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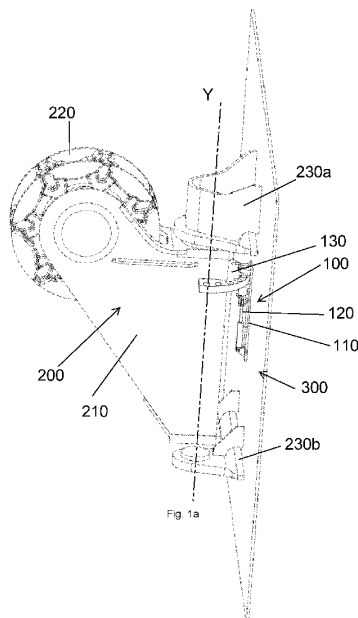
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(54) **Title:** FAIRLEAD LOCKING SYSTEM AND METHOD OF OPERATION



(57) **Abstract:** A fairlead locking system (100, 100', 100'', 100''') for providing pivotal locking and unlocking of a fairlead (200, 200', 200'') mounted on an external face (300, 300', 300'') of a vessel, comprising: an attachment means (110, 110', 110'', 110''') for providing attachment of the locking system (100, 100', 100'', 100''') to the external face (300, 300', 300'') of the vessel in use; a locking plate (130, 130', 130'', 130''') for locating wholly externally of the vessel in use and for providing attachment of the locking system (100, 100', 100'', 100''') to the fairlead (200, 200', 200'') in use; and a locking mechanism (120, 120', 120'', 120''') configured to lock and unlock the fairlead (200, 200', 200'') in use; wherein the locking plate (130, 130', 130'', 130''') comprises a locking device receiving means (131, 131', 131'', 131''') and the locking mechanism (120, 120', 120'', 120''') comprises a locking device (122, 122', 122'') configured to engage the receiving means (131, 131', 131'', 131''') to lock the fairlead (200, 200', 200'') to arrest pivotal motion of the fairlead (200, 200', 200''), and disengage the receiving means (131, 131', 131'', 131''') to unlock the fairlead (200, 200', 200'') to allow pivotal motion of the fairlead (200, 200', 200'').

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