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Lewis

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(54) **FISHING LURE**

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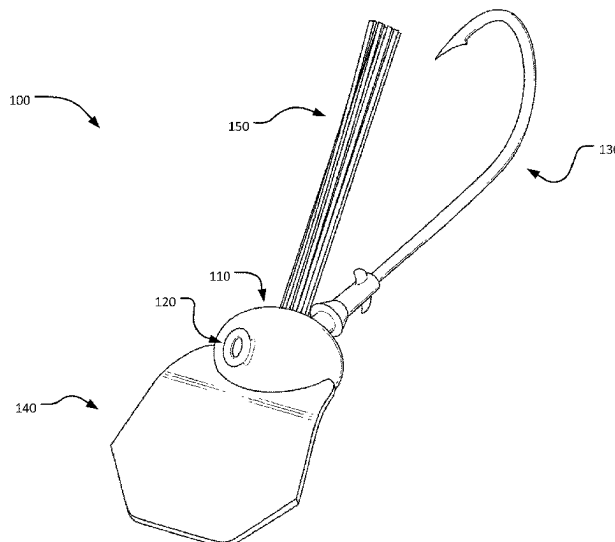
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A fishing lure includes a lure body, an anchor point, a hook, and a guide. The lure body has opposed forward and rearward areas, an upper area, and a lower area. The anchor point extends upwardly from the upper area of the lure body in a direction away from the rearward area of the lure body. The hook has a shank fixedly extending from the rearward area of the lure body, and the hook has a tip located above the lure body. The guide extends from the forward area of the lure body. The guide has a steering portion angled downwardly away from the anchor point, and the steering portion extends downwardly below the lure body. The steering portion of the guide includes a leading edge and is generally symmetrical, and a maximum width of the guide is greater than a maximum width of the lure body.

19 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



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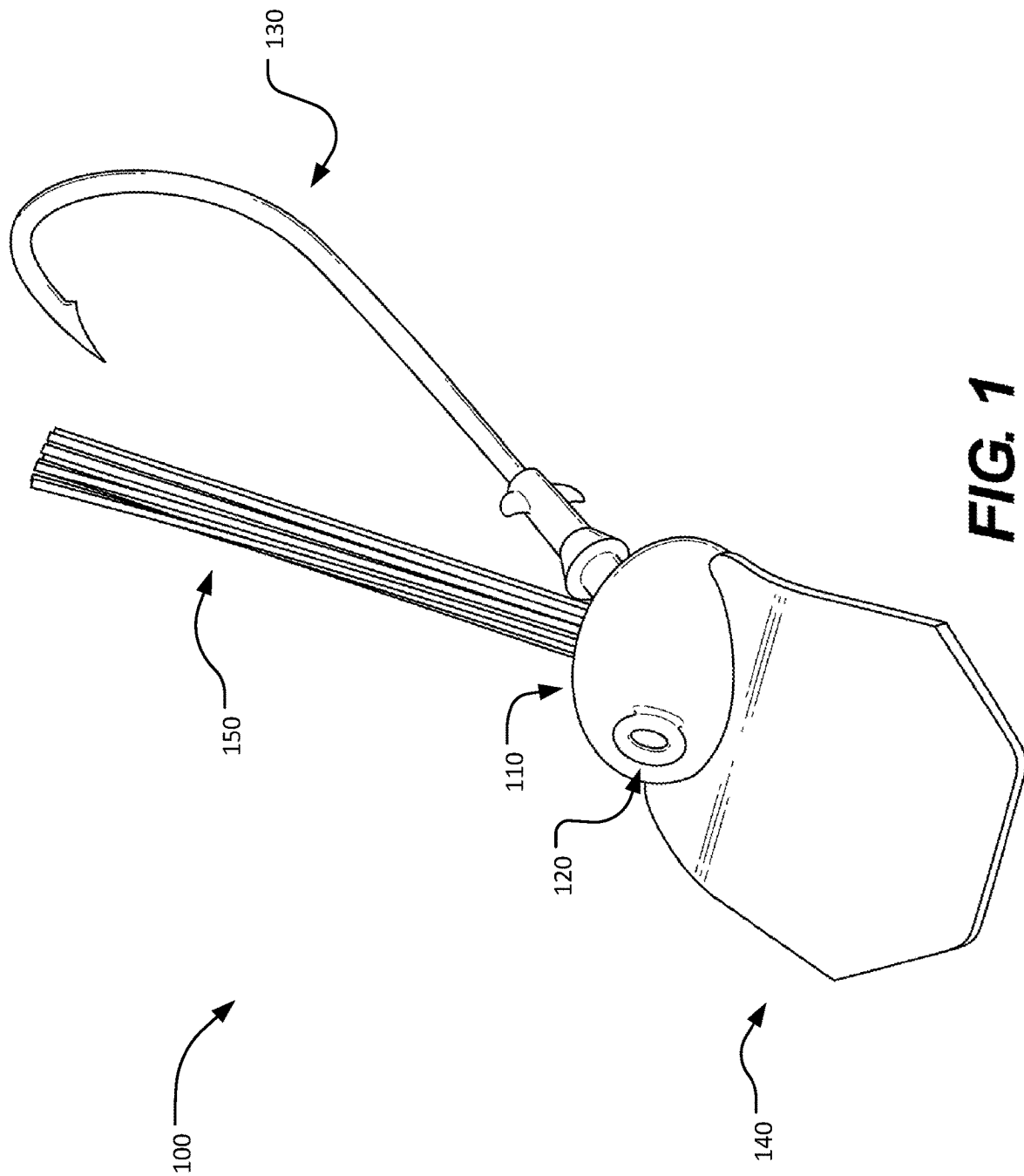
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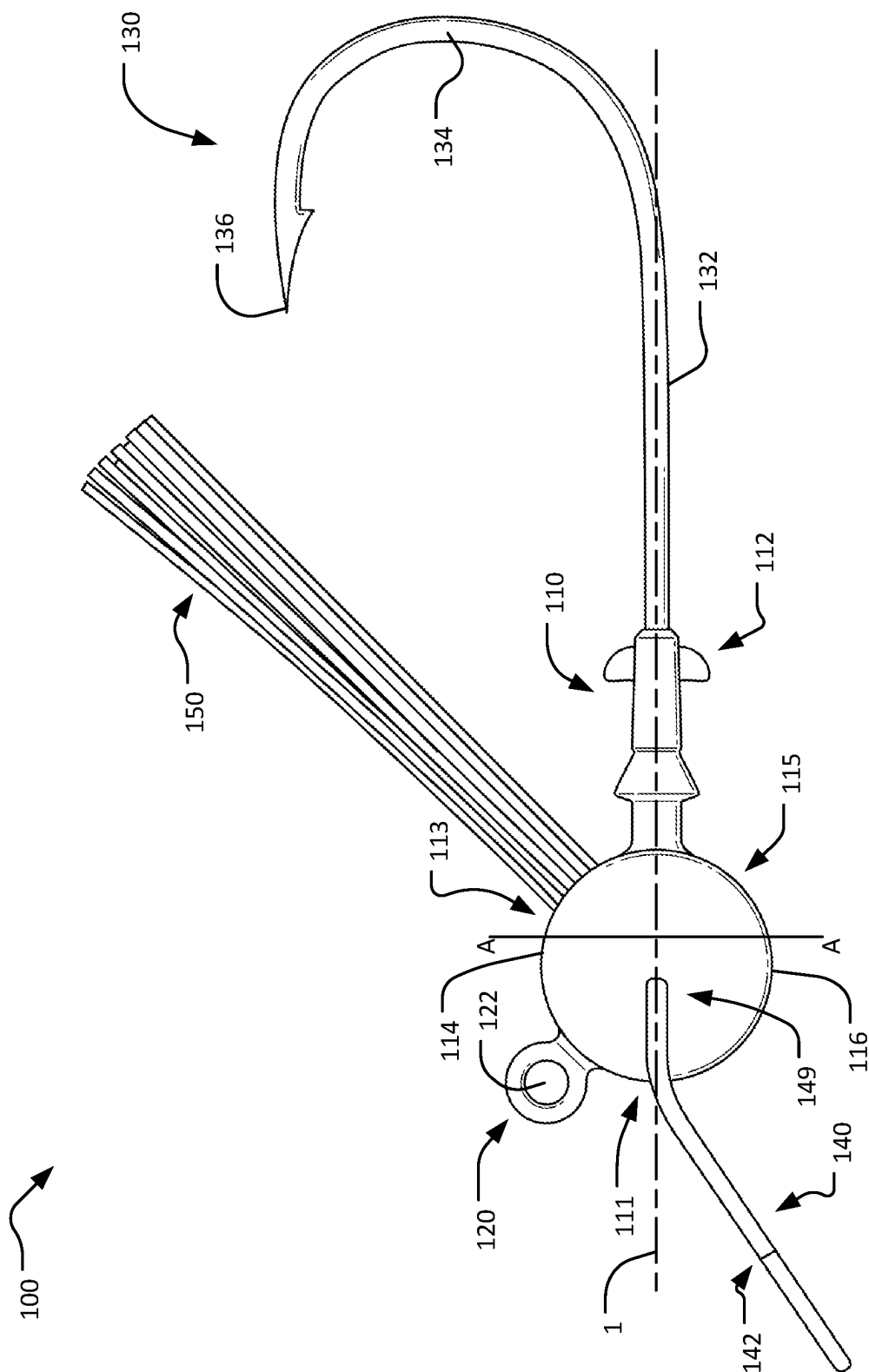


FIG. 2

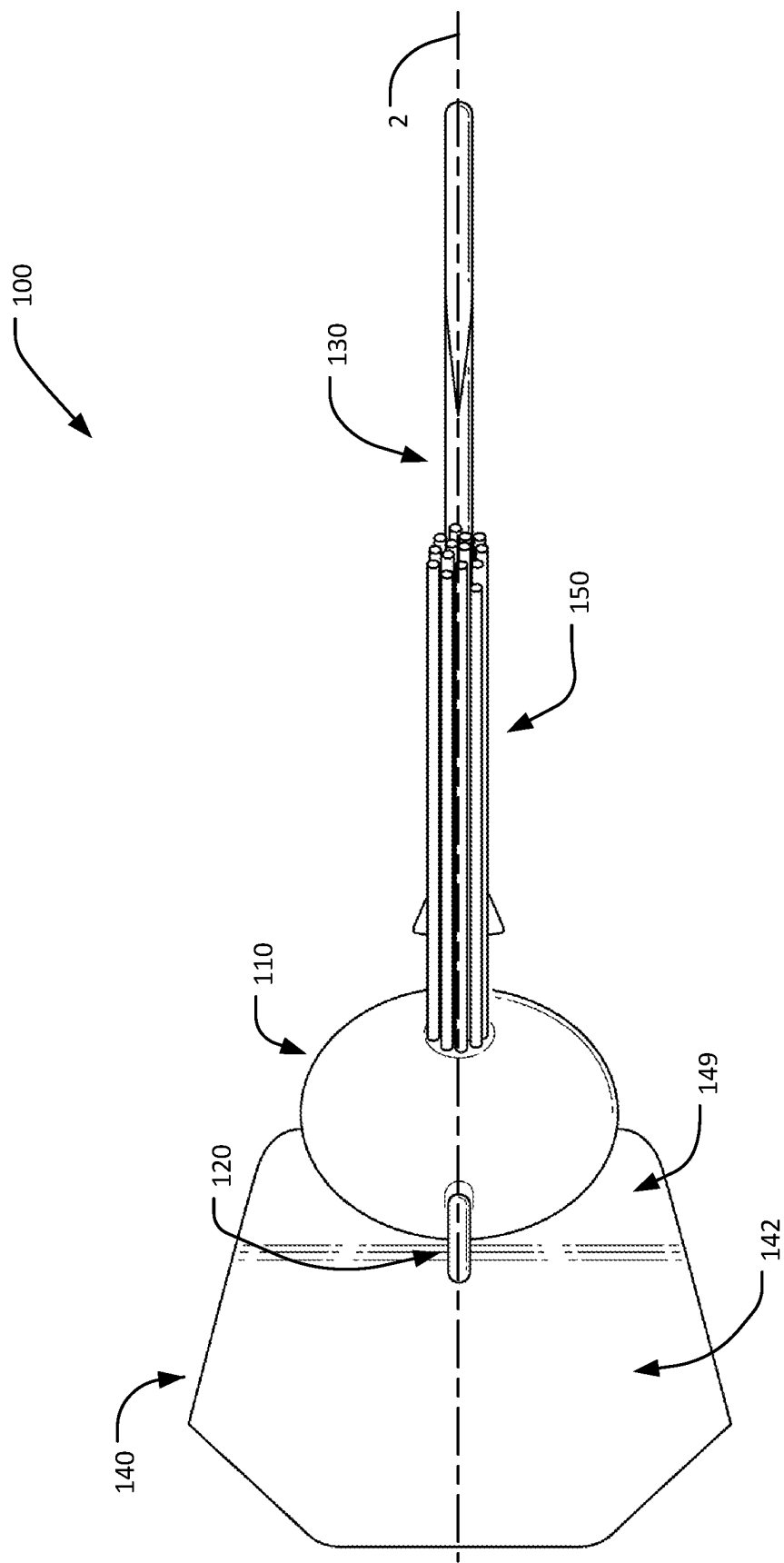


FIG. 3

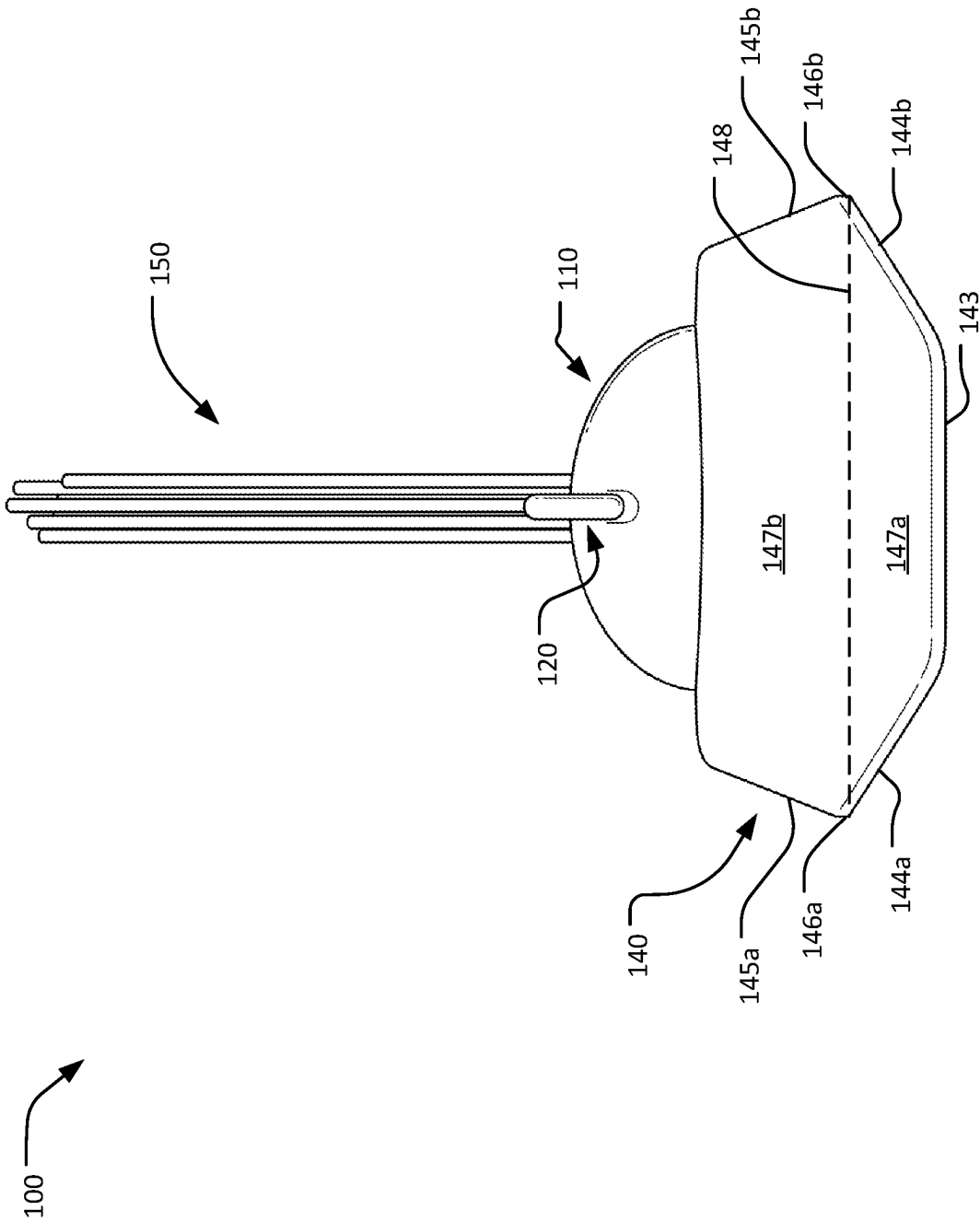


FIG. 4

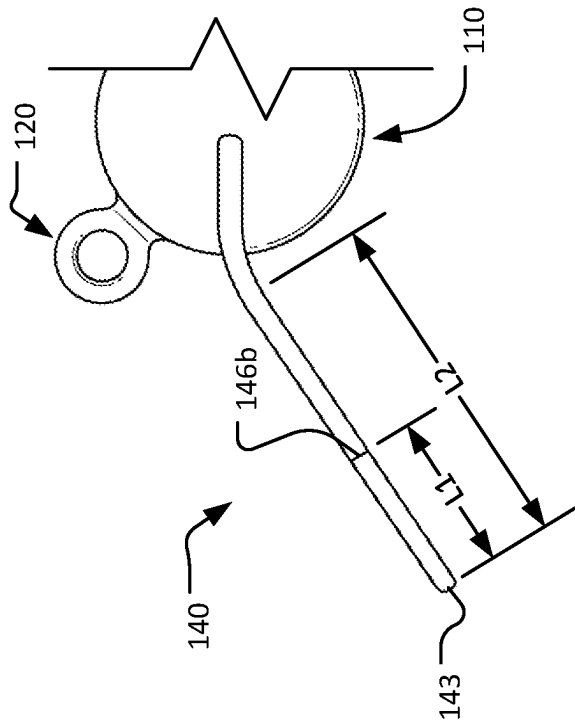


FIG. 5

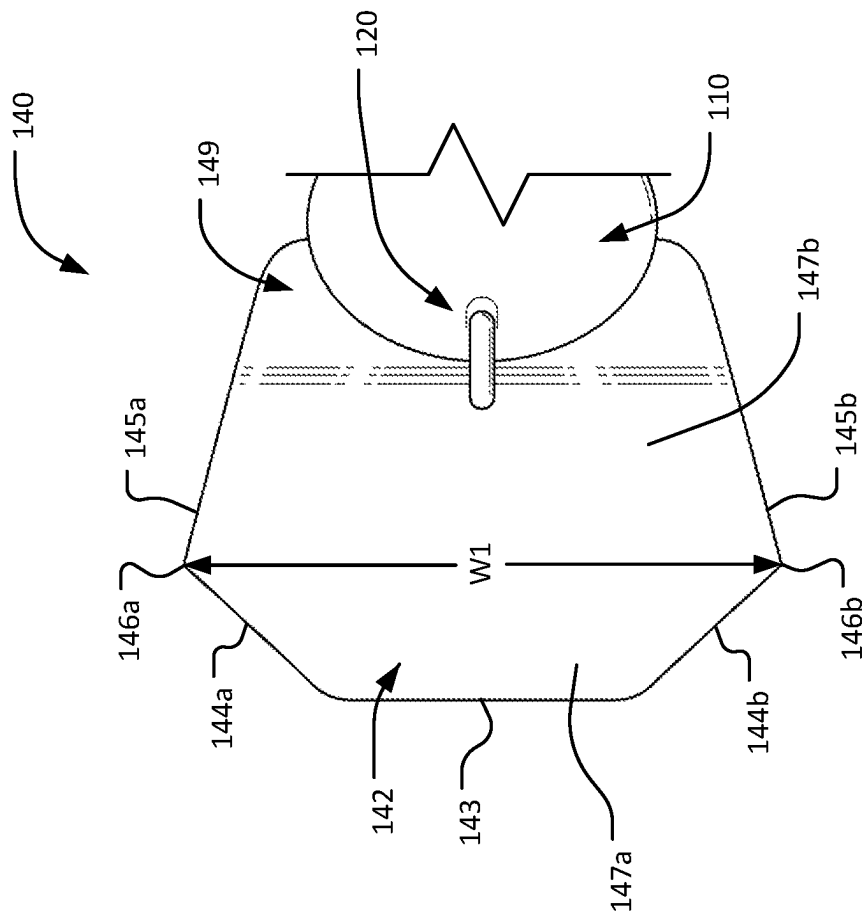


FIG. 6

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FISHING LURE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The disclosure relates generally to fishing lures. More specifically, the disclosure relates to fishing lures for use at the floor of a body of water.

SUMMARY

The following presents a simplified summary of the invention in order to provide a basic understanding of some aspects of the invention. This summary is not an extensive overview of the invention. It is not intended to identify critical elements of the invention or to delineate the scope of the invention. Its sole purpose is to present some concepts of the invention in a simplified form as a prelude to the more detailed description that is presented elsewhere.

According to an embodiment, a fishing lure includes a lure body, a hook, an anchor point, and a guide. The lure body has opposed forward and rearward areas, an upper area that terminates at a top, and a lower area that terminates at a bottom. The hook has a shank fixedly extending from the rearward area of the lure body, a bend extending away from the bottom of the lure body, and a point. A first orientation plane extends along the shank and the lure body, and the first orientation plane separates the upper area of the lure body from the lower area of the lure body. A second orientation plane is perpendicular to the first orientation plane and extends along the shank and the lure body. The anchor point extends from the upper area of the lure body in a direction away from the first orientation plane and away from the rearward area of the lure body for attaching fishing line to the lure body along the second orientation plane. The guide has a steering portion and an attachment portion. The steering portion is angled relative to the attachment portion in a direction away from the anchor point. The attachment portion couples the steering portion to the lure body such that the steering portion extends away from the hook and away from the lure body top. The steering portion extends beyond the bottom of the lure body relative to the first orientation plane.

According to another embodiment, a fishing lure includes a lure body, an anchor point, a hook, and a guide. The lure body has opposed forward and rearward areas, an upper area, and a lower area. The anchor point extends upwardly from the upper area of the lure body in a direction away from the rearward area of the lure body. The hook extends from the rearward area of the lure body. The hook has a point located above the lure body and aligned with the anchor point. The guide extends from the forward area of the lure body and has a steering portion angled downwardly away from the anchor point. The steering portion extends downwardly beyond the lower area of the lure body. The steering portion of the guide includes a first lateral edge extending away from the lure body to a first point, a second lateral edge extending away from the lure body to a second point, a leading edge, a first tapered edge extending from the first point to the leading edge, and a second tapered edge extending from the second point to the leading edge. A leading zone of the guide extends from the leading edge to an imaginary line connecting the first and second points, and the leading zone is generally trapezoidal. A maximum width of the guide is a distance between the first and second points, and the maximum width of the guide is greater than a maximum width of the lure body.

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According to still another embodiment, a fishing lure includes a lure body, an anchor point, a hook, and a guide. The lure body has opposed forward and rearward areas, an upper area, and a lower area. The anchor point extends upwardly from the upper area of the lure body in a direction away from the rearward area of the lure body. The hook has a shank fixedly extending from the rearward area of the lure body, and the hook has a point located above the lure body. The guide extends from the forward area of the lure body. The guide has a steering portion angled downwardly away from the anchor point, and the steering portion extends downwardly below the lure body. The steering portion of the guide includes a leading edge and is generally symmetrical, and a maximum width of the guide is greater than a maximum width of the lure body.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a fishing lure according to an embodiment of the current disclosure.

FIG. 2 is a side view of the fishing lure of FIG. 1, and the opposite side view is generally a mirror image of FIG. 2.

FIG. 3 is a top view of the fishing lure of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a front view of the fishing lure of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a partial side view taken along A-A in FIG. 2.

FIG. 6 is a partial top view taken along A-A in FIG. 2.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Many types of fish feed exclusively or at least partially from the bottom of a body of water, such as a lake or river. For simplification, the term "lake" is used herein to refer to any body of water relevant to the disclosed lure (e.g., lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, etcetera). Even though they may also feed from different layers of water, these fish are often referred to as bottom feeders and include such freshwater fish as bass, carp, and catfish. Bass may particularly prefer to feed on crayfish at the floor of the lake.

When fishing for bottom feeders, either live bait or a lure may be used. Live bait often has a relatively short lifespan or is dead before being baited on a hook. And both live bait and lures tend to rise from the lake floor and not mimic movement of crayfish or other such natural food sources for bottom feeders. To try to address the tendency to rise, weights are often used along with live bait and lures. In addition, both live bait and lures frequently get caught on the various debris and organisms on the lake floor.

The current disclosure provides lures which may behave similar to crayfish or other such natural food sources for bottom feeders, which may become entangled less frequently than conventional bait, and/or which may require less weight than conventional bait to overcome the tendency to rise.

FIGS. 1 through 6 illustrate a fishing lure for fishing on the floor of a lake, according to an embodiment 100 of the current disclosure. The fishing lure 100 has a lure body 110, an anchor point 120, a hook 130, and a guide 140. First and second perpendicular orientation planes (or "imaginary planes") 1 and 2 are provided in the figures for reference.

The lure body 110 has opposed forward and rearward areas 111, 112, an upper area 113 that terminates at a top 114, and a lower area 115 that terminates at a bottom 116. The lure body 110 may be shaped in numerous ways to resemble prey or otherwise attract fish, though it may be particularly desirable for the lure body 110 to be generally symmetrical about the second orientation plane 2. The lure body 110 extends along the first orientation plane 1 and separates the

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upper area **113** of the lure body **110** from the lower area **115** of the lure body **110**, and in some embodiments the lure body **110** may additionally be generally symmetrical about the first orientation plane **1**. The lure body **110** may be constructed of any appropriate material or combination of materials, whether now known or later developed, such as metal, plastic, composite, and rubber.

The anchor point **120** extends upwardly from the upper area **113** of the lure body **110** in a direction away from the rearward area **112** of the lure body **110** for attaching fishing line to the lure body along the second orientation plane **2**. As shown in the drawings, the anchor point **120** may extend along the second orientation plane **2** and may be an eyelet having a hole **122** with a center axis that extends generally perpendicularly to the second orientation plane **2**. In some embodiments, the anchor point **120** is formed with or otherwise inseparable from the lure body **110**; but in other embodiments, the anchor point **120** may be threaded into or otherwise selectively removable from the lure body **110**.

The hook **130** extends from the rearward area **112** of the lure body **110**. As shown in the figures, the hook **130** may have a shank **132** fixedly extending from the rearward area **112**, a bend **134** extending away from the bottom **116** of the lure body **110**, and a point (or "tip") **136** located above the lure body **110** and generally aligned with the anchor point **120**. The first and second orientation planes **1** and **2** are shown extending along the shank **132** in the embodiment **100**. While a hook **130** having a straight shank **132** and a single tip **136** is shown, other embodiments may include an offset shank **132** and/or multiple tips **136** (e.g., the hook **130** may be a treble hook). Those skilled in the art will appreciate that there are many types of hooks **130** that may be used with the current disclosure, including hooks that currently exist and hooks that will be made in the future.

The guide **140** extends from the forward area **111** of the lure body **110** away from the hook **130** and has a steering portion **142** and an attachment portion **149**. The steering portion **142** is angled relative to the attachment portion **149** in a direction away from the anchor point **120** and extends beyond the lower area **115** of the lure body **110**. It may be particularly desirable for the steering portion **142** to be angled between 135° and 150° relative to the first orientation plane **1**, and even more desirable for the steering portion **142** to be angled between 145° and 150° relative to the first orientation plane **1**. The steering portion **142** includes a leading edge **143**, and both the steering portion **142** and the attachment portion **149** may be generally symmetrical as shown in the figures (e.g., about the second orientation plane **2**).

In the embodiment **100**, the leading edge **143** is generally linear and the steering portion **142** is generally planar. A first tapered edge **144a** extends from one end of the leading edge **143** to a first lateral edge **145a** at a first point **146a**, and a second tapered edge **144b** extends from another end of the leading edge **143** to a second lateral edge **145b** at a second point **146b**, such that a leading zone **147a** (FIG. 4) extending from the leading edge **143** to an imaginary line **148** connecting the first and second points **146a**, **146b** is generally trapezoidal. The first lateral edge **145a** and the second lateral edge **145b** each extend to the attachment portion **149** of the guide **140**, and the maximum width of the guide **140** is a distance **W1** (FIG. 6) between the first and second points **146a**, **146b** such that a trailing zone **147b** (FIG. 4) extending from the imaginary line **148** to the attachment portion **149** is generally trapezoidal and the distance **W1** is greater than a maximum width of the lure body **110**.

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It may be particularly desirable for the first tapered edge **144a** to be angled between 120° and 150° relative to the leading edge **143**, and even more desirable for the first tapered edge **144a** to be angled between 135° and 140° relative to the leading edge **143**. And, or alternately, it may be particularly desirable for a length **L1** of the leading zone **147a** to be 25% to 60% of an overall length **L2** of the leading zone **147a** and the trailing zone **147b**, and even more desirable for the length **L1** to be 42% to 49% of the overall length **L2** as shown in FIG. 5.

The attachment portion **149** couples the steering portion **142** to the lure body **110** and may desirably extend along the first orientation plane **1** as shown in the embodiment **100** in FIG. 2. But in other embodiments, the attachment portion **149** may be coupled to the upper area **113** or the lower area **115** of the lure body **110** and may or may not extend parallel to the first orientation plane **1**.

As shown throughout the drawings, an attractant **150** may extend from the upper area **113** of the lure body **110** in a direction away from the lower area **115** and away from the forward area **111** of the lure body **110**, with the attractant **150** being between the anchor point **120** and the tip **136** of the hook **130**. As shown in FIG. 3, the attractant may desirably be aligned with the anchor point **120** for balance and/or to disguise the hook **130**.

In use, a fishing line is strung on the anchor point **120** and the fishing lure **100** is cast into a lake and settles onto the lake floor. If desired, a sinker may be operably coupled to the lure body **110** to cause the fishing lure **100** to sink faster and remain on the lake floor. However, due to the construction of the lure **100**, the sinker may be lighter than would otherwise be required for conventional sinkers in order to remain on the lake floor. Using the fishing line, the fishing lure **100** is then pulled across the lake floor.

Due to the guide **140**, the lure **100** stays on the lake floor even as the fishing line is being reeled in. And further, the guide **140** may cause the lure **100** to move across the lake floor in a manner that resembles a crayfish or other prey of bass or other bottom feeders while keeping the hook **130** free from snagging debris and organisms on the lake floor. The particular configuration and contours of the guide **140** may be varied to cause different desired motions and attract different prey.

Many different arrangements of the various components depicted, as well as components not shown, are possible without departing from the spirit and scope of the present disclosure. Embodiments of the present disclosure have been described with the intent to be illustrative rather than restrictive. Alternative embodiments will become apparent to those skilled in the art that do not depart from its scope. A skilled artisan may develop alternative means of implementing the aforementioned improvements without departing from the scope of the present disclosure. It will be understood that certain features and subcombinations are of utility and may be employed without reference to other features and subcombinations and are contemplated within the scope of the claims.

The invention claimed is:

1. A fishing lure, comprising:

- a lure body having opposed forward and rearward areas, an upper area that terminates at a top, and a lower area that terminates at a bottom;
- a hook having a shank fixedly extending from the rearward area of the lure body, a bend extending away from the bottom of the lure body, and a tip; a first orientation plane extending along the shank and the lure body; the first orientation plane separating the upper area of the

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lure body from the lower area of the lure body; a second orientation plane perpendicular to the first orientation plane extending along the shank and the lure body; an anchor point extending from the upper area of the lure body in a direction away from the first orientation plane and away from the rearward area of the lure body for attaching fishing line to the lure body along the second orientation plane; and

a guide consisting of a steering portion and an attachment portion, the steering portion being angled relative to the attachment portion in a direction away from the anchor point, the attachment portion being planar and coupling the steering portion to the lure body such that the steering portion extends away from the hook and away from the top of the lure body, the steering portion extending beyond the bottom of the lure body relative to the first orientation plane;

wherein the steering portion of the guide is planar and has a leading edge and first and second lateral edges symmetrical to one another about the second orientation plane;

wherein the lure is configured to sink naturally and rest upon a bottom surface of a body of water, and the steering portion is configured to keep the lure engaged on the bottom surface as the lure is pulled, such that the lure drags across the bottom surface while elevating the hook and inhibiting snagging; and

wherein the steering portion is further configured to alter movement of the lure such that the lure mimics the movement of a crawfish while dragging along the bottom surface.

2. The fishing lure of claim 1, further comprising an attractant extending from the upper area of the lure body in a direction away from the first orientation plane and away from the forward area of the lure body, the attractant being between the anchor point and the tip of the hook.

3. The fishing lure of claim 1, wherein the attachment portion of the guide extends in the first orientation plane.

4. The fishing lure of claim 1, wherein the attachment portion of the guide is coupled to the upper area of the lure body.

5. The fishing lure of claim 1, wherein the attachment portion of the guide is coupled to the lower area of the lure body.

6. The fishing lure of claim 1, wherein:

the first and second lateral edges extend from the attachment portion of the guide;

the steering portion of the guide has a first tapered edge extending from the first lateral edge at a first point to the leading edge; and

the steering portion of the guide has a second tapered edge extending from the second lateral edge at a second point to the leading edge; and

a maximum width of the guide is a distance between the first and second points.

7. The fishing lure of claim 6, wherein the first tapered edge is angled between 120° and 150° relative to the leading edge.

8. The fishing lure of claim 6, wherein:

a leading zone of the guide extends from the leading edge to an imaginary line connecting the first and second points;

a trailing zone of the guide extends from the imaginary line connecting the first and second points to the attachment portion; and

a length of the leading zone is 25% to 60% of an overall length of the leading zone and the trailing zone.

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9. The fishing lure of claim 8, wherein the steering portion is angled between 135° and 150° relative to the first orientation plane.

10. The fishing lure of claim 1, wherein a maximum width of the steering portion is greater than a maximum width of the lure body.

11. The fishing lure of claim 1, wherein the anchor point is an eyelet having a hole with a center axis that extends perpendicularly to the second orientation plane.

12. A fishing lure, comprising:

a lure body having opposed forward and rearward areas, an upper area, and a lower area;

an eyelet for connecting a fishing line extending upwardly from the upper area of the lure body in a direction away from the rearward area of the lure body;

a hook extending from the rearward area of the lure body, the hook having a tip located above the lure body and aligned with the eyelet; and

a symmetrical guide extending from the forward area of the lure body, the guide having a steering portion angled downwardly away from the eyelet, the steering portion extending downwardly beyond the lower area of the lure body;

wherein the steering portion of the guide comprises:

a first lateral edge extending away from the lure body to a first point;

a second lateral edge extending away from the lure body to a second point;

a leading edge;

a first tapered edge extending from the first point to the leading edge; and

a second tapered edge extending from the second point to the leading edge;

wherein a leading zone of the guide extends from the leading edge to an imaginary line connecting the first and second points, the leading zone being trapezoidal; wherein a maximum width of the guide is a distance between the first and second points;

wherein the maximum width of the guide is greater than a maximum width of the lure body;

wherein the lure is configured to sink naturally and rest upon a bottom surface of a body of water, and the steering portion is configured to keep the lure engaged on the bottom surface as the lure is pulled, such that the lure drags across the bottom surface while elevating the hook and inhibiting snagging; and

wherein the steering portion is further configured to alter movement of the lure such that the lure mimics the movement of a crawfish while dragging along the bottom surface.

13. The fishing lure of claim 12, further comprising an attractant extending from the upper area of the lure body in a direction away from the forward and lower areas of the lure body, the attractant being between the eyelet and the tip of the hook, the attractant being aligned with the eyelet and the tip of the hook.

14. A fishing lure, comprising:

a lure body having opposed forward and rearward areas, an upper area, and a lower area;

an anchor point extending upwardly from the upper area of the lure body in a direction away from the rearward area of the lure body;

a hook having a shank fixedly extending from the rearward area of the lure body, the hook having a tip located above the lure body; and

a guide extending from the forward area of the lure body, the guide having a steering portion angled downwardly

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away from the anchor point, the steering portion
 extending downwardly below the lure body;
 wherein the steering portion of the guide includes a
 leading edge and is symmetrical;
 wherein a maximum width of the guide is greater than a
 maximum width of the lure body;
 wherein the lure is configured to sink naturally and rest
 upon a bottom surface of a body of water, and the
 steering portion is configured to keep the lure engaged
 on the bottom surface as the lure is pulled, such that the
 lure drags across the bottom surface while elevating the
 hook thereby and inhibiting snagging; and
 wherein the steering portion is further configured to alter
 movement of the lure such that the lure mimics the
 movement of a crawfish while dragging along the
 bottom surface;
 wherein: the leading edge is linear; and
 the steering portion of the guide has a trapezoidal leading
 zone extending from the leading edge.

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15. The fishing lure of claim **14**, further comprising an
 attractant extending from the upper area of the lure body in
 a direction away from the forward and lower areas of the
 lure body, the attractant being rearward of the anchor point.

16. The fishing lure of claim **1**, wherein the first lateral
 edge is linear and the second lateral edge is linear.

17. The fishing lure of claim **12**, wherein the first lateral
 edge is linear and the second lateral edge is linear.

18. The fishing lure of claim **1**, wherein the steering
 portion is further configured to keep the lure engaged on the
 bottom surface of the body of water without weighted
 sinkers, or with weighted sinkers of lower weight than
 traditionally required.

19. The fishing lure of claim **1**, wherein the steering
 portion is configured to alter movement of the lure such that
 the lure mimics other varieties of prey for bottom feeding
 fish, while dragging along the bottom surface.

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