LARGEMOUTH BASS TRAP

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During July 1947 more than 300,000 largemouth bass, 1 to 2 inches long, were taken at Hackettstown with traps of the design shown in the accompanying drawing. Whether this trap can likewise be used for smallmouth bass, remains to be seen. On the basis of past attempts to trap smallmouth bass, I do not believe that this will work too well. On the other hand, large numbers of bluegill sunfish as much as 2 inches long have been trapped.

The guide screen that diverts the fish into the V-shaped entrance to the trap, is removable; so the trap is easy to transport from place to place and to install in the pond. At the end next to the pond bank, the guide screen is supported with a stake or iron rod.

The opening in the trap can be regulated for fish of various sizes. The sides of the V-shaped entrance are frames covered with wire mesh, and on the ends within the trap this wire mesh extends 1 inch beyond the frames. These extended pieces of wire can be bent inward or outward, thereby changing the width of the opening. An opening of 1/2 inch or so is probably the most frequently used.

On each side of the V-shaped entrance the end of the trap is closed in with 3/4- by 6-inch tongue and groove boards. These reinforce that end of the trap so that it will support a plank placed from the bank to the trap. The plank makes it possible for the operator to walk out and remove the fish from the trap without wading into the pond.

The scoop net is shallow, not more than 8 inches deep. Places where the fry might get around or under the scoop net are eliminated by tacking the wire of the trap on the inside of the frame.

When there are large numbers of fish in the pond, it is well to keep the trap located where fresh water is coming in, unless the water in the pond is very high in oxygen. I trapped 1- to 2-inch bluegills in a pond that had a low oxygen content, and during the night the trap became so heavily loaded with bluegills that quite a loss resulted from an oxygen deficiency.

The trap was most successful in ponds in which the food was scarce and the fish were traveling along the shores to forage. The trap worked especially well when it was placed near an inlet through which daphnia were coming in with the water flow. This, of course, caused the bass to school up at that point.

Hayford, R.A. 1948. Largemouth bass trap. The Progressive Fish-Culturist 10: 98-99.

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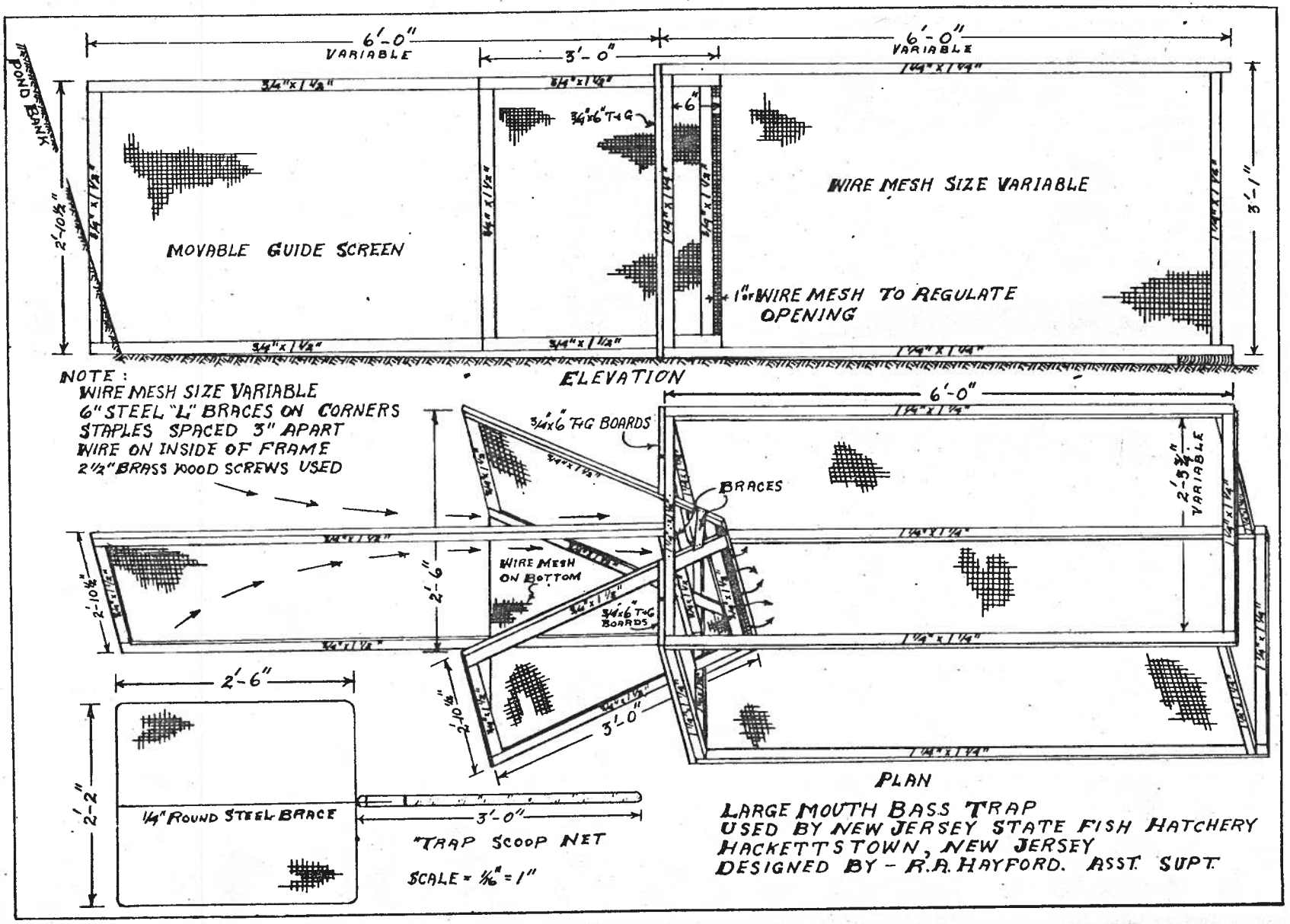
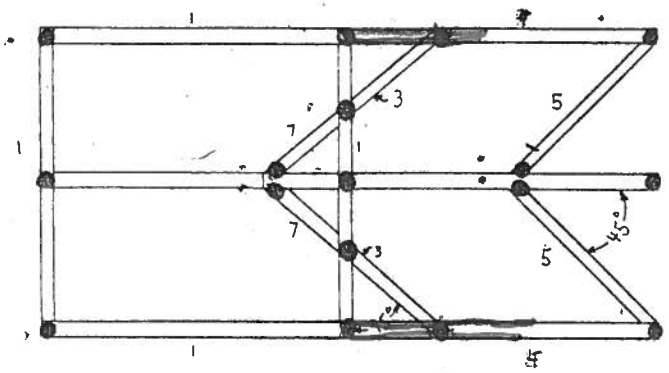
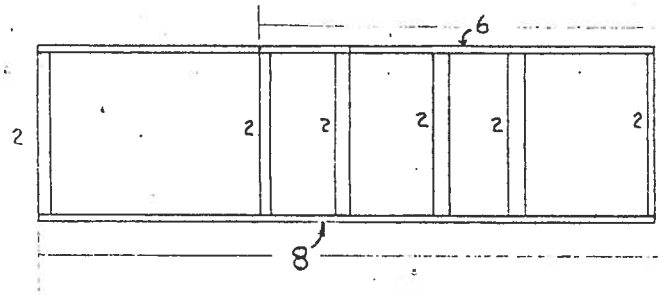

6'-0" VARIABLE
3'-0"
6'-0" VARIABLE
POND BANK
2'-10½"
MOVABLE GUIDE SCREEN
3¼"x6" T+G
6"
WIRE MESH SIZE VARIABLE
1" or WIRE MESH TO REGULATE OPENING
2'-1"
ELEVATION
NOTE:
WIRE MESH SIZE VARIABLE
6" STEEL "L" BRACES ON CORNERS
STAPLES SPACED 3" APART
WIRE ON INSIDE OF FRAME
2½" BRASS WOOD SCREWS USED
3¼"x6" T+G BOARDS
BRACES
2'-3¾" VARIABLE
WIRE MESH ON BOTTOM
2'-6"
2'-10½"
3¼"x6" T+G BOARDS
3'-0"
2'-6"
2'-2"
¼" ROUND STEEL BRACE
3'-0"
"TRAP SCOOP NET
SCALE = ½" = 1"
PLAN
LARGE MOUTH BASS TRAP
USED BY NEW JERSEY STATE FISH HATCHERY
HACKETTSTOWN, NEW JERSEY
DESIGNED BY - R.A. HAYFORD. ASST. SUPT.

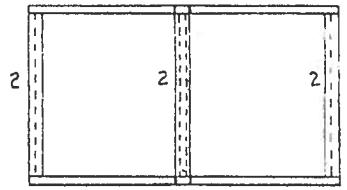


ALL WOOD COMPONENTS MADE FROM 1 X 2 REDWOOD

Aluminum screen

PART	SIZES	#/TRAP
1	~~[illegible]~~ 84"	6 pieces
2	22 5/8"	~~16~~ 0
3	20"	4
4	42 ½"	4
5	27"	4
~~6~~	~~54 ½"~~	
7	13"	4
~~8~~	~~84"~~	





DATE 1/10/79	SUBJECT - BASS FRY TRAPS	FROM - TOM DORZAB MEADE HATCHERY	TO - KANSAS FISH AND GAME COMM.	SCALE 1" = 20"