

"FISHING BAIT"**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****(1) Field of the Invention:**

5 This invention relates to an artificial or synthetic fishing bait:

(2) Brief Description of the Prior Art:

10 With the rapid advances in technology in the last decade or so, which have led to a reduction in working hours, people from all walks of life now have more time available to devote to leisure and recreational activities such as fishing.

15 To attract the fish, and to induce them to take the hook, the fisherman attaches a piece of bait to the hook. When the fish swallow the bait and the hook, they are caught and may be reeled in. (The expression "fish" is used broadly to include all marine life such as vertebrates and crustaceans, and the expression "hook" is used to include any object which is normally used to carry the bait or lure and which is normally swallowed, wholly or
20 partly, by the fish.)

While a wide range of edible substances may be used as bait, it has been shown that fish display stronger preferences for certain worms, pieces of fish meat, crustaceous or similar organic matter.

25 All these baits are subject to bacterial decomposition and so require refrigerated storage conditions to prevent rapid spoilage, the spoilage being indicated by unpleasant odours. In addition, the decomposition of the bait reduces its attractiveness to the fish and so frequent replacement of the bait becomes necessary.

30 Many fishermen fish in rivers or lakes located in remote areas or from boats and often do not have access to refrigerated storage for their bait and they are unable to obtain fresh supplies of bait at frequent intervals.

35 Any bait which is not used during a fishing trip is

usually in a state of advanced decomposition and cannot be stored for later use, representing a financial loss to the fisherman.

In addition, many species of fish show a distinct preference for certain types of bait and if the fisherman does not have that particular bait available, his chances of success are small.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide an artificial or synthetic bait for fishing which is attractive to fish and which will induce them to take the bait and become caught.

It is a preferred object to provide such a bait which is more attractive to fish than the natural baits presently used.

It is a further preferred object to provide a bait which may be kept at room temperature and which does not require storage under refrigerated conditions.

Other preferred objects of the present invention will become apparent from the following description.

In one aspect the present invention resides in an artificial or synthetic fishing bait which is pliable and formable and substantially shelf-stable, the bait comprising, in combination:

a cereal substance;
water; and
a hydrogenated fat.

Preferably the bait further includes hydrolyzed vegetable proteins and polyhydric alcohols which delay the deterioration of the bait under non-refrigerated conditions. Preferably the bait is shelf-stable at ambient temperatures and conditions for up to six months. The expression "ambient temperatures" shall include temperatures around 20°C,

Preferably the bait further includes one or more

colouring substances to increase the attractiveness of the bait to the fish and to induce the fish to ingest the bait in preference to natural food.

Preferably the bait further includes flavouring substances which, upon immersion of the bait in water, slowly diffuse into the surrounding water to attract the fish.

Preferably the bait contains two or more colouring substances of which at least one is water soluble and at least a second is oil-soluble to enable a controlled release of the colouring substances into the surrounding water, the combination of the colouring and flavouring substances making the bait highly attractive to the fish.

Preferably the hydrogenated fats act as a supporting matrix or structure for the flavouring and colouring substances, while enabling the bait to be pliable and formable about the hook. Suitable hydrogenated fats include animal fats such as tallow, beef, mutton, pork and chicken fats; vegetable fats such as those used in the manufacture of margarine; or butter fats.

Preferably, as a source of amino-acids, the hydrogenated fats act as an attractant for the fish.

Preferably the cereal substances act to bind the matrix together and may include wheaten flour, maize flour, rye flour, oats flour, barley flour, rice flour, sorghum flour, triticale or pre-gelatinized starch.

The bait may also include emulsifiers, plasticizers, humectants, preservatives (e.g. potassium sorbate) and anti-oxidants to improve the pliability, formability and shelf-life of the bait.

In a second aspect the present invention resides in an artificial or synthetic fishing bait comprising, in combination:

- a cereal substance;
- water;
- a polyhydric alcohol;

a hydrogenated fat;

at least one flavouring substance; and

at least one colouring substance;

the fat, in the aqueous phase, providing a support-
ing matrix or structure in which the flavouring subst-
stance(s) is/are dissolved and released, and in which the
colouring substance(s) is/are partially or wholly
dissolved in the lipid phase to diffuse partially or
wholly into water surrounding the bait to attract fish;

the bait being pliable and formable and
substantially shelf-stable at ambient temperatures and
conditions for up to six months.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE
INVENTION:

To enable the invention to be fully understood, a
number of examples will now be described.

EXAMPLE 1:

A composition comprising:

	<u>Percentage (by weight)</u>
Hydrogenated animal and/or vegetable fat	15.00
Sterilized wheat flour	44.00
Vegetable oil	8.50
Flavour extract	4.99
Hydrolyzed vegetable protein	2.00
Water	24.00
Salt (Na Cl)	0.80
Potassium sorbate	0.50
Sodium meta bi sulphite	0.01
Oil soluble dye	0.10
Water soluble dye	0.10

EXAMPLE 2:

A composition comprising:

	<u>Percentage (by weight)</u>	
Hydrogenated animal and/or vegetable fat	20.00	
Sterilized wheat flour	50.00	(Contd.)

EXAMPLE 2 (Contd.)

Percentage (by weight)

	Flavour extract	0.10
	Hydrolyzed vegetable protein	7.50
	Water	18.00
5	Salt (Na Cl)	3.00
	Potassium sorbate	0.80
	Sodium meta bi sulphite	0.20
	Oil soluble dye	0.20
	Water soluble dye	0.20

EXAMPLE 3

A substance comprising:

Percentage (by weight)

	Hydrogenated animal and/or vegetable fat	24.00
	Glycerol	8.00
	Pre-gelatinized starch	10.00
15	Soya protein	10.00
	Flavouring substances	.020
	Hydrolyzed vegetable protein	6.00
	Water	40.00
	Salt (Na Cl)	1.00
20	Potassium sorbate	0.20
	Sodium meta bi sulphite	0.20
	Oil soluble dye	0.20
	Water soluble dye	0.20

The formulae cited are inclusive but not limited to the quantities of the particular ingredients used in these formulae.

The flavouring and colouring substances are standard commercially available products.

The resultant bait is pliable and can be easily formed about a hook so that the hook may be covered. The bait remains on the hook for a considerable period of time despite the eroding and attritive action of the water. Experiments have shown that the bait has a shelf-life, under ambient temperatures and conditions, of up to six months and shows little deterioration under non-

refrigerated conditions.

Various changes and modifications may be made to the embodiments described without departing from the scope of the present invention as defined in the claims.

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CLAIMS:

1. An artificial or synthetic bait comprising in combination:

- a cereal substance;
- water;
- a hydrogenated fat;
- at least one flavouring substance; and
- at least one colouring substance; wherein:
the hydrogenated fat provides a supporting

matrix or structure in which the other components of the bait are dissolved or suspended in a manner which permits the controlled release of said flavouring and colouring substances into the water surrounding the bait to attract fish; and

the bait is pliable and formable about a fishing hook and is substantially shelf-stable.

2. A bait as claimed in Claim 1 and further comprising:

a polyhydric alcohol to delay the deterioration of the bait under non-refrigerated conditions.

3. A bait as claimed in Claim 1 wherein:

the colouring substance or substances includes at least one water-soluble colouring substance and at least one oil-soluble colouring substance to enable a controlled release of the colouring substances to the water surrounding the bait.

4. A bait as claimed in Claim 1 wherein:

the hydrogenated fat is made from tallow, beef fat, mutton fat, pork fat and/or chicken fat.

5. A bait as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the cereal substance includes:

wheaten flour, maize flour, rye flour, oatsen flour, barley flour, rice flour, sorghum flour, triticale and/or pre-gelatinized starch and co-operates with the hydrogenated fat to form the supporting matrix or structure.
