

# HOOP DREAM: *Season sure to net crowd, tasty bugs*

Season opens on Sept. 27, so get geared up

**BY JIM SALAZAR**  
Special to Western Outdoor News

It's the time of year to enjoy one of the easiest, yet most rewarding of the angling sports, lobster hoop netting. A hoop net and some bait is all it takes to get that first lobster dinner; and considering the gas crunch, it's the cheapest form of fishing on the coast, and it's coming up Sept. 27 when some serious hooping will be going on in our state's coastal region.

In my new book, "Hoopin' It Up," A Guide To Lobster and Crab Hoop Netting, I've outlined how to get started, sharpening that learning curve for fishing bugs successfully and putting some excellent meals on your table.

**Hoop Nets: Classic and conical**  
The first thing you need is a hoop



**THE KEY** to success is location. But a combination of timing, good equipment and technique will put quality bugs in your nets and on your dinner table. As many anglers are finding, hoop netting is a cheap and fun way to get out and fish on their boats, kayaks and even float tubes.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIM SALAZAR

net. There are two types of hoop nets on the market at this time. The first is the classic or "old school" style of net. The classic style nets sit flat on the bottom, and the bugs can crawl in and out

easily. The other style of net is an Eclipse conical-style net. Both styles of nets are very efficient at catching lobsters and crabs, although, with a longer soak and a deeper pull, conical nets are

about 50 percent more successful than traditional nets. Eclipse nets are easier to use and require very little technique. They work extremely well in deep water.

**HOOP DREAMS/22**

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