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(54) Title: UNDERWATER OIL AND GAS COLLECTION SYSTEM

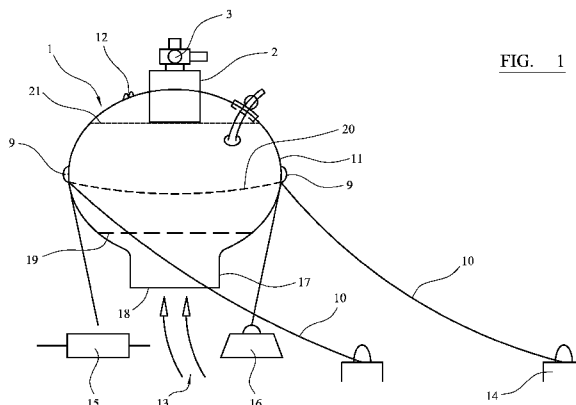


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A device for collection of oil and gas from an underwater source comprising a balloon-like structure defined by an envelope having an opening, which, in operation, is on the underside of the balloon-like structure, which balloon-like structure includes: a vent adapted to vent gas in the envelope, and control means for controlling the oil upper level having a closure valve adapted to control flow of gas in the envelope through the vent, the valve being closable by a valve closure member operable by a float adapted to float on the oil to determine the minimum volume of gas in the envelope, wherein, in use, the balloon-like structure is adapted to be placed over the source to collect oil and gasses from said underwater source. The balloon-like structure further includes buoyancy means adapted to control the buoyancy of the structure to enable ascent to the surface of the water in a controlled manner. The envelope may be formed of a flexible material to enable it to be collapsed or folded for storage and/or transportation.