CLAIMS

1. An underwater vehicle (1) designed for navigation at the surface (7) or underwater (8), having a hull, at least one propulsion means (2) and at least one normal-force generator (6) of force normal to a longitudinal axis (4) of said underwater vehicle (1), characterized in that:

- a forward part (5) of said hull is asymmetric with respect to said longitudinal axis (4) so as to generate lift (10) as said underwater vehicle (1) moves; and

- said lift (10) is in the opposite direction to the resultant of the normal forces (11) of said normal-force generator or generators (6).

2. The underwater vehicle (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein one said propulsion means (2) is designed to give said vehicle a speed, the speed being designed to govern a pitch angle of said autonomous underwater vehicle (1) that is comprised in a range from to 5° to 20° as said autonomous underwater vehicle (1) moves in surface navigation (7), at least one said normal-force generator (6) being arranged in such a way as to be out of the water during said surface navigation (7).

3. The underwater vehicle (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein each one of said normal-force generator (6) being arranged in such a way as to be out of the water during said surface navigation (7).

4. The underwater vehicle (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one said normal-force generator (6) being arranged in such a way as to be out of the water during said surface navigation (7).

5. The underwater vehicle (1) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the forward part (5) of said hull is asymmetric with respect to said

longitudinal axis (4) so as to generate lift (10) as said underwater vehicle (1) during underwater navigation.

6. The underwater vehicle (1) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the forward part (5) of said hull is asymmetric with respect to said longitudinal axis (4) so as to generate lift (10) as said underwater vehicle (1) during surface navigation.

7. The underwater vehicle (1) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, comprising at least one motor powered autonomously and designed to actuate at least one said propulsion means (2).

8. The underwater vehicle as claimed in one of the preceding claims, comprising at least one underwater measurement instrument (12) situated on said forward part (5) of said hull, said part (5) being both submerged during surface navigation (7) and asymmetric with respect to said longitudinal axis (4).

9. The underwater vehicle (1) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which the normal at any point of said forward part (5) of said hull comprises at least one component in the direction of said longitudinal axis (4) and at least one component in the opposite direction to said lift (10).

10. The underwater vehicle (1) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which a nose (3) of said underwater vehicle (1) comprises at least one ballasting system (13).

11. The underwater vehicle (1) as claimed in claim 10 also comprising an air duct (14) connecting an element chosen from at least one combustion engine (18) and at least one fuel cell to at least one said ballast (13).

12. The underwater vehicle (1) as claimed in one of claims 10 and 11, comprising at least one duct equipped with a submersible air turbine (16) connecting at least one said ballast (13) to the external air (9).

13. The underwater vehicle (1) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, of which the part that is out of the water in surface navigation (7) contains at least one instrument chosen from at least one aerial measurement instrument (15) and at least one aerial communications instrument (15).

14. A method of surface navigation (7) of an underwater vehicle (1) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, of which said pitch angle is comprised in a range from 5° to 20°.

15. A method of surface navigation (7) of an underwater vehicle (1) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, of which said pitch angle is sufficient to keep at least one said propulsion means (2) beneath the water surface (8).