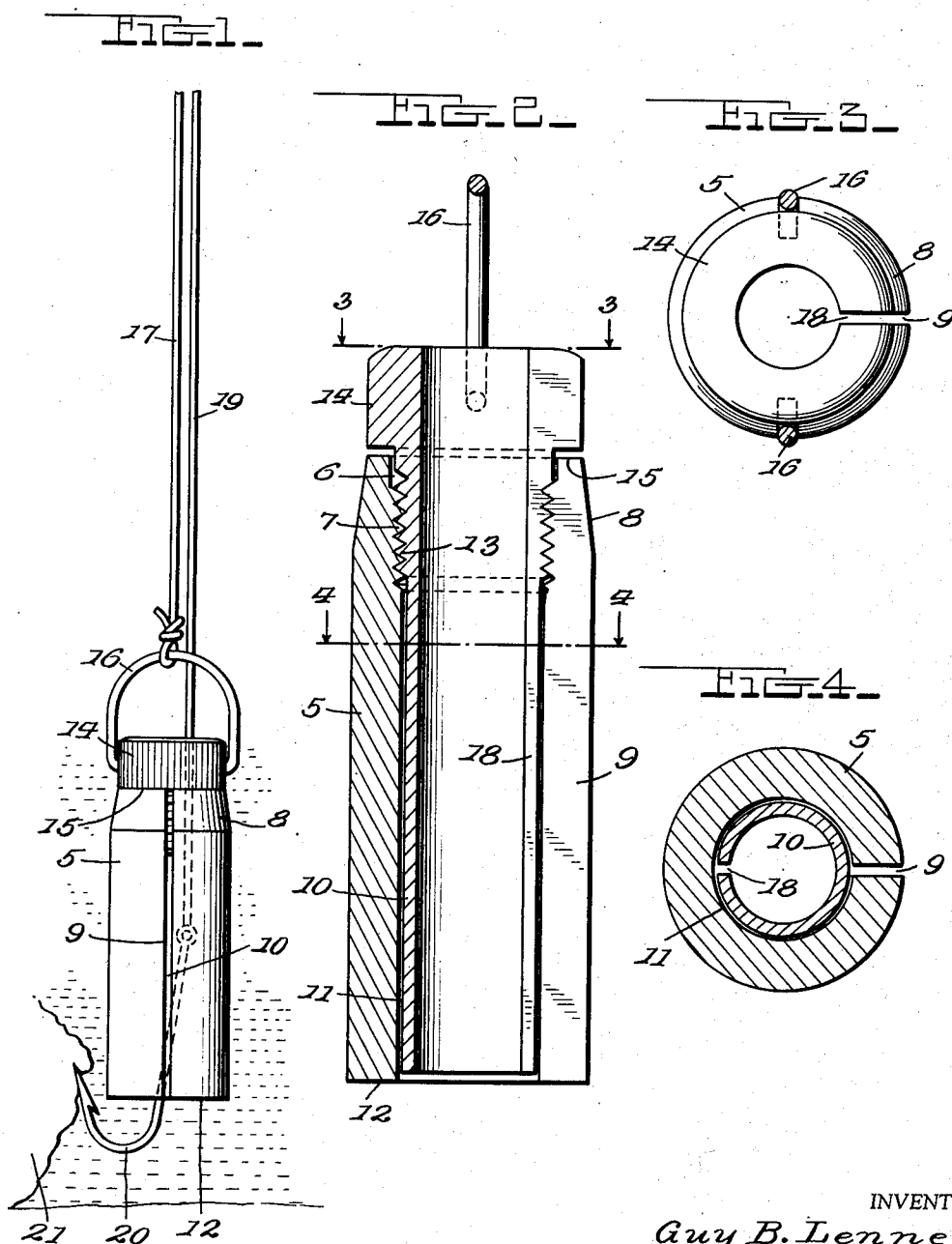


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FISHHOOK RELEASER
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FISHHOOK RELEASER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 43—17.2)

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This invention relates to a new and improved device for releasing fish hooks when they become snagged on submerged rocks, roots, stumps or other obstructions.

The device is of weighted tubular form to be lowered, by means of a second line, along the line of the hook to be released. When the device reaches the hook, the second line is alternately raised and lowered to cause said device to gently strike and thus release the hook.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a simple and effective releasing device of improved sectional construction enabling the fisherman to quickly and easily engage it with the line of a snagged hook, and permitting removal with equal ease.

Outer and inner sleeves are provided, each sleeve having a longitudinal split at one side. These sleeves are relatively rotated to place the splits in communication with each other to allow lateral passage of the line through said splits into the inner sleeve. The sleeves are then relatively turned to cause each sleeve to close the split of the other sleeve.

In such a structure, it is necessary to not only connect the two sleeves for relative rotation, but to so connect them that they cannot accidentally separate from each other by relative endwise movement. A further object of the invention is to fulfill these two requirements by simply threading the two sleeves together.

To align the two splits, the inner sleeve is unthreaded slightly from the outer sleeve, and to close said splits said inner sleeve is again threaded to the original extent into said outer sleeve. Another object of the invention therefore is to limit this inward threading by providing the inner sleeve with a head at one end to abut the adjacent end of the outer sleeve, the abutting head and sleeve end also serving to frictionally hold the sleeves against accidental relative turning.

When the device is not in use, its operating line may be wound around the outer sleeve, and the free end of this line may be clamped between the aforesaid end of said outer sleeve and said head of said inner sleeve to prevent accidental unwinding of said line.

With the above and other objects in view that will become apparent as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the novel form, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, shown in the accompanying drawing, and claimed.

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In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a side elevation showing the manner of using the device.

Figure 2 is an enlarged longitudinal sectional view showing the two splits in registration with each other,

Figure 3 is a transverse sectional view on line 3—3 of Figure 2, and

Figure 4 is a transverse sectional view on line 4—4 of Figure 2, the sleeve being turned to split-closing position.

In the drawing above briefly described, an outer sleeve 5 is shown. This sleeve is of thick-walled form to impart most of the required weight to the device. The upper end of the sleeve 5 is counterbored at 6, and the wall of the counterbore is provided with a screw thread 7. This end of the sleeve 5 is preferably tapered slightly as shown at 8. At one side, this sleeve 5 is formed with a longitudinal split 9, said split extending from end to end of said sleeve and from the exterior to the interior of the latter.

An inner sleeve 10 is located within the outer sleeve 5 and has slight clearance 11 with the latter from the counterbore 6 to the lower sleeve end 12. Within the counterbore, the inner sleeve 10 is provided with an external screw thread 13 engaging the thread 7. Above the thread 13 the inner sleeve 10 is provided with a head 14 to normally abut the upper end 15 of the outer sleeve 5. Attached to this head 14 is a bail 16 to which the operating line 17 is connected. The inner sleeve is formed at one side with a longitudinal split 18 which extends from end to end of this sleeve and from its interior to its exterior. When the head 14 abuts the sleeve end 15, the split 18 of the inner sleeve 10 is spaced about 180° from the split 9 of the outer sleeve 5, as shown in Figure 4 and each split sleeve therefore closes the other.

In using the device, the inner sleeve 10 is unthreaded slightly from the outer sleeve 5 to bring the two splits 9 and 18 into registration with each other, as seen in Figures 2 and 3. The device may then be moved laterally onto a fishing line 19, the hook 20 of which has become snagged in some submerged object 21. The inner sleeve 10 is then turned to thread it back into the outer sleeve to the original extent, this movement being limited by contact of the head 14 with the sleeve end 15. By turning the inner sleeve sufficiently hard, the abutting surfaces of the head and outer sleeve will frictionally lock the two sleeves against accidental relative turning.

The two sleeves, surrounding the fishing line,

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are lowered by means of the operating line 17 and the latter is alternately raised and lowered after the sleeve 5 reaches the hook 20. Repeated light blows may thus be struck upon the hook to release it, allowing hook and line and possibly the bait also to be recovered.

The device may be easily detached from the fishing line by again relatively turning the sleeves to register their splits. Then, the operating line may be wound around the outer sleeve 5. The free end of this line may be placed between the head 14 and the sleeve end 15 and said head may then be turned to clamp said free line end tightly in place. In this condition the device may be placed in the tackle box or the like in readiness for further use.

Any suitable non-corrosive metal may be used in manufacturing the device and it will be obvious that minor variations in construction may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

I claim:

A fish hook releaser comprising an outer sleeve having a longitudinal split and also having the upper end area of its interior screw-threaded, an inner sleeve of greater length than the outer sleeve, said inner sleeve also having a similar longitudinal split, said inner sleeve having a head at its upper end and a body depending therefrom and being of smaller external diameter than the head to provide a shouldered relation therebe-

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tween, said inner sleeve being exteriorly threaded below the shoulder, the thread relation of the pair of sleeves causing said splits to be non-aligned when the head shoulder engages the upper end of the outer sleeve with the splits placed in alignment by a partial unthreading movement of the inner sleeve, the lower ends of the sleeves being substantially aligned when the shoulder is engaged, the wall thickness of the outer sleeve being materially greater than that of the body of the inner sleeve, said inner sleeve having an axial opening of uniform diameter, said head carrying a bail positioned in alignment with the opening, whereby the releaser may be suspended along a fishing line passing through said opening to thereby cause the suspended sleeves to be positioned with the opening extending truly vertical due to the weight of the sleeves and thereby enable the lower end of the sleeves to directly engage the inner bottom of the bight of a hook carried by said fishing line when the releaser is freely dropped after being raised within the hook area.

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