ONE-HANDED BOAT PADDLE

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Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

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This invention relates to a novel and useful one-handed boat paddle and has been primarily designed for providing a means whereby a fisherman may conveniently handle a paddle with only one hand.

In many instances, the act of fishing quite often requires the use of both hands. While conventional oars and/or paddles may be grasped by means of only one hand and used to propel a boat, it is very difficult to do so. In some cases a fisherman attempting to paddle a boat with one hand and using a conventional paddle or oar will accidentally drop the paddle or oar thus requiring that he temporarily terminate his fishing activities and retrieve the dropped oar or paddle.

Accordingly, it is the main object of this invention to provide a one-handed boat paddle which may be utilized conveniently by a fisherman to paddle his boat and yet which may be engaged with the arm of the fisherman in such a manner whereby his one hand may be released from engagement with the one-handed boat paddle without the paddle dropping from engagement with his arm.

A further object of this invention, in accordance with the preceding objects, is to provide a one-handed boat paddle constructed in a manner whereby the paddle may be efficiently used by a fisherman to paddle his boat.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a one-handed boat paddle constructed in a manner enabling a fisherman to paddle his boat in one-handed fashion without extreme effort and skill being required on the part of the fisherman.

A final object to be specifically enumerated herein is to provide a one-handed boat paddle in accordance with the preceding object which will conform to conventional forms of manufacture, be of simple construction and easy to use so as to provide a device that will be economically feasible, long lasting and relatively trouble free in operation.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the one-handed boat paddle of the instant invention shown engaged with the arm of a fisherman and by the fisherman's hand for the purpose of paddling a boat, a released and depending position of the paddle being shown in phantom lines;

FIGURE 2 is a top plan view of the one-handed paddle;

FIGURE 3 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view of the paddle taken substantially upon the plane indicated by the section line 3—3 of FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 4 is a fragmentary bottom plan view of the paddle taken substantially upon the plane indicated by the section line 4—4 of FIGURE 3;

FIGURE 5 is an end elevational view of the paddle taken substantially upon the plane indicated by the section line 5—5 of FIGURE 2; and

FIGURE 6 is a transverse sectional view taken substantially upon the plane indicated by the section line 6—6 of FIGURE 2.

Referring now more specifically to the drawings the numeral 10 generally designates the one-handed boat paddle of the instant invention which includes an elongated and substantially straight paddle member generally referred to by the reference numeral 12. The paddle member 12 has a paddle blade portion 14 formed on one end and an arm brace portion 16 formed on the other end. A diametrically reduced handgrip and shank portion generally referred to by the reference numeral 18 is disposed between the paddle blade portion 14 and the arm brace portion 16.

With attention now directed to FIGURES 2 through 6, it will be seen that the arm brace portion 16 comprises a frame generally referred to by the reference numeral 20 which defines an opening 22 in the paddle 10. The frame 20 includes opposite side members 24 and 26 and it may be observed from FIGURE 3 of the drawings that the forward ends of the side members 24 and 26 curve smoothly toward each other and laterally toward the plane in which the paddle blade portion 14 and shank portion 18 are disposed. Further, the inner surfaces of the rear ends of the side members 24 and 26 curve smoothly toward each other. The paddle blade portion 14 and shank portion 18 are disposed in one plane and it will be noted that the frame 20 is disposed in a second plane which is spaced laterally from the plane containing the blade and shank portions 14 and 18 a distance approximately equal to the thickness of a person's wrist. The smoothly curving forward ends of the side members 24 and 26 define a cradle generally referred to by the reference numeral 28 for cradling the lower surface of the wrist 30 of the arm 32 of the fisherman generally referred to by the reference numeral 33. The fisherman's arm 32 includes a hand portion which may be utilized to encircle the handgrip and shank portion 18 and a forearm portion 36 which is loosely receivable through the opening 22. The rear end of the frame 20 is transversely bowed and opened toward the plane in which the blade and shank portions 14 and 18 are disposed.

The transversely bowed portion 38 is defined by a pair of laterally projecting lugs 40 and 42 carried by opposite sides of the frame 20 and it will be noted that the cradle portion 38 is adapted to cradle the upper surface of the forearm 36 adjacent the elbow 40 of the fisherman's arm 32.

With attention now directed to FIGURE 1 of the drawings it will be noted that the forearm 36 is received through the opening 22 and that the hand 34 encircles the shank portion 18 when the fisherman 33 is grasping the boat paddle 10 in a manner to paddle a boat. If it becomes necessary for the fisherman 33 to use his hand 34, he may release the shank portion 18 and allow the paddle 10 to assume the blade portion 14 downward position illustrated in phantom lines. In this manner, his hand 34 may be used together with his other hand (not shown) to control and operate a fishing rod.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, various changes, equivalents and modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all such modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed is as follows:

1. A one-handed boat paddle comprising an elongated and substantially straight paddle member, a paddle blade portion formed on one end of said member, an arm brace portion formed on the other end of said member and a diametrically reduced handgrip and shank portion formed between said arm brace portion and said blade portion, said arm brace portion defining an elongated generally rectangular frame extending longitudinally of said paddle, lying in a plane substantially parallel but laterally offset to one side of the plane containing said blade and
shank portions a distance approximately equal to the thickness of a person's wrist from the inside to the outside thereof and defining an opening adapted to loosely receive the forearm of the user of the paddle the end of said frame remote from said blade portion being transversely bowed and opening toward said second-mentioned plane so as to be adapted to cradle the forearm of a user of the paddle adjacent the elbow, said frame including opposite side members, the forward ends of said side members curving smoothly toward each other and laterally toward said second-mentioned plane so as to be adapted to cradle the wrist of the user of the paddle.

2. The combination of claim 1 wherein the inner surfaces of the rear ends of said side members curve smoothly toward each other.

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