CLAIMS

1. Method for keeping a surface of a body (10) susceptible to deposits clear and/or for removing deposits adhering to a surface of a body (10) by means of ultrasound, comprising the steps of:

    a. attaching a predetermined plurality of ultrasonic probes (20, 20') to predetermined positions of a body (10) having at least one surface susceptible to or having deposits;
    b. subjecting the body (10) to ultrasound by means of a single ultrasonic probe selected from the predetermined plurality of ultrasonic probes (20, 20');
    c. detecting the ultrasound emitted by the one ultrasonic probe by the remaining ultrasonic probes of the plurality of ultrasonic probes (20, 20') as an ultrasonic event;
    d. repeating steps b. and c., wherein the body (10) is exposed to ultrasound by means of a further ultrasonic probe determined as a selected ultrasonic probe until each ultrasonic probe of the plurality of ultrasonic probes (20, 20') has exposed the body (10) to ultrasound;
    e. repositioning at least the selected ultrasonic probe in the absence of an ultrasonic event expected for at least one of the remaining ultrasonic probes or in the event of detection of an ultrasonic event by at least one of the remaining ultrasonic probes with a lower sound energy than a predetermined sound energy;
    f. repeating steps b. to e. until the at least one of the remaining ultrasonic probes detects an ultrasonic event with at least the predetermined sound energy; and
    g. exposing the body to ultrasound by means of all ultrasonic probes (20, 20') attached to the body (10).

2. Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the deposits are inorganic deposits and/or organic deposits and/or deposits forming a biofilm.

3. Method according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the repositioning comprises reattaching the selected ultrasonic probe to the same predetermined position.

4. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the repositioning comprises reattaching the ultrasound probe for which the expected ultrasound event has failed to occur.

5. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the repositioning comprises replacing a defective ultrasonic probe with an intact ultrasonic probe.

6. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the at least one of the remaining ultrasonic probes, which detects a sound event with a lower sound energy than a predetermined sound energy, is arranged directly adjacent to the selected ultrasonic probe.

7. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the body (10) is a ship's hull, wherein the plurality of ultrasonic probes (20, 20') are fixed to the inside of the ship's hull for keeping the outer surface of the ship's hull, which is susceptible to deposits, clear of deposits and/or for removing deposits adhering to the outer surface of the ship's hull.

8. Method according to one of claims 1 to 6, characterised in that the body (10) is a liquid-receiving container or a liquid-conducting pipe.

9. Method according to claim 8, characterised in that the body (10) is a cooling tower, a tank of a sewage treatment plant or the tank of a biogas plant.