May 3, 1932. G. MAPEL 1,856,649

TROLLING SPOON

Filed March 14, 1931

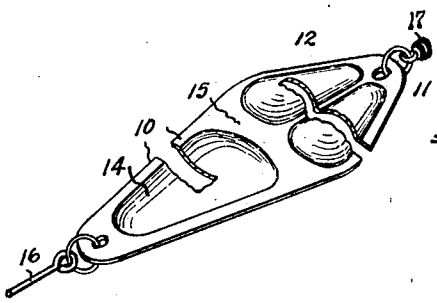


FIG. 1

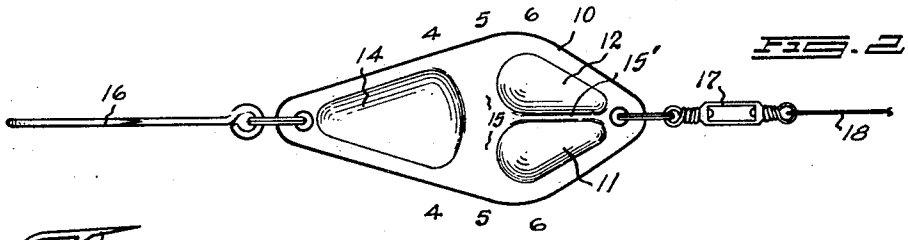


FIG. 2

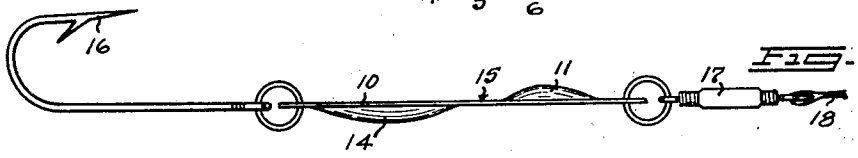


FIG. 3



FIG. 4

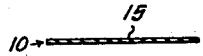


FIG. 5



FIG. 6

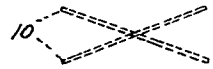


FIG. 7

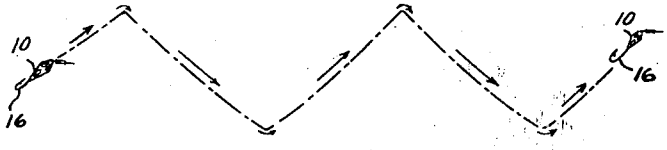


FIG. 8

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

GEORGE MAPEL, OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

TROLLING SPOON

Application filed March 14, 1931. Serial No. 522,569.

My invention relates to improvements in trolling spoons of the type used in fishing for game fish, and the general object of my present invention is to provide a trolling spoon of novel shape and configuration which will have a novel motion in the water which makes it especially alluring to game fish.

In my prior Patent No. 1,692,674, issued Nov. 20, 1928, I disclose a trolling spoon which tends to roll or oscillate from side to side of a vertical plane when it is drawn through the water in trolling. It is a primary object of my present invention to provide a trolling spoon of novel shape which will not ordinarily assume a vertical position in use but will roll back and forth from one side to the other of a horizontal position.

Another object is to provide a trolling spoon which will have the same or approximately the same rolling and zig zag motion in the water for either fast or slow trolling speeds and which will not spin at the faster trolling speeds.

A further object is to provide a trolling spoon which is quick and positive in its movements and which is capable of handling a relatively large hook in proportion to the size of the spoon.

A further object of the invention is to provide a spoon of this nature which is made of a flat plane piece of thin metal with the spoon like portions stamped or formed therein without giving a curvature to the entire spoon whereby a hard pull will not tend to distort the shape of the spoon.

A still further object is to provide a trolling spoon composed of a metal body of greater length than width having two concavo-convex spoon shaped elements disposed side by side near the forward end of the spoon on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis of the same and dished in the same direction and having one larger concavo-convex spoon shaped element toward the rear end of the spoon dished in the opposite direction from said two elements, all of said elements cooperating to produce an accurately balanced spoon which will troll in a substantially horizontal position is produced.

The efficiency of a trolling spoon of this nature in catching fish is largely dependent on the action of the spoon in the water and on the manner in which said spoon reflects light, the spoons usually being of highly polished, light reflecting material. It is apparent that both the action of the spoon in the water and the light reflecting qualities of the spoon are dependent on the shape and configuration of the same and that consequently the element of invention in the spoon must reside in the novel shape and configuration of the same.

Other and more specific objects of the invention will be apparent from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings Figure 1 is a perspective view with parts broken away of a trolling spoon constructed in accordance with my invention.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the trolling spoon.

Fig. 3 is an edge view of the same.

Figs. 4, 5 and 6 are sectional views on broken lines 4—4, 5—5, and 6—6 of Fig. 2.

Figs. 7 and 8 are diagrammatic views illustrating the action of the spoon in the water.

Like reference numerals designate like parts throughout the several views.

My trolling spoon comprises an elongated body member 10 of flat metal, bent to form two smaller concavo-convex spoon shaped elements 11 and 12 toward the forward end of the body member and one larger concavo-convex spoon shaped element 14 toward the rear end of the body member. The smaller spoon shaped elements 11 and 12 are both dished in the same direction and lie side by side on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis of the spoon. The larger spoon shaped element 14 toward the rear end of the body member 10 is dished in the opposite direction and occupies a large portion of the rear end of the body member and is bisected by the longitudinal axis of the spoon. A flat portion 15 is left between the forward end of the larger spoon shaped element 14 and the rear ends of the smaller spoon shaped elements 11 and 12. The edges of the spoon are substantially straight and free from curvature as shown in Fig. 3, the spoon being formed of a plane flat

piece of metal. The spoon like elements 11 and 12 are both concave on one side and convex on the other side of the body member, while the concave and convex sides of the element 14 are reversed relative to elements 11 and 12. The spoon shaped elements 11 and 12 have a channel 15 formed between them on their convex side.

The spoon is preferably of approximately diamond or oval shape in plan, as shown in Fig. 2 with its greatest width at a distance from the front end equal to about one third of the length of the spoon.

A hook 16 is attached to one end of the spoon in the usual manner while a swivel 17 is attached to the other end of the spoon for connection with a line 18.

In operation, when the spoon is drawn through the water in trolling, it will assume a general horizontal position but will oscillate through a limited angle as indicated in Fig. 7, and at the same time it will follow a somewhat sinuous or wave like path as illustrated in Fig. 8. This gives a movement in the water which simulates the movement of a small fish in swimming and is very alluring to the larger fish.

The foregoing description and accompanying drawings clearly disclose a preferred embodiment of my invention but it will be understood that this disclosure is merely illustrative and that such changes in the invention may be made as are fairly within the scope and spirit of the following claims.

I claim:

1. In a trolling spoon, a thin metal body member having two spoon like elements positioned side by side near the forward end of the spoon and dished in the same direction and another spoon like element positioned toward the rear end of the spoon dished in the opposite direction.

2. In a trolling spoon, a thin metal body member having two concavo-convex spoon like elements disposed side by side on opposite sides of the medial axis of the body member and toward the forward end of the body member and both dished in one direction, and a single concavo-convex spoon like element disposed toward the rear end of the body member and dished in the opposite direction.

3. In a trolling spoon, a thin metal body member of approximately diamond shape having two concavo-convex elements disposed side by side near the forward end of the body member on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis of said body member, said two elements being dished in the same direction and having a single concavo-convex element toward the rear end of the body member and dished in the opposite direction.

4. In a trolling spoon, a thin metal body member of greater length than width having two smaller concavo-convex spoon like elements disposed side by side near the forward end of the body member and on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis of the body member and dished in the same direction and having a single larger concavo-convex spoon like element provided toward the rear end of said body member and dished in the opposite direction from said two smaller spoon like elements.

5. In a trolling spoon, a thin metal body member of greater length than width bent to form three concavo-convex spoon like elements, two of said concavo-convex elements being of smaller size and dished in the same direction and positioned toward the forward end of said body member on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis of said body member and the other concavo-convex element being of larger size and dished in the opposite direction and positioned toward the rear end of said body member to thereby leave a relatively flat plane section extending crosswise of the spoon between the forward end of said larger concavo-convex element and the rear ends of said two smaller concavo-convex elements.

6. In a trolling spoon, a metal body member of greater length than width bent to form three concavo-convex spoon like elements, the remainder of said body member being plane and flat and free from curvature and the edges of said body member being straight, two of said concavo-convex elements being dished in the same direction and positioned side by side on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis of said spoon and toward the forward end thereof and the other concavo-convex element being symmetrically positioned toward the rear end of said spoon and dished in a reverse direction.

The foregoing specification signed at Seattle, Wash., this 28th day of Feb., 1931.

GEORGE MAPEL.