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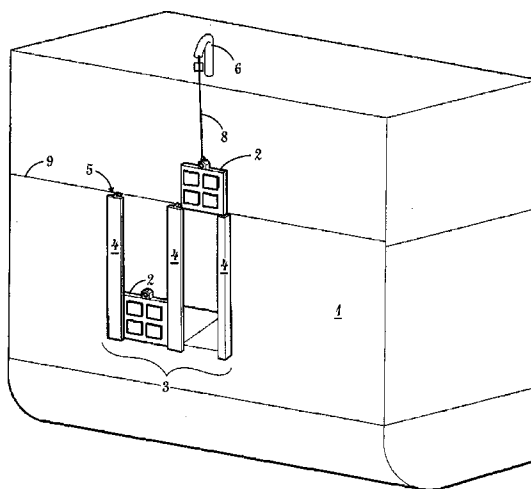
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(54) Title: SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES FOR COVERING OPENINGS OF MARINE VESSEL HULLS



(57) Abstract: Systems and processes for closing openings (26) in marine vessel hulls (1) are provided. The systems and processes facilitate repairs and maintenance of marine vessels by closing openings (26) in the marine vessel hulls to permit dry access to compartments in communication with the openings. The processes and systems incorporate a cover (2) constructed from a lightweight material such as fiberglass, a viscoelastic material such as polyethylene or polyurethane, and blends thereof. The cover is guided in place to effectuate closure of the opening by a track assembly (3) that receives at least two of the peripheral edges (12) of the cover (2) and directs the cover (2) to the proper position to close the hull opening (26). The cover (2) may be lowered into place by use of a hoisting device such as a davit (6).

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