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- (72) Inventor; and
(71) Applicant : KHACHATURIAN, Jon [US/US]; 5427
Sutton Place, New Orleans, Louisiana 70131 (US).
- (74) Agents: D'SOUZA, Vanessa, M. et al.; Garvey, Smith,
Nehrbass & North, L.L.C., 3838 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite
3290, Metairie, Louisiana 70002-1767 (US).
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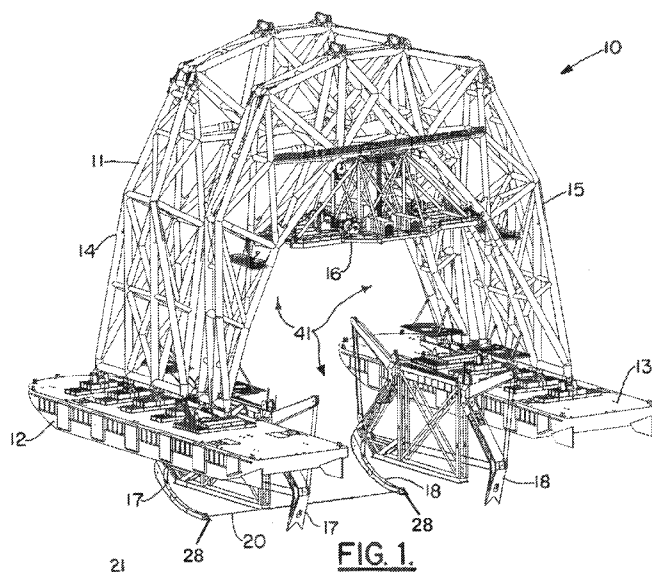
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- (54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REMOVING UNDERWATER PLATFORMS



(57) **Abstract:** A method is provided for removing an abandoned marine platform from a seabed having an upper surface or mud line. The platform extends typically below the seabed and mud line. In order to remove the platform, frame sections are lowered to the seabed with a lift device. A movable cutter cable is fitted to the frame sections. At least a part of the cutter cable is positioned below the mud line. The cutter cable is moved relative to the frame sections to cut the platform below the mud line. Such movement can be a back and forth movement wherein the cutter cable moves in a first direction, stops and then moves in a second direction that is generally opposite the first direction. A lifting device can employ two vessels and two frames, each frame bridging from one vessel to the other. Winches can be used to provide movement to the cutter cable. These same winches can take up cable slack as cutting moves from one platform member (e.g. leg, jacket leg, piling, etc) to another.