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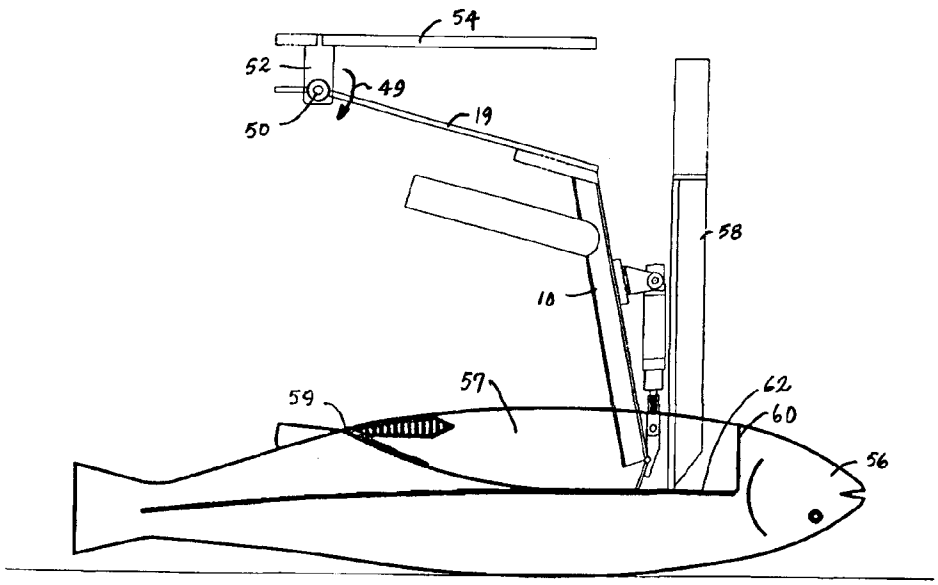
Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*

— *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: FISH CLEANING APPARATUS AND METHODS



(57) Abstract: Apparatus and associated methods for cleaning residual visceral matter from the belly cavity (57) of a gutted fish (56). The cleaning apparatus includes a scraper (16) attached at the mouth of a suction tube (12) by a hinge (32). An actuator (34) pivots the scraper about the hinge between an extended position biased into contact with the interior wall of the belly cavity and a retracted position out of contact with the wall. In the retracted position, the scraper covers the mouth (28) of the suction tube to prevent dislodged visceral matter from falling back into the belly cavity. In the extended position, the scraper uncovers the mouth of the suction tube to allow scraped visceral matter to be sucked from the belly cavity.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A22C25/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
A22C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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A	EP 0 398 017 A (NORDISCHER MASCHINENBAU [DE]) 22 November 1990 (1990-11-22) abstract; claims 1-13; figures 1-7 column 1, line 1 - column 8, line 19	1-14
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A	DE 82 14 505 U1 (EICHENSEER, THEO, 8450 AMBERG, DE) 2 May 1985 (1985-05-02) pages 1-10; claims 1-22; figures 1-4	1-14

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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