Claims:

1. A drive system for a ship, comprising at least two propulsion units (1, 2), each propulsion unit (1, 2) having a propeller (10, 20) and a drive engine (11, 21) with an above-water transmission (14, 24) connected downstream for driving the propeller (10, 20), **characterized in that** each drive engine (11, 21) can be connected to and disconnected from the associated above-water transmission (14, 24) by means of a clutch (13, 23) and between the above-water transmissions (14, 24), a switchable drive train (3) is provided by means of which in one switching state, the above-water transmissions (14, 24) can be coupled and driven jointly and in another switching state, they can be decoupled from each other and the drive train (3) is embodied as a drive shaft (30) with synchronously switchable clutches (31, 32) between the above-water transmissions (14, 24) and the drive shaft (30).

~~2. The drive system according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the drive train (3) is embodied as a drive shaft (30) with at least one switchable clutch (31, 32) between at least one above-water transmission (14, 24) and the drive shaft (30).~~

~~3. The drive system according to claim 2, **characterized in that** the drive train (3) is embodied as a drive shaft (30) with synchronously switchable clutches (31, 32) between the above-water transmissions (14, 24) and the drive shaft (30).~~

~~4~~2. The drive system according to claim ~~2 or 3~~1, **characterized in that** the drive shaft (30) is equipped with a drive engine (33) that is operatively connected to the drive shaft (30).

~~5~~3. The drive system according to one of claims 1 ~~to 4~~or 2, **characterized in that** when the above-water transmissions (14, 24) are connected via the drive train (3), one drive engine (11) is connected to the associated above-water transmission (14) and drives the above-water transmissions (14, 24) jointly while the other drive engine (21) is decoupled.

~~6~~4. The drive system according to claim ~~5~~3, **characterized in that** an auxiliary unit (4) can be driven by means of the decoupled drive engine (21).

~~7~~5. The drive system according to claim ~~6~~4, **characterized in that** a pump or generator is provided as the auxiliary unit (4).

~~8~~6. The drive system according to one of claims 1 to ~~7~~5, **characterized in that** the propulsion units (1, 2) are each embodied as a rudder propeller.

~~9~~7. The drive system according to one of claims 1 to ~~8~~6, **characterized in that** the vessel has a hull floating in the water along a water line and the propeller (10, 20) of each propulsion unit (1, 2) is positioned under the water line and the drive engine (11, 21) and the above-water transmission (14, 24) are positioned inside the hull.

~~10~~8. The drive system according to one of claims 1 to ~~9~~7, **characterized in that** the drive train (3) has a reversing gear (5).

~~11~~9. The drive system according to claim ~~10~~8, **characterized in that** the reversing gear has at least one switchable clutch.

~~12~~10. The drive system according to one of claims ~~10~~ 8 or ~~11~~9, **characterized in that** to embody the drive train (3), the reversing gear (5) can be connected to the above-water transmissions (14, 24) via universal shafts (300, 301).