CLAIMS

1.- A method for assembling an apparatus (10) intended to be placed in a body of water (12), the apparatus (10) including a base (14) and at least one module (18) placed on the base (14), the method being characterized by the following steps:

- providing the base (14), including an upper surface (22) and mountings (16) projecting above the upper surface (22);

- assembling guiding rails (36) on the mountings (16);

- placing the module (18) intended to be installed on the base (14) on an upper surface (75) located next to the base (14);

- translating the module (18) on the guiding rails (36) in order to bring it onto the base (14);

- placing the module (18) on the mountings (16) so that the mountings (16) support the weight of the module (18);

- releasing the guiding rails (36) relative to the mountings (16);

- removing the guiding rails (36) by horizontal movement opposite the upper surface (22) of the base (14).

2. - The method according to claim 1, comprising, before the translation step, a step of lifting the module (18) by its lower surface (50) using a lifting structure (68) positioned bearing between the upper surface (75) located next to the base and the lower surface (50) of the module (18), to bring the lower surface (50) to the height of the guiding rails (36).

3.- The method according to claim 2, wherein the lifting structure (68) includes lifting beams (76) placed below the lower surface (50) of the module (18), the method including a step for connecting the lifting beams (76) to the guiding rails (36) by connecting beams (70) when the lower surface (50) is at the height of the guiding rails (36).

4. - The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the step for removing the guiding rails (36) comprises horizontal pulling of each guiding rail (36) from the outside of the base (14).

5. - The method according to claim 4, wherein each guiding rail (36) comprises a plurality of successive segments (100), the removal step comprising the horizontal pulling

13.- The method according to claim 12, wherein the base (14) includes a hull (20), the hull (20) floating on the water mass (66) during the translation step of the module (18).

14.- The method according to any one of claims 12 or 13, wherein the base (14) is placed on the bottom of the water mass (66) or on the floor of a drydock (67) during the step for translation of the module (18), the method next including a flotation of the base (14) by the de-ballasting of the base (14) and/or by filling of the drydock (67) in order to float the apparatus (10) including the base (14) and the module (18) placed on the base (14).

15.- The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the base (14) includes at least two hulls (20), at least one module (18) being placed below the two hulls (20) of the base (14) after the step for translation of the module (18).

16.- The method according to claim 15, wherein each hull (20) floats on the water mass (66) during the translation step of the module (18).

17.- The method according to any one of claims 15 or 16, wherein the two hulls (20) extend in two substantially parallel directions.

18.- The method according to any one of claims 15 to 17, wherein the apparatus (110) includes a connecting element (94) positioned between the two hulls (20).

19.- A hydrocarbon exploitation apparatus (110) intended to be placed in a body of water (12), comprising a base (14) and at least one module (18), the base (14) including an upper surface (22) and mountings (16) projecting above the upper surface (22), the base (14) including two hulls (20) advantageously extending in substantially parallel directions, characterized in that the module (18) is placed on the two hulls (20), the mountings (16) supporting the weight of the module (18) and the connecting forces of the two hulls (20), wherein there is no closed boxes or connecting beams between the two hulls.