Self Contained Marine Riser Fairing

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/496,631 filed June 14, 2011.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] A storage system for a marine riser fairing that would be semi-permanently attached to a slick joint or imbedded in a section of a buoyancy or encapsulation module in such a manner that it would eliminate the need to remove the fairing when pulling the riser out of the water and stowing it in the riser bay.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Embodiments of the~~This~~ invention seek~~is meant~~ to tackle the three primary problems with the use of marine riser fairings, the first being the time it takes to install/remove a fairing, the need to plan for a separate storage location for riser fairings aboard the drilling vessels, and the need to move the fairings from storage to the installation station.

[0004] This problem has been tackled in the past by trying to reduce the time it takes to install riser fairings. Several ways in which this has been achieved is by simplifying the steps needed to secure the connections/attachments to the buoyancy joints and reducing the fairing length/size for ease of handling.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] Embodiments of t~~T~~he invention are~~is~~ directed to a self contained collapsible/expandable marine riser fairing that would expand from and collapse into a storage system strapped to a slick or buoyant or encapsulated joint of the riser.

[0005a] According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided an apparatus containing a collapsible marine riser fairing for semi-permanent attachment to a marine riser comprising: a storage system containing collapsible fairing members having retractable components for retracting into and being deployed from the storage system, wherein the storage system is fully contained on the riser; the storage system including members for semi-permanently attaching the storage system to a riser; wherein the storage system allows for rotation of the fairing about a vertical axis of the riser.

[0005b] According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided an apparatus containing a collapsible marine rise fairing for semi-permanent attachment to a marine riser comprising: a storage system containing collapsible fairing member having retractable components for retracting into and being deployed from the storage space system, wherein the storage system is fully contained on the riser; the storage system including a storage system module for semi-permanently attaching the fairing within a portion of the riser in which the storage system module is contained within vertical boundaries of the riser.