

# ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

## NETS, ROPES, SAILS AND OTHER ARTICLES FOR FISHING AND SEA-FARING USE

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Nets, ropes, cords, sails and other articles of fibrous material which are used in fishing and sea-faring have hitherto been made almost exclusively from cellulose fibers, for instance cotton, flax, hemp or jute. It is known that such articles rapidly deteriorate because cellulose fibers in moist condition are easily attacked by bacteria which degrade the cellulose. Thus the fibers become weakened and the articles made therefrom, such as nets or cords, very soon become useless for the fisherman. It is, therefore, generally customary to impregnate the aforesaid articles with copper soaps, tar, tanning agents or like bactericides in order to prevent the attack of bacteria. However, the protective effect of this impregnation is of short duration because on the one hand it is very difficult to completely saturate the fibers and on the other hand the impregnating agent is very soon washed out by water in use.

This invention relates to the manufacture of nets, cords and other articles which are to be exposed to moisture and seawater from fibers and threads of synthetic resins, especially those obtainable from compounds containing halogen, for instance polyvinyl chloride and afterchlorinated polyvinyl chloride, it having been found that such material is almost ideal for the purpose. The synthetic vinyl resins are practically unattacked by bacteria. The fibers or threads

obtained therefrom are also sufficiently strong for use in lieu of the materials hitherto used. Even when they have lain in water or soil for weeks or months, the fibers and threads from synthetic vinyl resins are scarcely affected in their strength. At the same time they do not swell in water and are quite stable against seawater and other chemical agents.

Besides the above-named halogen-compounds among which chlorinated rubber is to be included fibers made from polymerized hydrocarbons as well as mixed polymerizates of hydrocarbons or halogen hydrocarbons with other unsaturated compounds, for instance acrylnitrile, acrylic acid esters, vinyl esters may be used, the proportions of which in halogen hydrocarbons or hydrocarbons on the one hand and the other unsaturated compounds on the other hand may vary between wide limits. Moreover, the number of these compounds to be used in combination is not limited to those named above but includes all substances which can form mixed polymerizates with unsaturated hydrocarbons or halogen hydrocarbons. It is merely necessary that in each case a test should be made to ascertain the correct admixture for obtaining the desired mechanical strength and stability to bacteria and rotting.

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