prefilled, for example including one or more sealed compartments with gas therein. A top hinge 262 interconnects top segment 252 with a right side top segment (See Fig. 2E, for the deployed segment).

A water filled ballast segment 254 is attached by a hinge 264 to segment 252.

Optionally, hinge 264 is a living hinge formed of a single layer of the material of the housing of the segments and/or two such layers, optionally welded together.

Optionally, hinge 264 is seized so that when section 250 is deployed, segment 252 will lean against segment 254 (Fig. 2E).

An optional above water water-filled segment 260 is optionally provided as well, for example as described herein, and may also be attached to hinge 264.

Optionally, two segments 254 meet at a connection/hinge 256 (Fig. 2E) (e.g., in those embodiments where a hollow chamber is formed between the segments).

Optionally, the two segments are pre-attached, for example, by welding, adhesive and/or a connector.

A lowest, skirt segment 258 is optionally provided, attached to hinge 256 and may provide for balancing. It is noted that in some embodiments of the invention segment 258 on the left of the device is an extension of segment 254 on the right, and vice versa. In the shown embodiment, this may also be the case. Optionally however, segment 258 of the left side is contiguous with (e.g., formed of a contiguous sheet) with segment 254 of the left side.

Segments 260, 254 and 258 optionally include SAP or other absorbing material and include one or more apertures to allow inflow of water to be absorbed by the SAP.

This absorbing may cause deformation and/or filling of the segments. In some embodiments, segments 252 also include SAP.

Fig. 2D shows section 250 during folding and Fig. 2E shows section 250 (left and right sides) in a deployed state and also illustrating a water line 270.

In some embodiments of the invention, the films used for constructing section 250 are semi-rigid, for example, thermoformed plastic films (150-450 microns thickness), which are manufactured to provide an X-shaped boom, as shown. As noted, segments 252 are optionally prefilled with air or with sealed air units (such as 2D arrays of bubbles or individual formed plastic films such as PET, PP, HDPE etc. bubbles) and sealed (if needed). Segments 260, 254, 258 are optionally prefilled with sap and include

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A spill containment boom unit for deployment in ambient water in an axially extending arrangement, comprising:

one or more surfaces configured to form at least one hollow chamber with walls substantially surrounding the chamber in a plane transverse to said axis, wherein at least one wall of said hollow chamber comprises at least one compartment filled with gas; and

sponge material provided within and/or between compartments, optionally near a fold location, said sponge material suitable for assisting in setting a shape of said boom when said boom is deployed, said sponge material suitable for absorbing water;

wherein when said boom is deployed, said chamber defines one or more openings through which ambient water can flow; said chamber sized to interfere with the motion of a volume of said ambient water contained within it, said volume sufficient for stabilizing said boom.

2. The boom unit according to claim 1, wherein said hollow chamber is configured to assist in stabilizing a structure of said boom unit against externally acting forces.

3. The boom unit according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said hollow chamber is defined by a plurality of locking points, said locking points restricting at least some movement of said surfaces or portions of a surface relative to each other to maintain said boom unit structure stabilized and/or to prevent said chamber from opening or changing shape or angle.

4. The boom unit according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said hollow chamber is defined by a plurality of bending regions which are parts of the boom structure adapted to bend and are thinner than fillable or filled parts of said boom.

5. The boom unit of claim 1, wherein said at least one compartment includes at least one porous wall or wall with openings sized to allow water ingress.

6. The boom unit of any of the preceding claims, wherein said sponge material is provided adhered to a wall of said at least one compartment.

7. The boom according to any of the preceding claims, comprising at least one connecting element for connecting between compartments of said boom, said connecting element comprising an element inserted at production stage of the boom and has a mechanism that is locked when the boom is deployed and keeps the boom open.

8. The boom unit according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said hollow chamber at least partially limits movement of ambient fluid when said boom unit is deployed, such that a stability of said unit is increased.

9. The boom unit according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said boom unit comprises an underwater portion and an above water portion, said hollow chamber is configured in one or both of said underwater portion and said above water portion and said ambient fluid is ambient water and wherein said under water portion extending to a distance of 20-50 cm below water surface.

10. The boom unit according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said hollow chamber defines a geometry with a mathematical surface and said chamber is surrounded by walls defining a real inner surface of the chamber and wherein said inner surface includes an open area of between 5% and 50% of geometrical surface of the chamber.

11. The boom unit according to any of the preceding claims, further comprising one or more additional compartments which do not form said hollow chamber.

12. The boom unit according to claim 1, wherein a below water portion of said boom unit comprises one or more ballast compartments arranged in an X- shaped cross section

profile, and an above water portion of said boom unit comprises one or more flotation compartments.

13. The boom unit according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said boom unit defines an A shaped cross section profile, wherein one or more ballast compartments form the legs of said A and one or more floatation compartments form the horizontally extending line of said A.

14. The boom unit according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said boom unit defines a cross section profile including an X-like intersection under water and an upside-down V above water.

15. The boom unit according to claim 1, wherein energy released by said sponge material is invested in changing said boom from a flat position into a three dimensional structure.

16. The boom unit according to claim 1, wherein said hollow chamber comprises a polygonal cross section profile.

17. The boom unit according to claim 1, wherein a shape of said chamber is suitable to slow volumetric flow of ambient water in and/or out a volume of said chamber.

18. The boom unit according to claim 1, wherein at least one wall of said chamber is semi-rigid or includes a stiffening element.

19. The boom unit according to claim 1, wherein said compartment filled with gas is an inflatable compartment.

20. The boom unit according to claim 1, comprising a connecting portion extending between at least two of said surfaces which form said hollow chamber.