No. 897,898.

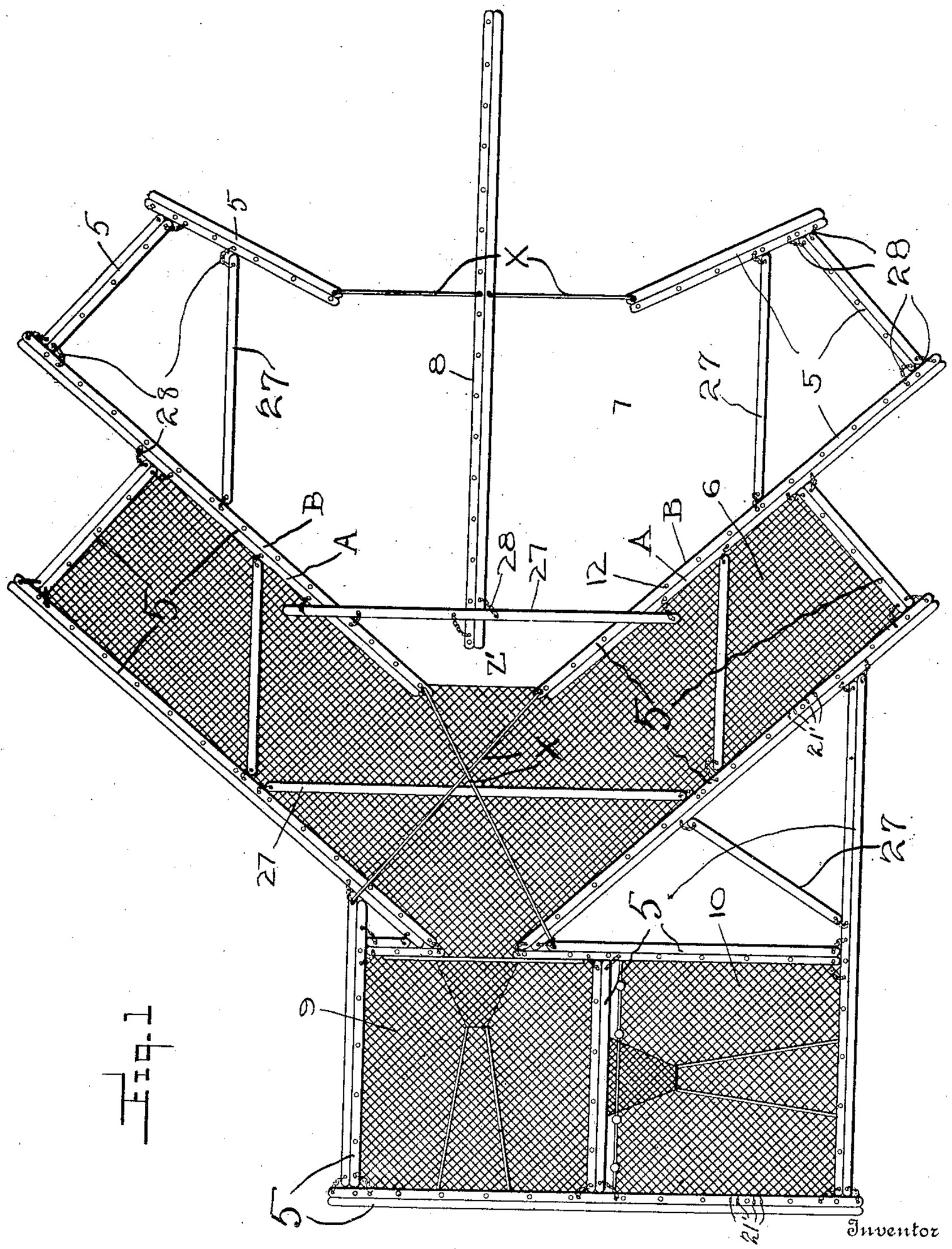
PATENTED SEPT. 8, 1908.

J. R. HECKMAN.

FISH TRAP.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 20, 1908.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses

Ed. P. Lusby.

E. L. Chandlee

Inventor

James R. Heckman.

By Woodward & Chandlee

Attorney

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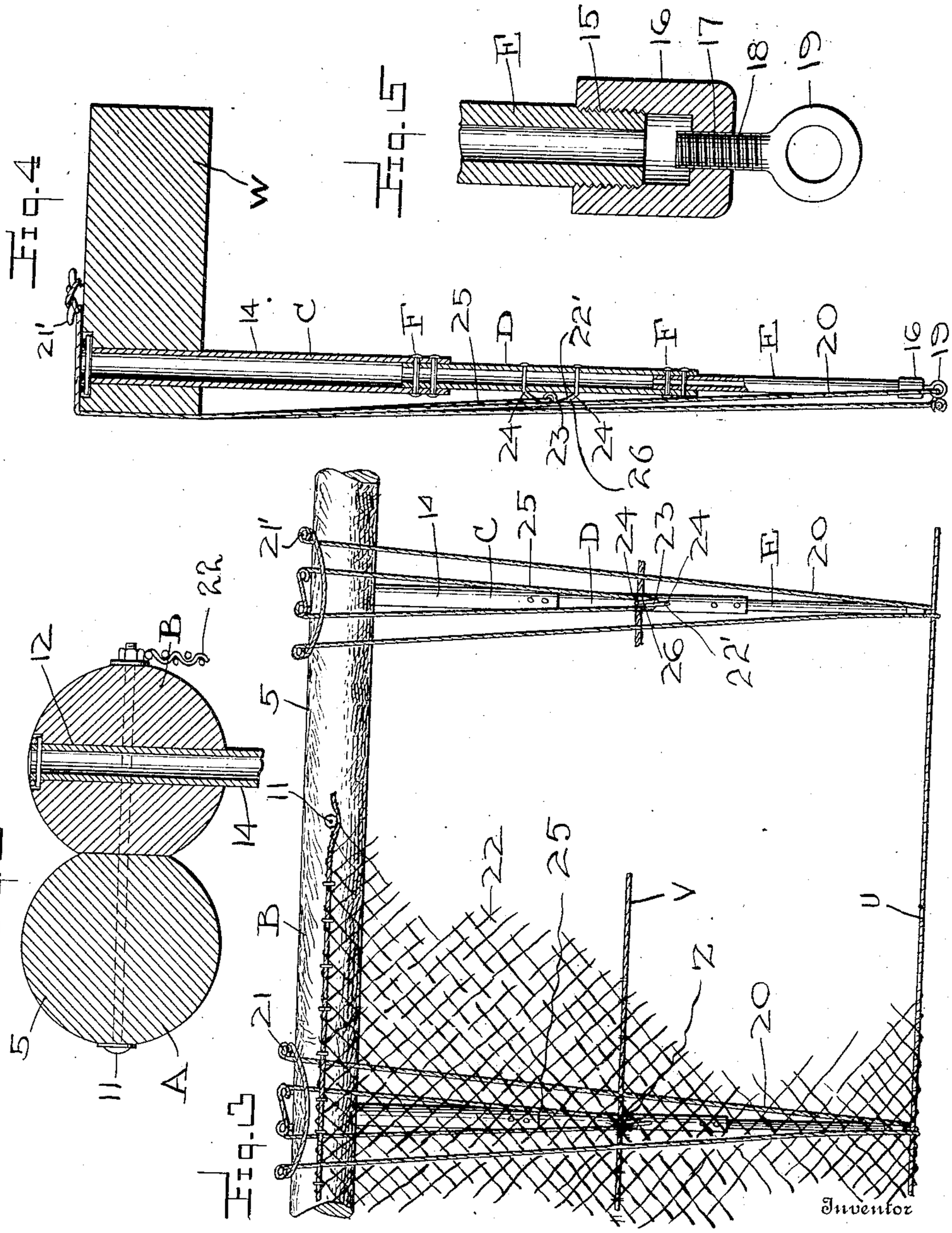

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

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Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES R. HECKMAN, OF KETCHIKAN, DISTRICT OF ALASKA.

FISH-TRAP.

No. 897,898. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 8, 1908.

Application filed March 20, 1908. Serial No. 422,313.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES R. HECKMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Ketchikan, in the District of Alaska, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fish-Traps, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to traps and more particularly to fish traps, and has especial relation to fish traps of what is known as the "boom chain" type.

It has been discovered that in construction of traps, the use of a frame including movably connected members would be desirable, but heretofore it has been my experience that when using depending web-supporting rods carried by a floating frame and equipped with hauldowns for moving the web downwardly from the frame, rigid connection of the members of the frame has been necessary in order to prevent the members from turning over, when the web is hauled down into place.

It is therefore a particular object of the present invention to provide a trap including a frame consisting of a plurality of movably connected floating members, equipped with depending web supports, means for moving the web downwardly over the web supports, and a trap which includes a structure preventing rolling of the frame members when the web is hauled into position.

Another object is to provide a trap including these features which may be cheaply and easily constructed on the surface of the water.

In the drawings forming a portion of this specification in which like numerals of reference indicate similar parts in the several views, Figure 1 is a top plan view of the trap, many of the cleats being omitted to prevent confusion. Fig. 2 is a transverse section through one of the frame members, in the plane of one of the web rods. Fig. 3 is a vertical side elevation of a portion of the trap, showing the relative arrangements of the frame member, web and web rods. Fig. 4 is a sectional view of a modified form. Fig. 5 is a detail of the web rod end.

Referring now to the drawings, there is shown a fish trap including a plurality of buoyant frame members 5 arranged to form a heart 6, a jigger 7, a lead 8, a pot 9, and a spiller 10. Each frame member 5 consists of parallel beams A and B, which are secured together, by transverse bolts 11 engaged therethrough. It will be observed that the beam B is the inner beam in each case, and each of these beams B has formed therethrough a plurality of vertically extending passages 12. These passages 12 receive the upper end portions of depending nonbuoyant web supporting rods 14, which will be termed web rods. Each of these web rods 14 is composed of a plurality of sections of pipe engaged one within another, these pipe sections being shown at C, D and E respectively. Suitable fastening devices F are engaged through the members of the web rod.

The lowermost section E of each web rod, is exteriorly threaded at its lower end, as shown at 15, and has engaged therewith an interiorly threaded cap 16, having a reduced threaded opening 17 in its lower end. This threaded opening 17 receives the stem 18 of an eyebolt 19. A haul down 20 is engaged through each of the eyebolts 19, and these haul downs extend upwardly at the inner sides of the beams B and are engaged over cleats 21′ mounted upon the beams. A net web 22 is secured to the frame members, and is attached at its lower edge to the various haul downs 20. When it is desired to move the net web into position, one side of each haul down is drawn upwardly, and the web is drawn down into the water. By reason of the fact that the web rods are located adjacent to the inner sides of the frame members, being engaged in the beams B of these members, the tendency of the frame members to roll during the operation of setting the web is retarded by the tendency of this operation to submerge the beams A, and the frame members thus remain practically stationary in the water. Above its lower end, each of the web rods has engaged therein, a laterally extending eyemember 22′, consisting of a rod bent into U shape and having the central portions of its bight twisted to form an inwardly directed eye 23. These eyemembers have their legs 24 engaged through the web rods, and their eyes 23 engaged against the web rods. Additional haul downs 25 are engaged through the eyes 23, and are also secured to the net web as shown at Z. As will be seen, the lower edge of the net web when the latter is drawn downwardly, will strike one of the curved portions indicated at 26, forming a portion of the bight of the eyemember, and will be guided over the eye 23. As above stated, these eyemembers may be made of stock metal, bent into the desired

shape and having the ends of their legs riveted through the web rods. A plurality of the connecting brace members 27 are connected with the members of the frame, those spaced members which are located at the passage opening of the trap, shown at Z′, being located upon the frame members, so as to lie above the surface of the water in which the frame members are floated.

As will be observed, all portions of the trap frame are connected by means of chains 28, so that the several portions are free to move with respect with each other, within certain limitations, and thus ride easily upon the surface of rough water.

In Fig. 4 of the drawings, there is shown a form of the invention in which the frame member is formed of a single beam, W the web rod being engaged therein adjacent to the inner side thereof. As shown the trap is further strengthened by ropes X. The web 22 is strengthened by a bottom rope U and a central rope V.

What is claimed is:

1. A fish trap comprising a buoyant frame consisting of a plurality of floatable members movably connected with each other and occupying a substantially common plane, web supporting members carried by the frame members, the web supporting members of each frame member being located adjacent to the one side thereof, and a net web carried by the web supporting members.

2. A fish trap comprising a plurality of floatable frame-members, depending web-supports carried by the frame members adjacent to one side thereof, net-webbing adapted for movement over the web-supports into and out of operative position, and means for moving the net-webbing.

3. In a fish trap structure, the combination with a buoyant frame member of depending web rods carried by the frame member adjacent to one side thereof, haul downs movably engaged with the web rods, and net webbing carried by the haul downs.

4. In a fish trap structure, the combination with a frame member of a web rod engaged therein adjacent to one side thereof, and a haul down movably engaged with the web rod.

5. In a fish trap structure, the combination with a frame member comprising two parallel beams rigidly secured together, of depending web rods carried by one of said beams.

6. In a fish trap structure, the combination with a frame comprising a plurality of floatable frame members movably connected together, each of said frame members comprising two beams secured together, web rods engaged in one of the beams of each frame member, and means carried by the web rod for moving a net web thereover.

7. A fish trap having floatable frame members, web-rods carried by the frame members adjacent to one side thereof, a net-web movable vertically over the web-rods into and out of operative position, and means connected with the web-rods for moving the net-web into and out of operative position.

8. A web guiding and haul down receiving member for fish traps comprising a U shaped rod adapted for engagement of its legs in a portion of the fish trap, and having its bight twisted to form an eye extending between the legs of the members.

9. In a fish trap structure, the combination with a web rod, of a laterally extending eyemember carried by said rod, said eyemember comprising spaced legs engaged through the rod and a connecting bight, said bight being twisted to form an eye extending inwardly therefrom, a haul down engaged with the web rod below the member, and a second haul down engaged in the member.

10. A fish trap comprising a frame consisting of a plurality of movable members, web rods carried by said members outwardly of the longitudinal axes of said members, and a net web movable over the web rods into and out of operative position.

11. In a fish trap structure, the combination with a frame member of a web rod connected with said frame member outwardly of the center of said member.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

JAMES R. HECKMAN.

Witnesses:

PAUL F. GROVE,

E. L. CHANDLEE.