The transfer pumping from large size storage tank to the small size intermediate storage tank is normally done one or two times a day and it is therefore normal to continuously supply heat to a storage tank from which oil is pumped one or more times a day. Heated oil will flow upwardly and to the sides whereas oil pumped out from the tank still will have a low temperature in spite the heating process, leading to a high energy loss.

With the means for transferring fuel from a tank containing heavy fuel oil to a consumer such as a combustion engine according to embodiments of the present invention, the energy loss is substantially reduced~~, which means are defined by the features stated in the patent claims~~.

According to an aspect, there is provided means for supplying oil from a storage tank containing heavy fuel oil, said means comprising a collector arranged above at least part of a heating device such as at least one heating coil within said storage tank, said collector having the shape of a hat or a cap with an open bottom, said collector thereby collecting heated oil ascending from the at least one heating coil, whereby heated oil in the collector being captured by a suction device within the collector to be transported to a consumer outside the storage tank by a transfer pump, wherein the suction device is arranged above the at least one heating coil.

The only figure of the drawing discloses a schematic side view of a means according to one embodiment of the present invention.

A fuel storage tank 1 for storage of heavy fuel oil such as is used in ship engines comprises a heating medium transferring heat to the heavy fuel oil by a first heating coil 3. The tank further comprises a first suction device 6 for transporting oil to a transfer pump 7 through a valve 9. According to the invention a collector 2 having the form of a hat or a cap with an open bottom, is arranged above said first heating coil 3 capturing heated oil flowing upwardly from the first heating coil 3. The collector 2 comprises a second suction device 5 from which heated oil is transferred by the transfer pump 7 through a valve 8.

In another embodiment disclosed in the drawing the collector 2 is arranged in the storage tank 1 without freely from the heating coil 3, however with a separate second heating coil 4 inside the collector 2. The heating coils 3 and 4 normally are coils with steam or thermal oil as heating medium. The collector 2 will capture heated oil flowing upwardly from the second heating coil 4.

Preferably a valve 11 is installed in the heating circuit to the first heating coil 3 and a further valve 10 is installed in the circuit to the second heating coil 4 for controlling the temperature in the tank generally and within the collector 2 especially.