

LAUNCH AND RECOVERY SYSTEM FOR AN AUTONOMOUS UNDERWATER VEHICLE

Abstract

A launch and recovery system (LARS) (100) is provided for launching an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) (30) in a body of water and recovering back the AUV. The LARS has a cage-like capture device (280) to locate and secure the AUV. The capture device includes an upper jaw (282) and a lower jaw (290) pivotedly joined to the upper jaw so that opening the lower jaw provides a large mouth area for the AUV to enter and exit the capture device (280). A docking apparatus (200) attached to the capture device (280) allows the capture device to move relative to the AUV. A suspension and retrieval (SAR) apparatus (105) suspends the docking apparatus (200), capture device (280) and the AUV into and out of the water.

Figure for publication: FIG. 2B