CLAIMS

1. An assembly adapted for mounting a water engagement device to a marine vessel, the assembly comprising:

a transom plate having a front surface that is adapted to be connected to the marine vessel and a bottom side;

an actuator plate having a front surface and a flange extending from the front surface, wherein the flange is disposed under the bottom side of the transom plate;

a wedge pack including at least one shim disposed between the transom plate and the actuator plate; and

a clamping assembly that engages the transom plate and the actuator plate to connect the actuator plate to the transom plate.

2. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the actuator plate further comprises an upper coupling pocket including a nut and an upper nut retainer disposed therein and an upper coupling opening formed therein that extends through a back surface of the actuator plate and is registered in alignment with an opening in the nut so that the upper coupling opening and the nut opening are adapted to receive a fastener therethrough.

3. The assembly of claim 2, wherein the upper nut retainer includes a back surface having an opening defined therein that is registered in alignment with the opening through the nut.

4. The assembly of claim 2, wherein the upper nut retainer is cantilever snap-fit into the upper coupling pocket.

5. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the actuator plate further comprises a lower coupling pocket including a nut and a lower nut retainer disposed therein and a lower coupling opening formed therein that extends through a bottom side of the actuator plate and is

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registered in alignment with an opening in the nut so that the lower coupling opening and the nut opening are adapted to receive a fastener therethrough.

6. The assembly of claim 5, wherein the lower nut retainer is cantilever snap-fit into the lower coupling pocket.

7. An assembly adapted for mounting a water engagement device to a marine vessel, the assembly comprising:

a transom plate having a front surface that is adapted to be connected to the marine vessel and a bottom side;

an actuator plate having a front surface and a bottom side that extends beyond the front surface to define a flange, wherein the bottom side of the transom plate is disposed above the flange;

a wedge pack including at least one shim disposed between the transom plate and the actuator plate; and

a clamping assembly that connects the actuator plate to the transom plate.

8. The assembly of claim 7, wherein the actuator plate further comprises an upper coupling pocket including a nut and an upper nut retainer disposed therein and an upper coupling opening formed therein that extends through a back surface of the actuator plate and is registered in alignment with an opening in the nut so that the upper coupling opening and the nut opening are adapted to receive a fastener therethrough.

9. The assembly of claim 8, wherein the upper nut retainer includes a back surface having an opening defined therein that is registered in alignment with the opening through the nut.

10. The assembly of claim 8, wherein the upper nut retainer is cantilever snap-fit into the upper coupling pocket.

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11. The assembly of claim 7, wherein the actuator plate further comprises a lower coupling pocket including a nut and a lower nut retainer disposed therein and a lower coupling opening formed therein that extends through a bottom side of the actuator plate and is registered in alignment with an opening in the nut so that the lower coupling opening and the nut opening are adapted to receive a fastener therethrough.

12. The assembly of claim 11, wherein the lower nut retainer is cantilever snap-fit into the lower coupling pocket.

13. A marine vessel comprising:

a transom;

a transom plate having a front surface, a rear surface and a bottom side, where the front surface is connected to the transom;

an actuator plate having a front surface and a ledge, where the bottom side of the transom plate disposed adjacent the rear surface of the transom plate is disposed above the ledge;

a wedge pack including at least one shim disposed between the transom plate and the actuator plate; and

a clamping assembly that, when tightened, forces the actuator plate and wedge pack against the transom plate.

14. The marine vessel of claim 13, wherein the transom plate includes a plurality of projections disposed on and extending from the front surface into contact with the transom.

15. The marine vessel of claim 13, further comprising a positioning fastener connected to the transom and disposed in a positioning opening formed in the transom plate.

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16. A method of installing an assembly adapted for mounting a water engagement device to a transom of a marine vessel, the method comprising the steps of:

measuring an angle of the transom with respect to a bottom surface of the marine vessel adjacent the transom;

selecting at least one shim for a wedge pack based on the angle of the transom;

installing a positioning fastener into engagement with the transom;

compressing the assembly including the wedge pack disposed between the transom plate and an actuator plate with a clamping assembly;

aligning a positioning opening formed in the transom plate over the positioning fastener; and

affixing adhesively the compressed assembly to the transom.

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