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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COLLECTING MATTER FLOATING ON A BODY OF WATER ✓

(57) Abstract

To collect oil or other matter floating on the surface of a body of water a collection vessel (11) having a collection compartment (A) is immersed in the water. A surface layer carrying the matter to be collected is caused to flow from the area around the collection vessel into the collection compartment (A) over a vertically movable skimming weir (15A) on the collection vessel. Water is discharged from the lower portion of the collection compartment such that a liquid level lower than that of the surrounding water is maintained in the collection compartment (A). Floating matter accumulated on the liquid surface in the collection compartment is removed; if the matter to be collected is low-viscosity oil, an oil-absorbing body (22) made of a hydrophobic material is used to absorb the accumulated oil from the liquid surface in the collection compartment. A dashpot damping device (28-30) dampens vertical oscillations of the skimming weir (15).

