

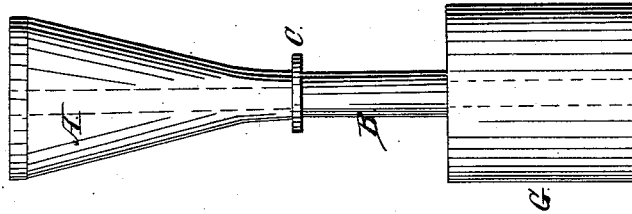
*J. Downes,*

*Making Eel Traps.*

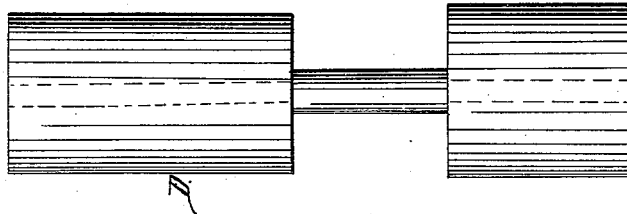
*No 3,056,*

*Patented Apr. 25, 1843.*

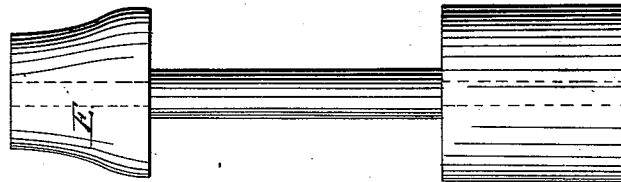
*Fig. 1.*



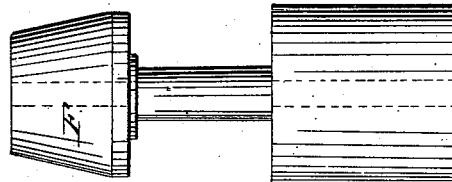
*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 4.*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN DOWNS, OF BELLPORT, NEW YORK.

## IMPROVEMENT IN THE METHOD OF MAKING BASKETS FOR CATCHING EELS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **3,056**, dated April 25, 1843.

### *To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN DOWNS, of near Bellport, in the county of Suffolk and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Method of Making Baskets for Catching Eels, which is described as follows, reference being had to the annexed drawings of the same, making part of this specification.

Figure 1 is the elevation of the inverted frustum of a cone in which the funnel of the trap is formed. Fig. 2 is the cylinder on which the pot or body is formed; Fig. 3, frustum of a cone for contracting the upper end or top of the pot or body of the trap. Fig. 4 is the frustum of a cone on which the cap is formed that covers the contracted part of the pot.

Similar letters refer to corresponding parts.

Place the inverted frustum of a cone, A, of the required size of the funnel of the eel-trap (previously perforated through the center) upon a vertical stem or standard, B, the smaller end of the frustum of a cone resting on a collar, C, of the stem B. The stem or standard B is inserted into a block or bench, G, or other convenient place. A band is put around the smaller portion of the block. The warp is then inserted between the band and block. The web is then woven into the warp until it reaches the top or larger part of the block. This forms the funnel, which is then ready to be removed from the block and inserted into the pot or body of the eel-trap in its required position.

The pot or body is formed on a cylindrical block, D, which is about half the length of the required pot, and of the same diameter of the interior of said pot, commencing the weaving about the middle of the length of the block and working downward, the block being previously placed on a vertical standard in the manner of the other block or inverted frustum

of a cone, before described, two bands being also first put around the block, between which and said bands the warp is inserted. As the work progresses the warp is slipped down on the block, and the work continued by working upward from the lower part of the block until the required length of basket or eel-pot is obtained before contracting it or reducing its diameter.

The body of the eel-pot thus formed is removed to a smaller block, E, the frustum of a cone on which the length of the basket is continued upward, gradually decreasing in diameter as the weaving progresses until of the diameter of the required cap. It is then removed from the block and finished with a circular hoop or rim and binding. This finishes the body or eel-pot.

The funnel is then put into the pot or body and there secured by binding and inserting the ends of the warp of the funnel between the filling of the pot or body and binding it securely.

The cap may be also made on a block, F, or it may be made by hand in the usual manner.

The cylinder or block may be made hollow or solid, as preferred. The hollow cylinder is found to be the most convenient in practice.

What I claim as my invention, and which I desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination of the block A for forming the funnel of the trap, the block D for forming the pot or body, and the block E for forming the upper end of the basket, the three being adapted to each other for the purpose and in the manner described.

JOHN DOWNS.

Witnesses:

E. S. MULFORD,  
J. W. PHILLIPS.