Author’s note: This is intended to be a dual purpose document. It can be used in this digital format (or printed out) as a traditional bibliography or it can be used as a digital index by utilizing your computer’s search function. Either way I think you will find it a very useful tool.

BOOKS:


Baron, Frank R. One Fish, Two Fish, Green Fish, Blue Fish. Livonia, Michigan: Frank Baron, 1992. (A homemade booklet comprised of copies of articles and essays by Frank Baron, Harold Dickert and Marcel Salive, most of which were previously published in various periodicals and in Frank’s own decoy sale lists. With the exception of the cover, all the fish decoy illustrations are sketches by Jim Serdenis. The green fish on the cover is a perch by Aubrey Furton and the blue fish is a herring decoy by Alfred Dreschel. 61 pages).


Batchelor, John, Rev. The Ainu of Japan; the religion, superstitions, and general history of the hairy aborigines of Japan. London: Religious Tract Society, 1892. 336 pages. (Interesting description of the Ainu using a decoy to spear pike. “This bait is nothing but a piece of iron wrapped in blue material, bound on with white bark. At the end of this is a piece of white bone, two inches long, which is furnished with a tail made of pieces of bark and a red piece of cloth.” It was used by drawing along the bottom).
Beard, Daniel Carter. *The American Boy’s Handy Book*. Originally published in 1882 and still in print. (Daniel Carter "Uncle Dan" Beard (June 21, 1850 – June 11, 1941) was an American illustrator, author, youth leader, and social reformer who founded the Sons of Daniel Boone in 1905, which Beard later merged with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). His descriptions of the spearing shanty, snaring and spearing fish through the ice are right on. About the decoy he had this to say, “to be effective, it should be decorated with a brilliant red stripe on each side, a white belly, and a bright green back.”).


Bishop, Robert. *American Folk Sculpture*. New York: E. P. Dutton and Company, 1974. (Pp. 128-133 contain a chapter titled “From the Waters” with 9 fish decoy illustrations including 2 Oscar Pettersons, a Bert Winnie and a sketch showing how decoys are used. Some of these same illustrations also appear in the *Americana* article by this same author. Minimal text. This along with Hemphill & Weissman’s *Twentieth-Century American Folk Art and Artists* are the earliest references that I am aware of that treat American fish spearing decoys as collectible folk art. Up until this time fish spearing decoys appear to have been totally ignored by the collector press).


Bishop, Robert and Jacqueline M. Atkins. *Folk Art In American Life*. New York: Viking Studio Books, 1995. (Basically a showcase of the collections of the Museum of American Folk Art, it’s friends and benefactors. Pg. 184 contains four color fish decoy illustrations: anonymous Sturgeon coaxer (probably Wisconsin) and three Oscar Peterson’s. Photo caption has short biographical sketch of Peterson. Curiously, all the examples shown are quite unremarkable, given that this museum has access to some of the worlds finest examples. Minimal text.)


Bonin, Richard & Raymond. *Duluth Fish Decoys by David E. Perkins*. Beachburg, Ont.: Heliconia Press, 2007. (ISBN 978-1-896980-36-2). (I have not personally examined this source, but according to the dust jacket, “Perkins has been carving for nearly six decades and over the years his wooden fish and “critters” have become some of the most sought-after in the country. This book documents a wide range of his work, demonstrates how his style has evolved over the years and defines methods of identification”).
Borge, Lila J. and Jay A. Leitch.  *Winter Darkhouse Spearing in Minnesota: Characteristics of Participants*.  Fargo, ND: Center for Environmental Studies, Tri-College University, North Dakota State University, September 1988, Misc. Pub. #2.  (Title is self descriptive).


Chiappetta, Jerry.  *Modern ABC’s of Ice Fishing*.  Harrisburg, PA:  The Stackpole Company, 1966.  (Good overview of the sport of ice fishing ca. 1965.  The spearing chapter offers a particularly good explanation of how this sport is conducted.  The book draws heavily from Michigan sources and examples as Chiappetta is from Michigan).


Coon, Carleton S. The Hunting Peoples. London: Jonathan Cape Ltd, 1972. (Comprehensive discussion of early man’s use of the spear which is deeply rooted in antiquity. See pp. 136-139 for descriptions of the leister, herring rake, Ainu marek and taimen spear. Pg. 148 has good description of the Ainu fish decoy used to spear cherry salmon).

Cottle, James T. Carving Fish Decoys, A Traditional American Folk Art. Stackpole Books, 1991. (Cottle is a former resident of Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan and was undoubtedly influenced in his carving by his youth there).


Drake, Francis S., editor. THE INDIAN TRIBES OF THE UNITED STATES: THEIR HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES, CUSTOMS, RELIGION, ARTS, LANGUAGE, TRADITIONS, ORAL LEGENDS, AND MYTHS. EDITED BY FRANCIS S. DRAKE. ILLUSTRATED WITH ONE HUNDRED FINE ENGRAVINGS ON STEEL IN TWO VOLUMES. VOL. I. PHILADELPHIA: J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO. LONDON: 16 SOUTHAMPTON STREET, COVENT GARDEN. 1884. (“In a region abounding with lakes and streams, fishing also becomes an art taught to the young. There are some modes of fishing through the ice which are very ingenious. One of the most common of these is to play a decoy through a hole perforated in the ice by means of an instrument called aishkun by the Algonkin tribes. It consists of a sort of stout chisel of iron attached firmly to a pole. The decoy is generally the image of a small fish. The Indian, placing himself flat on his stomach, covers his head with his blanket, supported by branches, in order to exclude the light. By thus excluding the extraneous glare the vision is extended into the waters below, and the watcher stands ready with his spear to dart the point into his victim as soon as it approaches to seize the bait. In this manner, as depicted in Plate 44, the Indian is enabled to supply his family with food at the most inclement and. pinching seasons. Another mode of taking fish in the winter is to make a series of orifices through the ice in a direct line. A gill-net is then pushed by its head-lines from one orifice to another until its entire length is displayed. Buoys and sinkers are attached to it, and it is then let down into deep water, where white-fish and other large species resort at this season. By this mode, which is very common throughout the lakes where deep water abounds, these species are captured at the greatest depths, while sheltering themselves in their deepest winter recesses. Fish are sometimes brought up in the immediate vicinity of Michilimackinac from a depth of eighty fathoms.”)

number of carvers also known to have made fish decoys: John Schweikart, Yock Meldrum, Tom Schroeder, Jim Kelson, Chris Smith, Walter Struebing, Budgen Sampier, Frank Schmidt and Ed Kellie).


Forester, Frank. The Complete Manual for Young Sportsmen. New York: W. A. Townsend, Publisher, 1866.


Haid, Alan G. Decoys of the Mississippi Flyway. Exton, Penn.: Schiffer Publishing Limited, 1981. (Short biographical sketches of Lake St. Clair area duck decoy carvers who also made fish decoys; Schroeder, Kelson, Kellie, etc.)

Harbin, Clyde. *James Heddon’s Sons Catalogues by the Bassman*. Memphis, Tenn: The Bassman, 1984 with additions by Clarence Zahn. (More complete than the former).


Harrell, Loy S. *Decoys of Lake Champlain*. West Chester, Pa.: Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 1986. (Brief discussion of Lake Champlain fish decoys).


Hastings, Ray Joe. *Bow & River Gigs: Used in the Clear Streams of the Ozarks*. Acclaim Press, 2008, 168 pages. (“I became interested in collecting bows, spikes, and river gigs. As I was fortunate enough to find each item, I carefully documented the provenance of each one, including where it was made, who made it, the year it was made, and the creeks or rivers where it was used. The collection that I have accumulated is what has led me to the writing of this book.”)


Hemphill, Herbert W., Jr. and Julia Weissman. *Twentieth-Century American Folk Art and Artists*. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1974. (Pg. 86 illustrates a sturgeon spearing decoy from the Robert Bishop collection. This along with Bishop’s *American Folk Sculpture* are the earliest references that I am aware of that treat American fish spearing decoys as collectible folk art. Up until this time fish spearing decoys appear to have been totally ignored by the collector press).


Henshall, James A., M. D. *Book of the Black Bass*. Cincinnati, Ohio: Robert Clarke & Co., 1881. (Contains an interesting illustration on page 314 of bass baits of the day (1881) one of which looks a lot like a Pflueger rubber minnow but is identified as Conroy, Bissett & Malleson).

Hogan, Austin S. *American Sporting Periodicals of Angling Interest: A Selected Check List*
and Guide. Manchester, Vermont: The Museum of American Fly Fishing, 1973. First Edition. 128 pgs. (The book has a brief overview of nineteenth century periodicals and then the meat of the book is a reference of where sporting magazines can be found in libraries all over the country. It lists the volumes and issues of all the major and minor sporting magazines. This is an indispensable reference tool for locating magazines to help with research. The last part of the book are excerpts taken from magazines that the author found of importance. Many of the excerpts deal with trout, bamboo rods, flies and other subjects of interest. Not personally examined by me).

Hubbard, Gurdon Saltonstall. Autobiography of Gurdon Saltonstall Hubbard. Publisher unknown. 1863. (Contains an account of fishing with a decoy in the winter of 1811 near Muskegon, Michigan. Believed to be the earliest account of the use of a fish decoy by a white man in Michigan or anywhere else for that matter).


Hurum, Hans Jorgen. A History of the Fish Hook, and the story of Mustad, the hook maker. London, A. & C. Black, Ltd., 1977. (This book was commissioned by Mustad, the world famous Norwegian hook maker, to tell their story and not incidentally the history of the fish hook. Pg. 15 has a very interesting illustration of Russians gaffing sturgeon through the ice without the aide of bait or decoys and on pg. 21 there’s an illustration from a Swedish museum of what appears to be a fish decoy used to lure fish into a snare device. This is the first example of a fish decoy from a Scandinavian country that I have noted).

Irwin, R. Stephen, MD. Sporting Collectibles. Wayne, New Jersey: Stoeger Publishing Co., 1997. (pp. 119-132 devoted to a sketchy but adequate overview of fish decoy collecting. 23 photos, including but not limited to: Bear Creek, Bruning, Janner, Peterson and Vandenbossche).


Kinietz, W. Vernon. *Indians of the Western Great Lakes, 1615-1760*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: University of Michigan Press, 1965. (There is a reference here to an early account of indians spear fishing through the ice using “porcelain” decoys. Some believe that the decoys being used were actually made from shell and that “porcelain” was a mis-translation of a French word for “shell”).

Kirk, Robert A. *Hook, Line & Spear: The Ice Fishing History of Lake Simcoe*. Self Published by Robert A. Kirk, 2001. 85 pages with numerous historical photos and illustrations. (An interesting account of the ice fishing traditions, decoys, spears and other implements used on Ontario’s Lake Simcoe. Of particular interest are the unique “sidewinder” and “hook” decoys and the “spreaders”, “snaggers” and “teeters” peculiar to Lake Simcoe. Pp. 24 & 25 have good descriptions of typical Lake Simcoe fish decoys and an explanation for the wide flat style of the Lake Trout decoy used there).

Kline, Kathleen S., Ronald M. Bruch & Frederick P. Binkowski; with photographs by Bob Rashid. **People of the Sturgeon: Wisconsin's Love Affair With an Ancient Fish,** Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2009. (Historical account of the Lake Sturgeon of Wisconsin’s Lake Winnebago system and how they were conserved and now thrive through an alliance between spearing interests, scientists and conservationists. Includes info on decoy carvers Frank Denslow, Vern Gebhart, Reuben Hoelzel, Ambrose Langenfeld, Eric Oleson, George Schmidt, Mary Lou Schneider, Jake Shroven, Tom Tittl & Linus Venne and spear makers John Jurgensen, Reuben Hoelzel, Anton “Tony” Nadler, Emanuel Nadler, James Nadler & Art Sonnenberg. Highly recommended).


Leitch, Jay A. **Darkhouse Spearfishing Across North America.** Fargo, ND: Center for Environmental Studies, North Dakota State University, 1992.


Lincoln, Robert Page. **The Pike Family.** Harrisburg, PA.: The Stackpole Co., 1953. (Chapter VI, “Pike Through the Ice”, is basically an anti-spearing diatribe by a man who previously wrote several articles describing how to make a decoy for spearing pike through the ice. Wonderfully venomous).


Lytle, Thomas. **Harpoons and Other Whalecraft.** Old Dartmouth Historical Society of New
Bedford, Massachusetts; second edition, 1984. 256 pp. (Richly illustrated Bible of Whalecraft. Harpoons, Lances, Spades, Knives and all other implements used in the whaling industry of the 18th through 20th century are fully detailed. Book charts the development of the harpoon and other whalecraft from Europe to the whaling centers of Nantucket and New Bedford. As a historical reference book it showcases a biographical section of whalecraft manufacturers in New Bedford and Fairhaven, US Patents for Whaling Implements, a whalecraft glossary, and an illustrated catalog of the whalecraft collection at the New Bedford Whaling Museum).


Mazzuchelli, Samuel Charles. Memoirs, Historical and Edifying. Chicago: W. F. Printing Company, 1915. (Pg.112 contains a description by this Italian missionary in 1834 of Indians spearing sturgeon through the ice on Green Bay with a fish decoy).


Michaen, Steven. American Fish Decoys. Pound Ridge, New York: FishDecoy.com, Ltd., 2003. (An oversized 10x12 inches and printed in six-color offset lithography on heavy stock by one of the world’s best fine art presses. This visual guide to the art of the fishing decoy has over 100 images with heavy gloss and matte varnishes. The edges of the pages have been silver-gilt. Skimpy text. Limited edition of 4000).


Olson, Sigurd F. The Singing Wilderness. New York: Knopf, 1956. (Contains excellent description of the spearing experience. One of the best I have read. See “Dark House”. The “Dark House” essay was repeated again in Wilderness Days also published by Knopf in 1972). Note: The Singing Wilderness, published by Alfred A. Knopf in 1956, is a classic of twentieth century nature writing. But for Sigurd Olson, getting his first book written and published was a long journey that depended not only on talent, but persistence, help, and a little bit of luck. The narrative below, an excerpt from A Wilderness Within: The Life of Sigurd F. Olson, tells the story from 1952, when Sigurd first began thinking about the book, until just before its
One of the chapters for The Singing Wilderness added an ironic epilogue to this distraction from his writing. When Marie Rodell had sent the book manuscript to publishers in 1954, she also had sent individual chapters to magazines, and Sports Illustrated had bought two of them. One, called "Dark House," the magazine renamed "Fishing at 20 Below," and published on February 28, 1955. The article was not about ordinary ice fishing; Olson wrote about spearing, which had long been controversial among Minnesota sportsmen. Those in the northern part of the state typically had supported it; those in the southern counties often had vigorously opposed it. Within the state division of the Izaak Walton League the issue had created such dissension in the late 1940s that the northern chapters had threatened to secede.

A number of biologists in the Minnesota Conservation Department opposed spearing, saying that northern pike would disappear from the state if the practice continued. After the Sports Illustrated article appeared, state Izaak Walton League President George Laing wrote to Olson that his article had resurrected old wounds, and that Twin Cities outdoor writers "have actually pointed to your article as evidence of your disinterest in the state's complete conservation program." To such critics, "Fishing at 20 Below" demonstrated that Olson was unfit for the job of conservation commissioner.

Sigurd responded on March 24 that he simply hadn't thought about the potential reaction when he submitted the article: "I guess the fact of the matter is that I have become so embroiled in controversial problems all over the country that I had forgotten how it might affect the Minnesota issue." He said he was willing to "accept the opinions of those who know the score," the researchers who believed spearing must end to save the northern pike.

It was a minor storm that quickly passed, but it is surprising that Olson, the Izaak Walton League's wilderness ecologist and active in the organization since its inception three decades earlier, would be so unaware of an issue that deeply divided the league in his own state. Perhaps the outdoor writers that Laing referred to were correct, if by "disinterested" they meant that Olson had become so involved in conservation at a national level that he was losing touch with state issues. His response to Laing gives some support to such a charge.

Another possibility—and it would not necessarily preclude the above—is that Olson tended to separate his creative desires as a writer and interpreter of outdoor experiences from the political aspects of the conservation world. In his March 24 letter to Laing, Sigurd wrote that he didn't write the essay to give support to spearing: "I wrote this little piece some years ago as a pure interpretation of the feelings of a man when he sits in a dark house and looks down through a hole in the ice waiting for something to come along. I still think it is a wonderful experience....And so I make no apologies for the way I feel about it and the joys I tried to point up in my story."

The controversy did not keep Olson from using the essay in The Singing Wilderness under its original title, "Dark House." He made but one significant change in the story: in the first sentence, he changed the timing of the episode from "two years ago" to "ten years ago," undoubtedly to distance himself somewhat from charges of supporting the practice in the mid-1950s."

Petersen, Donald J. Folk Art Fish Decoys with Values. Atglen, Pa: Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 1996. (An excellent long awaited treatise dealing exclusively with Minnesota fish decoys that corrects many of the errors found in the Kimballs' various works. Includes spears and
accouterments).

Petersen, Donald J. *Fish Decoy Makers Past and Present*. Decoy Magazine, 2000. (168 pgs. 62 in full color, over 400 fish decoy illustrations including contemporary, old time makers and spears).

Pinkowski, Bob. *Muskie Fever*. New York: A. S. Barnes & Co., Inc., 1961. pg. 96. (Nice photo showing the unique markings of the baby muskie. This explains why we sometimes see this pattern on spearing decoys. This apparently appeals to the cannibalistic nature of the muskie).


Ricco, Roger and Frank Maresca with Julia Weissman. *American Primitive*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988. (Pp. 160-163 have 6 color plates and one black & white plate of fish decoys. All are anonymous and most are of the so called “folk art” type. Scanty text with no new information. P. 227, Fig. 328 is a color plate of a Brook Trout plaque by Oscar Peterson. I believe this is the first identified illustration of a Peterson art work to appear in a major folk art book).

Roberts, Bill and Rob Pavey. *The Heddon Legacy, A Century of Classic Lures*. Paducah, Kentucky: Collector Books, 2002. (An indispensable Heddon reference with 368 pgs., hundreds of color illustrations and dozens of historical photographs. The chapters covering Heddon history draw heavily from Clyde Harbin’s *Heddon Footprints*. Adequate treatment of the Heddon Ice Decoys but somewhat incomplete as it does not cover all the different known versions nor does it illustrate the box for the first production model or the Ice Spook box or box papers).


“Winter, in all the northern latitudes, brings with it the necessity of a peculiar kind of hunting, which is performed through the ice. When the ponds and rivers, where the musk-rat harbours are found, their houses are perforated with a strong and peculiarly shaped spear, (Plate 7G, Figs. 1 and 2,) by which the victim is transpierced, and the animal brought out upon its point. This act is performed while the scenery is covered with the garb peculiar to the winter solstice, and is represented in the accompanying sketch, (Plate 5.)

In a region abounding in lakes and streams, fishing also becomes an art, taught to the young. There are some modes of fishing through the ice which are very ingenious; one of the most common is, to play a decoy through holes perforated in the ice, by an instrument which is called aishkun, by the Algonquin tribes. It consists of n species of stout chisel of iron, attached firmly to a pole. (Fig. 11, Plate 76.) The decoy is generally the image of a small fish. The Indian, placing himself flat on his stomach, covers his head with his blanket, supported by branches, in order to exclude the light. By excluding the extraneous glare, the vision is extended into the waters below, and the watcher stands ready with his spear to dart the point into his victim, as soon as it
approaches to seize the bait. In this manner, which is depicted in Plate 6, the Indian is able to supply his family with food, at the most inclement and pinching seasons.”

Schoolcraft, Henry R. Information Respecting the History, Condition and Prospects of The Indian Tribes of The United States: Part IV. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo & Co., 1854. pg. 61. (Description of Indian spear fishing through the ice, including the use of a spear propelled by a bow. Footnotes indicate plates by S. Eastman in Part II).


Smith, Harold E. Collector’s Encyclopedia of Creek Chub Lures & Collectibles, Identification and Values, Second Edition, Paducah, Kentucky: Collector Books, 2002. (Great Creek Chub reference but has very limited information on the Creek Chub ice fishing decoy. Pictures 2 examples on page 155. Offers no insight into who, why, where, when, how many or colors. The weight given of 5/8 oz. seems ridiculously light to me. The information on the Wiggle-Jig is better).

Smith, H.M., and M.M. Snell. UNITED STATES COMMISSION OF FISH AND FISHERIES, PART XV. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR 1887. WASHINGTON, D. C., GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, 1891. (Not examined).

Smith, H.M., and M.M. Snell. UNITED STATES COMMISSION OF FISH AND FISHERIES, PART XVIII. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR 1892. WASHINGTON, D. C., GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, 1894. (Not examined).

Stark, Larry and Magnus Berglund. *Hook, Line and Shelter, Ice Fishing Tales and Photos Too*. Cambridge MN: Adventure Publications, Inc., 1990. (A lighthearted compendium of ice fishing stories from across North America but really has very little to do with spearing. For Stark & Berglund it’s more about the fishhouse. Of interest to fish decoy collectors is the interview with Minnesota fish decoy collector, Jim Richards, with photos and a reprint of the “Fishtown” article from the Feb. 16, 1878 issue of *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*. Good glossary).


Swanson, Ronald S. *Fish Models, Plaques & Effigies*. Far Hills, New Jersey: Meadow Run Press, Inc., 2009. (Broad survey of plaque and model carvers that includes illustrations of plaques carved by fish decoy carvers such as Oscar Peterson (pg.119), Alton Buchman, Tom Schroeder, John Eddy, Marvin Mason, Fred Lexow, etc.).


Thrasher, Halsey. *The Hunter and Trapper*. New York: Orange Judd and Company, 1868. pp. 64-65. (Has a short description of spring spearing in the shallows from a boat. Presents specific instructions on how to make a shanty, cut the hole in the ice and spear through the ice with a decoy. This is a fairly early how-to account).


Tonelli, Donna. Fish and Fowl Decoys of the Great Lakes. Atglen, Pa.: Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 2002. (A collection of decoys and calls from the Great Lakes region, over 1100 color photographs, along with original vintage black and white photos, extensive related literature, and a price guide).


Warren, William W. History of the Ojibway People. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society, 1984, pp. 121-124. (Notes that the first known written account of a white man participating in Native American spearing of fish through the ice took place in about the winter of 1685 on Chequamegon Bay, Wisconsin: “One clear morning in the early part of winter, soon after the islands which are clustered in this portion of Lake Superior and known as the Apostles, had been locked in ice, a party of young men of the Ojibways started out from their village in the Bay of Shag-waum-ik-oug, to go, as was customary, and spear fish through holes in the ice, between the island of La Pointe and the main shore, this being considered the best ground for this mode of fishing.”

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White, Bradford. *Lake Champlain Ice Spearing Decoys and Carvers*. Yankee Publications, Jan., 2001. 56 pages. Color illustrations. (Not personally examined by me but Tim Spreck wrote: “It was self published and is more of a portfolio than an actual traditional book. The pages are 8 1/2" X 11 1/4". This book covers the decoys of Lake Champlain, New York, chautauqua, as well as jigsticks and spears.”).


**MAGAZINE ARTICLES:**


Anonymous. “Fishing in North America.” *The Penny Magazine*, (June 3, 1837), pg. 332. (Contains wood engraving of “Chippeway” Indians fishing through the ice on Lake Huron at the mouth of the St. Clair River near present day Port Huron and a description of the technique of spearing with a decoy. Very early account).

Anonymous. “Fishing in Winter.” *American Agriculturist*, (January, 1876), pg. 25-26. (Contains 4 wood engravings of various forms of winter fishing including stunning fish through the ice, spearing fish in winter, catching small fish with net and tip-up fishing. Earliest account I have seen of stunning fish through the ice).

Anonymous. “Iceburg, U. S. A.”—This is the famous fishing village, located from three to 30 miles north of Bay City, which appears each winter as if by magic, on the icy surface of Saginaw Bay. Just as soon as the ice on the bay is thick enough to sustain the weight, commercial fishermen, and men from every walk of life who happen to be out of employment, rig up their shanties on sleds, each shanty being provided with a stove for heating, and a cot for sleeping purposes, and a box to hold provisions. Hundreds of these fishing shanties are moved out on the ice, their location depending upon the feeding grounds or runway of the finny tribes, and for from three to four months the fishermen are busy spearing fish. Fish buyers drive out each day
and buy the catch. This *picturesque and transient community* has been named “Iceburg, U. S. A..” The season of 1904-05 brought out some 350 men, and while the catches for December and January were light, February and March proved bonanzas. Expert spear-fishermen made from $5 to $10 per day. The ice for January, February and March, 1905, was three feet thick.


Anonymous. “Game-Fishes Of The Florida Reef.” *The Century Magazine,* May, 1891. (Interesting account of the use of the Tampa or Florida Grains including numerous illustrative engravings).


Anonymous. "New York - Perils of Winter Fishing on Lake Erie - Incidents of the Great Ice Shove of January 20th." *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper,* February 5, 1887. (Three ice fishing scenes illustrating equipment, transportation, etc. and most importantly what happens when there is an unexpected ice break-up).

Anonymous. “Spearing Fish At Torchlight.” *The Illustrated London News,* Mar. 20, 1858, pg. 292. (Short article accompanying a wood engraving titled, “Spearing Fish At Night” (This is the same illustration published in America by Currier & Ives under the title, “Black Bass Spearing On The Restigouche”). “The custom of spearing fish is almost universal throughout the frontiers of the United States and Canada and, though one that might be excused in the savage, it is inexcusable in those who pretend to be civilized. In many rivers where the salmon once abounded they are now extinct, and the same remark applies to a game fish peculiar to America called the Black Bass. And here – premising that the Sketch before us represents a scene on the Restigouche, in New Brunswick, the men being Acadians – we cannot refrain from quoting the subjoined incident growing out of an adventure on Lake George as published in the “Wilds of America” - “The idea having occurred to us of spearing a few fish by torchlight, we secured the services of an experienced fisherman and with a boat well supplied with fat pine, we launched ourselves on the quiet waters of the lake about an hour after sundown. Bass were very abundant and we succeeded in killing some half dozen of a large clan. We found them exceedingly tame and noticed, when we approached, that they were invariably alone, occupying the center of a circular and sandy place among the rocks and stones. We inquired the cause of this, and were told that the bass were casting their spawn, and that the circular places were the beds where the
young were protected. On hearing this our conscience was somewhat troubled for what we had been doing, but we resolved to take one more fish and then go home. We now came to a large bed, around the edge of which we discovered a number of very small fish and over the center of the bed a very large and handsome bass was hovering. We darted our spear and only wounded the poor fish. Our companion told us that if we would go away for fifteen minutes and then return to the same spot, we should have another chance at the same fish. We did so, and the prediction was realised. We threw the spear again, and again missed our game, though we succeeded in nearly cutting the fish in two pieces. ‘You will have the creature yet; let us go away again,’ said my companion. We did so, and to our utter astonishment, we again saw the fish all mutilated and torn, still hovering over it’s tender offspring! To relieve it of it’s pain we darted the spear once more, and the bass lay in our boat quite dead; and we returned to our lodgings on that night a decidedly unhappy man. The bass that we took on the night in question, owing to their being out of season, were not fit to eat, and we had not even the plum of palatable food to offer. The maternal affection of that black bass for it’s helpless offspring, which it protected even unto death, has ever seemed to us in strict keeping with the loveliness and holiness of universal nature.”.


Archer. “Fishing in The Great Lakes.” Forest and Stream, Jan. 27, 1876. (Excellent detailed contemporaneous description of “Pickeralville” on Saginaw Bay and various methods of spearing including sturgeon spearing by indians).

Babe, Phil. “Franklin Discher Decoys.” NFLCC Gazette, (June, 1992), pg.22. (An excellent in depth analysis of Mr. Discher and his decoys with many valuable tips on identification).


Bachler, Thomas J., “Historical References on the Use of Fish Decoys”, Osloff Dewit 1859 letter, (March 2, 2004). (In an 1859 letter sent from the river town of Red Wing, Minnesota a pioneer wrote: “We have a coy fish fashioned of wood, tin fins. We let it through a hole cut through the ice with a string fastened. The real fish fancy they are going to have a good meal and make for the coy. Then we pick them out with the spear”).
http://dns.advnet.net/batchman40/history.html (now defunct).

Baron, Frank R. “The Fish Decoy.” The Decoy Hunter, No. 24 (March/April, 1985), pp. 5-9, 16. (Sketchy general article with 14 decoy photos (some of the decoys are pictured twice and
one is upside down). Great cover photo of “record” sturgeon speared on Black Lake in 1957 (except it was not a record). Note that the middle photo on pg. 8 is labeled “Maker unknown”. It should be obvious to even the novice collector that this decoy is the work of Ernie Peterson and is brand spanking new, not “ca. 1950” as stated in the caption).


Baron, Frank. “Collecting Ice Decoys.” Tackle Trader, Vol. 3, Issue 1, (Winter/Spring 1988) pp. 7-15. (Juxtaposed with an ad for Baron’s 1st Annual National Ice Decoy Show and presented in interview format. Illustrations include examples by Hans Janner Sr., Oscar Peterson, Andy Trombley, Bud Stewart, Jim Foote, Chub Buchman, Pflueger, Heddon, Bear Creek, Paw Paw, Creek Chub and Moonlight.).


and p. 55 (has picture of Sturgeon caught at Indian River, Mich.).


Bishop, Robert. “Folk Art From The Ice Fisherman.” *Americana*, Vol. 6, No. 1, (March/April 1978), pp. 28-29. (Bishop was director of the Museum of American Folk Art in New York City. Illustrations include an Oscar Peterson fish decoy and a seldom seen variant of a Winnie decoy. These same illustrations appeared earlier in color in *American Folk Sculpture*.)


Brewer, Keith. “South Bend’s Ice Decoy.” *Lure Collector*, Book No. 3, (Spring 1986) p. 15. (Contains a very brief description of this rarity and an illustration from the 1923-24 South Bend Tackle Catalog).


Carmichael, Hoagy B. “Crafty Catches.” *Arts & Antiques*, (Summer, 1987), pp. 74-77, 126. (Good well written article. “Artsy” illustrations include many of the big name decoys; Hans Janner, Pecor Fox, Andy Trombley, Oscar Peterson, Isaac Goulette, Augie Janner and Tom Schroeder.)


Cleland, Charles E. “The Inland Shore Fishery of the Northern Great Lakes: Its Development and Importance in Prehistory.” American Antiquity, Vol. 47, No. 4, 1982, pp. 761-784. (Reviews the archaeological and historical evidence for the aboriginal fishery of the region and how it evolved from the Late Archaic to historic times).


Crandall, Dennison R. “It’s Hooking-Up Time.” Outdoor Life, Vol. 131, No. 1, (January, 1963), pp. 36-7 & 97-100. (Good account of the sport of “hooking” or snagging suckers through the ice in New York’s Otsego County. There is no decoy involved in this type of spearing but instead the fish are driven to ice holes where the “hookers” are waiting by “beaters” pounding on the ice. Illustrations and descriptions of the sucker “rake” or “hook” and how it’s made and how to use it.
This device looks like a reverse or upside down spear).


Dale, Bonnycastle.  “The Mid-Winter Muskie.” Outing, (December, 1915), pp. ?. (Wonderful article describing making a decoy and snaring a muskie with a brass wire noose through the ice on a Canadian Lake. Three photos. They just don’t write like this anymore).


Deiss, Ron.  “Ice Spear Fishing: Focusing on the Upper Mississippi River La Crosse Reach”. United States Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island, Illinois, 2005. (Ron Deiss is an archeologist in the Environmental Analysis Branch, Rock Island District, Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island, IL. This is essentially an expanded version of the article published in Illinois Antiquity in Mar. 2006. Copies of this article on computer disk can be obtained by sending $5.50 to: Ice Spear Fishing Disk, Mississippi River Visitors Center, P.O. Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. In the Glossary he mentions the following known La Crosse Reach carvers: Mike Abraham (La Crosse, WI, 1906-1995), Robert Allen (unknown address), Henry Bauer (Fountain City, WI), Bud Beranck, John Beranger (unknown address), Anthony “Tony” Bergaus (Green Island, North La Crosse, WI, 1889-1965), Charles Betts (La Crosse, WI), Pirl Billings (La Crosse, WI), George Bottcher (La Crosse, WI), Edward “Ed” Brown (unknown address), Elmer Burr (Lake Buttes des Mortes), Clyde Butterfield (La Crosse, WI), Richard Butterfield (La Crosse, WI), Don Clemmons (La Crosse, WI), Art Eeg (La Crosse, WI), Erickson family (French Island, Campbell, WI), J. Dewey Foss (unknown address), Leonard Gabel (La Crosse, WI), Joe Gohres (La Crosse, WI), Albert M Gollnick (North La Crosse, WI...
1873-1927), Vic Hass (La Crosse, WI), Bud Hendrickson (La Crosse, WI, 1920-inst.), Clarence Hyde (La Crosse, WI), Ken Johnson (La Crosse, WI ?-inst.), Frank Kaufman (La Crosse, WI), Arthur "Art" Klawitter (La Crosse, WI, 1914-1998), Ray Kolnour (La Crosse, WI), Emil Liers (Homer, Minn.), Walter Lowery (La Crosse, WI), Clinton Lueth (La Crosse, WI), Fred Miller (La Crosse, WI), Edward "Ed" Moltis (La Crosse, WI), Carl Nole (Genoa, Wisconsin, 1918-inst.), Theodore R. Nole (Genoa, WI), Frank Papenfuss (La Crosse, WI), Otto Peterson (La Crosse, WI), (first name unknown) Radke (La Crosse, WI) tavern owner, Fred Roher (La Crosse, WI), George Schrader (unknown address), John F. Sherman (unknown address), Leo Sill (unknown address), Lyle Slayack, Frank Sokolic (French Island, Campbell, WI), George Spika (La Crosse, WI), Joe Spika (La Crosse, WI), Carl Thorson (La Crosse, WI), Loyd Thorson (La Crosse, WI), Floyd "Red" Tischer (La Crosse, WI), Gerald Toomey (La Crosse, WI), Edward Van Wormer (La Crosse, WI), Eldred Van Wormer (La Crosse, WI), Albion Weigel (unknown address), Arthur “Art” Wojahn (La Crosse, WI), Clarence Zielke (La Crosse, WI)).


Deiss, Ron. “Ice Spear Fishing On The Upper Mississippi.” Illinois Antiquity, Vol. 41, No. 1, (March, 2006), pp. 3-9. (An excellent well researched article as might be expected from a professional archeologist. Traces the development of the fish decoy from prehistoric mussel shell decoys to the present with a focus on the La Crosse Reach. See previous 2 references).


Diggs, Dory & Dick Watson. “Butch Irvin Schramm, Decoy Maker of the St. Clair Flats.” Decoy Hunter, (issue unknown but probably 1984), pp. 7-9. (Good biographical sketch based on interview with Schramm but focus is on his duck decoys).


Fashingbauer, Bernard S. “Spearing.” Fur-Fish-Game, Vol. 81, No. 1, (January, 1987), pp. 12-13. (Basically an instructional article on “how to go about spear fishing through the ice in Minnesota”. Two photos, three decoys illustrated. Two are plastic Bear Creek Ice Kings, one is wooden handmade).

“Fishtown.” Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper, (February 16, 1878), pp. 412-413.
(Discussion of ice fishing activity on Saginaw Bay, Lake Huron. Five excellent wood cut illustrations of ice shanties on the bay).


Flick, Art. “Suckers For Sport.” Outdoor Life, Vol. 110, No. 6, (December, 1952), pp. 58-9 & 111-2. (Good account of the sport of “hooking” or snagging suckers through the ice in New York’s Catskill Mountain region. There is no decoy involved in this type of spearing but instead the fish are driven to ice holes where the “hookers” are waiting by “beaters” pounding on the ice. Illustrations and descriptions of the sucker “rake” or “hook” and how it’s made and how to use it. This device looks like a reverse or upside down spear).


Forum, a publication of the American Fish Decoy Association.

Forsthoffer, J. P. “Fish Decoys Are Luring Folk Art Buyers.” Antique Monthly, (May 1988), pp. 1-40. (Excellent in-depth view of the fish decoy field with many good quality photos, including several examples by Oscar Peterson and one by Vandenbossche (mis-labeled Frank Schmidt)).

Fossey, Joe. “”Lost” Lake Simcoe Fish Decoy Found.” The NFLCC Gazette, (June, 1997), pp. 5 & 6. (Recounts the discovery of this rare patented mechanical fish decoy).


decoy market and its problems. No ox is left ungored. 6 illustrations including examples of fish decoys by Jim Nelson, George Aho and Ernie Peterson, plus a cover photo illustrating Isaac Goulette and Oscar Peterson decoys. This article generated a lot of controversy and some of the issues raised were expanded on and or rebutted in a follow up article. See “Addressing the Controversies in Fish Decoys” by Brian McGrath).

Fritz, Ron. “Oscar Peterson, Michigan’s Premier 20th Century Folk Artist.” Decoy Magazine, Vol. 30, No. 5, (September/October 2006), cover & pp. 24-27. (Good overview of the decorative carvings of Oscar Peterson including 11 color photos plus the cover and 8 black & white pictures. Many of the pieces illustrated are in print for the first time. Article is a showcase for the David Fannon collection but no new information is presented).


Gazette, The NFLCC, a publication of the National Fishing Lure Collectors Club.

Gilbert, James C. “Fishing Thru The Ice.” Game Stories, Vol. 1, No. 1, (January, 1932), pp. 24-27. (Excellent account of the pike spearing experience by Dearbornite James Gilbert and his son, Jimmie at Mannie’s Inn (owned by Emanuel Sodt) on Pleasant Lake, Southwest of Ann Arbor, Mich. Lots of pictures and good descriptions of various types of tip-ups and set line devices).


Hardin, Patty. “Pusuista Brothers Fish Carvers…and More.” Hunting & Fishing Collectibles


Hothem, Lar. “Fishing Decoys: Deceptive Collectibles.” The Antiques Journal, (April, 1980), pp. 24, 25 & 49. (Basic introductory article. Interestingly, even at this fairly early stage of fish decoy collecting, the author noted “fake or altered or recently made specimens being sometimes passed off as originals”).

Houser, William P. “Spring Fired Harpoon Is Deadly Against Frogs.” Popular Mechanics, (August, 1947), pg. 179. (Details how to built a spring powered harpoon from an old bamboo rod for spearing frogs).

Hubbard, Debbie Garrison. “A Short History of Fletcher Flood Water and Jack’s Landing, Hillman, Michigan.” American Fish Decoy Association Forum, No. 50 (Sept., 2002), pp. 3-5. (Well researched article on the history of the Floodwater and Jack’s Landing by a member of the owner’s family).


Jacobstaff, “Sea and River Fishing.” Forest and Stream, Vol. 1, (Nov., 1873), pg. 252. (Jacobstaff is the nom de plume of writer George Boardman Eaton).


Kangas, Gene and Linda. “The Field Decoys of John Tax.” Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine, Vol. 9, No. 6, (November-December, 2009), pgs. 8-15. (Although this article only addresses Tax’s field decoys it nonetheless contains a wealth of background information on this carver who also made fish decoys).
Kangas, Gene and Dick Walters. “Hooked On Wood, The Allure Of The Fish Decoy, A 3,000 Year Continuum.” Decoy Magazine, Vol. 36, No. 2 (March/April 2012), pp. 24-30. (General overview of the fish decoy world. Ties into an exhibition by the same name being held contemporaneously at the Center for Art in Wood in Philadelphia. Numerous illustrations including 29 color photos of fish decoys and spears from some of the country’s best collections).

Karlins, N. F. “American Folk Art in Corporate Collections.” The Clarion, Vol. 13, No. 2 (Spring, 1988), pp. 33-47. (Page 38 illustrates a group of fish decoys in the corporate collection of the Nestle Food Corporation. Although they are unidentified they appear to be primarily from Minnesota).


Kimball, Art, Brad, and Scott. “The Fish Decoy.” Decoy Hunter, (Jan./Feb., 1987), pp. 9-11. (This is a book review of The Fish Decoy by Art, Brad, and Scott Kimball. The authors review their own book ?).


to the Smithsonian Institution in 1876 by Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. along with a model of his Au Sable River boat for inclusion in a fisheries exhibit at Philadelphia as part of the Centennial Exposition in 1876 and Berlin in 1880: “I send you by express today three decoy fish, for spearing Salmon Trout and Wall eyed Pike through the ice. You will see they are not very elaborate affairs. Some fishermen paint gills and fins on the decoy but they are generally used just as those I send, in fact a white handled jack knife or a common spoon makes a good lure.”


Kovels. “Hooked on Fish Decoys.” Kovels, On Antiques and Collectibles, Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 8, (April, 1988), pg.1. (The title doesn’t really work as fish decoys don’t generally have hooks. Although I have not examined this source in depth it appears to contain a number of good clear photos of legitimate fish decoys with short sketches of some of the principal carvers: Oscar Peterson, Jesse Ramey, Hans Janner, Jr., Issaac Goulette, etc.).


Leary, James P. “Alex Maulson, Winter Spearer.” New York Folklore, Vol. XIX, Nos. 3-4, 1993, pp. 43-58. (Informative look at Native American traditional spearing practices and techniques as practiced by the present day Lac Du Flambeau Ojibwa).

Lincoln, Robert Page. “Some Handy Fishing Kinks, A Unique Decoy Minnow.” Outdoor Recreation. Sorry, I have lost the issue information but I think it was around 1921. (Contains illustrated instructions for making a fish decoy. This is particularly interesting as Lincoln would later vehemently oppose spearing and write many articles denigrating the sport).
Lincoln, Robert Page. “Minnows to be Used as Lure in Ice Fishing.” *Rod And Gun In Canada*, (March 1921), pp. 1176-77. (Illustrated instructions for making a decoy. Basically same article as previous citation).


Lindberg, D. E.. “Metal Decoys Aid in Spearing Fish Through Ice.” *Popular Science*, Vol. 138, No. 1, (January, 1941), pg. 185. (Step by step instructions for building a sheet metal fish decoy. A nice illustration showing the decoy to be made and spearing through the ice. Articles of this type explain why we sometimes find sheet metal decoys from disparate areas of the country with nearly identical designs).


Luckow, Gordy. “The Jenkins Fish Decoy from Iowa – With a Minnesota Connection”. *Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (January-February, 2016), pg. 54-55. (Corrects a long held misconception about the true maker of the “Jenkins” commercial fish decoy formerly thought to have been made in Marshalltown, Iowa).


as an accompaniment to the 1982 Michigan State Museum exhibit, “Hooked On Carving - Oscar W. Peterson”. Written from Gary L. Miller’s research notes. All of the 12 color illustrations were also from Mr. Miller’s collection.


McGrath, Brian J. “Brown’s Fisheretto.” Lure Collector, Book No. 5, (Fall 1986), pp. 8-9, 29. (Contains detailed history of Brown Brothers and Brown’s Fisheretto Lures).


McGrath, Brian J. “Noted Wildlife Artist Takes Helm of Fish Decoy Club.” Fishing Collectibles Magazine, Vol. 1, No. 1, (Summer 1989), pg. 20. (Discussion of the formation of the Great Lakes Fish Decoy Collectors and Carvers Association and it’s goal of fish decoy authentication and the problems inherent thereto. Photo of club president, Jim Foote, and his fish carvings).

McGrath, Brian J. “Addressing the Controversies in Fish Decoys.” Fishing Collectibles Magazine, Vol. 2, No. 1, (Summer 1990), pp. 25-27. (Follow-up to the Ron Fritz article, “The Truth About Fish Decoys”, consisting of comments and or rebuttals from various individuals on the issues raised by Fritz. McGrath goes on to offer his own opinions about what’s wrong with the fish decoy trade. 3 illustrations of fish decoys by John Tax, Oscar Peterson and anonymous).


Miller, Gary L. “Bear Creek Bait Company” Lure Collector, Book No. 8, (Summer 1987), pp.10-12, 25. (A detailed history of this important Michigan decoy and lure company).


Miller, Gary L. “Peterson The Carver.” Antique Angler, (March/April, 1985), pp. 1, 3, 5. (A brief sketch of the man and his work.)

Miller, Gary L. “Oscar Peterson data sheet and fish decoy characteristics,” unpublished, 1984. (This was the raw material for the Antique Angler article.)
Miller, Gary L. “Not Just a Decoy Carver - The Lure and Lore of Oscar Peterson.” The NFLCC Gazette, Vol. 11, No. 34, (June, 1987), pp. 12,13. (This was basically a rehash of the two previous articles.)


Miller, Gary L. “The License.” Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine, Vol. 11, No. 5, (September-October, 2011), pp. 56-57. (Collecting hunting & fishing licenses and fish law digests, etc.).


(Biographical sketch of this Charlotte, Michigan artist/carver with 12 fish decoy photos by Keith Snider).


Olson, Sigurd. “Fishing At 20 Below.” *Sports Illustrated*, (February 28, 1955), pg. 36. (“The wonders of a secret world beneath the ice of a frozen lake; the explosive excitement of spearing a fish that takes your lure after long hours of waiting.”) (This article was referenced in the box papers that accompanied the Blackhawk decoy made by Blackhawk Enterprises of Edgerton, Wisconsin). Note: The Singing Wilderness, published by Alfred A. Knopf in 1956, is a classic of twentieth century nature writing. But for Sigurd Olson, getting his first book written and published was a long journey that depended not only on talent, but persistence, help, and a little bit of luck. The narrative below, an excerpt from *A Wilderness Within: The Life of Sigurd F. Olson*, tells the story from 1952, when Sigurd first began thinking about the book, until just before its publication in April 1956. Here's the excerpt: “One of the chapters for The Singing Wilderness added an ironic epilogue to this distraction from his writing. When Marie Rodell had sent the book manuscript to publishers in 1954, she also had sent individual chapters to magazines, and Sports Illustrated had bought two of them. One, called "Dark House," the magazine renamed "Fishing at 20 Below," and published on February 28, 1955. The article was not about ordinary ice fishing; Olson wrote about spearing, which had long been controversial among Minnesota sportsmen. Those in the northern part of the state typically had supported it; those in the southern counties often had vigorously opposed it. Within the state division of the Izaak Walton League the issue had created such dissension in the late 1940s that
the northern chapters had threatened to secede. A number of biologists in the Minnesota Conservation Department opposed spearing, saying that northern pike would disappear from the state if the practice continued. After the Sports Illustrated article appeared, state Izaak Walton League President George Laing wrote to Olson that his article had resurrected old wounds, and that Twin Cities outdoor writers "have actually pointed to your article as evidence of your disinterest in the state's complete conservation program." To such critics, "Fishing at 20 Below" demonstrated that Olson was unfit for the job of conservation commissioner.

Sigurd responded on March 24 that he simply hadn't thought about the potential reaction when he submitted the article: "I guess the fact of the matter is that I have become so embroiled in controversial problems all over the country that I had forgotten how it might affect the Minnesota issue." He said he was willing to "accept the opinions of those who know the score," the researchers who believed spearing must end to save the northern pike. It was a minor storm that quickly passed, but it is surprising that Olson, the Izaak Walton League's wilderness ecologist and active in the organization since its inception three decades earlier, would be so unaware of an issue that deeply divided the league in his own state. Perhaps the outdoor writers that Laing referred to were correct, if by "disinterested" they meant that Olson had become so involved in conservation at a national level that he was losing touch with state issues. His response to Laing gives some support to such a charge.

Another possibility--and it would not necessarily preclude the above--is that Olson tended to separate his creative desires as a writer and interpreter of outdoor experiences from the political aspects of the conservation world. In his March 24 letter to Laing, Sigurd wrote that he didn't write the essay to give support to spearing: "I wrote this little piece some years ago as a pure interpretation of the feelings of a man when he sits in a dark house and looks down through a hole in the ice waiting for something to come along. I still think it is a wonderful experience....And so I make no apologies for the way I feel about it and the joys I tried to point up in my story."

The controversy did not keep Olson from using the essay in The Singing Wilderness under its original title, "Dark House." He made but one significant change in the story: in the first sentence, he changed the timing of the episode from "two years ago" to "ten years ago," undoubtedly to distance himself somewhat from charges of supporting the practice in the mid-1950s."


Ondrick, Chuck and Margaret. “Regional Schools of Making Ice Spearing Fish Decoys – ‘All for One’ and ‘One for All’, Part 1.” Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine, Vol. 11, No. 1, (January-February, 2011), pp. 36-43. (Attempts to identify regional styles in fish decoys based on commonality of purpose. This is the “form follows function” argument. Pg. 36 illustrates a dead-on replica of an Oscar Peterson 12.5” Walleye made by A. J. Downey. Scary!).

Ondrick, Chuck and Margaret. “Regional Schools of Making Ice Spearing Fish Decoys – ‘All for One’ and ‘One for All’, Part 2.” Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine, Vol. 11, No. 2, (March-April, 2011), pp. 26-35. (Attempts to identify regional styles in fish decoys based on mimicry. This is the “follow the leader” or “copycat” argument).


Ondrick, Chuck and Margaret. “Minnesota – Park Rapids ‘Pearl Bethel’ Regional School of Making Ice Spearing Fish Decoys.” *Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine*, Vol. 12, No. 6, (November-December, 2012), pp. 18-25. (Profiles Minnesota carver Pearl Bethel with numerous examples of his work. Also illustrated are fish decoys by Oscar Peterson, Carl Zenner, Dale Goodrich, Ken Hill, Roy Warmbold Sr., Louie Anderson, Cyril Bethel, “Cy” Seybert, Leo Bethel and “Mag” Bethel. Also presents a table of 20 members of the Park Rapids “Pearl Bethel” Regional School with life dates).


Ondrick, Chuck and Margaret. “Chequamegon Bay ‘Superior’ Ice Spearing Fish Decoys – Part


Maxwell “Max” Stange).


Pennington, William. “Fish Story.” North American Decoys, (Fall, 1973), pp. 30-33. (Good article. Describes taking of 45 lb. muskie in 1944 by John Flieman (with Photo). Other photos depict Phyllis Ellison’s collection, Eskimo spearing and artifacts at the Milwaukee Public Museum, decoys by Yock Meldrum, David Hoag and his grandfather (Lake Champlain), and Chucker Loesch (New York).


Petersen, Donald J. “Charles E. Fairbanks, Sr., Master Fish Decoy Carver of Minnesota.”

Petersen, Donald J. “Minnesota fish decoy makers Carl Satre, Lawrence Lunka and Frank Minsch.” *Decoy Magazine*, (May/June, 2003), pp. 16 & 17. (Very brief sketches and descriptions of these makers with 8 illustrations).


Petersen, Donald J. “Faue Fishing Sticks.” *Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine*, Vol. 15, No. 3 (May-June, 2015), pg. 54-56. (Brief analysis of what is presently known of Hanover, Minnesota’s Faue brothers, Otto & William, and their production of ice fishing sticks).

Petersen, Donald J. “Spear Fishing Decoys: “Critters” Made From Household Materials.”


Peterson, Theodore (Everett Peterson’s son) has written a two part article on his father and the history of the Bar Lake Fishing Tackle Co., NFLCC Gazette, (June and Sept. 2009).


Petrucco, Louis, Tom Shumaker and Dick Walters. “Michigan Carvers Who Created Both Duck and Fish Decoys.” Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine, Vol. 2, No. 4, (May-June, 2002), pp. 47-49. (First in a series of articles promising to reveal carvers who carved both duck and fish decoys. This article deals with Lake St. Clair area carvers, other areas to follow. Very sketchy information, much of it new, presented as captions to the color photos which illustrate examples of each carvers duck and fish decoys).


references. Poses the question of which came first, the barbed spear or the barbed fishhook?).


Richey, George. “EDSON’S Fish Fooler.” The NFLCC Gazette, (December, 1995), pg. 22. (Sketches the development of the Fish Fooler Lure/Decoy).


Richey, George. “The Isadore Clark SPRING Lure.” The NFLCC Gazette, (December, 1997), pg. 16. (A brief sketch of this maker and his lures. Also made fish decoys. See also Mar., 2000 article by Dan Wilson & George Richey).


Roorbach, J. O. “Fish-Spearing Through The Ice.” St. Nicholas: An Illustrated Magazine For Young Folks, (February, 1886), pp. 247-250. (Excellent and very interesting account of having learned spearing through the ice from the indians during the 1850s near present day Green Bay, Wisconsin and having adapted the technique for later use in New Jersey. Includes engravings with description of indians spearing through the ice and detailed instructions of how to construct a spearing house, spears and decoys. Good example of how this technology was transferred from Native Americans and adapted for use by Europeans).
Rosenbaum, Seth. “American Fishing Lures and Fish Decoys.” Country Living, Vol. 8, No. 7, (July, 1985), pp. 26, 137. (The decoys identified as being made by Paul Henderson of Michigan in this article are actually by George Flanagan of Kennewick, Washington. Also illustrated is a 1930s Hans Janner, Mt. Clemens, Michigan bass decoy that the author attributes to an unknown 1840s Wisconsin carver).

Rosenbaum, Seth. “Lures” Column. Sporting Classics, Vol. IV, Issue 1, (Mar./April 1985), pg. 84. (The lure illustrated here on top of a patent drawing is not an Oscar Peterson product).


Rover. “Editor Forest and Stream” titled “Winter Fishing in Lake Michigan”. Forest and Stream, Bay City, Mich., March 16, 1877. (First hand description of the fishing village on the ice of Saginaw Bay referred to as the “Ice City” and how 2000 men are engaged in fishing there. At the end of the article is “{A year or more ago our Correspondent “Ichthys” in describing the ichthyic fauna of the Great Lakes gave our readers a clever description of the ice village and the methods of fishing through the ice. The above article is none the less acceptable. Ed. F. AND S.”}

Rover. “Winter Fishing in Lake Michigan.” Forest and Stream, April 12, 1877. (Another contemporaneous description of the “Ice City” on Saginaw Bay, Lake Huron (not Lake Michigan as the title states). Tells of 300 men being stranded on an ice floe).


Slusar, Chris. “David Huard and Charles M. Dunbar: The Improved Trolling Hook.” Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine, Vol. 14, No. 1, (January-February, 2014), pp. 46-49. (In-depth analysis of the famous Huard / Dunbar patent # 151,394 of May 26, 1874 which as far as can be determined is the earliest known patent for a spring loaded fish decoy as well as the earliest known patent for a wooden fish lure. Since this was published new research has come to light and no doubt an update will be forthcoming shortly).


Smith, Larry M. “A Lure Without Hooks - The Fish Decoy.” *NFLCC Gazette*, (January, 1985). (General article discussing factory decoys as well as hand mades. Erroneously states that spearing is legal only in Wisconsin and Michigan. Catalog illustrations of Heddon and Paw Paw decoys).

Smith, Larry M. “Getting Hooked on Fish Decoys.” *Antique Angler*, (May/June, 1985), pp. 1 & 5. (General discussion of fish decoys with five photos. One photo mis-identified as R. Holt, should be Frank Hostman).


Spreck, Tim. “In Memoriam...Lawrence Bethel (1930-2006).” Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine, Vol. 6, No. 5 (September-October, 2006), pg. 64. (Brief obit).


Spreck, Tim & Kirk Schnitker. ““Whitefish Open”, New Spearfishing Competition In


Stinson, Sam S. “Whence The Plug?” The American Angler, Vol. 3, No. 1, (May, 1918), pp. 6-12. (Contains an illustration of what might possibly be the earliest known documented fish decoy still extant. This decoy was made by Richard Heddon, Jim Heddon’s father and was used by them for both trolling for pike and ice spearing on Magian Lake, twelve miles from Dowagiac, Mich. in the 1850s. The article quotes Chas. Heddon and a host of other important sources on the origens of the wooden plug).


art of the carved fish trophy, model or plaque by the country’s foremost collector. 12 models illustrated by Tully, Robbinson, Garthus, Malloch, Hardy Bros. and Gerrard).


Swanson, Ronald S. “Yuck Meldrum, Blending Perfection and Artistic Creativity in a Fish Decoy.” Decoy Magazine, Vol. 34, No. 1, (January/February 2010), pp. 32-37. (Excellent biographical sketch and overview of Alexander Meldrum’s fish decoys largely based on interviews with family and acquaintances. 4 duck decoys and 18 different Meldrum fish decoys are illustrated).


Taylor, Rod. “Fresh from the Bench…. Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine, Vol. 6, No. 2 (March-April, 2006), pg. 59. (3 views of a “Totem” fish decoy by Jay McEvers of Vergas, Minnesota and a Salmon Fish Plaque by Roger Brookes of Herefordshire, United Kingdom).


Taylor, Rod. “Dean Crouser – Sockeye Salmon Fish Decoy” Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine, Vol. 6, No. 5 (September-October, 2006), pg. 19. (Brief profile of this Oregon fish plaque and decoy maker who also carves under the name of “Old Oregon Lures”).


Taylor, Rod. “Ellen McCaleb - Tarpon Fish Plaque.” Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine, Vol. 9, No. 4, (July/August, 2009), pg. 29. (Short sketch of this artist).


Taylor, Rod. “Roger Brooks – Lake Trout Fish Plaque.” Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine, Vol. 9, No. 6, (November-December, 2009), pp. 46 & 47. (Short sketch of the work of this contemporary English plaque carver).


Taylor, Rod. “John Oman – Colorado Cutthroat Trout Plaque.” Hunting & Fishing Collectibles


Taylor, Rod. “John Ramella – Brook Trout Fish Plaque.” *Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine*, Vol. 11, No. 3, (May-June, 2011), pg. 46. (Short biographical sketch of this contemporary New Jersey carver who only carves trout plaques).

Taylor, Rod. “Hayden Greenwade – Hybrid Bass Plaque.” *Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine*, Vol. 11, No. 4, (July/August, 2011), pg. 37. (Short biographical sketch of this contemporary Texas fish plaque carver who hides the fly used to catch the fish in a hidden pocket inside the carving).


business. Although the article focuses entirely on outboard motors collectors of fish decoys know Pawlaczyk also as a fish decoy carver).


“These Fish Are Keepers”. Time Magazine, Vol. 135, No. 9 (February 26, 1990), pg. 55. (Two paragraph promo for “Beneath The Ice” exhibit at the Museum of American Folk Art. One photo).


Tonelli, Donna. “Sportsman’s Collectibles.” Midwest Outdoors, (May, 1980). (General introductory article on fish decoys. One photo showing 12 typical decoys. Donna’s description of the spearing experience is nearly identical to Will Pennington’s description seven years earlier in North American Decoy Magazine).

Tonelli, Donna. “Sportsman’s Collectibles: Fish Decoys.” Midwest Outdoors, (October, 1981), pp. 30-31. (General article with a half dozen illustrations, one of which appears to be a Peterson sucker. She is, of course, incorrect when she states that no real fish decoys have hooks).


Tonelli, Donna. “Tom Schroeder, Michigan’s Master Decoy Maker.” Decoy Magazine, Volume 26, No. 3, (May/June, 2002), pp. 8-13. (Very good biographical sketch of Tom with many good color and black & white photos of Tom and his duck decoys. The only disappointment is that Donna failed to illustrate or even mention Schroeder’s much appreciated fish decoys).


Torella, Dominic III. “A. J. Downey.” American Fish Decoy Association Forum, No. 2, (September, 1990), pg. 2.


Van Etten, Stan. “34 Spearfishing Decoy Articles Published in H&FC Magazine.” Hunting &

V. C. (a/k/a George Edward MacKenzie Skues) “The History of a Decoy Fish.” Forest and Stream, (March 24, 1892). (A very interesting account of fishing with a decoy in Wisconsin in 1856 which discusses realism vs. abstraction in fish decoy design). Presented here in its entirety:

THE HISTORY OF A DECOY FISH
Did you ever fish through the ice with a decoy Fish? I do not mean as the Indians do, down on your knees on the edge of a hole in the ice with your nose within a few inches of the water and three or four thicknesses of an old mackinaw blanket over you to shut out the light, and then in that position play the fish with one hand and hold the gaff in the other until you get so stiff and cold that when you want to gaff a fish you can hardly use a muscle; but rather with a well constructed fish box and a spring spear such as were often used thirty or forty years ago before their use was generally prohibited? If not, you have missed an experience not only charming in itself, but intensely instructive as to the habits of fish. Let me give you a little experience of my own in the days "long gone by."
During the fall of 1856 and early winter following, I happened to be in Fon-du-Lac, Wis., and at that time there were many Indians still living in the neighborhood. The lakes and ponds abounded in pike and perch, and during every winter the Indians were constantly fishing through the ice with their decoy fishes and gaffs in the manner described above. These decoys were whittled out of a pine stick, so as to resemble in shape a fish about six or seven inches in length; the wood was then stained a dark color, a few places were then scraped or chipped so as to give the fish a mottled appearance, a couple of pieces of tin stuck in each side answered for fins, and a groove was made in the fore part of the belly and filled with lead, which was kept bright. With a string in the head the fish could be jerked to the surface of the water and the lead would carry it down head first when the string was slackened, and so a very natural motion could be given to it. What was most remarkable was the fact that the less the decoy fish resembled a real one within reasonable bounds of course, the more successful it seemed to be. Some two or three years previously an old Indian had whittled out a fish which soon had the reputation of being the
most killing and successful decoy ever made in that vicinity, so successful, in fact, that for a long
time he refused to sell it on any terms, but at last a friend of mine through the offer of a
considerable sum, tempted its owner to part with it and became its possessor. When the
Legislature of Wisconsin soon after prohibited the use of such fish, it was sent to me as a
souvenir of my trip. The record of one day’s sport will show the killing qualities of this fish. On
one morning in December 1856, I visited with a companion, Lake Horicon, a lake some fifteen
miles long situated a few miles distant, for a day’s sport at catching pike. We cut a hole in the ice
nearly four feet in diameter, and over it placed our fishing box with the open side down. This box
was 4 ft. square, lined with heavy paper to exclude the light; we entered through a door in the
side which was fastened with an inside button and sat opposite each other, each resting his feet
on the ends of the narrow board occupied by the other; our spring spear had a handle some 15 ft,
in length which passed through a hole in the center of the top of the box. The decoy fish was
played with the left hand and the spear held in the right. The water was about 10 ft. deep, and the
light shone so clearly through the ice that everything in the water, even to the smallest fish, could
be seen with perfect distinctness.
In four hours we took twenty-one pike, which weighed a little over 70 lbs., and we took every
pike that came within sight except one small one. As I sat looking under the ice I saw a large
pike chasing a small one, which darted across the hole, but as soon as his pursuer saw the decoy
fish it ceased the chase and turned around and seized it with such force that he came partly out of
the water right between our feet, and I speared him in the head above the water with the decoy
fish in his mouth. His weight was over 5 lbs.
During all this time two Indians were fishing for pike only a few feet distant and on equally good
grounds, and together they took just two fish, their decoys failing to attract the fish.
The box, which to the fish appeared like a dark spot on the ice, afforded an elegant opportunity
to observe the habits of the pike in taking its food. Once on this day a large pike missed the
deco, and he came with such force that he went perhaps 20 ft. beyond us, but he turned and
came back slowly near the bottom and stopped right under the decoy fish and then began to rise
very slowly toward it, but he was speared in deep water before he had a chance to make a second rush. Usually, however, the fish would approach cautiously until near the decoy and then make a sudden dash for it.

On Lake Winnebago, where we usually had good success, my companion and I both took yellow perch quite freely and they manifested none of the caution of the pike, but the black bass which abounded in that lake never came near enough to be taken; curiosity sometimes led very large ones to approach within sight, but they always kept close to the bottom and soon slowly swam away.

I have never been able to reconcile the results of my fishing with this decoy fish with the theory of may anglers for trout, that the more closely we can imitate the flies which then abound upon a stream or lake, the more sure we will be of sport, as in my experience the reverse is very often the case.

I have often observed that when I have been using a certain fly with success, the same fly has suddenly made its appearance in large numbers on the water, and that immediately my sport almost wholly ceased for the simple reason that my fly then constituted but one of say 10,000 of the same kind; and I, therefore, had but one chance in 10,000 that mine would be taken, which was, of course, relatively diminished by the artificial character of the fly. May it not be so with a decoy fish or artificial minnow? The closer the imitation the more we put it in competition with the natural fish, which if we use one which will attract although it is different from the fish inhabiting the same waters, may it not prove to be very successful?

With this article I send to you for your inspection this old relic of past sport, although I fear it will sorely test your faith in the veracity of your correspondent.

V. C. – Poughkeepsie, N. Y., March 9, 1892.

From Forest & Stream, March 24, 1892.


Wiesenberger, Dave. “Ken and Mark Bruning of Rogers City, Michigan.” Lure Collector,
Book No. 5, (Fall 1986), p.13. (Brief discussion of these important makers; some inaccuracies).


Zabar, Lori Segal. “A Collector’s Guide to Fish Decoys.” The Clarion, Vol. 11, No. 4, (Fall 1986), pp. 25-29. (Fairly good analysis of the fish decoy field but Ms. Zabar is incorrect in stating that a decoy should not contain any hooks. Thirteen decoys illustrated. The decoy on pg. 29 is mis-attributed; should read “Brook Trout decoy by Jim Nelson; circa 1960).

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Anonymous. “Fishing On The Ice In Canada.” New York Sun, (Dec. 8, 1901). (Reports on the indian “method of spearing through the ice” in the Great Lakes Region. “…the cruel Indian weapon descends and fastens itself in the flesh of the writhing dore (walleye)” As early as 1901 we see the city denizen’s use of inflamatory language to cast this form of fishing in a negative light, an aversion that would eventually lead to the outlawing of spearing fish through the ice in most of the East).

Anonymous. “Rare Sport of Ice Fishing Now Summons Its Devotees.” New York Times, (Jan. 13, 1929). (Discussion of fishing through the ice of Lake Champlain for “ice fish” (smelt). “Ice fishing ….is a pastime among the farmers and merchants who have nothing else to do in the Winter”).

Anonymous. “Ice Leaving Bay And Cisoe City’s A Thing Of Past.” Traverse City Record Eagle, (April 6, 1933), pg.1. (A brief article about Cisoe City and its importance to subsistence during hard times).


Charles, Gordon. “Outdoors With Gordie” (a regular weekly sindicated column), appearing in The Traverse City Record-Eagle, (January 27, 1956), pp. 16. (Contains a reference to an early eye witness account of indians spearing through the ice in Canada by George Bond in 1815).
Charles, Gordon. “Pike are prized as winter fishing trophies.” The Traverse City Record-Eagle, (Friday, January 2, 1987), pp. 18.


Daniels, Mary. “A sampler of our country treasures.” Chicago Tribune, Section 15, (June 29, 1986), pp. 1, 4, and 5.


“Fish decoys secure a place in history.” The News American, Section 15C, (Sunday, February 16, 1986).

“Fish Effigies of Guerro.” The Miami Herald: Tropic, (February 12, 1984). (These Mexican fish effigies could be very easily turned into fish decoys. Look out).

Jenkins, Guy H. “Ice Fishers Irk ‘Summer’ Anglers.” Antrim County News, (February 12, 1938). (Good discussion of the basic conflict between winter and summer fisherman).


Michigan Department of Conservation. “Smelt A ‘Victory Food’.” The Leader and Kalkaskian, (February 11, 1943). (Photo with caption, “With the army taking all the large filleted smelt it can get and the civilian market good, as housewives find other meat supplies short, the business of producing this “victory food” is booming at Escanaba. Fishermen here are dipping smelt from a pound net lifted through a hole in the ice. Last winter commercial fishermen operating 78 pound nets and 35 miles of small mesh gill nets in Michigan waters of Green Bay marketed more than two million pounds of smelt in the three month ice fishing season.”).


Otto, Simon. “First ‘fish story’ was the painful truth.” The Record Eagle, (Monday, January 31, 1983), pp. 27.

Reif, Rita. “Artful Lures to Catch Cold Fish.” The New York Times, (Sunday, February 11,


Solis-Cohen, Lita. “Making the Market for Fish Decoys: A Picture Book, A Show, and An Auction”. Maine Antique Digest, (April, 1990), pp. 42-44B. (Good, well rounded and astute article on the building of a market that also promotes the fish decoy exhibit, “Beneath the Ice: The Art of the Fish Decoy”, at the Museum of American Folk Art in New York City. Many photos taken directly from the book / exhibition catalog of the same name. Side bar article that discusses the problem of fake fish decoys and how the Mikkos coming out of Minnesota are threatening to undermine collector confidence).


Stoll, Albert, Jr.. “Spearing Season Extended.” Ironwood Daily Globe, (Mar. 7, 1933), pg. 3. (Picked up from the Detroit News. Depression era account of State conservation director George R. Hogarth’s decision to stop enforcing the March 1st closing of the spearing season on Lake St. Clair on humanitarian grounds).


AUCTION CATALOGUES:


realized list. (Included a large selection of Fish Decoys by Leroy Howell, one of which sold at $9,000).


Guyette and Schmidt Inc.  *North American Decoys At Auction*.  November 7 & 8, 2001. w/prices realized list.  (6 lots of fish decoys including 4 Petersons. Interestingly, although reported as sold, some of these same decoys show up again in the following sale and sell again, this time at much lower prices).

Guyette and Schmidt Inc.  *North American Decoys At Auction*.  April 25 & 26, 2002.  980 lots w/prices realized list.  (55 illustrated fish decoy lots including pieces by Howell, Peterson, Janner, Goulette, Washall, Chosa, Faue, Seymour, Jokala, Genlo, Trombley, Stores, Kober, plus 8 lots of fish plaques and models including two plaques by Oscar Peterson).

Guyette and Schmidt Inc.  *North American Decoys At Auction*.  July 25 & 26, 2002.  156 pgs. w/prices realized list.  (35 illustrated lots of fish decoys, mostly by Leroy Howell and another 8 lots of fish plaques, Peterson peacock plaque and 1 drawing of a trout by Shang Wheeler. In addition to Howell, includes fish decoys by Batters, Bethel, Max, Sawyer, Walker, Borsch, Peterson, McNair and many unknowns).


Guyette and Schmidt Inc.  *North American Decoys At Auction*.  July 29-30, 2004.  w/prices realized list.  (20 lots of fish decoys including O. Peterson, Schramm, Trombley and Dehate, 14
more of Howells and one large (33.5") Peterson Pike Plaque).

Guyette and Schmidt Inc. **North American Decoys At Auction.** November 10 & 11, 2004. w/prices realized list. (10 lots of fish decoys including O. Peterson, A. Trombley and A. Dehate).

Guyette and Schmidt Inc. **North American Decoys At Auction.** April 28 & 29, 2005. w/prices realized list. (14 lots of Oscar Peterechts carvings and 14 more lots of New York fish decoys).

Guyette and Schmidt Inc. **North American Decoys At Auction.** July 30 & 31, 2005. w/prices realized list. (30 lots of fish decoys including Peterechts and Howells).

Guyette and Schmidt Inc. **North American Decoys At Auction.** November 9 & 10, 2005. w/prices realized list. (5 lots of fish decoys including 3 Peterechts and 2 Howells).

Guyette and Schmidt Inc. **North American Decoys At Auction.** April 27 & 28, 2006. w/prices realized list. (29 lots of fish decoys including Peterson, Lake Chautauqua, Heddon and Howell).

Guyette and Schmidt Inc. **North American Decoys At Auction.** July 29 & 30, 2006. w/prices realized list. (No fish decoys but Lot 57 is the largest known Oscar Peterson Bluegill Plaque at 16” x 34”).

Guyette and Schmidt Inc. **North American Decoys At Auction.** April 28 & 29, 2011. w/prices realized list. (A number of fish decoys were offered, including a few Oscar Peterechts, but most significant was a 12” bass “Ghost Fish” by Hans Janner, Sr. that brought $ 36,000 + premium, a new world auction record for a fish decoy).

Lang’s Sporting Collectibles, Inc. **Fall Two Session Auction.** November 4 & 5, 2005. w/prices realized list. (78 lots of fish decoys including O. Peterson and others).


Sotheby’s Auction Galleries. **American Folk Art Sale.** New York, NY, Jan. 27, 1990. (Contained 3 lots of fish decoys consigned by Steve Michaan. All set new world record prices for fish decoys; Oscar Peterson 9” Brown Trout with glass eyes - $18,700, Harry Seymour
Steelhead - $14,300 and a Pecor Fox Perch - $7,250).

Sotheby’s Auction Galleries. Collection of Stanley Sax. New York, NY, Jan. 17, 1998. (Lots 549-561 contained 82 fish decoys by Oscar Peterson, Bud Stewart, Dave Kober, Carl Christiansen, Mike Maxson, Pecore Fox, Hans Janner, Jim Foote, John Kalash and various unidentified makers. The top lot was the Hans Janner Bass at $4,887).

Sotheby’s Auction Galleries. The Distinguished Collection of American Waterfowl Decoys of Dr. James M. McCleery. New York, NY, Jan. 22 & 23, 2000. (Lots 188-197 contained fish decoys by William Faue, Harry Seymour and unidentified Lake Chautauqua, New York makers. Prices were generally high and a new world record was set for a fish decoy. An anonymous Lake Chautauqua sucker realized $32,200. Lots 25-28 contained 5 quite ordinary midwestern fish spears, all mis-cataloged as eel spears and the descriptions did not match up with the pictures. Nevertheless, all realized unrealistically high prices.)


EXHIBITION CATALOGUES:

Exhibits USA. Hook, Line and Shelter: Ice Fishing Houses from the Great North. A rentable exhibit available September, 1992 through August 1994. “Comprised of several different art expressions of ice fishing houses, including drawings and models from recent competition sponsored by the Minnesota Society of the American Institute of Architects. It also contains large-scale silkscreen prints by Larry Stark, oil paintings and monotypes by Dale Johnson and a full scale ice fishing house installation by Linda Christiansen. Extensive didactic text panels and photographs of actual ice fishing houses in use will also be included.”


Kangas, Gene and Dick Walters. Hooked On Wood, The Allure of the Fish Decoy at The Center For Art In Wood, Philadelphia, PA from May 18 to July 21, 2012. Published in a limited edition
of 1000 copies by Creekside Art Gallery LLC, Concord, O. (A general overview of the current fish decoy world. Numerous illustrations including color photos of over 100 fish decoys from some of the country’s best collections).


MacDowell, Marsha, and C. Kurt Dewhurst. Michigan Folk Art, Its Beginnings To 1941. Michigan State University, East Lansing, August 29- October 10, 1976. (This was a landmark exhibition for Michigan fish decoys. 22 examples are illustrated here including works by Jos. Francis, Hans Janner Sr., Erv Stewart, Marvin Mason Jr., Abe Dehate, Walter Wagner, Andy Trombley, Gordon Sears, Otto Moore and Alex Meldrum).


TRADE CATALOGUES:


Herter’s, Inc.  *Herter’s No. 71*, Waseca, Minnesota, 1961, pg. 300. (Spear illustration).


Herter’s, Inc.  *Herter’s No. 80R*, Waseca, Minnesota, 1970, pp. 273 & 306. (Illustrations of Herter’s spears (Randall) and Herter’s “Fleshex Minnows”).


Kennedy Bros. Arms Co.  *Trade Catalog*, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 1935. (Pg. 65 illustrates a Paw-Paw ice decoy minnow that was offered in 5” & 7” sizes).


Netcraft Co.  *The Netcraft Co.: Everything For Fishing!* Catalog No. 39, Toledo, Ohio, 1951.

Shapleigh Hardware Co.  *Shapleigh’s Spring and Summer Sporting Goods Catalog No. 308*, St. Louis, Missouri, 1928. (Illustrations of bobbers, gaffs, spears, tongs and scalers).

South Bend Bait Co.  *South Bend Fishing Tackle, Trade Catalog, Season 1923-24*, South Bend, Ind., 1923.

**SALE LISTS:**

Baron, Frank R.  *Great Lakes Ice Decoys*, No. 1 (Summer 1986), Livonia, Mich.  (Sale offering 44 items, 15 sketches and an article on Leroy Howell).

Baron, Frank R.  *Great Lakes Ice Decoys*, No. 2 (Fall 1986), Livonia, Mich.  (Sale offering 46 items, 9 sketches and an article on Oscar Peterson).

Baron, Frank R.  *Great Lakes Ice Decoys*, No. 3 (Winter 1987), Livonia, Mich.  (Sale offering 48 items, 6 sketches and an article on The Bear Creek Bait Co.).

Baron, Frank R.  *Great Lakes Ice Decoys*, No. 4 (Spring 1987), Livonia, Mich.  (Sale offering 43 items, 7 sketches and an article on Bud Stewart).

Baron, Frank R.  *Great Lakes Ice Decoys*, No. 5 (Summer 1987), Livonia, Mich.  (Sale offering 47 items, 6 sketches and an article on The Faue Brothers).

Baron, Frank R.  *Great Lakes Ice Decoys*, No. 6 (Fall 1987), Livonia, Mich.  (Sale offering 45 items, 6 sketches and an article on The Veihl Family).

Baron, Frank R.  *Great Lakes Ice Decoys*, No. 7 (Winter 1988), Livonia, Mich.  (Sale list offering numerous fish decoys for sale and an article on Alton “Chub” Buchman).


Kimball, Art.  *Fish Decoy List*, January, 1988, Boulder Junction, WI.  (Sale offering 140 items, many of which are illustrated in his *Fish Decoys*, Vol. I & II.  He might just as well have put the prices right next to the pictures in the book and saved us all the trouble of looking them up).

Miller, Gary L.  *Fish Decoys*, Catalog No.1 (April, 1986), Suttons Bay, Mich.  (Illustrated 10 page catalog of old and new fish decoys for sale with supporting text).


**PAMPHLETS:**

Baron, Frank R.  *The Incredible Folk Art of Carl R. Christiansen*.  Color.
DECOY MAGAZINE REFERENCES:

Allen, Russ  Atlantic City, NJ  July/Aug  2004
Batters, William “Slow”  Little Falls, MN  Sept/Oct  1991
Behold the Mighty Minnow  Gr. Lakes Fishing Decoys  July/Aug  1997
Bethel Decoys Port Rapids, MN  Jan/Feb  1992
C.C. Roberts Bait Co. WI  Nov/Dec  1999
Brown, Dick E.  Brainerd, MN  Nov/Dec  2002
Copper Fish Decoys  MN  Nov/Dec  1993
Faue Brothers, The  Hanover, MN  May/June  1998
Finney, Frank  Back Bay, VA  Jan/Feb  1992
Fish Bust’r spearing decoys  Brainerd, MN  Jan/Feb  2004
Fish Models, Plaques & Effigies  July/Aug  1996
Frog Decoys  July/Aug  1995
Hall, Chuck  Barnum, MN  Jan/Feb  1993
Hanson, Marty  Prior Lake, MN  July/Aug  1994
Heddon & Sons Tackle Co.  Dowagaic, WI  Jan/Feb  1994
Heron Lake Decoys  MN  July/Aug  1992
Herter, George  Waseca, MN  May/June  1999
Howell, Leroy Hinkley, MN  Nov/Dec  1990
Kromer, Effard “Bud”  Fergus Falls, MN  Mar/Apr  2002
Lacrosse Fish Decoys  La Crosse, WI  Mar/Apr  1995
Lexow, Fred  Balsam Lake, MN  July/Aug  1989
Lunka, Lawrence  Ely, MN  May/June  2003
Matzen, Jerry  Nevis, MN  Sept/Oct  2001
McNair, Mark Eastern Shore, VA  Winter 1982
Minsch, Frank  Pierz, MN  May/June  2003
Mizera, Frank  Ely, MN  Mar/Apr  2002
Moes, Alfred  Lakeville, MN  Nov/Dec  2005
Newman, Earnest  Carlton, MN  Mar/Apr  1991
Peterson, Oscar  Cadillac, MI  Sept/Oct  2006
Peterson, Wilbur “Willie”  Brainerd, MN  Mar/Apr  1997
Pususta, John  MN  July/Aug  2000
Quam, Oscar  New London, MN  Mar/Apr  1998
Ryden, John Albert  Aitkin, MN  May/June  1991
Satre, Carl  Brainerd, MN  May/June  2003
Sawyer, “Chet”  Duluth, MN  July/Aug  1992
Schifferl, Lou  Green Bay, WI  Mar/Apr  2000
Sieger, Joseph  Wolf River Township, WI  Mar/Apr  2000
Sirois, Philip  ME  May/June  2000
Smith, Christopher Columbus  St. Clair Flats, MI  Mar/Apr  1992
Snow, John  Lac du Flambeau, WI  Jan/Feb  1996
Spearfishing Decoys  Nov/Dec  1997
Tax, John  Lake Osakis, MN  Jan/Feb  1995
Thompson, Ray  Park Rapids, MN  Sept/Oct  1992
Valley, Mike  Prairie du Chein, WI  Mar/Apr  1998
VISUAL MEDIA (TV, Video, etc.):

Fish decoys : folk art beneath the ice.
Author: Bob Dambach; Tapio Kube; Mark A Greenig; Prairie Public Broadcasting.
Series: Prairie Public heritage collection.
Edition/Format: VHS video : VHS tape Visual material : English
Summary:
Meet fish decoy carvers in Minnesota. Learn the history of fish decoys, how they work, and how they're made. Discover why fish decoys have evolved from being tools for survival to highly sought after works of art.