Claims

1. A cleaning machine for cleaning a submerged surface, the cleaning machine comprising: a drive device and at least one cleaning head, the at least one cleaning head disposed forward of the drive device in a forward direction of travel of the cleaning machine, the drive device including: a pump, a pump inlet for receiving material cleaned from the submerged surface, and a pump outlet for output of the material, and traction means for propelling the cleaning machine along the submerged surface, wherein contact of the traction means with the surface is within a width cleaned by the at least one cleaning head.

2. The cleaning machine of claim 1, wherein the pump is between front traction means and rear traction means.

3. The cleaning machine of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the pump is an integral structural part of the drive device or is part of a chassis or sub-chassis of the drive device.

4. The cleaning machine of any one of the preceding claims, including magnet positioning/deployment means including at least one actuator assembly providing rotation positioning/deployment and/or retraction of at least one magnet.

5. The cleaning machine of claim 4, wherein the magnet positioning/deployment means includes include coarse positioning and fine positioning of the at least one magnet relative to the submerged surface.

6. The cleaning machine of claim 4 or claim 5, including at least one said magnet positioned towards a rear of the cleaning machine for attraction of the cleaning machine to the surface to be cleaned or being cleaned.

7. The cleaning machine of claim 6, wherein the at least one said magnet is positioned between the front and rear traction means of the cleaning machine.

8. The cleaning machine of claim 6 or claim 7, at least one said magnet positioned between two adjacent traction means of the drive device.

9. The cleaning machine of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one cleaning head includes at least one cleaning pod.

10. The cleaning machine of claim 9, wherein the at least one cleaning pod includes at least a forward or rearward pivot/swivel arrangement, or both a said forward and a said rearward pivot/swivel arrangement, such that the respective cleaning pod is enabled to pivot/swivel about a front to rear axis.

11. The cleaning machine of claim 9 or claim 10, including at least one castor or other wheel or track directly or indirectly supporting at least one said cleaning pod.

12. The cleaning machine of any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the at least one cleaning pod includes a body portion including a foam material.

13. The cleaning machine of claim 12, wherein the foam material includes a relatively hard foam material.

14. The cleaning machine of claim 12 or claim 13, wherein the foam material has a wear resistant/polymer coating.

15. The cleaning machine of any one of claims 12 or 14, wherein the body portion is a replaceable or consumable wear part configured to be changed without the need to replace or remove the cleaning pod from the cleaning machine.

16. The cleaning machine of any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one support arrangement extends from the drive device to support at least a part of the respective cleaning head.

17. The cleaning machine of claim 16, wherein the support arrangement connects to the drive device between front and rear traction means of the drive device and projects to connect to the cleaning head.

18. A drive device for a cleaning machine for cleaning material from a submerged surface, the drive device including a pump, a pump inlet for receiving material cleaned from the submerged surface, and a pump outlet for output of the material, and traction means for propelling the cleaning machine along the submerged surface, the traction means including front wheels and rear wheels, wherein the pump is located between front and rear wheels.

19. A cleaning head for a cleaning machine for cleaning material from a submerged surface, the cleaning head including at least one cleaning pod, at least one said cleaning pod including a housing for a cleaning device, such as at least one rotatable blade, wherein the respective cleaning pod includes at least part of a pivot or swivel arrangement provided to allow the housing of the cleaning pod to pivot or swivel about a front to rear axis of the cleaning head or the cleaning machine.

20. A method of cleaning a submerged surface includes: disposing a cleaning machine on the submerged surface, cleaning the submerged surface while moving the cleaning machine across the submerged surface, and contacting traction means of the cleaning machine with the submerged surface within a width cleaned by at least one cleaning head of the cleaning machine.