



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) **EP 1 695 902 A3**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
11.10.2006 Bulletin 2006/41

(51) Int Cl.:
B63B 39/00 (2006.01) B63B 59/02 (2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:
30.08.2006 Bulletin 2006/35

(21) Application number: **06252858.3**

(22) Date of filing: **02.06.2006**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC NL PL PT RO SE SI
SK TR**
Designated Extension States:
AL BA HR MK YU

(72) Inventors:
• **Clarkson, Neil M.**
Poulton le Fylde
Lancashire FY6 8DJ (GB)
• **Van Rijk, Robert M.**
1436 BK Aalsmeerderburg (NL)

(30) Priority: **14.06.2005 GB 0512097**

(74) Representative: **Hitchcock, Esmond Antony**
Lloyd Wise McNeight & Lawrence
Commonweath House
1-19 New Oxford Street
London WC1A 1LW (GB)

(71) Applicant: **Windcat Workboats Limited**
Blackpool
Lancashire FY4 1DW (GB)

(54) **Method of stabilizing a boat against a stationary structure**

(57) A technique for stabilising a boat (2) in open water against a stationary structure (4) is disclosed. The boat (2) has a fender (8) at one end comprising a resilient material (10), and the boat (2) is urged against the structure (4) to engage the resilient material (10) with the struc-

ture (4). The frictional engagement in combination with the urging force is sufficient to prevent the engaged fender (8) from slipping down the structure (4). In this way so long as the engagement is sustained, the boat (2) is stabilised against the structure (4).

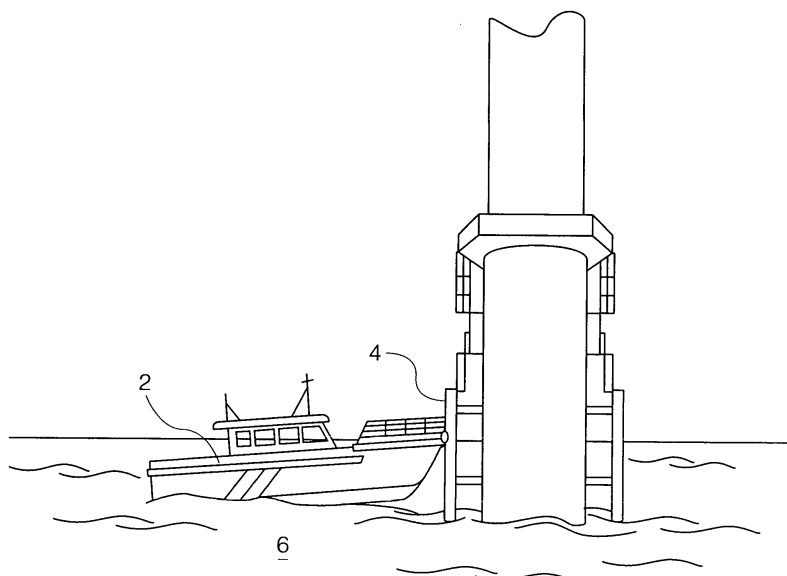


FIGURE 1

EP 1 695 902 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 06 25 2858

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X A A A X A X A	US 3 974 794 A (KAKITANI SHIGEYUKI ET AL) 17 August 1976 (1976-08-17) * abstract; figures 2,13,16-18 * * column 2, line 26 - line 44 * * column 3, line 27 - line 43 * * column 5, line 17 - line 21 * ----- CH 365 966 A (LONZA AG) 30 November 1962 (1962-11-30) * claims 1,2; figure 1 * * page 1, line 16 - line 45 * ----- US 5 313 907 A (HODGES CHRISTOPHER A) 24 May 1994 (1994-05-24) * abstract; figures * ----- US 4 309 956 A (YAMAGUCHI NOBORU) 12 January 1982 (1982-01-12) * abstract; figure 1 * * column 1, line 50 - column 2, line 12 * * column 2, line 37 - line 57 * * column 3, line 9 - line 17 * * column 3, line 44 - line 48 * * column 4, line 54 - line 64 * ----- US 3 109 405 A (NUSINOFF WILLY) 5 November 1963 (1963-11-05) * figures 1,2,5 * * column 1, line 60 - column 2, line 7 * * column 2, line 44 - line 49 * ----- US 4 738 215 A (MCMAHON TERRY L) 19 April 1988 (1988-04-19) * claim 1; figure 1 * * column 2, line 14 - line 38 * ----- -/-	1,4,6-21 2,3 1,3-6, 11,14, 15,19-21 1,5,6, 8-12, 15-18,21 11-21 1,4-10 11-21 1,4-6,8, 9 11-21 1,7,8,10	INV. B63B39/00 B63B59/02 TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) B63B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 6 September 2006	Examiner Häusler, Ulrich
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

14

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 06 25 2858

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	"MRFC - SHOWING THE WAY IN COMPOSITE CONSTRUCTION" SHIP AND BOAT INTERNATIONAL, ROYAL INSTITUTION OF NAVAL ARCHITECTS, May 1993 (1993-05), page 45,47, XP000367601 LONDON, GB ISSN: 0037-3834	11-13,17	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
A	* figures *	1,6,8,9, 19	
A	* page 47, left-hand column, line 4 - line 35 *		
A	----- US 4 848 969 A (MUROTA NOBUO ET AL) 18 July 1989 (1989-07-18) * claims 1-3; figure 1 * * column 2, line 57 - column 3, line 10 * -----	1,4,5, 11,14, 15,19-21	
A	US 4 351 257 A (BROWN LOUIS S JR) 28 September 1982 (1982-09-28) * abstract; figures 1,4 * * column 1, line 13 - line 18 * * column 4, line 9 - line 14 * * column 6, line 18 - line 20 * -----	1,4,5, 11,14, 15,19-21	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 6 September 2006	Examiner Häusler, Ulrich
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

14

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 06 25 2858

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

06-09-2006

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 3974794	A	17-08-1976	AU 498119 B2	08-02-1979
			AU 7486474 A	06-05-1976
			DE 2451501 A1	07-05-1975
			DK 572074 A	07-07-1975
			FR 2249801 A1	30-05-1975
			GB 1491511 A	09-11-1977
			IT 1030777 B	10-04-1979
			NL 7414096 A	09-05-1975
CH 365966	A	30-11-1962	NONE	
US 5313907	A	24-05-1994	US 5205235 A	27-04-1993
US 4309956	A	12-01-1982	GB 2013825 A	15-08-1979
			JP 54100089 A	07-08-1979
US 3109405	A	05-11-1963	NONE	
US 4738215	A	19-04-1988	NONE	
US 4848969	A	18-07-1989	JP 2003653 C	20-12-1995
			JP 7030541 B	05-04-1995
			JP 62215707 A	22-09-1987
US 4351257	A	28-09-1982	JP 1435775 C	25-04-1988
			JP 57140289 A	30-08-1982
			JP 62038483 B	18-08-1987