

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
17 August 2006 (17.08.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/085836 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification:
B63H 19/02 (2006.01) **B63B 22/24** (2006.01)
F03B 13/20 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/002622
- (22) International Filing Date: 28 January 2005 (28.01.2005)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/541,095 2 February 2004 (02.02.2004) US
11/033,082 10 January 2005 (10.01.2005) US
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):
NORTHROP GRUMMAN CORPORATION [US/US];
21240 Burbank Boulevard, Building 35, Woodland Hills,
CA 91367 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **SZEGEDI,**
Nicholas J. [US/US]; 229 Goldenwood, Simi Valley,
California 93065 (US). **HAVELKA, Steven E.** [US/US];
1933 Selby Avenue, #402, Los Angeles, California 90045
(US).
- (74) Agent: **GESS, Albin H.;** SNELL & WILMER LLP, 600
Anton Boulevard, Suite 1400, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 (US).

- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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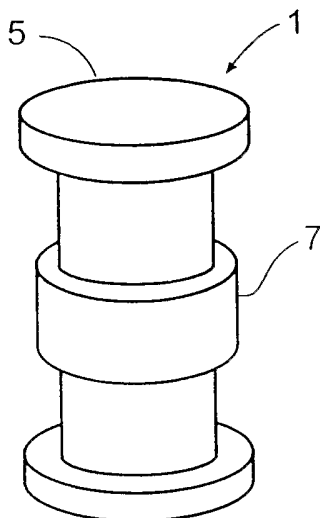
— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: BUOYANT CONTAINER WITH WAVE GENERATED POWER PRODUCTION



(57) Abstract: An apparatus (1) designed to float on or in a liquid has at least two buoyant members (5, 7). The apparatus utilizes relative motion between the buoyant members (5, 7) to generate power, and the buoyant members (5, 7) are coupled to the apparatus in such a manner that surface movement of a fluid that the apparatus is floating in causes relative motion between the buoyant members. The apparatus may be a housing that includes an electrical apparatus within it, with the electrical apparatus being powered directly or indirectly by power generated by the floating apparatus. The apparatus may be a sonobuoy, and may include a sensor array hanging from a floating housing that includes the at least two buoyant members.

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BUOYANT CONTAINER WITH WAVE GENERATED POWER PRODUCTION

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of Provisional Application No. 60/541,095, filed February 2, 2004, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates generally to buoyant containers and sonobuoys.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] A sonobuoy is a buoy equipped with an acoustic receiver and a radio transmitter that emits radio signals when it detects underwater sounds. Sonobuoys have been deployed into the ocean to aid in the detection of submarines and other vessels. Some sonobuoys are equipped with devices that emit signals and receive the resulting echo. Others are capable of detecting noise generated by crafts, such as submarines. By deploying a number of sonobuoys, the location of such crafts can be determined.

[0004] Deployment of sonobuoys is generally accomplished by launching the buoys from aircraft. Sonobuoys are often deployed in remote locations and far enough away from each other such that it is inconvenient, difficult, or impossible to provide power to them on an ongoing basis and/or in a stored form. As such, the lifetime of a buoy is typically at least partially dependent on how much electrical energy it has stored on board. On-board sources of electrical energy may comprise, for example, a seawater activated battery or other electrochemical energy source. Unfortunately, the amount of electrical energy that is stored on-board is often insufficient to power a buoy for what would otherwise be its useful life. Shortened lifespan due to an inadequate supply of onboard power applies to other apparatus as well such as floating navigational beacons.

[0005] A possible solution to the problem of inadequate on-board electrical energy storage is to have the apparatus generate electrical energy from wave motion. Many approaches have been developed in the past to harness this natural energy source. One

approach is to utilize the energy potential derived from a swinging or rotating pendulum, but unless kept very small relative to the sonobuoy, such a device would have the tendency to tip the sonobuoy on its side rendering it useless. The power generating capability of such a system is also often inadequate during heavy wave action. Another approach is the use of piezoelectric polymer systems that generate electricity as the wave action on the buoy stretches a polymer anchor hose, but such an approach is often unsatisfactory for a variety of reasons. Moreover, large turbines, pipes, and complex mechanical structures are not practical for a small buoy generator either.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] The present invention is directed to methods and apparatus relating to the use of relative motion between buoyant members floating in a liquid to generate power.

[0007] An embodiment of the invention is a buoyant apparatus adapted to float in a fluid, the apparatus having at least two buoyant members. The buoyant members are moveable relative to each other; and the buoyant members comprise energy conversion apparatus that converts relative motion between the buoyant members into electricity.

[0008] Another embodiment of the invention is a sonobuoy having a housing assembly. The housing assembly includes a center housing and a free moving urethane foam flotation collar that moves up and down outside the center housing with wave and swell motion. Inside the housing assembly are a power supply circuit and a battery. A sensor array is coupled to the housing assembly. The inside vertical wall of the center housing is fabricated from a polymer material with a coil of wire wound around its circumference. The flotation collar is fabricated with internal permanent magnets. Movement of the flotation collar up and down outside the center housing generates a low frequency AC current in the coil, and the power supply circuit converts the generated low frequency AC power into DC power to charge the battery.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] The exact nature of this invention, as well as the objects and advantages thereof, will become readily apparent from consideration of the following specification in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which like reference numerals designate like parts throughout the figures thereof and wherein:

[0010] Figure 1 is a perspective view of a first buoyant apparatus in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

[0011] Figure 2 is a side view of the apparatus of figure 1 having a collar positioned near the top of the apparatus.

[0012] Figure 3 is a side view of the apparatus of figure 1 having a collar positioned near the bottom of the apparatus.

[0013] Figure 4 is a perspective view of a second buoyant apparatus in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

[0014] Figure 5 is a cross-sectional view of a third buoyant apparatus in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

[0015] Figure 6 is a cross-sectional view of a fourth buoyant apparatus in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

[0016] Figure 7 is a cross-sectional view of a fifth buoyant apparatus in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

[0017] Figure 8 is a schematic view of a sixth buoyant apparatus in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

[0018] Figure 9 is a sonobuoy in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

[0019] Figure 10 is a schematic view of the sonobuoy of figure 9.

[0020] Figure 11 is a schematic view of the sonobuoy of figure 9.

[0021] Figure 12 is an architectural view of the electronics of the sonobuoy of figure 9.

[0022] Figure 13 is a table providing buoyancy vs. submerged depth calculations.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0023] Reference will now be made to the preferred embodiments of the invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. While the invention will be described in conjunction with the preferred embodiments, it will be understood that these embodiments are not intended to limit the invention. On the contrary, the invention is intended to cover alternatives, modifications and equivalents, which may be included within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims. In the following detailed description, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. However, it will be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that the present invention may be practiced without these specific details. In other instances, well known methods, procedures, components, and circuits have not been described in detail so as not to unnecessarily obscure the important aspects of the present invention.

[0024] In figure 1, a buoyant apparatus 1 utilizes movement of a liquid in which the apparatus floats to generate electricity. The apparatus 1 comprises a center housing 5 and a flotation collar 7. The flotation collar 7 moves up and down outside the center housing 5 as in response to liquid motion as illustrated in figures 2 and 3. In figure 2, the flotation collar is positioned near the top of the center housing 5, while in figure 3 it is positioned near the bottom of the center housing 5.

[0025] By positioning one or more conductive coils and one or more permanent magnets in the center housing 5 and the flotation collar 7, relative movement between the center housing 5 and the flotation collar 7 will cause current to flow in the conductive coil. As such, the apparatus 1 can be used to provide electricity to an electrical unit positioned within the apparatus 1, or electrically coupled to the apparatus 1.

[0026] The positions of conductive coils and permanent magnets may vary between embodiments. As such, using the apparatus of figure 1 as an example, a coil may be included in the flotation collar 7 with a permanent magnet in the center housing 5, or a permanent magnet may be included in the flotation collar 7 with a conductive coil in the center housing 5, or a permanent magnet and a conductive coil may be both be found in each of the center housing 5 and the flotation collar 7. In some instances it may be advantageous to position a coil in whatever portion of the apparatus will house or be electrically connected to a load that will utilize current flowing through the coil.

[0027] The number of buoyant members that move relative to each other may also vary between embodiments. Figure 4 illustrates a buoyant apparatus 11 comprising a plurality of flotation collars 17 that slide along shafts 15. In such an embodiment, it might be advantageous to position magnets in the collars 17 and coils in the shafts 15 to facilitate electrically coupling the coils to electrical apparatus positioned in the base 19.

[0028] The mechanism by which members move relative to each other may also vary between embodiments. As an example, the apparatus of figure 5 has a collar 27 having a central cavity 28 within which the center housing 25 slides. The cavity 28 includes end openings 29 that permit fluid flow into and out of the cavity 28. Although shown with two substantially equally sized openings, alternative embodiments may include a different number of openings, openings positioned differently, and/or openings of different sizes so long as fluid in which the apparatus 21 is floating can flow into and out of the cavity 28. If the apparatus 21 is sufficiently buoyant that it will float on a surface of the fluid, some openings into the cavity 28 may be designed to permit adequate air flow into and out of the top of the cavity.

[0029] In many instances the buoyant apparatus will include one or more storage cavities for holding electrical apparatus powered (directly or indirectly) by the coils of the buoyant apparatus. The size, shape, and positions of such cavities will likely vary between embodiments. In figures 1 and 5, the storage cavities (26 in figure 5) are within the center housings 5 and 25. In figure 4, the storage cavity is in base 19. In figure 6, an apparatus 31 comprises a flotation collar 37 having a central cavity 38, and storage cavity 36, with a permanent magnet apparatus 35 floating within cavity 38.

[0030] In some instances, an apparatus may have one or more power generation units that are separable from a storage unit. In figure 7, an apparatus 41, comprise a storage unit 42 coupled to a power generation unit 43. Unit 43 includes a plurality of cavities 48 within which magnet members 45 move. Unit 43 can be viewed somewhat as a combination of a plurality of apparatus 27 of figure 5 coupled to together serially and an in parallel to form adjacent stacks with aligned end openings 49. As used herein, serially indicates that fluid motion either upwards or downwards affects members sequentially in time, while parallel indicates that such movement affects members substantially simultaneously. Another example is shown in figure 8 in which apparatus 51 comprises a storage unit 52 powered by power generation units 53 via conductive cables 54. In addition to obtaining power from power generation units 53, storage unit 52 hangs from and thus is supported by the power generation units 53.

[0031] It is contemplated that relative motion between buoyant members may, in some instances, involve movement in a variety of directions, and may involve both translations and rotations of the buoyant members relative to each other. However, in preferred embodiments an apparatus will be constructed so as to float with one side generally positioned above an opposite and thus to function as the top of the apparatus with the opposite side being the bottom of the apparatus. Moreover, in preferred embodiments movement resulting in power generation will typically be linear movement along a line extending between the top and bottom of the apparatus. If the apparatus is sufficiently symmetrical to be characterized as having a center axis extending between a top and bottom of the apparatus, movement is preferably along the center axis or one or more lines parallel to the center axis. As used herein, movement along a line or axis includes of a member positioned on the line or axis and movement of a member in parallel to the line or axis.

[0032] It is contemplated that power generating buoyant apparatus as described herein may have a variety of shapes, sizes, and structures. As such, some may be generally cylindrical while others have other shapes, or have no defined shape as elements are freely moveable relative to each other. Also, some embodiments may comprise a variety of materials and/or combination of materials.

[0033] The power generating buoyant apparatus described herein may be advantageously used wherever fluid motion provides a source of energy, but is particularly advantageous when the fluid is an ocean or other large body of water with significant surface motion. Such apparatus may also be used for a variety of applications. One such application is powering sonobuoys.

[0034] In figure 9, a sonobuoy 101 is a buoyant apparatus designed to utilize ocean wave power to generate adequate electricity to be self sufficient for extended time periods. The sonobuoy 101 includes a housing assembly 103, a center housing 105, a free moving urethane foam flotation collar 107, and a sensor array assembly 102. The center electronics housing 105 includes upper electronics unit (UEU) 111 and a lower electronics unit (LEU) 113, as shown in figure 10. An inside vertical wall of the center housing 105 is fabricated from a polymer material with a coil of wire wound around its circumference. The flotation collar 107 is fabricated with internal permanent magnets. When the flotation collar 107 moves up and down outside the center housing 105, the induced magnetic force from the magnets moving through the coil will generate low frequency AC power. A power supply circuit inside the housing assembly 103 converts the generated low frequency AC power into DC power to charge a battery that is also within housing assembly 103. Excess heat generated will be dissipated by conductive cooling through a thermally conductive plate or other member in contact with ocean water.

[0035] The center housing 105 and the attached sensor array assembly 102 are together weighted to produce a slightly positive buoyancy. The housing 105 will slowly rise within cavity 108 in response to water flowing through lower end openings 109 of collar 107 until stopped by the reduced diameter flange 115 at the top of the collar 107 as shown in figure 10. As waves and swells hit the sonobuoy 101, the lightweight flotation collar 107 will rise significantly faster than the combination of center housing 105 and sensor array assembly 102 due to the flotation collar 107 having a significantly higher positive buoyancy and much lower mass relative to the combination of housing 105 and array assembly 102. The higher inherent mass and momentum of the center housing (which includes the UEU and LEU) 105, coupled with the drag coefficient of the 100-meter cable/sensor array and damper plate (sea anchor) 114 of array assembly 102, will cause it to rise significantly slower than the collar 107. The relative buoyancy, momentum, and drag of the 2 floating bodies (flotation collar

107 and the center housing 105 with attached cable/sensor array and sea anchor 114) are designed to ensure the center housing rises back to its upward most position in time for the next wave or swell, thereby ensuring continuous relative motion and power generation. The center housing 105 is limited in its downward travel by a second reduced diameter flange 117 at the bottom of the collar 107 as shown in figure 10.

[0036] Both the lower collar flange stop 117 and the lower portion of the center housing 105 are extended below the water line. It is contemplated that extending them below the water line provides for maximized travel distance for the induced and magnetic field, and ensures that the buoyancy of the housing assembly 25 (with attached cable/sensor assembly 29), irrespective of its position relative to the floatation collar, will cause it to consistently and reliably rise to the upper collar stop.

[0037] It should be noted that the LEU 113 of the center housing 105 extends through the lower end opening 109 regardless of the position of the center housing 105 within the cavity 108. It is contemplated that having it do so provides numerous advantages with one of those being that it prevents the sensor array assembly 102 from being pulled into the cavity 108 and possibly interfering with the relative movement between the center housing 105 and the floatation collar 107. In addition, it ensures there is a sufficient buoyancy force, positioned low enough relative to the floatation collar 107, but dampened by the momentum and drag of the center housing 105 and cable/sensor array and damper plate (sea anchor) 114, to ensure the center housing 105 consistently and reliably rises back to its upward most position. This upper nominal position for the center housing 105 is necessary so that the relatively large buoyancy forces on the floatation collar at the next wave or swell will quickly move it upward relative to the center housing, thereby generating electrical power.

[0038] Figure 11 provides a schematic of a possible arrangement of one or more magnets 141, one or more coils 143, a controller 145, a battery 147, and a load 149. In sonobuoy 101, the coils 143, power controller 145, and electrical storage unit 147 and at least a portion of the load 149 are part of the UEU. Additionally, as shown in Figure 12, the UEU 111 may contain an acoustic hydrophone and preamp 151, a laser opto-electronics assembly 152 for fiber optics sensors, a hydrophone sensor array 153, a radio frequency (RF) floating antenna 154, and/or alternative power sources 155. It may also include modulation and demodulation

circuitry 156, an input/output (I/O) interface to the sensor heads 157, an RF transmitter 158, a PC based processor with a hard disk drive 159, and battery charging circuits 160.

[0039] The LEU 113 provides an interface to sensor array assembly 102, and provides acoustic, electrical, or optical signals to UEU 111, possibly through wire or fiber optic cables and a compliant suspension system. The sensor array assembly 102 is coupled to the center housing 105, and includes a sensor array 133, a damper/anchor plate 114, and a cable 131 that is initially in a coiled configuration in a cable pack. When the sonobuoy 101 is deployed, the cable 131 uncoils from the cable pack until the sensor array 133 is deployed below center housing 105, at which point the cable serves to maintain the sensor array in a vertical position throughout the life of the sonobuoy 101.

[0040] It contemplated that the power generation system described herein may in some instances also act as shock absorber, or dampener, to minimize the tugging on the sensor/tether line due to wave action.

[0041] A contemplated instance of an embodiment of the present invention includes a 24 inch diameter by 10.4 inch high flotation collar 107, and a 14-inch high center/electronics housing 105. The housing 105 is 16 inches in diameter at the top section where the windings are located, and reduced to 14 inches in diameter at the bottom. The approximate weight of this assembly will be 25 pounds. The estimated net weight of a sensor array assembly 102 including a 100-meter cable will be 5 pounds. The combined housing 105 and the sensor assembly 102 will be balanced to ensure reliable operation in all conditions of wind, waves, swells, and currents.

[0042] The buoyancy force (BF) on the 24-inch diameter X 10.4-inch (0.866 feet) high flotation collar is calculated, using the estimated total weight of 20 pounds, an outer diameter = 2ft (R = 1 ft), and an inner diameter d = 16 inches (r = 8/12 ft):

[0043] $BF = \pi(R^2 - r^2) \times 0.87 \text{ ft} \times 62.5 \text{ lbs/ft}^3 - 20 \text{ lb collar weight} = 74 \text{ lb (buoyancy force, fully submerged)}$

[0044] This buoyancy force moves the collar 107 with the magnets upward and past the wire windings and the calculated force is adequate to overcome the inductive reactance

between the magnets and the coil of wire. Generated power can now be estimated from moving this 74 lb force thru the distance of 7 inches, assuming an average efficiency of 80% since the mechanical work is converted directly into AC current. Only small waves or swells of 7 inches are required to generate this mechanical work. For the power estimate, an average of 6 of these waves or swells per minute is assumed. The 20 lb mass will be more than adequate to overcome the inductive reactance of the coil when the collar 107 is in the down cycle toward its nominal position.

[0045] Work = 80% x 6 swells x 1 ft x 74 lbs = 355 ft-lb

[0046] Power is 355 ft-lb/min x .0226 W/(ft-lb/min) = 8 W

[0047] Therefore, this instance of a power generator will provide 8 W of average power to charge internal batteries. The power supply will convert variable amplitude and variable frequency AC voltage to DC. The AC voltage will be rectified then charge a capacitor to the peak voltage levels, then feed a DC/DC converter. The output will be used to charge the battery. The DC/DC converter will be designed to operate from a wide input voltage range to accommodate the expected wide amplitude range of the generator output.

[0048] To confirm that the enclosure assembly consistently returns to its nominal position, the "buoyancy vs. submerged depth" has been calculated as shown in the table of figure 13.

CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A buoyant apparatus adapted to float in a fluid, the apparatus having at least two buoyant members, wherein:

the at least two buoyant members are moveable relative to each other; and

the at least two buoyant members comprise energy conversion apparatus that converts relative motion between the at least two buoyant members into electricity.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein a first buoyant member of the at least two buoyant members is elongated, and the second buoyant member of the at least two buoyant members can move along the length of the first buoyant member.
3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the second buoyant member at least partially surrounds a portion of the first buoyant member.
4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the second buoyant member completely encircles a portion of the first buoyant member.
5. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the first and second buoyant members comprise at least one conductive coil and at least one permanent magnet, and the coil and the magnet are positioned in separate members of the first and second members.
6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein one of the at least two buoyant members is more buoyant than another of the at least two buoyant members.
7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the less buoyant member is less buoyant at least in part because it has an assembly hanging from it.
8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the assembly hanging from the less buoyant member is a sensor array.
9. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein at least one of the at least two buoyant members comprises at least one storage cavity.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the at least one storage cavity comprises an electrical circuit.
11. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the apparatus comprises a power controller and a battery positioned within the at least one storage cavity, with the power controller, battery, and at least one conductive coil being electrically coupled together such that current flowing through the coil is used by the power controller to charge the battery.
12. A sonobuoy comprising:
 - a housing assembly that includes a center housing and a free moving urethane foam flotation collar that moves up and down outside the center housing with wave and swell motion;
 - a power supply circuit within the housing assembly;
 - a battery within the housing assembly; and
 - a sensor array coupled to the housing assembly; wherein
 - the inside vertical wall of the center housing is fabricated from a polymer material with a coil of wire wound around its circumference;
 - the flotation collar is fabricated with internal permanent magnets;
 - movement of the flotation collar up and down outside the center housing generate a low frequency AC current in the coil; and
 - the power supply circuit converts the generated low frequency AC power into DC power to charge the battery.
13. The sonobuoy of claim 12 further comprising a metal plate having a surface that is part of the exterior surface of the sonobuoy and is positioned to be at least partially submerged during operation of the sonobuoy wherein the metal plate is thermally coupled to at least one of the coil, power supply circuit, and battery such that excess heat generated will be dissipated to a fluid the sonobuoy is deployed in by conductive cooling through the metal plate.

14. A method of deploying a sonobuoy in the ocean and powering the sonobuoy while it is deployed, the method comprising:
 - providing the sonobuoy with a power generation unit that uses relative motion between buoyant members to generate electricity;
 - transporting the sonobuoy to a desired location; and
 - placing the sonobuoy in the ocean.
15. The method of claim 14 wherein the sonobuoy comprises an electrical storage unit charged prior to deployment of the sonobuoy, and the method further comprises recharging the electrical storage unit after deployment using electricity generated by the power generation unit.
16. The method of claim 15 wherein the sonobuoy comprises an elongated sensor array coupled to a first buoyant member of the buoyant members where the sensor array, and placing the sonobuoy in the ocean causes the sensor array to hang from the buoyant member it is coupled to.
17. The method of claim 16 wherein providing the sonobuoy with the power generation unit comprises ensuring that the buoyancy of a second buoyant member of the buoyant members is greater than the buoyancy of the combination of the sensor array and the first buoyant member.
18. The method of claim 17 wherein providing the sonobuoy with the power generation unit comprises slideably coupling the first buoyant member and second buoyant member together.

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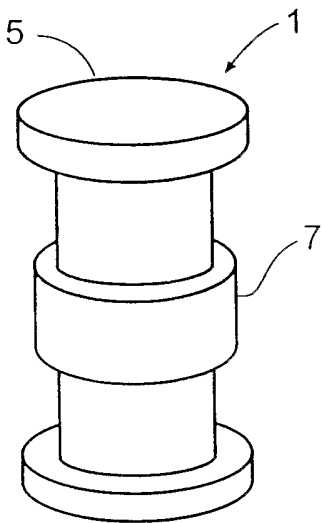


FIG. 1

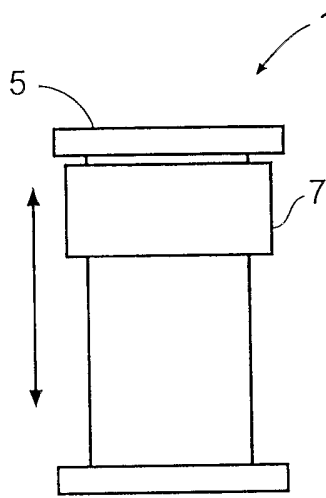


FIG. 2

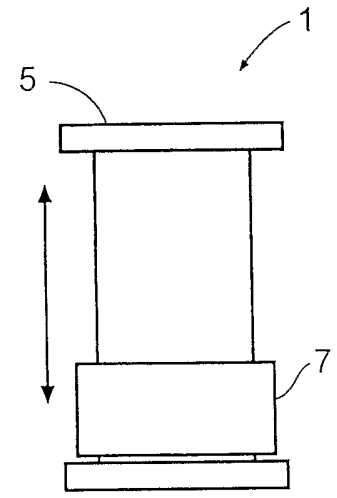


FIG. 3

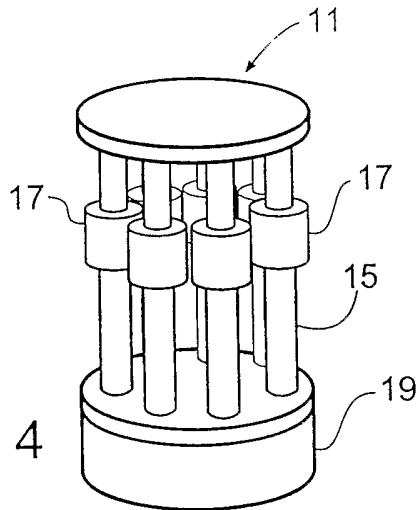


FIG. 4

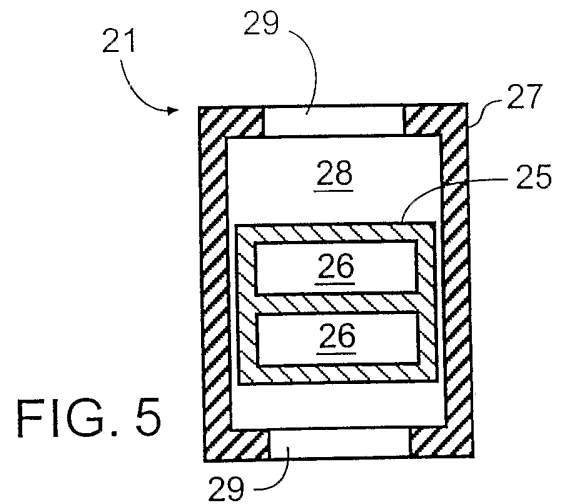


FIG. 5

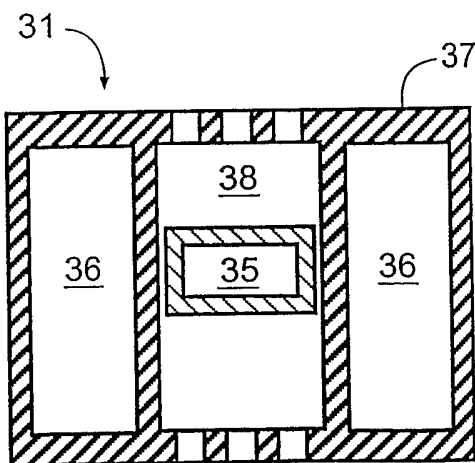


FIG. 6

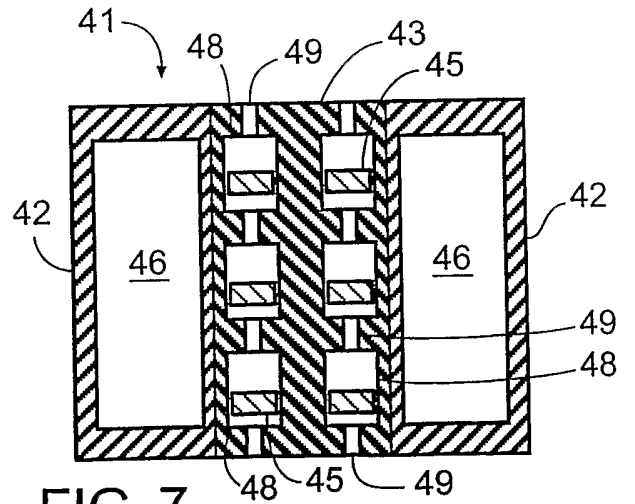


FIG. 7

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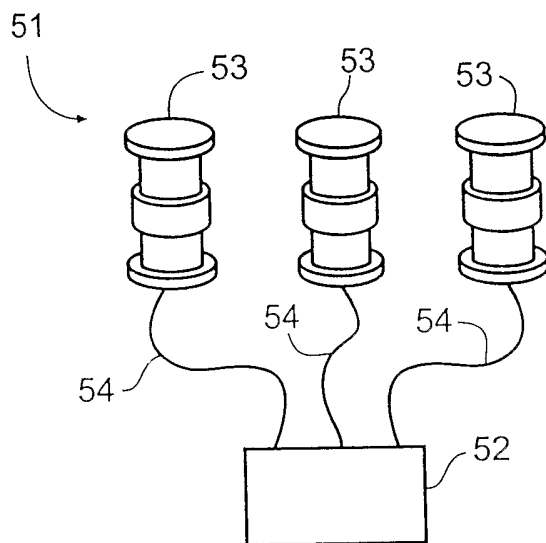


FIG. 8

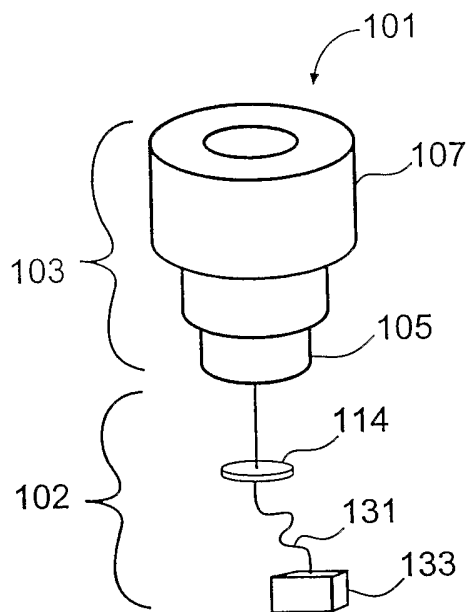


FIG. 9

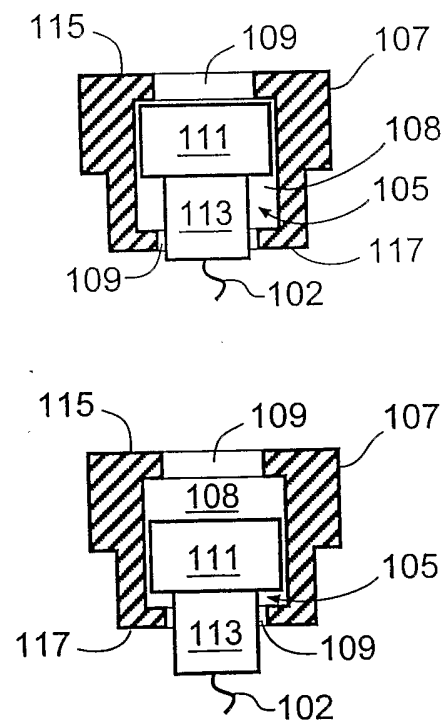


FIG. 10

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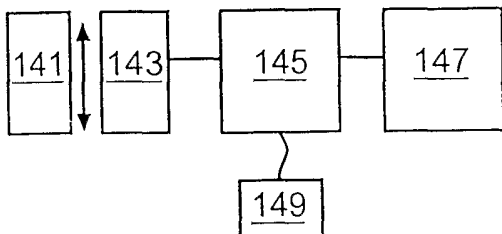


FIG. 11

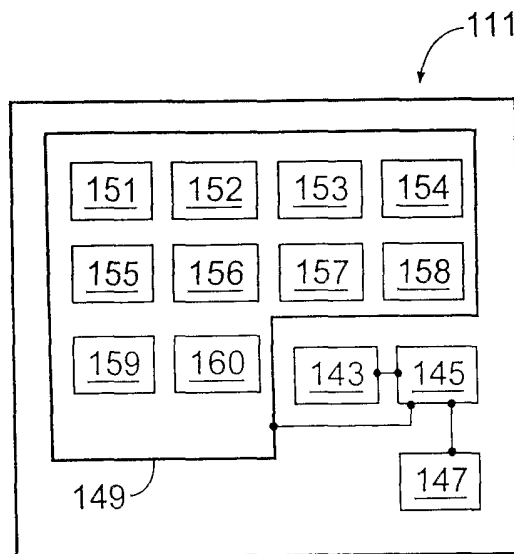


FIG. 12

Sonobuoy Ocean Generator Calculations				
Total Electronics Unit volume = 2484 cubic inches				
Calculate submersion required to lift electronics unit (and sensor cable) to upper collar stop:				
Submerged Distance inches	Submerged Volume cu in	Submerged Volume cu ft	Displaced Water lb	Net Upward Bouancy Force lb
1	154	0.1	6	-24
2	308	0.2	11	-19
3	462	0.3	17	-13
4	615	0.4	22	-8
5	769	0.4	28	-2
6	923	0.5	33	3
7	1077	0.6	39	9
Collar volume cu ft	Collar lift lb	less 20 lb collar		
1.50	93.7	74		
2.72	170.1			
1.22	76.3			
	93.7	74		

FIG. 13

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PC 1 / US 2005 / 002622

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 B63H19/02 F03B13/20 B63B22/24

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)
 B63H F03B B63B

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

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	US 5 347 186 A (KONOTCHICK ET AL) 13 September 1994 (1994-09-13) column 7, line 16 - column 8, line 36; figures 6-10b -----	1-6, 9-18 7, 8
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *&* document member of the same patent family
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 11 January 2006	Date of mailing of the international search report 19/01/2006
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Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer DE SENA HERNANDORENA
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International Application No PC, JS2005/002622

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