Abstract

AIR LUBRICATION SYSTEM

The invention relates to a system for providing an air lubricating layer between a substantially flat bottom (3) of a vessel (1) and the water flowing under the bottom as the vessel is moving through the water, whereby the system comprises sidewalls (5,5') and a top wall (4) defining a cavity (6) with an opening (13) situated in an interface plane that is transversal to the sidewalls (5,5'), at the level of the flat bottom (3), the opening having a front end (9) and a rear end (15) seen in the length direction of the cavity, an air inlet (10) spaced from the opening for introducing air into the cavity, whereby the length of the opening (13) of the cavity (6) is between 2 and 10m and the distance (H) of the top wall (4) from the interface plane is between 0,2 m and 0,5 m.

Fig. 1