(No Model.)

W. A. STEWART.

OYSTER DREDGE.

No. 382,624. Patented May 8, 1888.

Fig. 1.

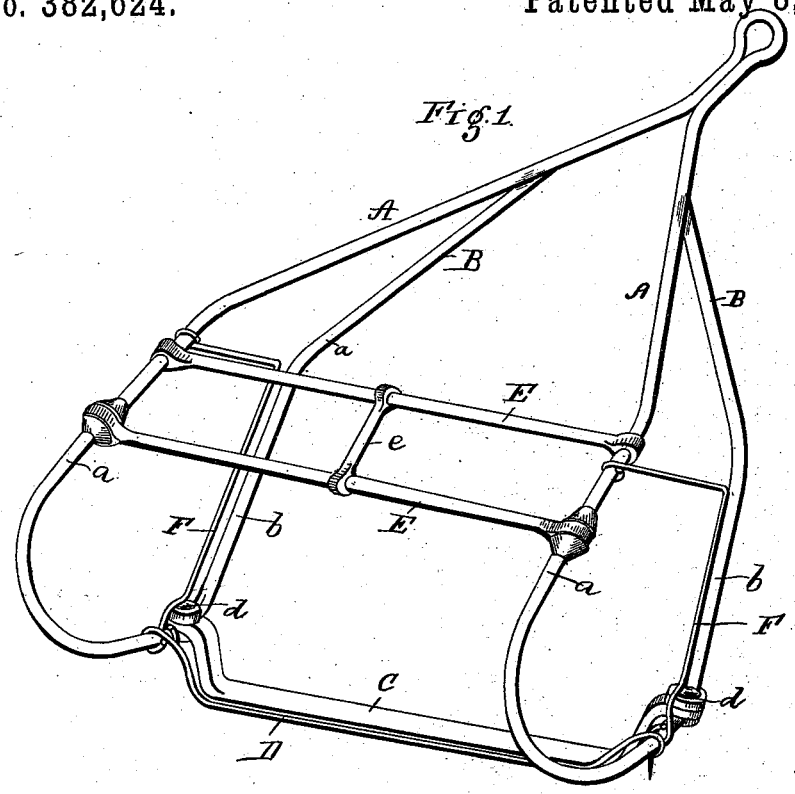
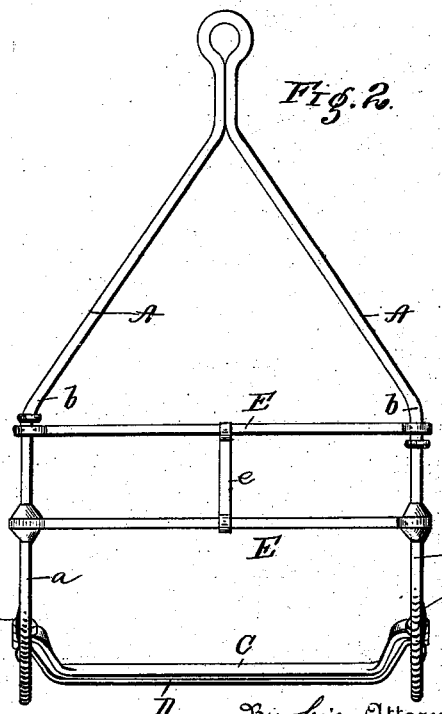


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. STEWART, OF CRISFIELD, MARYLAND, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO JAMES F. LOSEMAN, OF SAME PLACE.

OYSTER-DREDGE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 382,624, dated May 8, 1888.

Application filed June 8, 1887. Serial No. 240,628. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. STEWART, a citizen of the United States, residing at Crisfield, in the county of Somerset and State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Dredges; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to dredges for crabs, oysters, and bivalves generally.

The object of the invention is to improve this class of devices whereby a larger area of opening is had compared with the length of scrape or dredge bar than has heretofore been obtained, and a protection is afforded the bars to which the seine is laced, which is thereby prevented from chafing and rubbing.

The improvement consists in the novel construction and combination of parts, which will be more fully hereinafter set forth and claimed, and shown in the annexed drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my dredge embodying my invention, and Fig. 2 a front view of the same.

The frame of the dredge is composed of the upper bars, A A, and the lower bars or runners, B B, which are united at their upper ends and diverge substantially as shown. The lower portions, *a a* and *b b*, of the bars A and B, respectively, are bent inward and extend parallel with each other. The lower ends of the bars A A curve forward and downward to form the standards a^2, which are connected with the lower ends of the bars B B by bolts or rivets *d*, and the lower ends of the bars B B are connected together by the scrape or drag bar C, which has its ends fastened thereto by the bolts or rivets *d*.

The bars are connected and braced by two parallel cross-rods, E E, extended between them and secured to each bar at or near the point of flexion, or as near the top of the portions *a a* as practicable, and these cross-rods are in turn braced by a short vertical stay, *e*. Directly in the rear of and extending parallel with the scrape or drag bar C is the wire or rod D, which has its ends secured to the lower forward ends of the bars A A, and from the ends of the wire or rod D project vertically for a short distance parallel with the bars B B wires F, which are bent at approximately a right angle and have their upper ends connected with the bars A A, close to the upper cross-rod, E.

By having the frame-bars A A and B B bent near the lower ends, so as to have their lower portions extend parallel, a larger opening is had for the seine than was heretofore feasible compared with the length of scrape or drag bar. In practice the seine (not shown) is attached to the wires D and F and the cross-rod E in any of the well-known ways.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The herein shown and described dredge, composed of the four corner bars, A A and B B, united at their upper ends and diverging from top to bottom, and having their lower ends bent to form parallel portions *a a* and *b b*, and the lower ends of the bars A A curved forward and secured to the ends of the bars B B, the scrape-bar C, extended between the lower ends of the bars B B, the cross-rods E E, uniting the bars A A near their bends and braced by short stay *e*, the wire D, located on the rear of and parallel with the scrape-bar, and the wires F, having a portion parallel with the bars B and a portion extended across the space between the bars B and A and secured to the bars A, substantially as described, and for the purpose specified.

2. In a crab-catcher and oyster-dredge, side pieces composed of an upper bar, a runner of substantially the same length as the upper bar, and standards a^2, connecting the upper bar and runner, combined with cross-rods connecting the two side pieces and adapted to receive the net, and the wires F, arranged between the upper bar and the runner and placed close to the said runner, substantially as and for the purpose described.

3. A crab-catcher and oyster-dredge com-

posed of side pieces composed of upper bars, A, united at their forward ends, runners B, vertical stays between the upper bars and runners, cross-stays between the side pieces, the scraper-bar, and the wires F in the side pieces, substantially as and for the purpose described.

4. The side pieces having the upper bars, runners, and uprights for connecting the said upper bars and runners, combined with wires or rods F, arranged just above the runners, substantially as and for the purpose described.

5. In a crab-catcher and oyster-scraper, side pieces composed of the upper bars, A, the runners B, and the uprights a^2, connecting said upper bars and runners, the runners being extended forward from the uprights and connected to the upper bars, substantially as shown, to form supports for the side pieces essentially coextensive with their length.

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

WILLIAM A. STEWART.

Witnesses:
VAN BUREN HILLYARD,
R. C. LAURIE.