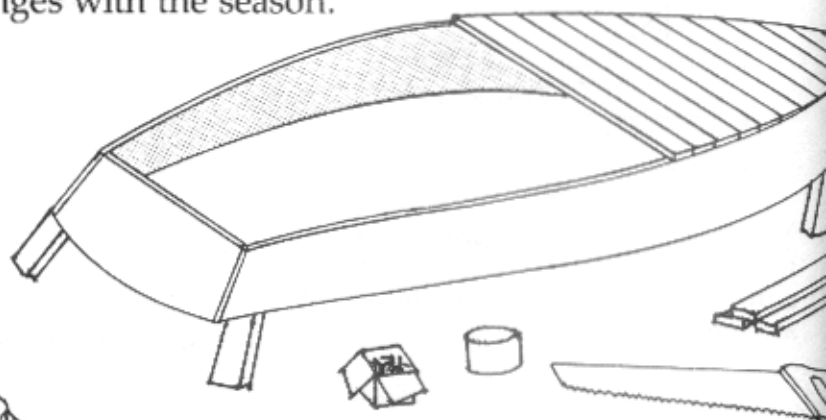


INDEPENDENT WATERMEN

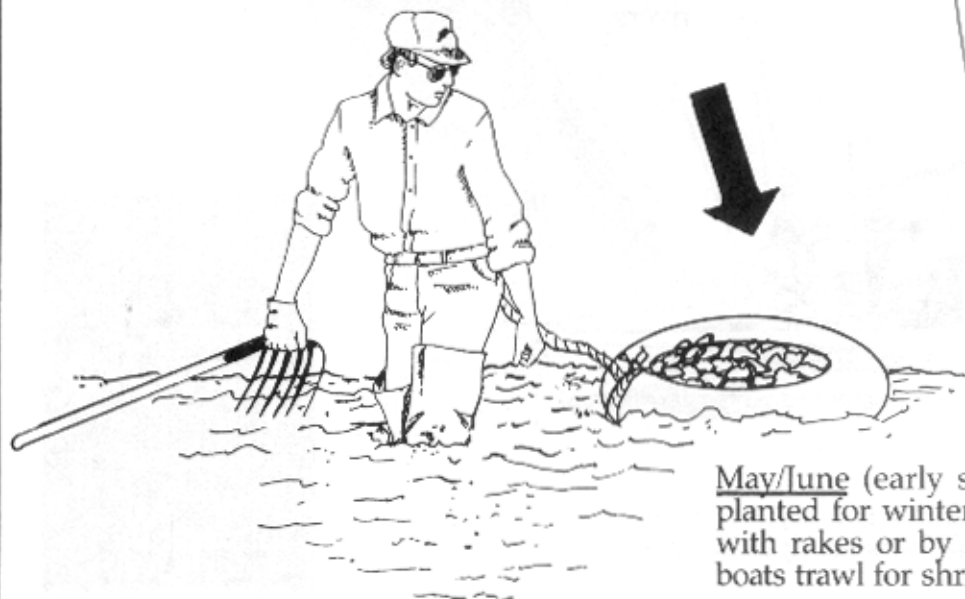
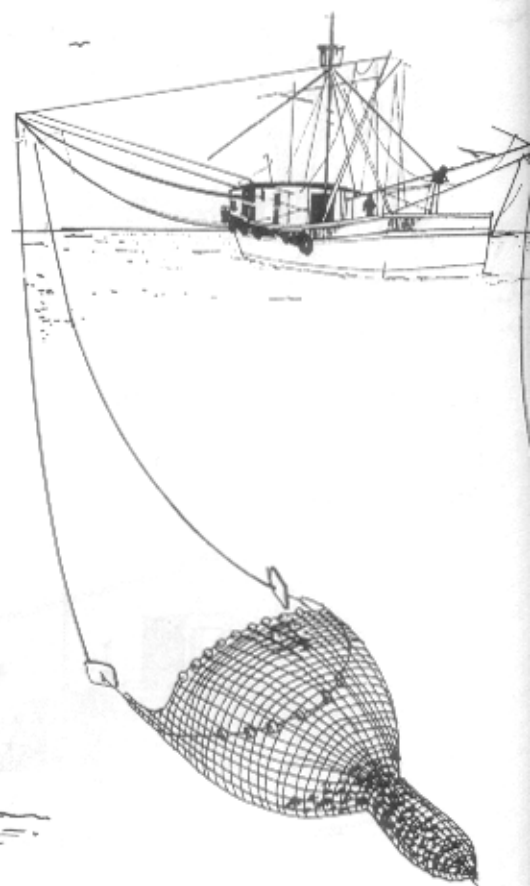
For the individuals who make their living on and by the water, the year is filled with many different activities. The variety of species that can be harvested changes with the season.



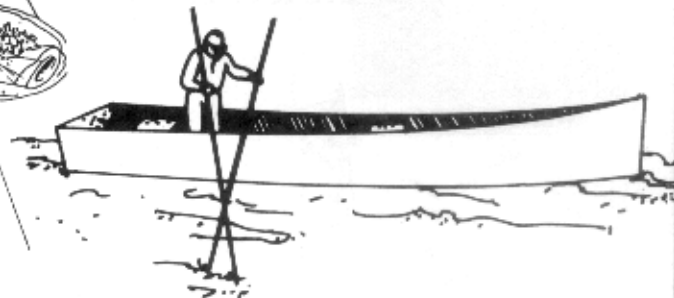
January/February (late winter): Boats are repaired and equipped for the summer season. New small boats are built in back yards and under sheds. Oysters are caught with dredges and tongs.



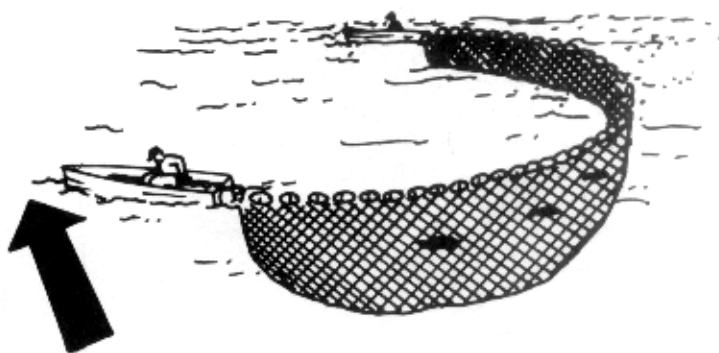
March/April (early spring): Pots are set for blue crabs. Jimmies (male crabs) and "peelers" (soft crabs) are sold to crab dealers for premium prices.



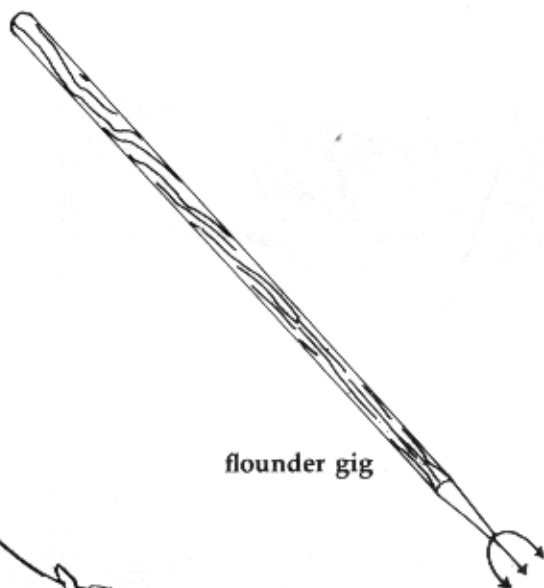
May/June (early summer): Sweet potatoes are planted for winter harvest. Clams are gathered with rakes or by hand in shallow water. Small boats trawl for shrimp and set nets.



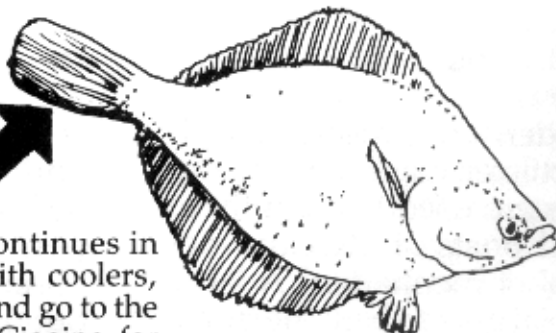
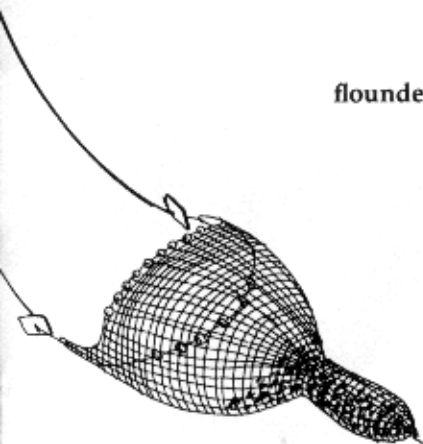
November/December (early winter): Oystering increases. Early season for scallops. Hunting for waterfowl provides a goose or ducks for the table.



September/October (late summer-early fall): "Mullet blows" bring cool air, overcast skies and MULLET! Gill nets are set from skiffs, and haul seines sweep the shoal waters for schools of mullet. "Barbecued" mullet are grilled over charcoal on festive occasions, and served up with slaw, beans, "hush puppies." Watermelon tops it off. Collards for winter harvest are planted. October begins the season for oysters and oyster roasts — another occasion to gather family and friends to enjoy the harvest.



flounder gig



July/August (summer): Shrimping continues in small trawlers. Families load boats with coolers, fishing rods, clam rakes, and friends, and go to the Outer Banks for rest and relaxation. Gigging for flounder is done at night with the help of bright lights.

KEY WORDS

oysters
gigging
dredges
soft crabs
trawl