Claims

1.- Belt (15) for reducing the drag of a hull (27) of a floating vessel (17), whereby the belt (15) comprises a belt body (18) extending in a length direction (L), whereby the belt (15) comprises a sequence of bubble generators (1) which are embedded in the belt body (18), whereby the belt (15) comprises an air channel (19) for supplying pressurised air to the bubble generators (1), whereby the air channel (19) extends in the length direction (L), whereby the bubble generators (1) are connected to the air channel (19), characterized in that the belt body (18) is made of a flexible material, whereby the belt (15) comprises at least one tensioning cable (20) for tensioning the belt (15) around a hull (27) of a floating vessel (17).

2.- Belt (15) according to claim 1, characterized in that the air channel (19) is fully enclosed in the belt body (18).

3.- Belt (15) according to any of the previous claims, characterized in that the belt body (18) is made of rubber or an elastic plastic.

4.- Belt (15) according to claim 1, characterized in that the tensioning cable (20) is fully embedded in the belt body (18).

5.- Belt (15) according to claim 1, characterized in that the tensioning cable (20) is made of steel and/or aramid fibres and/or polypropylene fibres.

6.- Belt (15) according to any of the previous claims, characterized in that the belt (15) comprises magnets (21) which are embedded in the belt body (18), whereby the magnets are magnets (21) for attaching the belt (15) to a metallic hull (27) of a floating vessel (17).

7.- Belt (15) according to any of the previous claims, characterized in that the bubble

generators are fluidic oscillators (1) for generating one or more pulsating air flows from a constant air flow.

8.- Device (16) for reducing the drag of a hull (27) of a floating vessel (17), characterized in that it comprises a belt (15) according to any of the previous claims and a tensioning device (25) for tensioning the belt (15) partly or completely around the hull (27) of a floating vessel (17).

9.- Device (16) according to claim 8, characterized in that it comprises a tension monitoring system capable of generating an status signal indicating a tension status signal indicating a tension which is outside a desired range.

10.- Device (16) according to any of the previous claims, characterized in that it comprises a source (23) of pressurised air which is connected to the air channel (19).

11.- Device (16) according to claims 9 and 10, characterized in that the tension monitoring system is connected to the source (23) of pressurised air, whereby the device (16) is arranged such that an occurrence of said status signal causes the source of pressurised air to cease provision of pressurised air.

12.- Method of reducing the drag of a hull (27) of a floating vessel (17) using a belt (15) according to any of claims 1 to 7 or a device (16) according to any of claims 8 to 11, whereby the belt (15) is installed under the hull (27), whereby pressurised air is supplied to the air channel (19).

13.- Method according to claim 12, whereby the belt (15) is a belt (15) according to claim 6, whereby the belt (15), in a non-tensioned state, is first attached to the hull (27) by means of the magnets (21), whereby afterwards the belt (15) is tensioned against the hull (27), whereby during use of the belt (15) tension is maintained.

14.- Method according to claim 12 or 13, whereby the vessel (17) is a vessel (17) which is being towed by another vessel.

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