

Abstract

A method for maintenance of a unit which is arranged in a watertight hoisting chamber and closes an opening in a vessel hull is described. The unit is adapted to extend into the water below the vessel. The method includes clamping of the unit in its mounted position by a clamping means so that fixing means of the unit can be removed while the unit is held clamped in position. After the hoisting chamber is flooded to a desired level, the clamping of the unit can be completely released and no unintentional movement of the unit will occur. Guide means may be provided together with the apparatus and an automatic design of the clamping means can also be provided. Especially using such elements, mounting of the unit becomes easy, when the unit is lowered under water to its mounted position, is clamped there by the clamping means so as to tightly close the opening and after removing the water from the hoisting chamber, the fixing means can be applied in a dry environment. Preferably, the clamping means are hydraulic cylinders which press the unit into its mounted position.

[Fig. 3]