AMENDED SET OF CLAIMS

1. A transfer vessel (8) for assisting offloading and transfer of fluid from an offshore production facility (1) to a fluid carrying vessel (2) in open sea comprising

- a transfer vessel hull (20, 13) having a first (20a) and a second (20b) outer longitudinal hull side;
- a transfer vessel deck (30);
- propulsion means (12, 12a) for actively maintaining the transfer vessel (8) at a predetermined safety distance from the offshore production facility (1) and the fluid carrying vessel fluid carrying vessel (2) during fluid transfer operations; and
- fluid transfer means (5, 107) for transferring fluid between the offshore structure (1) and the fluid carrying vessel (2) at said predetermined safety distance,

a discharge arrangement (5, 6) for discharging fluid to the fluid carrying vessel (2) comprising at least one vessel discharge hose (5a) and

a fluid coupling system (16) situated in the transfer vessel (8) forming a fluid communicating coupling between the loading arrangement (107) and the discharge arrangement (5, 6),

characterized in that the hull (20) further comprises

- a main hull member (20) and
- at least one protruding hull member (13) arranged below the transfer vessels (8) water line (14) at each of the outer longitudinal hull sides (20a, 20b) for suppressing roll of the vessel (8),

wherein the at least one protruding hull member (13) extends at least partly along the hulls (20) longitudinal length, wherein one or both of the ends of the at least one protruding hull member (13) have an inclination angle exceeding 10^0 relative to a horizontal plane, and wherein said fluid transfer means (5, 107) comprises a side loading arrangement (107) for receiving fluid from the offshore production facility (1) comprising at least one loading manifold (107a) positioned at a side of the transfer vessel (8) and configured to be connected to an end of at least one production facility loading hose (10).

2. The transfer vessel (8) in accordance with claim 1, **characterized in that** the extension of the at least one protruding hull member (13) includes the hulls (20) longitudinal midpoint.

3. The transfer vessel (8) in accordance with claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that** at least one longitudinal section of the at least one protruding hull member (13) extends beyond the lateral boundaries of the transfer vessel's (8) deck (30).

4. The transfer vessel (8) in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the outermost horizontal projection of one or both end sections (13a, 13b) of at least one of the at least one protruding hull member (13) defines a resistance reducing arc curving towards the hull's (20) vertical center plane .

5. The transfer vessel (8) in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the outermost horizontal projection of both end sections (13a, 13b) of at least one of the at least one protruding hull member (13) defines a resistance reducing arc curving towards the hull's (20) vertical center plane,

wherein the length of the resistance reducing arc at one end section (13a) is shorter than the length of the resistance reducing arc at the opposite end section (13b).

6. The transfer vessel (8) in accordance with claim 5, **characterized in that** the resistance reducing arc with the shorter length is situated closest to the bow (8a) of the transfer vessel (8).

7. The transfer vessel (8) in accordance with any one of claims 4 to 6, **characterized in that** at least one of the resistance reducing arcs terminates at a termination point situated at the surface of the main hull member (20).

8. The transfer vessel (8) in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the main part of the transfer vessel's (8) bottom is flat.

9. A method for transferring hydrocarbon containing fluid from an offshore production facility (1) to a fluid carrying vessel (2) for receiving and storing hydrocarbons via a transfer vessel (8) in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 8,

wherein the method comprises the following steps:

a. transferring the end of the at least one vessel discharge hose (5a) to an assisting tug (15),

b. moving the assisting tug (15) with the end of the vessel discharge hose (5a) to a position where the end of the vessel discharge hose (5a) may be connected to the tanker manifold (3),

c. connecting the end of the vessel discharge hose (5a) to the tanker manifold (3) allowing the fluid to flow from the transfer vessel (8) to a fluid tank within the fluid carrying vessel (2),

d. moving the transfer vessel (8) to a position where at least one production facility loading hose (10) may be transferred between the offshore production facility (1) and the transfer vessel (8),

e. connecting the at least one production facility loading hose (10) to the loading arrangement (107) and

f. transferring desired amount of fluid between the offshore production facility (1) and the fluid carrying vessel (2) via the at least one production facility loading hose (10), the loading arrangement (107), the fluid coupling system (16) and the discharge arrangement (5, 5a, 6).

10. The method in accordance with claim 9, **characterized in that** the method comprises the additional step of

connecting at least one tanker hawser (4) between the transfer vessel (8) and a first end (17) of the fluid carrying vessel (2) prior to step a.

11. The method in accordance with any one of claims 9 and 10, **characterized in that** step a comprises the additional step of

picking up and pulling at least one messenger line connected to the end of the at least one vessel discharge hose (5).

12. The method in accordance with any one of claims 9 to 11, **characterized in that** the method comprises the additional step of

moving an assisting tug (15) to a second end (18) of the fluid carrying vessel (2),

connecting a tug towing hawser (19) between the assisting tug (15) and the second end (18) of the fluid carrying vessel (2) and

adding a pulling force on the second end (18) of the fluid carrying vessel (2) by means of the assisting tug (15), the pulling force being directed away from the offshore production facility (1).

13. The method in accordance with any one of claims 9 to 12, **characterized in that** the method comprises the additional step of connecting at least one production facility messenger line (9) between the offshore production facility (1) and the transfer vessel (8) after step e.

14. The method in accordance with any one of claims 9 to 13, **characterized in that** the method comprises the additional step of controlling the position of the transfer vessel (8) by means of dynamic positioning means (12, 12a).

15. The method in accordance with any one of claims 9 to 14, **characterized in that** the method comprises the additional step of controlling the flow rate between the offshore production facility (1) and the fluid carrying vessel (2) by means of at least one booster pump during step g.

16. The method in accordance with any one of claims 9 to 15, **characterized in that** the transfer vessel (8) is in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 8.

17. A transfer arrangement comprising an offshore production facility (1) for producing hydrocarbons, at least one production facility loading hose (10) situated on the offshore production facility (1), a fluid carrying vessel (2) for receiving and storing hydrocarbons and a transfer vessel (8) in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the transfer arrangement further comprises an assisting tug (15) for transferring an end of at least one vessel discharge hose (5a) from the transfer vessel (8) to the tanker manifold (3) on a fluid carrying vessel (2).