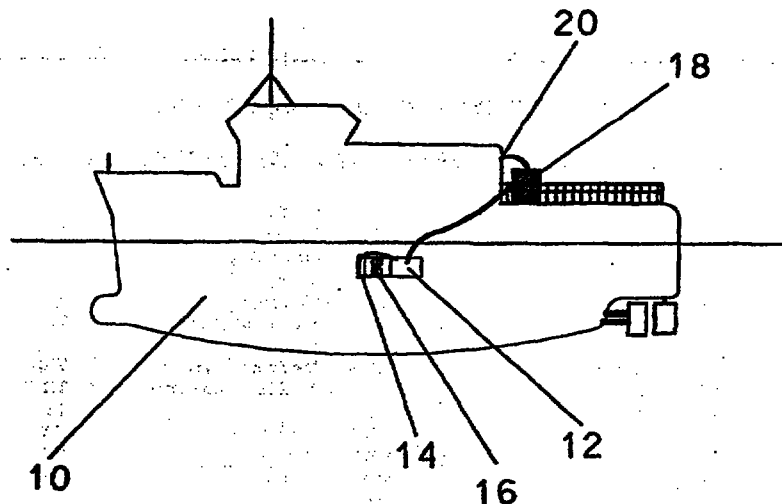




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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REMOVING MARINE ORGANISMS FROM A SUBMERGED SUBSTRATE



(57) Abstract

A method and apparatus for removing marine fouling from underwater substrates such as ships' hulls (10). The method is characterized by the steps of first subjecting marine organisms such as barnacles to an electrical field of sufficient intensity to degrade the adhesive properties of the organisms to the substrate, and thereafter physically removing said organisms with the help of rotating brushes (16) or similar abrasive removal means. The apparatus is characterized in that it includes a remotely operated submarine (12) or other suitable transport means, such as a vehicle with a magnetized caterpillar track, having a forwardly mounted electrode (14) for imparting an electric field to the organisms together with abrasive removal means (16) mounted behind the electrode for removal of the organisms. A power source (18) is provided, having one pole (20) connected to substrate (10) and a second pole connected to electrode (14).