CLAIMS:

1. A method for improving the fuel economy of large low and medium speed engines that reach surface speeds of at least 3 mm/s and are lubricated by an engine oil by reducing the traction coefficient of the engine oil used to lubricate the engine by employing as the engine oil a lubricating oil having a kinematic viscosity at 100°C of about 20 to 25 mm^2/s ~~or less~~ comprising a base oil comprising a bimodal blend of two different base oils, the first base oil being one or more oils selected from the group consisting of Group I base oils having a kinematic viscosity at 100°C of from ~~2~~ 4 to ~~less than 12~~ 8 mm^2/s and a second base oil selected from one or more oils selected from Group IV base oils having a kinematic viscosity at 100°C of ~~at least~~ 38 mm^2/s to 150 mm^2/s, ~~the difference in kinematic viscosity between the first and second base oils being at least 30 mm^2/s,~~ and containing one or more detergents selected from the group consisting of ~~alkali and/or~~ alkaline earth metal sulfonate, ~~phenate,~~ salicylate, ~~or~~ carboxylate, salicylate/sulfonate, phenate/salicylate, phenate/sulfonate, and phenate/carboxylate in an amount in the range of ~~1~~ 6 to 30 wt% based on active ingredient wherein the improvement in the fuel economy is evidenced by the engine oil having a coefficient of ~~friction~~ traction which is lower than the coefficient of ~~friction~~ traction as compared to engine oils which are not bimodal or which are based on Group I base oils or mixtures of Group I base oils and PIB.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the detergent is selected from the group consisting of the mixture of ~~alkali and/or~~ alkaline earth metal salicylate and ~~alkali and/or~~ alkaline earth metal phenate.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the weight ratio of phenate to salicylate is in the range ~~10:1~~ 3:1 to ~~1:10~~ 1:3.

4. The method of claim 1~~, 2 or 3~~ wherein the ~~Group IV base stock~~ second base oil is mPAO base oil produced employing metallocene catalysis.

5. The method of claim 2 wherein the second base oil is mPAO base oil produced employing metallocene catalysis.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein the second base oil is mPAO base oil produced employing metallocene catalysis.

~~5.~~7. The method of claim 1~~, 2 or 3~~ wherein the second base oil is PAO base oil characterized by not more than 5.0 wt% of the polymer having a molecular weight of greater than 45,000 Daltons.

8. The method of claim 2 wherein the second base oil is PAO base oil characterized by not more than 5.0 wt% of the polymer having a molecular weight of greater than 45,000 Daltons.

9. The method of claim 3 wherein the second base oil is PAO base oil characterized by not more than 5.0 wt% of the polymer having a molecular weight of greater than 45,000 Daltons.