Claims

1. A protective device configured to protect a line-cutting device mounted on a cable towed by a surface vessel, said device comprising a blade holder comprising a blade, said blade being formed in said blade holder and being retractable into a slot about a transverse spring pin, wherein the protective device comprises a weighted body of hydrodynamic overall shape delimiting a transverse opening for the passage of the cable and an interior cavity in which said blade is arranged in such a way as to cut any line caught in the cavity, the protective device being free to rotate about the cable.

2. The protective device as claimed in claim 1, comprising a transverse tube delimiting the transverse opening, said tube being designed to pivot freely about the towing cable.

3. The protective device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the interior cavity delimits an upper part and a lower part, the weighted body being configured to bring the lower part underneath the cable, under the effect of the hydrodynamic and/or hydrostatic forces applied to the protective device.

4. The protective device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the shape of said body exhibits a hydrodynamic shape configured to keep the interior cavity in position underneath the cable.

5. The protective device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the shape of said body exhibits a hydrodynamic shape configured to allow the device to pass over a fairlead.

6. The protective device as claimed in claim 5, wherein said hydrodynamic shape is configured in such a way that the device lies itself down on a fairlead, substantially flat and on at least one face, when it is wound onto a winding support.

7. The protective device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein it is covered with elastic material over a chosen thickness of the device.

8. The protective device as claimed in one of claims 3 to 7, wherein the lower part comprises a bill-shaped extension inclined downward.

9. The protective device as claimed in one of claims 3 to 8, wherein the lower part has weight and the upper part buoyancy.

10. The protective device as claimed in one of claims 3 to 8, wherein the axis of the blade intersects the median axis of the cavity of the interior cavity toward the bottom and in that the blade passes through the lower part via a slot.

11. The protective device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the protective device has an ellipsoidal overall shape.

12. The protective device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the protective device has the overall shape of a fin cut to a taper.

13. The protective device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, further comprising an anchor ring for blocking the protective device against translational movement along the towing cable, while leaving it free to pivot about the cable.

14. The protective device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein it is arranged at the tail of the cable.