April 16, 1940. L. J. EPPINGER 2,197,209

TROLLING SPOON

Filed Jan. 23, 1939

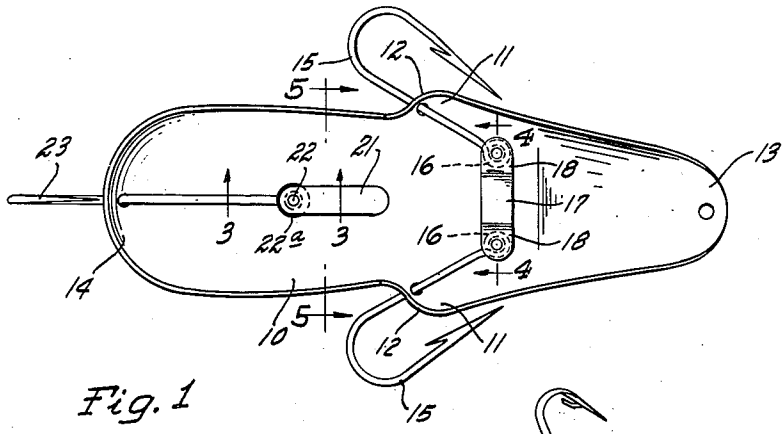


Fig. 1

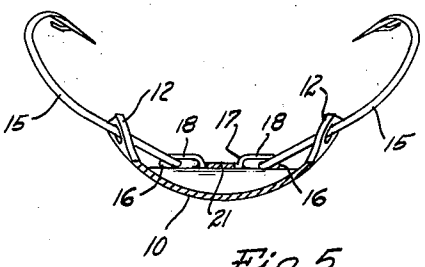


Fig. 5

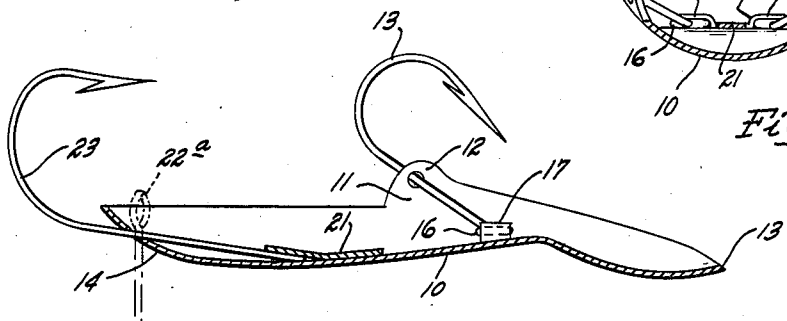


Fig. 2

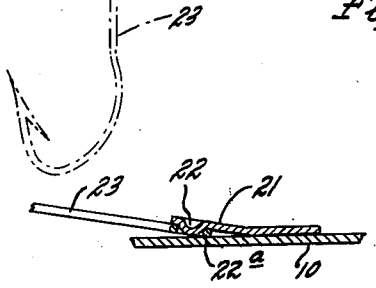


Fig. 3

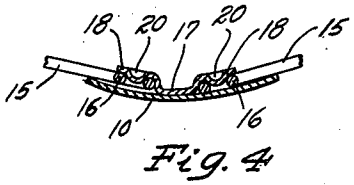


Fig. 4

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TROLLING SPOON

Louis J. Eppinger, Detroit, Mich.

Application January 23, 1939, Serial No. 252,342

1 Claim. (Cl. 43—42)

This invention relates generally to fishing tackle and more particularly to trolling spoons.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a new and improved trolling spoon of a character such that fish will be less likely to get off of the hook.

Another object of the invention is to provide a new and improved trolling spoon having a hook arranged for release from a fixed position to a dangling position with respect to the spoon and to provide an article of this character which is simple and inexpensive to manufacture.

Other objects of the invention will become apparent from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing in which—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of my improved trolling spoon;

Fig. 2 is a view taken longitudinally of the spoon shown partly in section and partly in elevation;

Fig. 3 is a detail view in section, taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a detail view in section taken along the line 4—4 of Fig. 1, and

Fig. 5 is a view taken along the line and in the direction of the arrows 5—5 of Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawing by characters of reference, the numeral 10 designates in general an elongated spoon having an upper concave surface and a lower convex surface. Intermediate its ends, the spoon 10 is provided with oppositely directed, laterally positioned extended portions 11 having upstanding ears 12, and from the extended portions 11, the side edges of the spoon taper, converging to a front rounded end 13, the rear end 14 of the spoon being rounded and larger than the front end of the spoon. In each of the upstanding ears 12, an aperture is provided for loosely receiving the shank of a fish hook 15 having on its inner end an eye 16 sufficiently larger than the aperture in the ear 11 such that it will not pass therethrough.

A releasable, friction retainer clip 17 is provided for releasably holding the hooks 16 inwardly to the spoon 10 and may be welded or otherwise suitably secured to the upper concave surface of the spoon. The clip 17 is located forward of the spoon extended portions 11 so that the hooks 15 will extend outwardly and rearwardly at an angle to the longitudinal axis of the spoon. Preferably the clip 17, is a strip of spring metal having opposite raised end portions 18 under which the eyes 16 of the hooks position, as shown, the clip end portions 18 having downwardly directed indentations 20 which snap into the eyes 16 providing for releasable snap action upon sufficient outward pull on the hooks.

Similarly a clip member 21, comprising a strip of spring metal is welded or otherwise suitably secured, at one end thereof, to the concave surface of the spoon 10, the strip 21 extending longitudinally and centrally of the spoon. A rear end portion of the clip is free of the spoon and is provided with a downwardly directed indentation 22 adapted to position in an eye 22a of a hook 23 which extends loosely through an aperture in the rear end 14 of the spoon 10.

When a fish gets on any one of the hooks and exerts sufficient pull it will be seen that the hook will be released from its spring clip and will slip through its aperture in the spoon. This movement of the clip relative to the spoon will be limited by the eye of the hook and upon engagement with the spoon at the aperture will jar the fish, sinking the hook deeper and more securely into the fish. The hook will dangle from the spoon and in so doing will lessen the chances of the fish getting off of the hook since the loose dangling connection of the hook to the spoon does not give the fish anything substantial to push against to release the hook.

It will thus be seen that the bent in ears 12 cause the fish lure to jump sidewise when given a slight jerk. When reeled in in the ordinary fashion, the lure has a fast wiggling sidewise motion, but when reeled rapidly, or jerked slightly, it has quite a kick sidewise——the lure being off balance. The direction of the kick is no doubt caused by whichever bent ear is down.

What I claim is:

In a device of the character described, an elongated spoon having an upper convex surface and having oppositely directed extended portions at the sides thereof, a pair of hooks loosely extending through apertures in respective extended portions and having eyes on their inner ends larger than said apertures, a clip member secured to said spoon intermediate the front end thereof and the extended portions, said clip member frictionally and releasably engaging said eyes to hold said hooks to said spoon, an attachment member secured to said spoon between said clip member and the rear end of said spoon, and a hook member loosely extending through an aperture in the rear end of said spoon member and having an eye larger than said aperture and frictionally and releasably held to said spoon by said attachment member.

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