CLAIMS

1. Device (1) for launching and recovering a marine craft (4) such as an autonomous submersible craft, comprising a cage (3) for receiving the marine craft (4) with docking means (26) adapted to receive the front part of the marine craft (4), a traction cable (25) connected to the cage (3) and able to be hitched to the marine craft (4), a handling structure (2) adapted to be fixed to a naval vehicle (5) and means (29) for locking the cage (3) to the structure (2), the cage (3) being connected to the structure (2) by lifting cables (12, 13), characterized in that the cage (3) comprises mobile arms (27) pivoting between an open position and a closed position of locking the marine craft (4).

2. Launching and recovery device according to Claim 1, wherein the lifting cables (12, 13) are supported by wheels (10a, 10b, 11a, 11b) including at least one mobile wheel tensioned by at least one actuator (10c, 11c).

3. Launching and recovery device according to Claim 2, wherein the actuators (10c, 11c) are hydraulic actuators.

4. Launching and recovery device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the structure (2) comprises a guide frame (19) sliding vertically between a low position for receiving the cage (3) and a high position for locking the cage (3).

5. Launching and recovery device according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising means (18) providing a data link and an electrical power supply to the cage (3).

6. Method of launching and recovering a marine craft (4) such as an autonomous submersible craft accommodated in a cage (3) supported by a structure (2) fixed to a naval vehicle (5), comprising the following steps:

- the means (29) for locking the cage (3) to the structure (2) are unlocked, and

- the cage (3) equipped with the marine craft (4) is lowered vertically by means of the lifting cables (12, 13) of the structure (2) to the required depth of immersion, characterized in that during the step of launching the marine craft (4):

- pivoting mobile arms (27) are positioned in an open position for unlocking the marine craft (4),

- the docking means (26) are caused to slide to the entrance (3b) of the cage (3),

- the traction cable (25) to which the craft (4) is hitched is paid out.

7. Launching and recovery method according to Claim 6, characterized in that during the step of recovering the craft (4):

- the marine craft (4) is drawn into and docked with the docking means (26) of the cage (3) by means of a winch (24) fixed to the cage (3),

- the pivoting mobile arms (27) are positioned in a closed position for locking the marine craft (4), and

- the cage (3) equipped with the craft (4) is raised vertically until it is locked in the structure (2) thanks to the locking means (29).

CLAIMS

1. Device (1) suitable for launching and recovering a marine craft (4) such as an autonomous submersible craft, comprising a cage (3) for receiving said marine craft (4) with docking means (26) adapted to receive the front part of said marine craft (4), a traction cable (25) connected to the cage (3) and able to be hitched to said marine craft (4), a handling structure (2) adapted to be fixed to a naval vehicle (5) and means (29) for locking the cage (3) to the structure (2), the cage (3) being connected to the structure (2) by lifting cables (12, 13), characterized in that the cage (3) comprises mobile arms (27) pivoting between an open position and a closed position of locking said marine craft (4).

2. Launching and recovery device according to Claim 1, wherein the lifting cables (12, 13) are supported by wheels (10a, 10b, 11a, 11b) including at least one mobile wheel tensioned by at least one actuator (10c, 11c).

3. Launching and recovery device according to Claim 2, wherein the actuators (10c, 11c) are hydraulic actuators.

4. Launching and recovery device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the structure (2) comprises a guide frame (19) sliding vertically between a low position for receiving the cage (3) and a high position for locking the cage (3).

5. Launching and recovery device according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising means (18) providing a data link and an electrical power supply to the cage (3).

6. Method of launching and recovering a marine craft (4) such as an autonomous submersible craft accommodated in a cage (3) supported by a structure (2) fixed to a naval vehicle (5), comprising the following steps:

- the means (29) for locking the cage (3) to the structure (2) are unlocked, and

- the cage (3) equipped with the marine craft (4) is lowered vertically by means of the lifting cables (12, 13) of the structure (2) to the required depth of immersion, characterized in that during the step of launching the marine craft (4):

- pivoting mobile arms (27) are positioned in an open position for unlocking the marine craft (4),

- the docking means (26) are caused to slide to the entrance (3b) of the cage (3),

- the traction cable (25) to which the craft (4) is hitched is paid out.

7. Launching and recovery method according to Claim 6, characterized in that during the step of recovering the craft (4):

- the marine craft (4) is drawn into and docked with the docking means (26) of the cage (3) by means of a winch (24) fixed to the cage (3),

- the pivoting mobile arms (27) are positioned in a closed position for locking the marine craft (4), and

- the cage (3) equipped with the craft (4) is raised vertically until it is locked in the structure (2) thanks to the locking means (29).