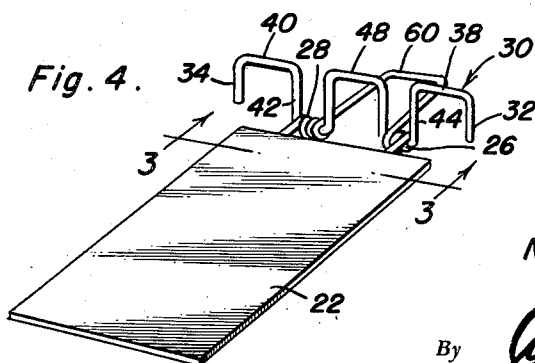
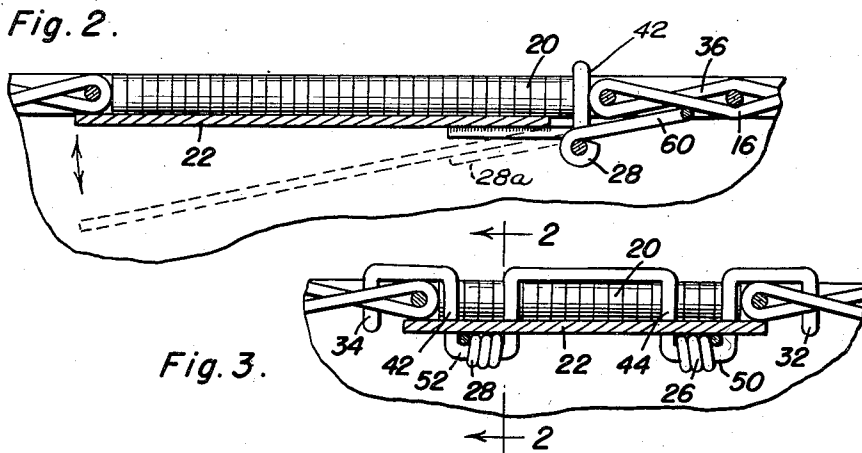
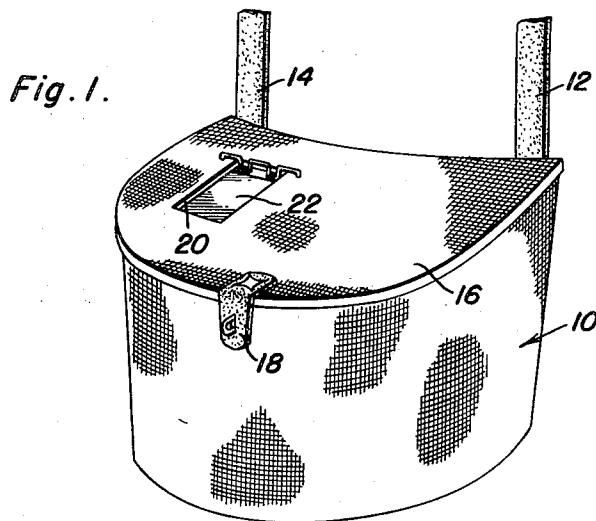


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N. G. ODNEAL
FISH CREEL TRAP GATE
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Inventor

Nova G. Odneal

By

Clarence A. O'Brien
and Harvey B. Jacobson
Attorneys

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FISH CREEL TRAP GATE

Nova G. Odneal, Turlock, Calif.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 43-54.5)

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This invention relates to novel and useful improvements in fishermen's articles.

An object of this invention is to improve a fish creel by employing a resiliently urged trap gate in the lid thereof which is constantly resiliently pressed against the inside surface of the lid.

Other objects and features will become apparent in following the description of the illustrated form of the invention.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the creel having the invention applied;

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken on the line 2-2 of Figure 3 and in the direction of the arrows;

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on the line of 3-3 of Figure 4 and in the direction of the arrows;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the closure member, the springs and the spring hangers forming a part of the invention.

In the illustrated form of the invention, a substantially conventional fish creel 10 is illustrated with the usual straps 12 and 14 together with a lid 16 having a latch mechanism 18 operatively connected therewith. The lid 16 is provided with an opening 20, under which swings the trap gate closure member 22. This closure member consists of a flat plate having one end of each spring of the pair of springs 26 and 28 secured thereto and simply reacting thereon. However, it is preferable that the spring be soldered or otherwise is firmly fixed to the lower surface of the plate 22.

A spring hanger generally indicated at 30 is disposed on the top of the lid 16 and has two downwardly extending ends 32 and 34, passed through the basket weave or other type weave material 36 which forms the lid 16. A length 38 of the spring hanger extends from the upper portion of the downwardly extending end 32 and a similar horizontal length 40 extends from the upper portion of the downwardly extending end 34. Then, U-shaped members 42 and 44 respectively have their legs extending parallel to the downwardly extending ends 32 and 34. At the top of the U-shaped members and joining them is a length 48, the entire hanger being made of wire.

The springs 26 and 28 are disposed about the webs 50 and 52, respectively, of the U-shaped members 42 and 44.

As described the front ends 26a and 28a of said springs 26 and 28, respectively react on the bottom of the plate 22. The rear ends of said springs are joined by an integral piece of substantially U-shaped configuration and is indicated at 60. The member 60 reacts on the woven material 36 of the lid 16 adjacent the opening 20.

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With the ends 32 and 34 simply pushed into the material 36 of the lid, the plate 22 prohibits movement of the hanger upwardly of the lid and maintains it in place firmly. In operation it is only necessary to press on the lid 22 opposing the force of springs 26 and 28 whereby the closure is opened. The springs automatically return the closure to the aperture closing position as is readily obvious.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. In a fishing creel, a lid having an opening therein, a trap gate which comprises a closure member for said opening, a pair of springs, and a hanger for said springs secured to said lid and positioned on the outer side thereof, said hanger including downwardly extending portions which pass into the material of the lid and substantially U-shaped portions, said springs being disposed on said substantially U-shaped portions, and said springs having ends, at least one end portion of each of said springs reacting on said closure to oppose the movement thereof into the open position and the other end portions of said springs reacting on the lid.

2. In a fishing creel lid having an opening therein, a trap gate comprising a closure member for said opening and a spring hanger, a spring, said spring hanger having end portions fixed to said lid and having a substantially U-shaped portion accommodating said spring, said spring reacting on said closure member and said lid, opposing the movement in one direction of said closure member.

3. In a fishing creel lid of woven material which has an opening therein, a closure member for said opening, a spring hanger having end portions, said end portions being adapted to be passed into the woven material of the lid and said spring hanger having a spring accommodating portion, and a spring disposed on said portion and having ends, one of the ends reacting on the material of said lid adjacent said opening and the other of the ends of said spring reacting on said closure member constantly pressing it in the closing position.

NOVA G. ODNEAL.

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