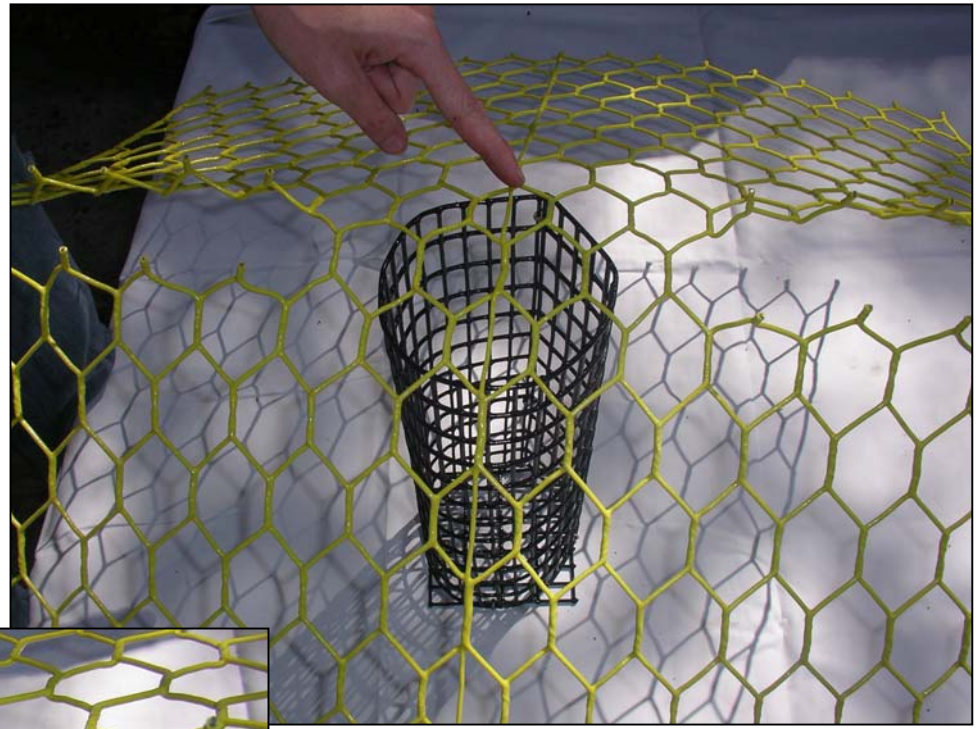
4. Though terminology may differ regionally, the section that divides the top and bottom halves of the trap is called the <u>kitchen, baffle or parlor</u>. It has two funnels cut in each side that is 4 meshes wide.

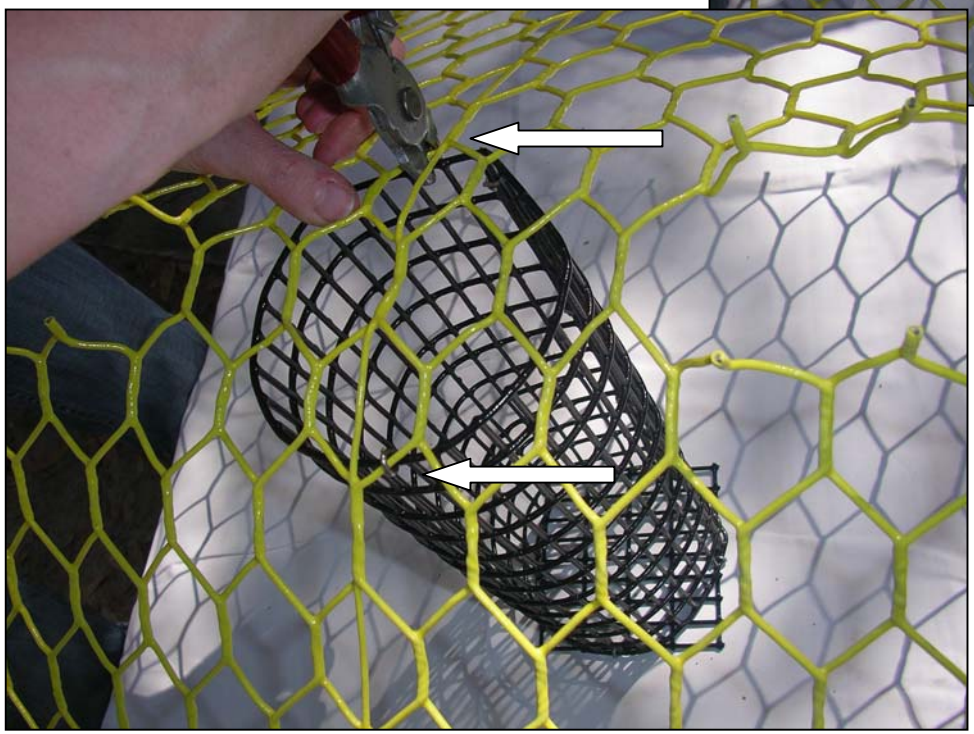
5. Flatten the kitchen somewhat so that the middle is at least 3 meshes wide.



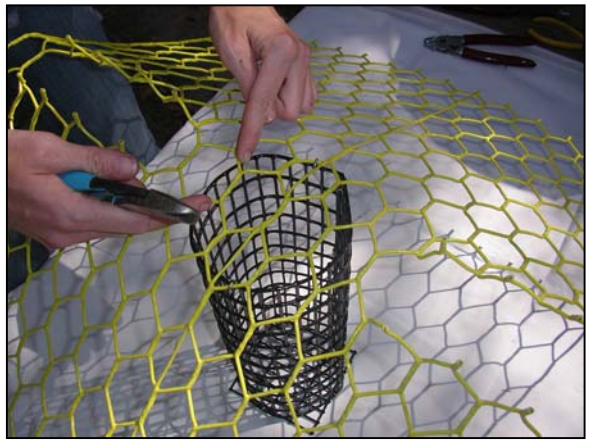


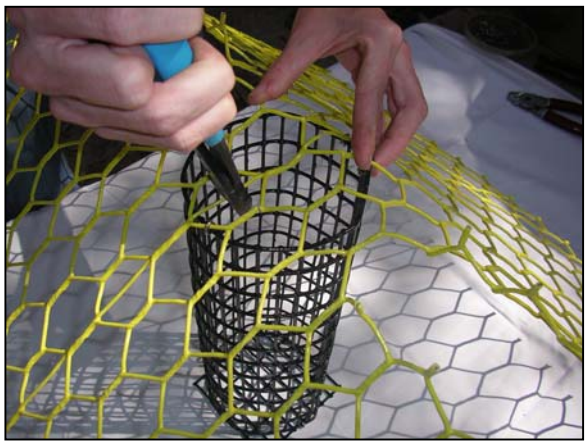
6. Center the bait well in the kitchen between the funnels, and secure it to the kitchen in two places with 3/8 inch hog rings.

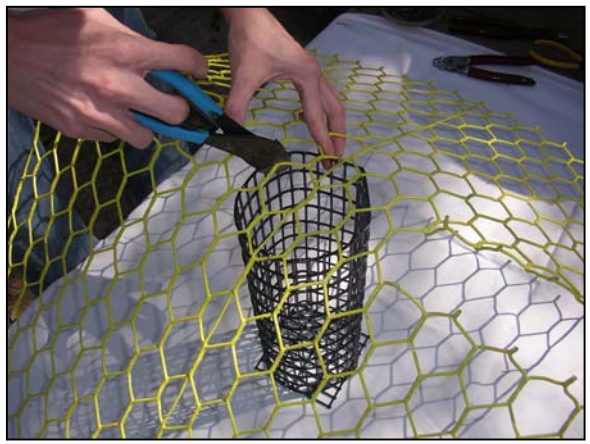


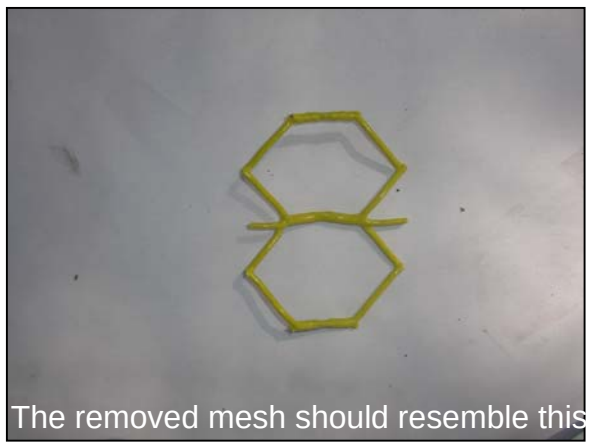


7. With the bait well secured to the flattened kitchen, remove two complete meshes from the center of the bait well.



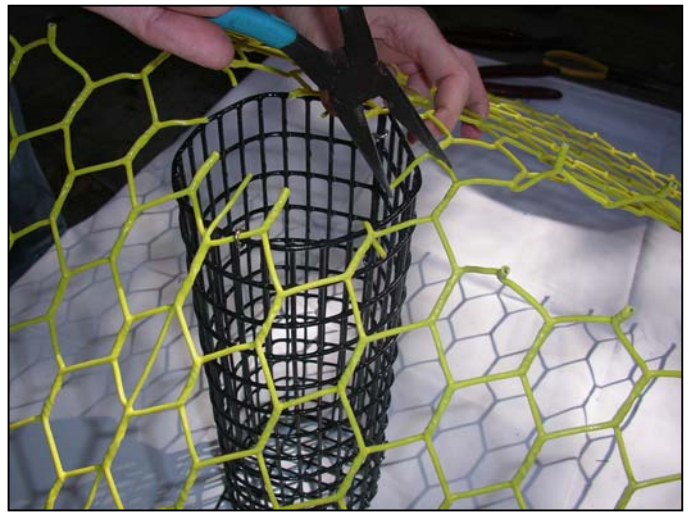


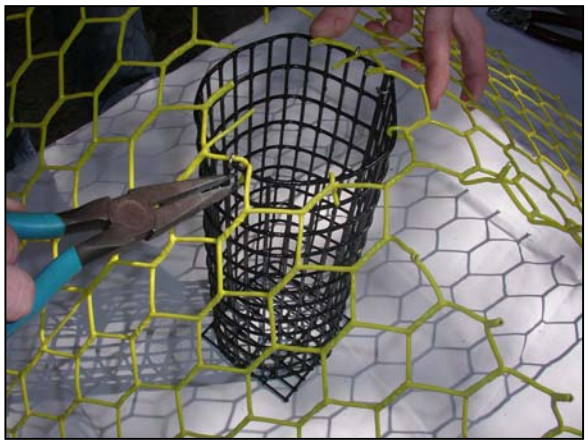


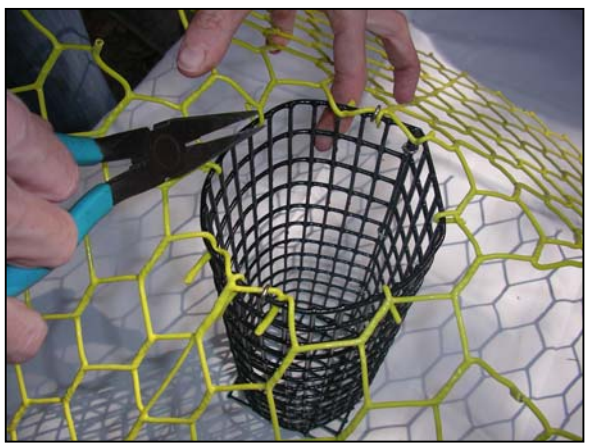


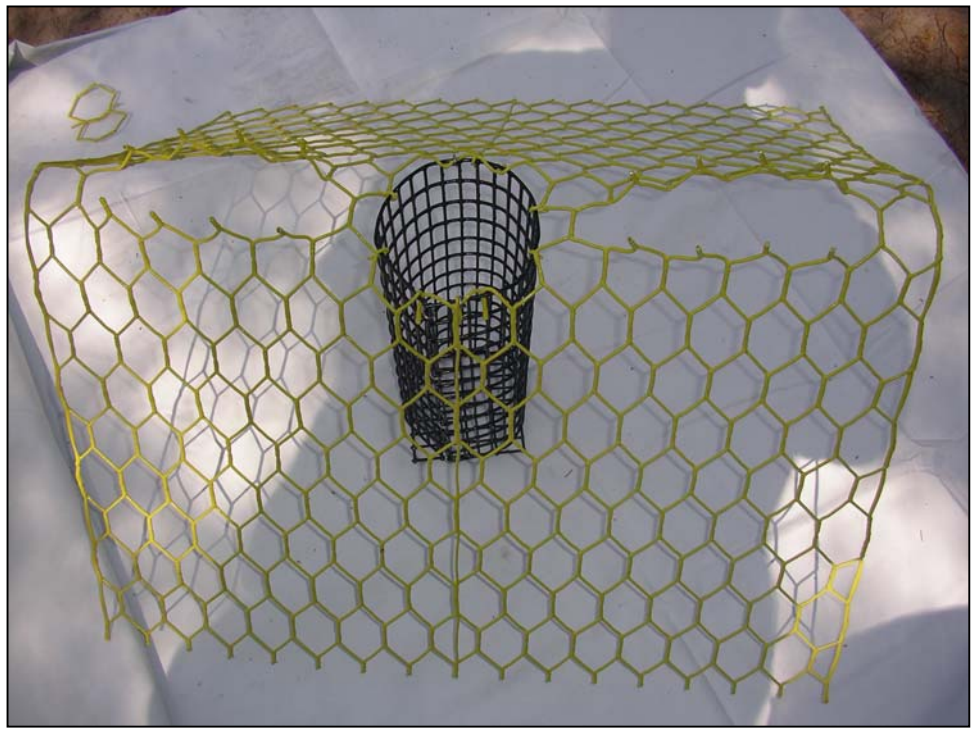
The removed mesh should resemble this

8. Wrap the cut ends of the kitchen around and through the mesh of the bait well, further securing it to the kitchen.



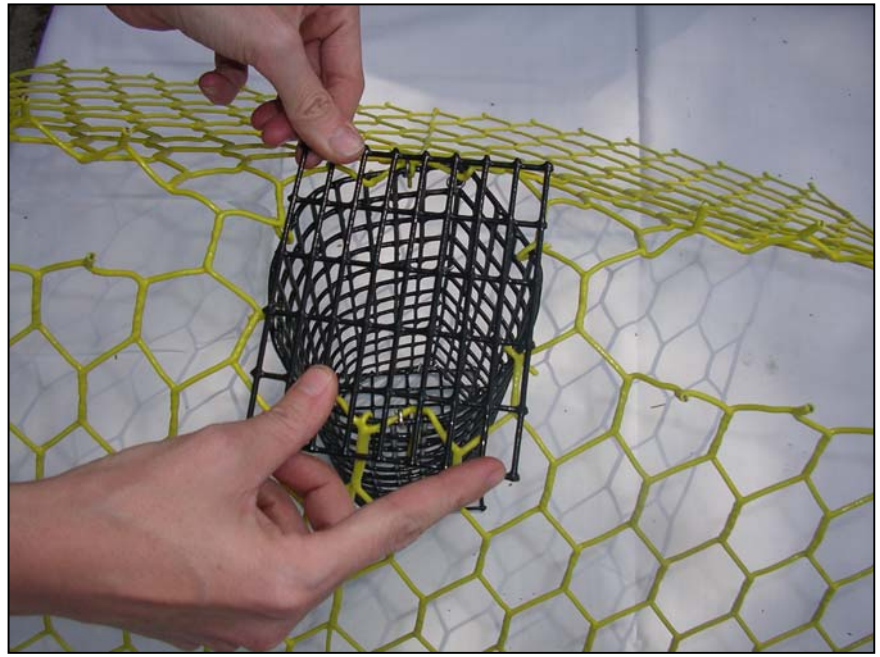


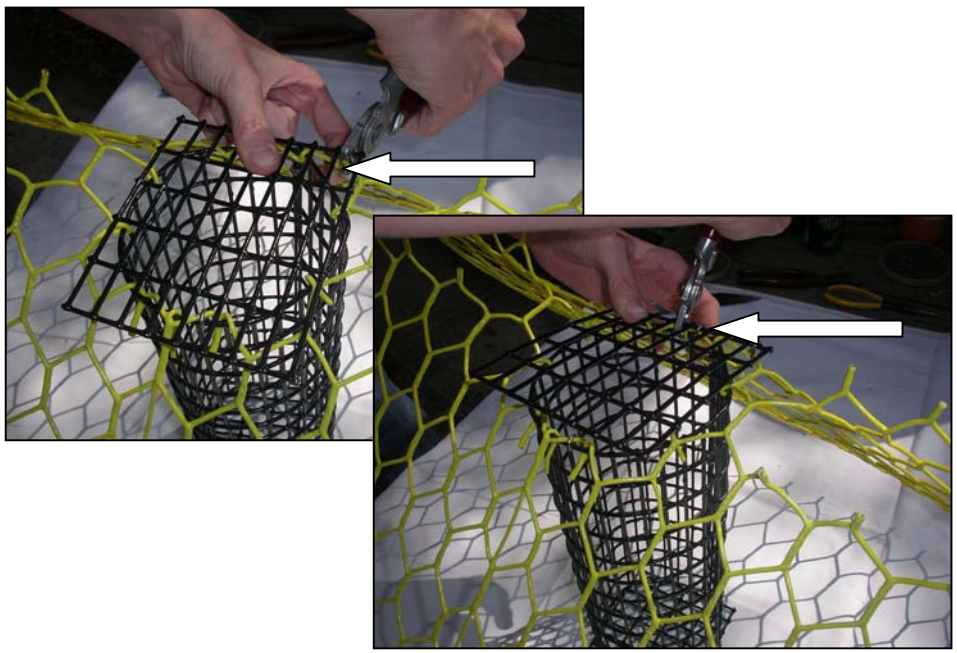




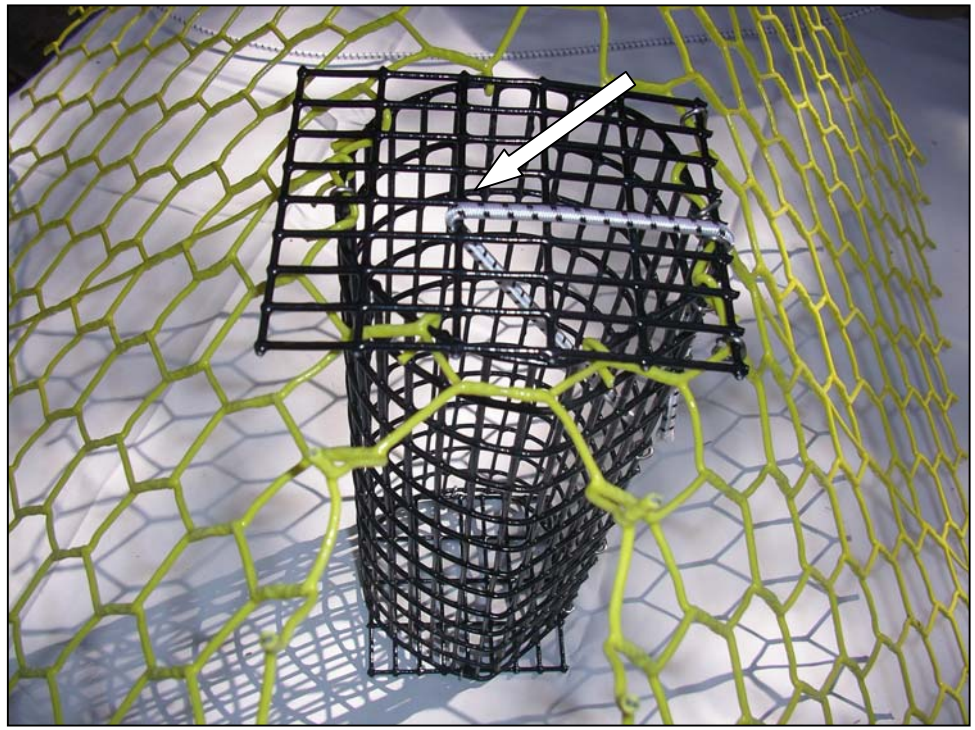
9. Set the 5 x 8 mesh lid on the bait well with one edge flush and the opposite overlapping.

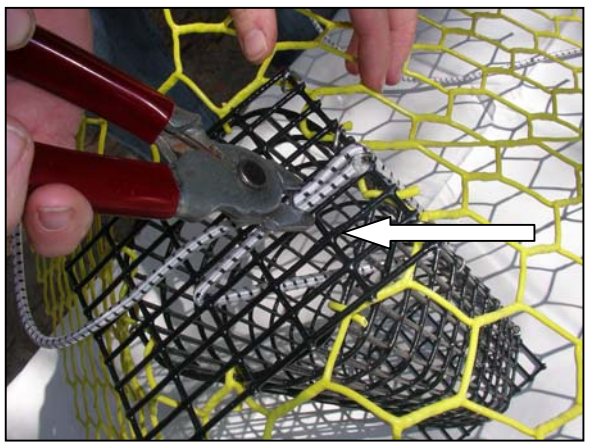
10. Secure the flush edge with four ½ inch hog rings, creating a hinge.

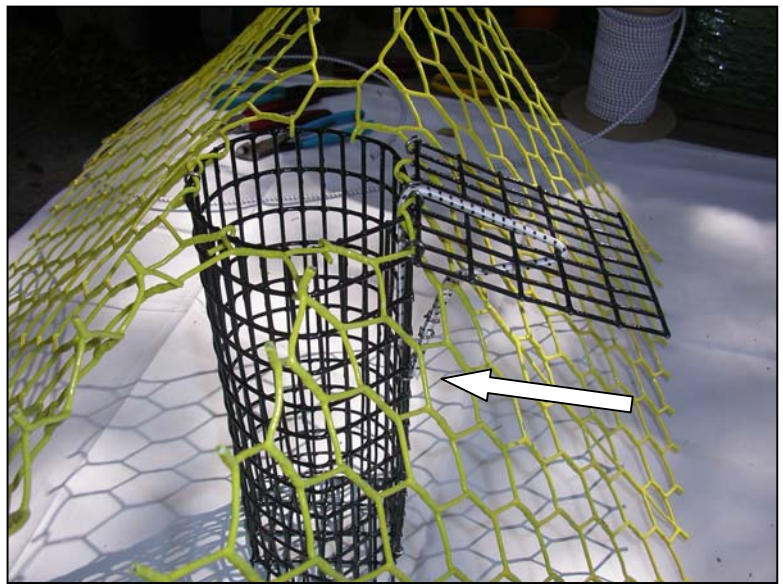




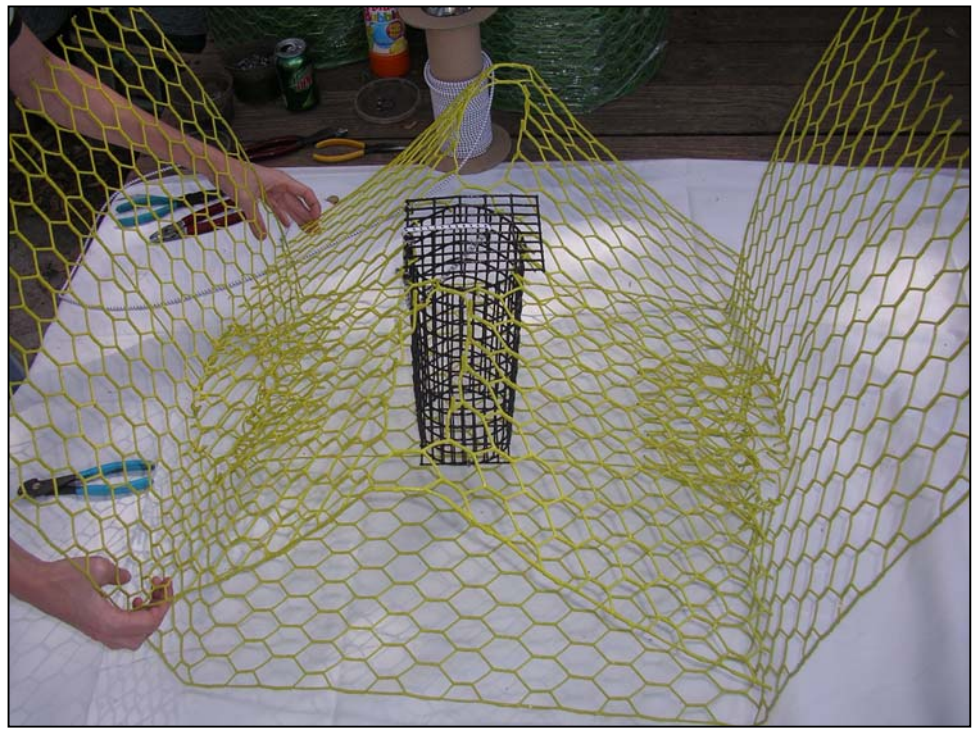
11. Thread an approximately 15 inches long bungee through the 4th mesh of the lid and the 5th mesh of the bait well to form a triangular shape. Stretch and secure the bungee to itself with two 3/8 inch hog rings and cut the extra length.





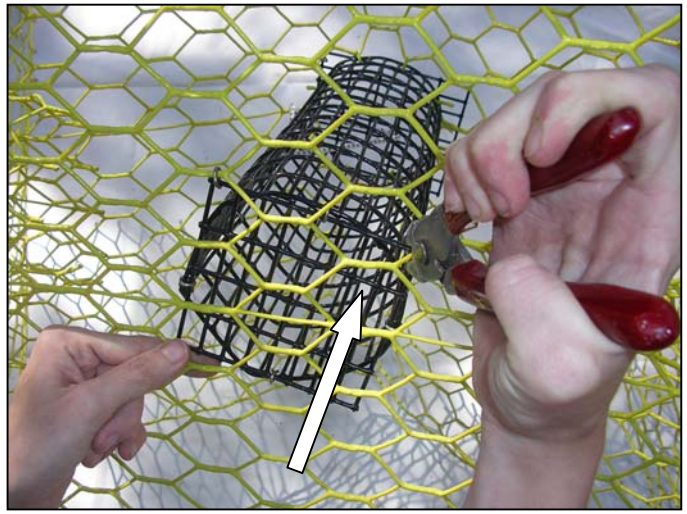


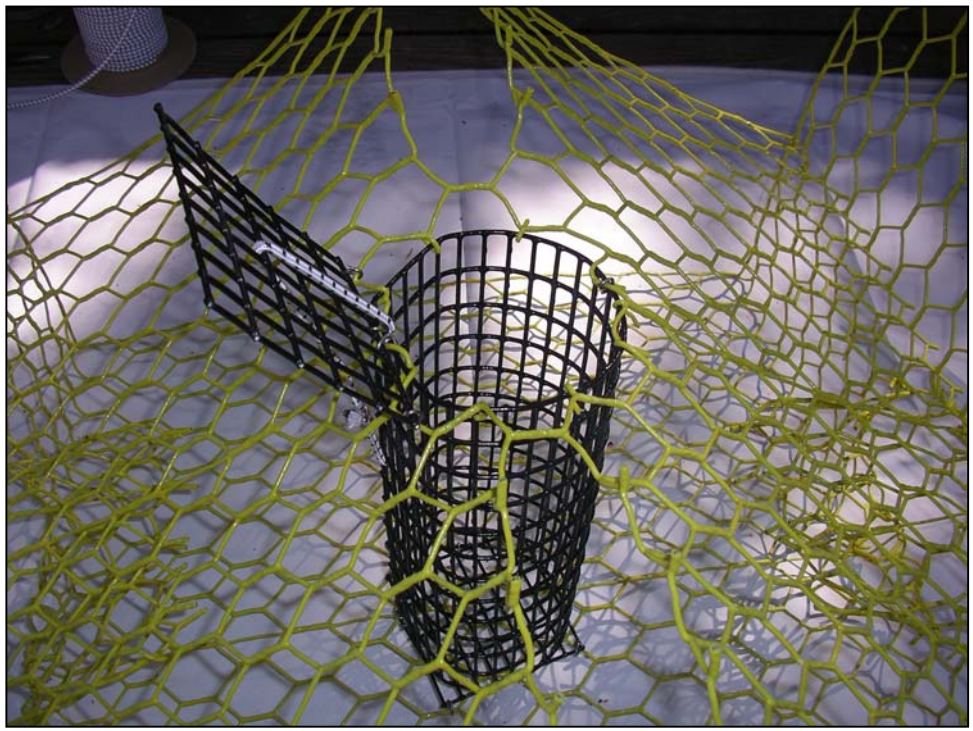
12. Install the kitchen 4 to 5 meshes above the floor of the trap by wrapping the cut ends of the kitchen around and through the side walls, either just above or resting on the entrance funnels. (for directions on side wall construction and funnel construction, go to http://www.blue-crab.org)



13. Secure the bottom of the bait well to the bottom of the trap with four 3/ 8 inch hog rings.

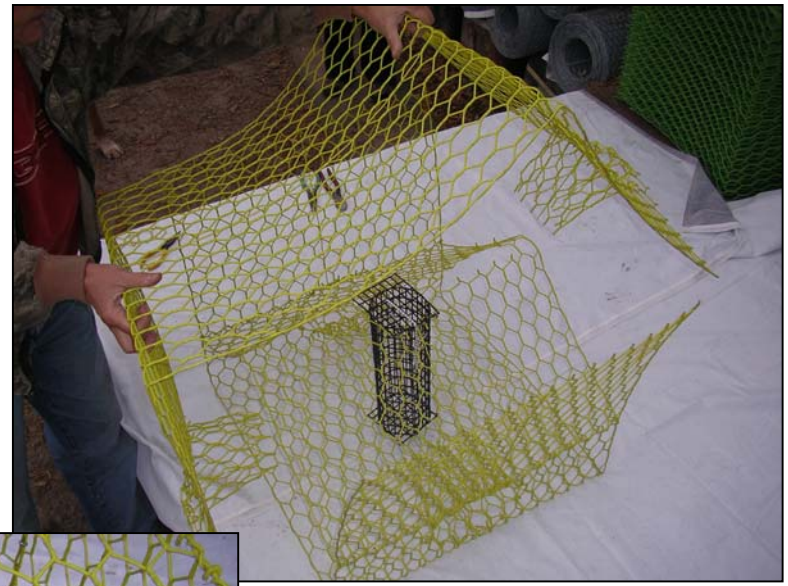
14. With this, the inverted bait well portion is complete.

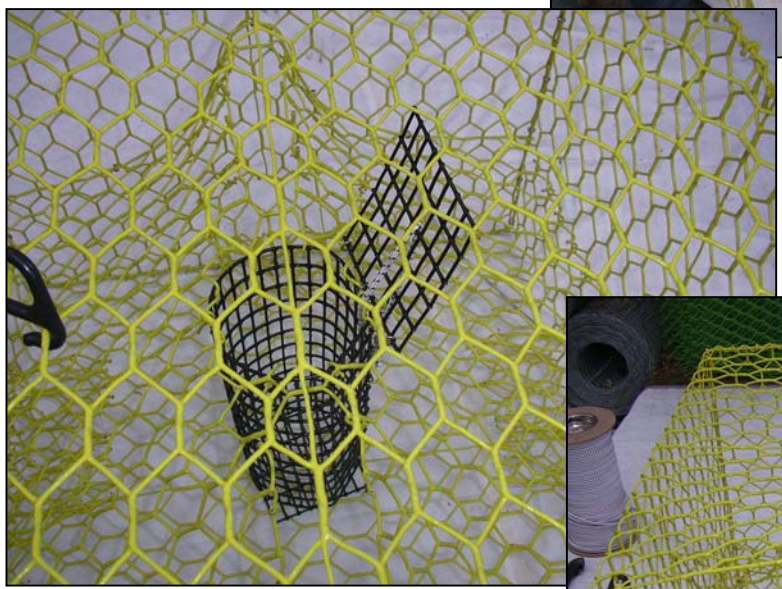


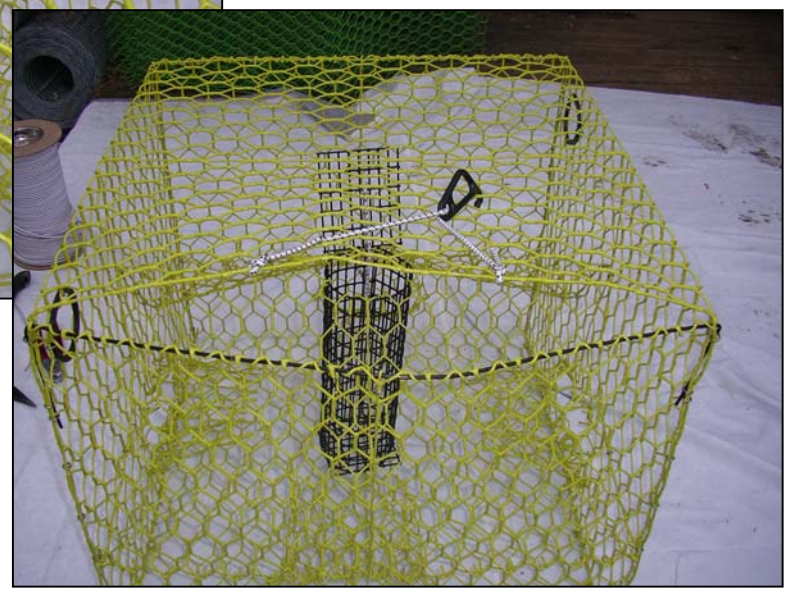


15. Secure the side walls, top, escape rings and bungeed hook to finish the trap.

16. The lower images are of a finished trap with the inverted bait well lid open.







Questions?
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