

What is claimed is:

1. A boom unit for containing a floating material spilled in water comprising:
at least one flotation compartment including a plurality of gas-filled sealed portions, said portions gas-filled and sealed prior to deployment of said boom unit; wherein said gas-filled sealed portions do not include foam.
2. The boom unit according to claim 1, wherein said at least one flotation compartment contains a gas in an amount sufficient to provide at least 50% of a buoyancy of said boom unit.
3. The boom unit according to either one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the plurality of gas-filled sealed portions extend sideways relative to a long axis of said boom unit which is substantially perpendicular to a surface of ambient water.
4. The boom unit according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said gas-filled portions are at least one of: pre-inflated during manufacture, pre-sealed during manufacture, and stored inflated.
5. The boom unit according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said boom unit is stored in a packaging in a folded state with said gas-filled portions at least partially full of gas.
6. The boom unit according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein each said gas-filled sealed portion includes one of: between 2 and 40 gas bubbles, and between 2 and 10 gas bubbles.
7. The boom unit according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said gas-filled sealed portions are formed between welded together polymer films.

8. The boom unit according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said boom unit is formed of buoyancy neutral or near-neutral material, wherein said gas-filled sealed portions are sufficient to provide buoyancy to said boom unit.
9. The boom unit according to claim 8, wherein said boom unit is formed of materials having a density of 0.9-1.4 g/cm³.
10. The boom unit according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least 50% of a gas in said gas-filled sealed portions is contained in compartments having an interior volume of one of at least 0.1 cm³, at least 1 cm³, at least 5 cm³, and at least 10 cm³.
11. The boom unit according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one of said gas-filled sealed portions is provided with a closed-cell foam material external to said gas-filled sealed portion.
12. The boom unit according to claim 11, wherein said foam is compressed prior to said deployment.
13. The boom unit according to claim 11, wherein said foam is configured to assist in setting a shape of said boom unit.
14. The boom unit according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a thickness of said gas-filled sealed portions is between 0.5 and 30 cm.
15. The boom unit according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said gas-filled sealed portions are arranged as a single layer of gas-filled portions.
16. The boom unit according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein walls of said boom unit are sealed to each other to form said gas-filled sealed portions, with a same film acting as a gas storing element wall and as an external surface.

17. The boom unit according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a gas volume of said boom unit is between 0.5 and 5 liters per meter of boom unit.
18. The boom unit according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said boom unit additionally comprises portions pre-filled with an expanding material.
19. The boom unit according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising two or more compartments defining an X-shaped cross-sectional profile, wherein each of said compartments comprises an above water floating portion and below water ballast portion.
20. The boom unit according to claim 15, further including at least one predefined rotational point configured at a crossing between said compartments, wherein a compartment is configured to pivot on said point relative to a longitudinal axis of said boom unit in response to an external force acting on said compartment to increase a resistance of said boom unit to said external force.
21. The boom unit according to claim 19, wherein an external force acting on a floating portion of said compartment causes said compartment to pivot, moving a below water ballast portion of said compartment to a closer to perpendicular position relative to a water surface, wherein in said closer to perpendicular position said below water ballast portion extends deeper within the water to anchor said boom unit.
22. The boom unit according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein an above water portion of said boom unit has an upside-down V-shaped cross-sectional profile.
23. The boom unit according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising:
one or more surfaces configured to form at least one hollow chamber with walls substantially surrounding the hollow chamber in a plane transverse to said axis, wherein at least one wall of said hollow chamber comprises at least one compartment filled with gas.

24. The boom unit according to claim 23, further including sponge material provided within and/or between compartments, said sponge material suitable for assisting in setting a shape of said boom unit when said boom unit is deployed, said sponge material suitable for absorbing water.

25. The boom unit according to either one of claims 23 and 24, wherein when said boom unit is deployed, said hollow chamber defines one or more openings through which ambient water can flow; said hollow chamber sized to interfere with the motion of a volume of said ambient water contained within it, said volume sufficient for stabilizing said boom unit.

26. The boom unit according to claim 23, wherein said hollow chamber is configured to assist in stabilizing a structure of said boom unit against externally acting forces.

27. The boom unit according to claims 23 to 26, comprising at least one connecting element for connecting between compartments of said boom unit, said connecting element comprising an element inserted at production stage of the boom unit and has a mechanism that is locked when the boom unit is deployed and keeps the boom unit open.

28. The boom unit according to claim 24, wherein energy released by said sponge material is invested in changing said boom unit from a flat position into a three dimensional structure.