

The caiçara model

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The siege is a small-scale and traditional trap for fishing, typical of estuarine channels. It is made by caiçaras, people living in coastal regions and that gets its sustenance of natural resources located there. The siege structure presented is common in litoral paulista and this example comes from the Community of Marujá, located in Ilha do Cardoso, São Paulo State, Brazil.

Its structure is composed of bamboo straws (scientific name), queued and joined forming a frame that has the form of a streak. Between groups of taquara is a living fences, piece of wood from any trees typical of the region. Each fence posts is wrapped with a piece of heavy duty plastic that promises the wood, allowing it to be used for several years. The bamboos and picket fence are joined by pieces of wire strung.

Typical estuarine fish living along the canals, this is because it is on the edge of the mangrove forest, where they feed and find shelter. In addition, because they are very close to the sea, channels suffer tidal influence. This dynamic makes the waters of the canal from invading the shores, at high tide, and return to the natural course of the channel at low tide

The fact of these fish swim very close to the banks of the canal and these are influenced by tides, allows traps to be built in these areas of high flow biotic. Are these locations that enclosures are built, and the "Spy" closer to the shore, and the "Fish House" toward the middle of the channel. Both in high tide and low tide, when swimming, the fish is faced with the "Spy", and while trying to flee to the middle of the channel, directing for the "Fish House". To do this, enter the "Spy", he's nothing until the "hook", passing by "port" that only has opening for a direction (the siege), preventing the output, that occurs in the other direction. Located in the "hook", the fish will go towards a second door, which allows the entry of the "Fish House", but, like the first, does not allow for the exit.

Is in the "Fish House" where the fish are collected and can be caught by fishermen. This capture is made with two men who rise at the siege and pass a network inside the "Fish House". The network presents the form of bag, which allows the capture of almost all fish there. Because many fish and this network becomes too heavy, is passed a smaller network, which allows to pick up gradually, the fish caught.

Fishing through the siege is sustainable for three main reasons: 1. all animals entering in the siege, are kept in their natural habitat and, therefore, stay alive. Thus, if an animal that has no commercial value (that is not interesting for the fisherman), can be removed from the enclosure and released again on the channel. 2. bamboo wool have a distance between them, so that the smaller animals can leave; 3. the siege is a form of fishing that preserves the caiçara culture and is taught from father to son for generations.

The exhibition will be composed by a mockup of siege, located within an aquarium, and featuring legends of names and functioning of the trap. This structure must be located in a place where it can be seen both from above and from the side. Behind the mock-up will be passed an explanatory video showing the siege, the removal of the fish, the region in which it is located and the people who use it. Both parts of the exhibition will be developed by the inhabitants of the community of Marujá.

