

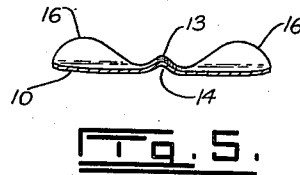
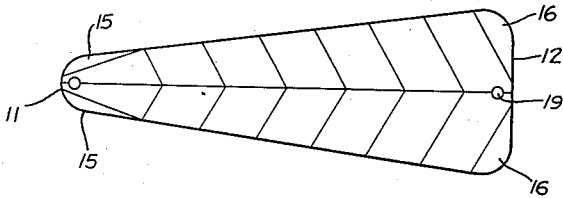
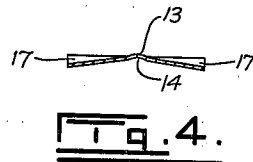
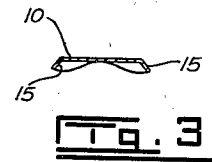
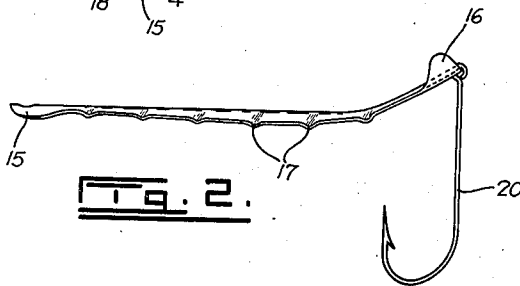
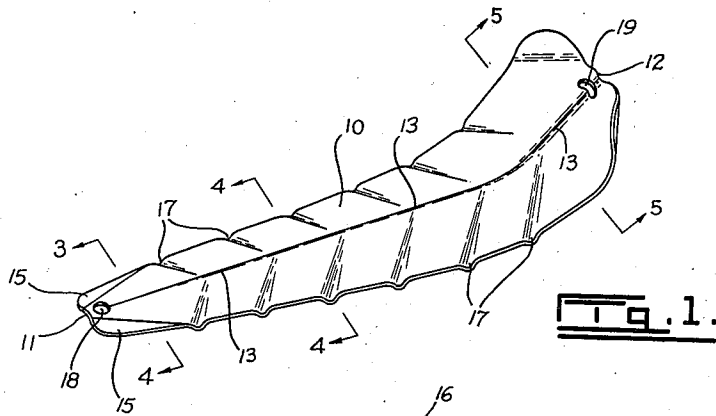
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2,264,211

TROLLING DEVICE

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TROLLING DEVICE

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7 Claims. (Cl. 43—42)

This invention relates to improvements in trolling devices, such as spoons and flashers.

An object of the present invention is the provision of a trolling device capable of simulating in a natural manner the movement of a fish in water.

Another object is the provision of a trolling device which may be used as a spoon and/or as a flasher.

Another object is the provision of a trolling device that will dart back and forth on each side of the line representing its general direction of travel.

A further object is the provision of a trolling device that will roll in an exaggerated manner without turning completely over.

A further object is the provision of a trolling device which wobbles in relation to its constantly changing path of travel at all times.

A still further object is the provision of a device of the nature described with numerous light deflecting surfaces.

With these and other objects in view the present invention consists essentially of a trolling device comprising an elongated body which is relatively narrow at its forward end and gradually widens towards its rearward end, a fin bent downwardly at each corner of the forward end, and a tail formed at the rearward end of the body extending upwardly therefrom at an angle thereto, as more fully described in the following specification and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the trolling device,

Figure 2 is a side elevation thereof,

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1,

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 1,

Figure 5 is a sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 1, and

Figure 6 is a plan view of a blank from which the trolling device is made.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, the trolling device consists of an elongated body 10 which is relatively narrow at its forward end 11 and gradually widens out to the rearward end 12. This body is pressed out to form a rib 13 extending longitudinally thereof in its upper surface, thus forming a longitudinal groove 14 in its lower surface. The body 10 is bent downwardly at each side of its forward end to form fins 15 lying at an angle of approximately 30° to the upper surface of the device which is fairly

flat at this end. These fins extend diagonally across the corners of the forward end. Throughout an area extending from a point just back of the forward end almost to the rearward end, the body slopes downwardly slightly from the rib 13 on each side thereof or, in other words, it is substantially V-shaped in cross-section, while said body gradually bends upwardly at the rearward end to form a tail assuming a position of approximately 45° to the device. An ear 16 is formed at each rearward corner and projects upwardly from the body, each of said ears lying at substantially an angle of 45° to the rib 13 and extending from said rib forwardly towards the sides of the body.

A plurality of semi-conical spaced flutes 17 are formed in the upper surface of the body 10 on each side of the rib 13 and extend inwardly and rearwardly from the sides of the body to the rib at an angle of approximately 45° thereto with their tips terminating adjacent the rib. A hole 18 is formed in the forward end 11 to which a swivel or fishing line (not shown) may be attached and another hole 19 is formed in the rearward end through which the eye of a hook 20 extends if the device is used as a spoon, but if it is used as a flasher, the swivel of the leader (not shown) between the flasher and spoon is connected to this hole. The hook 20 is connected directly to the spoon and it points forwardly, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 6 illustrates a blank just prior to the formation of the trolling device. This blank shows the position of the fins 15, the ears 16, the rib 13, and the flutes 17.

When the trolling device is drawn through the water, it has a rolling movement of approximately 180°, this rolling movement being more or less around its longitudinal axis. It also wobbles about a central perpendicular axis and it darts back and forth on each side of the line representing its general direction of travel.

As the device moves, the water presses against one or the other of the down-turned fins 15 and causes the device to roll substantially about its longitudinal axis. As this movement continues, greater pressure is exerted against the lowermost ear 16 until the body is on edge. By this time the pressure on the upper fin 15 starts the device rolling in the opposite direction and this movement continues until the body has rotated through an angle of about 180°. The angle of the fins 15 assists in regulating the speed of this rolling action; the flatter they are the slower the

motion and the greater the angle the faster the action.

When the body 10 is on edge it is moving at an angle to the line of its general travel so that the curved, broad rearward end acts as a rudder which causes the device to swing into and dart in the opposite direction. After traveling a certain distance and when the device is on an even keel, one of the ears 16 assumes a position almost at right angles to the general path of travel. This assists in rolling the body over and, at the same time, it starts it darting in the opposite direction which movement is further aided by the rearward end as the body continues to roll over in the new direction.

The flutes 17 cause the device to wobble about a central axis extending perpendicularly thereto. When the device is darting in one direction, the enlarged ends of the flutes on one side thereof more or less scoop up water and direct it inwardly and rearwardly against the ear 16 of the opposite side to change the direction of movement until the ends of the flutes on the other side begin to scoop up water. This action is not sufficient to change the course of the device but merely creates a wobble in addition to the rolling and darting actions. When the flutes direct water against the ear which is moving downwardly at the time, this naturally tends to aid the downward movement thereof. When a fish seizes the device in its mouth, its teeth drop into the flutes and thus tends to prevent the device from slipping out of its mouth. At the same time, the flutes direct the fish back towards the hook.

The V-shaped cross section of the greater portion of the body prevents the device from turning over when it is not being drawn through the water. When the device stops, it rolls slightly back and forth about its longitudinal axis and gradually sinks to the bottom.

The water rushes along the longitudinal groove 14 so that it acts as a pivot around which the device rolls. Furthermore, the rib 13 strengthens the device without the necessity of increasing the thickness of the material.

The hook hangs downwardly from the rear of the spoon and as the latter rolls, the hook swings in the opposite direction so that it swings back and forth like a pendulum. In this way, the point of the hook always points forwardly at the bottom of the spoon, and consequently it catches a striking fish in the lower jaw where it is relatively soft.

This trolling device may be used as a flasher or a spoon. As a flasher, it is drawn ahead of a spoon of any desired type, such as one made according to the present invention, in order to attract fish. As a spoon, it is used with or without a suitable flasher and the hook is attached to its rearward end in the manner described.

The flutes 17 have a further purpose and that is they cause the device to quiver as it is drawn through the water. This quivering is due to the fact that at least some of the flutes lie more or less across the path of travel so that the water striking the uneven top and bottom surfaces of the device creates a certain amount of vibration.

Various modifications may be made in this invention without departing from the spirit thereof or the scope of the claims and, therefore, the exact forms shown are to be taken as illustrative only and not in a limiting sense, and it is desired that only such limitations shall be

placed thereon as are disclosed in the prior art or are set forth in the accompanying claims.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. A trolling device comprising an elongated body having a central ridge extending longitudinally thereof, said body sloping downwardly from the ridge towards each side throughout the greater portion of its length, a fin bent downwardly at each corner of the forward end, a tail formed at the rearward end of the body extending upwardly therefrom at an angle thereto, and an upwardly projecting ear formed at each corner of the rearward end of the tail.

2. A trolling device comprising an elongated body which is relatively narrow at its forward end and gradually widens towards its rearward end, a plurality of spaced flutes formed in the upper surface of each side of the body, said flutes extending inwardly and rearwardly from the sides of the body, a fin bent downwardly at each corner of the forward end, and a tail formed at the rearward end of the body extending upwardly therefrom at an angle thereto.

3. A trolling device comprising an elongated body having a central ridge extending longitudinally thereof, said body sloping downwardly from the ridge towards each side throughout the greater portion of its length, a plurality of spaced semi-conical flutes formed in the upper surface of each side of the body, said flutes extending inwardly and rearwardly from the sides of the body towards the ridge, a fin bent downwardly at each corner of the forward end, and a tail formed at the rearward end of the body extending upwardly therefrom at an angle thereto.

4. A trolling device comprising an elongated body which is relatively narrow at its forward end and gradually widens towards its rearward end, a fin bent downwardly at each corner of the forward end, a tail formed at the rearward end of the body extending upwardly therefrom at an angle thereto, and an ear formed at each corner of the rearward end of the tail and projecting upwardly therefrom.

5. A trolling device comprising an elongated body having a central ridge extending longitudinally thereof, said body sloping downwardly from the ridge towards each side throughout the greater portion of its length, a fin bent downwardly at each corner of the forward end, a tail formed at the rearward end of the body extending upwardly therefrom at an angle thereto, and an upwardly projecting ear formed at and extending diagonally of each corner of the rearward end of the tail.

6. A trolling device comprising an elongated body having a central ridge extending longitudinally thereof, said body sloping downwardly from the ridge towards each side throughout the greater portion of its length, a plurality of spaced semi-conical flutes formed in the upper surface of each side of the body, said flutes extending inwardly and rearwardly from the sides of the body towards the ridge, a fin bent downwardly at and extending diagonally of each corner of the forward end, a tail formed at the rearward end of the body extending upwardly therefrom at an angle thereto, and an upwardly projecting ear formed at and extending diagonally of each corner of the rearward end of the tail.

7. A trolling device comprising an elongated body which is relatively narrow at its forward end and gradually widens towards its rearward end, said body having a central rib in its upper surface extending longitudinally thereof and

sloping downwardly from the rib towards each side throughout the greater portion of its length, said rib forming a groove in the lower surface of the body, a plurality of spaced semi-conical flutes formed in the upper surface of each side of the body, said flutes extending inwardly and rearwardly from the sides of the body towards the rib, a fin bent downwardly at and extending di-

agonally of each corner of the forward end, a tail formed at the rearward end of the body extending upwardly therefrom at an angle thereto, and an upwardly projecting ear formed at and extending diagonally of each corner of the rearward end of the tail.

JOSEPH CYRIL LA CHANCE.