

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

METHOD FOR THRUSTER WITHDRAWAL FOR MAINTENANCE OR VESSEL TRANSIT WITHOUT THE NEED OF AN EXTERNAL CRANE, 5 REMOTE OPERATED VEHICLE, OR DIVER

A method is disclosed herein for lifting thrusters on vessels enabling for on vessel maintenance at sea. The method can include engaging a thruster mounting flange with a thruster well bottom flange; installing alignment guide plates to provide a rough
10 alignment; positioning a seal to provide a connection; installing fasteners to secure the flanges; actuating clamps to secure the flanges while compressing the seal; raising the thruster out of the thruster well; transporting the thruster to a deck of the floating vessel; actuating clamps to hold the flanges; removing the fasteners; flowing water into the thruster well; disengaging the clamps; and lifting the thruster with the lifting means.

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FIGURE 4

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