

METHOD OF UNDERWATER MOUNTING OF PROPULSION DRIVE SYSTEM FOR A FLOATING STRUCTURE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of mounting propulsion unit(s) on a floating structure provides for the use of a remotely-controlled submersible ballastible unit that transports a propulsion unit to a position below a propulsion unit housing underwater. The submersible ballastible unit is partially submerged, with the propulsion unit detachably secured thereon, by selectively ballasting ballast tanks positioned in the unit. Once the unit is sufficiently submerged it is maneuvered, using its own propulsion thrusters, to a position generally aligned with the propulsion unit housing. Divers then remove and temporarily suspend the propulsion unit by using tension wires lowered from the floating structure. The submersible ballastible unit is maneuvered away from the floating structure while the propulsion unit is secured in the propulsion unit housing.

(See Figure 1)



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