

# SOUNDSIDE LEARNING

## THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND

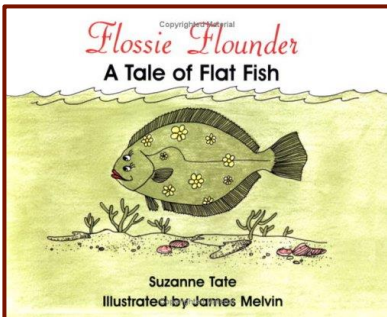


September 25, 2023

### COMING UP AT CORE SOUND...

- **Wednesdays:** Preschool Mornings
- **November 25:** Christmas Market 2023 -- *Vendors of all kinds ... Click Below for more information!*  
[Christmas Market Info](#)

### Sound Reading Material For You and Your Child



### Flossie Flounder: A Tale of Flat Fish

By Suzanne Tate

A tale developed around the interesting fact that a baby flounder looks different from its parents. This book promotes self-esteem and is wonderful for little ones. Click here to order it from our store:

[Flossie Flounder](#)

Pages: 28  
Grades: PreK

### Can You Gig It?

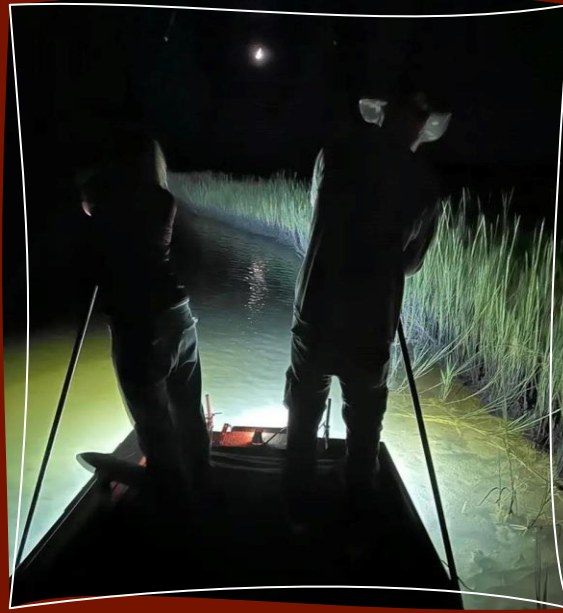


photo of Hunter Basden and Dustin Johnson gigging flounder

Flounder gigging is a method of fishing that involves hunting for flounder at night using a long spear or flounder gig. Gigging requires skill, patience, and a keen eye, as the fish are often difficult to spot and can be rather elusive.

Typically gigging for flounder is done at night using a light to illuminate the bottom enabling the hunter to spot the fish, which are known to hide in the sand or mud. Once a flounder is spotted, the gig is used to spear or stab it; however, a flounder may also be caught by hand using the same nightlight method.

Floundering may be done by boat or wading; it depends on your personal preference and how many you hope to catch. Flounders are typically in shallow waters such as bays, estuaries, and tidal flats, so an understanding of tidal movement will increase your chances of a successful flounder gigging trip tremendously.

Once my uncle Dickie Dickinson asked Daddy to go gigging with him between the Breakwater and Cape Point. Daddy described the flounders as being so thick they couldn't gig and throw them aboard their boat fast enough. This trip proved very successful since the two fish hunters caught over 500 pounds in just a couple of hours!

# Flounder Nuggets



The NC Division of Marine Fisheries set the 2023 recreational flounder season for September 15-29. To celebrate the final days of this year's season, here are a couple interesting tidbits about one of my favorite local fish.

- A flounder is flat, meaning it has a flattened body allowing it to blend in with the seafloor. Unlike many other fish, a flounder's eyes are on the same side of its body, pointing upwards to the sky. This makes sense, as a normal eye-on-each-side-of-the-head structure would mean one eye is perpetually buried in the sand.

A flounder doesn't begin its life flat, however! A baby flounder looks like any other fish, with one eye on each side of its head. As it grows, its body changes. Eventually, more muscles and tissues begin to form on the underside of one eye, pushing it closer to the other eye. By the time the flounder is fully developed, both eyes are firmly planted on one side of its head.



- A flounder is great at concealing. Changing color helps a flounder hide from predators and sneak up on prey. Thanks to special cells called chromatophores that help them blend into their surroundings, flounder are masters of disguise. These cells essentially change shape to create color based on signals from the brain and are the same cells used by octopuses. Generally, they are darker on the upper side of the body, which helps them blend in with the sea floor, and lighter on the underside, which helps them blend in with the sunlit surface when they swim upward to catch prey.

## Camouflage a "Flounder"

- \* Place a layer of sand about an inch deep in a glass baking dish.
- \* Pour an inch of water on top of it.
- \* Slide a flat rock (or even a butterknife) into the sand until it becomes covered.
- \* Notice how the sand covers the object requiring you to depend on its outline to detect its location underneath the water.



**SCIENCE**  
for **YOU**