CLAIMS

In the claims:

1. A marine vessel to transport natural gas hydrates (NGH) comprising:

a hull formed from solid NGH; and

a skeletal structure to support said hull.

2. A marine vessel according to claim 1 wherein said solid NGH comprises additives.

3. A marine vessel according to claim 2 wherein said additives comprise any one of sand, clay, wood, hemp, and phase changing materials.

4. A marine vessel according to claim 1 further comprising a liner to envelop an exterior of said hull.

5. A marine vessel according to claim 4 wherein said liner is hydrophobic.

6. A marine vessel according to claim 4 wherein said liner is hermetically sealed to gas and liquids.

7. A marine vessel according to claim 4 wherein said liner is thermally insulating.

8. A marine vessel according to claim 1 wherein said hull is integrally formed from solid NGH.

9. A marine vessel according to claim 1 wherein said hull is formed from sections of solid NGH.

10. A marine vessel according to claim 1 wherein said hull is formed from a plurality of containers comprising said solid NGH.

11. A marine vessel according to claim 9 wherein said skeletal structure is comprised in said plurality of containers.

12. A marine vessel according to claim 1 wherein the vessel is one of a self-propelled vessel or a towable vessel.

13. A marine vessel according to claim 1 wherein said skeletal structure is suitable to transport a cooling fluid through said solid NGH.

14. A marine vessel according to claim 1 wherein said solid NGH is frozen.

15. A method of fabricating a marine vessel for transporting and storing natural gas hydrates (NGH), the method comprising:

preparing a mold;

placing a skin layer in said mold;

assembling a skeletal structure in said mold;

preparing a NGH slurry; and

pouring said NGH slurry into said mold.

16. A method according to claim 15 further comprising mixing an additive into said NGH slurry.

17. A method according to claim 15 further comprising solidifying said NGH slurry.

18. A method according to claim 17 comprising solidifying said NGH slurry into a section of a hull of the marine vessel.

19. A method according to claim 15 comprising shaping said NGH slurry into a frozen solid block.

20. A method according to claim 15 further comprising submerging said mold in water.

21. A method according to claim 15 further comprising storing said solid NGH submerged in water.

22. A method according to claim 15 further comprising dismantling said skeletal structure following regasification of the solid NGH.

23. A container to transport natural gas hydrates (NGH) comprising:

a block of solid NGH; and

a skeletal structure to support said block,

wherein said skeletal structure includes a truss structure embedded in the solid NGH.

24. A container according to claim 23 wherein said solid NGH comprises additives.

25. A container according to claim 23 wherein said additives comprise any one of sand, clay, wood, hemp, and phase changing materials.

26. A container according to claim 23 further comprising a barrier to envelop an exterior of said solid NGH block.

27. A container according to claim 26 wherein said barrier is hydrophobic.

28. A container according to claim 26 wherein said barrier is hermetically sealed to gas and liquids.

29. A container according to claim 26 wherein said barrier is thermally insulating.

30. A container according to claim 23 wherein said container is transportable on a marine vessel.

31. A container according to claim 23 wherein said container is suitable to form a hull of a marine vessel.

32. A container according to claim 23 wherein said container is transportable on a commercial overland transport vehicle.

33. A container according to claim 23 wherein said skeletal structure is suitable to transport a cooling fluid through said block of solid NGH.