

**DIVERSION OF SAILING VESSEL BY TETHERING METHOD
AND APPARATUS THEREFOR WITH HARPOON MEANS**

5 ABSTRACT

A method for diverting a sailing vessel is disclosed. A watercraft equipped with a harpoon having a hull-piercing head and a tail attached to a cable may swiftly approach the vessel in the aft position. Upon piercing the
10 hull, an extraction-preventing means, such as spokes unfolded from the head, latching it in the hull and preventing the harpoon's withdrawal. Via a cable attached to the tail of the harpoon the watercraft may use low-speed high-traction propulsion means such as Voith-Schneider Propulsion (VSP) to pull and divert the vessel at the stern to a desired course. The watercraft may
15 preferably have a combination of lifting hydrofoils with propellers and VSP propellers to provide the respective low-traction high-speed and high-traction low-speed modes of operation.

FIGURE 2 accompanies the abstract.