

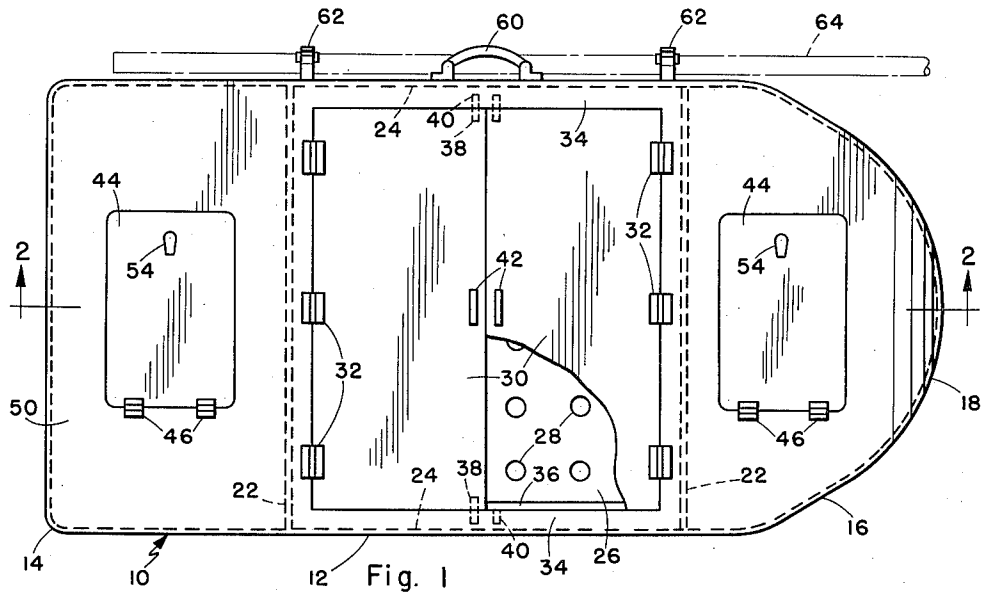
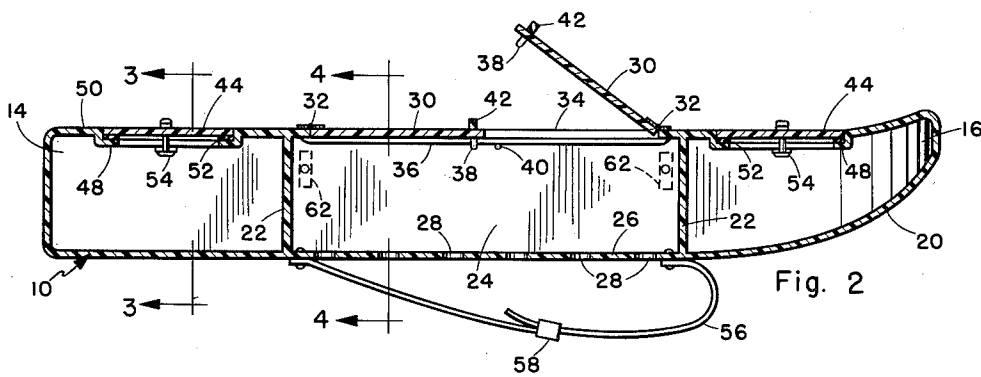
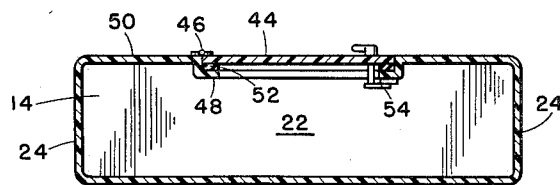
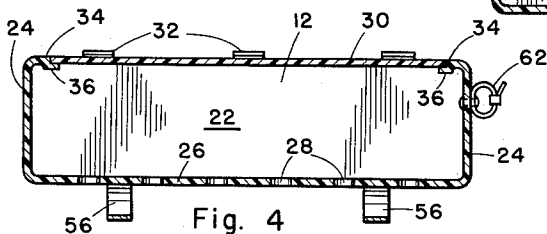
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SKIN DIVER'S COMBINED FLOAT AND EQUIPMENT CARRIER

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1

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SKIN DIVER'S COMBINED FLOAT AND EQUIPMENT CARRIER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 9—1)

The present invention relates generally to marine accessories and more particularly to a skin diver's combined float and equipment carrier.

The primary object of this invention is to provide a skin diver's equipment carrier having integral flotation chambers at the ends thereof, the chambers being fitted with sealed doors so that the spaces can be used to hold various items of equipment, the central portion of the structure between the flotation chambers comprising a catch container which is vented to admit water and is also fitted with easily opened doors to retain live catch.

Another object of this invention is to provide a float and equipment carrier which is easily handled in the water and is reasonably shallow to float low in the water, so that catch can be placed in the central compartment with a minimum of effort and without affecting the buoyancy of the float.

A further object of this invention is to provide a combined float and equipment carrier which is light in weight and can be transported as a back pack or carried by a convenient handle, which also serves for handling and towing in the water.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a float and equipment carrier which can be made in different sizes from various materials, according to specific needs.

Finally, it is an object to provide a combined float and equipment carrier of the aforementioned character which is simple and convenient to make and use and which will give generally efficient and durable service.

With these and other objects definitely in view, this invention consists in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of elements and portions, as will be hereinafter fully described in the specification, particularly pointed out in the claims, and illustrated in the drawing which forms a material part of this disclosure, and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a top plan view of the complete structure, a portion of one door being cut away;

FIGURE 2 is a sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of FIGURE 2; and

FIGURE 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of FIGURE 2.

Similar characters of reference indicate similar or identical elements and portions throughout the specification and throughout the views of the drawing.

The complete unit, referred to hereinafter as the float 10, is a generally rectangular, hollow structure divided into a central catch compartment 12 and a pair of buoyancy chambers 14 and 16. For convenience, the buoyancy chamber 16 may have a rounded end 18 and an upwardly curved lower surface 20, this arrangement making the float easier to tow in the water and slide up on the beach and most importantly, also providing clearance for the back of the head when the float is carried as a back pack. The catch compartment 12 is separated from the buoyancy chambers by upright sealed partitions 22 extending between the sides 24 of the float 10, the bottom panel 26 of said catch compartment being provided with a plurality of spaced openings 28 for free circulation of water and air. The catch compartment 12 is provided with a pair of large doors 30 attached at their opposite, remote edges by hinges 32, adjacent portions 22, so that

2

the doors swing upwardly and outwardly. The side edges 34 of the door opening have depressed flanges 36 on which doors 30 rest when closed, said doors having catches 38 when engage detents 40 on said top panel to hold the doors closed. The catches and detents may be of any suitable type, such as ball catches, friction clips, or magnetic catches, as required and handles 42 are fixed to the doors 30 for ease of opening.

The buoyancy chambers 14 and 16 are each sealed except for a small access door 44, indicated as generally rectangular and attached by hinges 46 at one end. Each access door 44 seats on a peripheral depressed flange 48 formed integrally in the top panel 50 of the float, the closures being sealed by suitable gaskets 52 of rubber or the like. To ensure proper sealing, positive locking means such as the twist type latches 54 is preferred, although other locking devices, bolts, or the like may be used.

For carrying as a back pack, the float 10 is provided with shoulder straps 56 having adjustable buckles 58, said straps being riveted or otherwise secured to the bottom panel 26 to preserve the sealing of the buoyancy chambers. To facilitate handling, a conventional luggage type carrying handle 60 is secured to one side 24, while for added utility, a pair of short retaining straps 62 are fixed to said side to hold a spear gun or the like, indicated in broken line at 64.

In use the float is towed in the water by the diver and can be used for support when needed. Various items of equipment such as mask or goggles, fins and breathing apparatus, may be stored in the buoyancy chambers when not in use, but are readily accessible when needed. Since the float 10 is relatively shallow, the catch compartment 12 is easily reached by a diver swimming alongside to deposit live catch or marine samples, the doors 30 preventing loss of the catch even in rough water, while the openings 28 ensure a supply of water to sustain live catch if necessary. When the catch compartment 12 is heavily loaded, the curved lower surface 20 at one end enables the float to be pulled up on the beach or shore with a minimum of effort.

The structure is particularly suitable for manufacture from plastic or reinforced plastic material, resulting in a light unit with good buoyancy, although light alloy metal may be utilized for construction if desired. The straps, buckles, hinges and other hardware used may be of any readily available commercial types and can vary considerably, according to size and strength requirements.

The operation of this invention will be clearly comprehended from a consideration of the foregoing description of the mechanical details thereof, taken in connection with the drawing and the above recited objects. It will be obvious that all said objects are amply achieved by this invention.

It is understood that minor variation from the form of the invention disclosed herein may be made without departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and that the specification and drawing are to be considered as merely illustrative rather than limiting.

I claim:

1. A combined float and equipment carrier, comprising: a hollow body of substantially rectangular cross section having imperforate sides, imperforate ends, a perforated bottom panel, and a top panel; a buoyancy chamber at each end of said body, one end of each buoyancy chamber being integral with one end of said body, said body forming a catch compartment between said buoyancy chambers, the perforated bottom panel of said catch compartment causing circulation of water therein; a pair of doors positioned in said top panel of said catch compartment and hinged to open upwardly and outwardly in opposite directions; detent means engageable to hold said

3

doors in closed position; a hinged access door positioned in the top portion of each of said buoyancy chambers; sealing means surrounding and sealing said access doors of said buoyancy chambers in their closed position; the lower portion of one of said buoyancy chambers having an upwardly curved, substantially arcuate end portion.

2. A combined float and equipment carrier according to claim 1 and including a pair of shoulder straps attached to the bottom of said body and disposed thereon to fit over the shoulders and under the armpits for carrying the body with said curved buoyancy chamber uppermost in an up-ended position, and with the curved end portion thereof to provide clearance for the wearer's head.

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