CLAIMS

1. A system for coupling a first floating structure to a second floating structure, the system comprising:

a first arm having a first fastener and pivot hinge device provided at a first end of the first arm for attaching the first arm to the first floating structure and a coupling device provided at a second end of the first arm for attaching the first arm to the second floating structure,

whereby the fastener and pivot hinge device comprises:

a clevis;

a fastener plate configured to be secured to the clevis using a pin such that the clevis is movable along planes normal to a longitudinal axis of a fastener of the fastener plate by pivoting about the pin; and

a first and a second resilient member provided between the clevis and the fastener plate, whereby the second resilient member is provided at a location opposite the first resilient member such that the first and second resilient members are configured to provide a restraining force to return the clevis and the fastener to their original configuration when external forces cause the clevis and the fastener to be displaced from their original configuration.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the fastener plate further comprises a pin hole that is elongated along the longitudinal axis of the fastener for receiving the pin such that the clevis is further movable along the longitudinal axis of the fastener.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein the fastener plate further comprises at least two protrusions extending towards the clevis.

4. The system according to claim 1 further comprising:

a piston device, coupled to coupling device, for attaching the first arm to the second floating structure, the piston device being configured to move the first arm along a longitudinal axis of the piston device.

5. The system according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the coupling device comprises a second fastener and pivot hinge device.

6. The system according to claim 1 further comprising:

a second arm having a first end coupled to the coupling device and a second end for attaching the second arm to the second floating structure.

7. The system according to claim 6 further comprising:

a piston device, coupled to the second end of the second arm, for attaching the second arm to the second floating structure, the piston device being configured to move the second arm along a longitudinal axis of the piston device.

8. The system according to claim 7 further comprising:

a third fastener and pivot hinge device coupled to the second end of the second arm and to the piston device, the piston device being configured to move the third fastener and pivot hinge device along a longitudinal axis of the piston device.

9. The system according to claim 1, wherein each resilient member comprises a metal spring.

10. The system according to any one of claims 1 – 9, wherein each of the arms comprise a hollow tubular member.

11. A method for coupling a first floating structure to a second floating structure, the method comprising:

attaching a first end of a first arm to the first floating structure using a first fastener and pivot hinge device provided at the first end of the first arm;

attaching a second end of the first arm to the second floating structure using a coupling device provided at the second end of the first arm;

whereby the fastener and pivot hinge device comprises:

a clevis;

a fastener plate configured to be secured to the clevis using a pin such that the clevis is movable along planes normal to a longitudinal axis of a fastener of the fastener plate by pivoting about the pin; and

a first and a second resilient member provided between the clevis and the fastener plate, whereby the second resilient member is provided at a location opposite the first resilient member such that the first and second resilient members are configured to provide a restraining force to return the clevis and the fastener to their original configuration when

external forces cause the clevis and the fastener to be displaced from their original configuration.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the fastener plate further comprises a pin hole that is elongated along the longitudinal axis of the fastener for receiving the pin such that the clevis is further movable along the longitudinal axis of the fastener.

13. The method according to claim 11, wherein the fastener plate further comprises at least two protrusions extending towards the clevis.

14. The method according to claim 11 further comprising:

providing a piston device that is coupled to coupling device, for attaching the first arm to the second floating structure, the piston device being configured to move the first arm along a longitudinal axis of the piston device.

15. The method according to claims 11 or 12, wherein the coupling device comprises a second fastener and pivot hinge device.

16. The method according to claim 11 further comprising:

providing a second arm having a first end that is coupled to the coupling device and a second end for attaching the second arm to the second floating structure.

17. The method according to claim 16 further comprising:

providing a piston device that is coupled to the second end of the second arm, for attaching the second arm to the second floating structure, the piston device being configured to move the second arm along a longitudinal axis of the piston device.

18. The method according to claim 17 further comprising:

providing a third fastener and pivot hinge device that is coupled to the second end of the second arm and to the piston device, the piston device being configured to move the third fastener and pivot hinge device along a longitudinal axis of the piston device.

19. The method according to claim 11, wherein each resilient member comprises a metal spring.