

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for stabilising a floating craft against a stationary structure, said apparatus comprising means of attaching the apparatus to a floating craft, an elongate fender, said fender comprising a structure contacting face, with said apparatus further comprising at least two jaws, each of said jaws comprising a front face and a structure contacting surface, wherein at least one jaw is movable laterally from a first position to a second position and vice versa, in order that said jaws may be positioned in a first open position where the structure contacting surfaces of the jaws are relatively far apart and a second closed position wherein the structure contacting surfaces of the jaws are relatively close together, wherein when said apparatus is positioned such that a suitably sized part of the stationary structure is placed between the jaws, the said jaws can be brought laterally into the closed position, thereby creating craft stabilising lateral only contact between the structure contacting surfaces of the jaws and the structure.
2. Apparatus according to claim 1 , wherein there are two jaws.
3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein each of the jaws comprises actuation means, and each can move separately from the other or others.
4. Apparatus according to any of the preceding claims, wherein each of the jaws comprises a pad of resiliently deformable material.
5. Apparatus according to claim 4, wherein each pad is rubber.
6. Apparatus according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the fender can be moved from a first position, in which the structure contacting face of the fender forms a substantially planar surface with the front faces of said jaws, to a second, withdrawn position.
7. Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when the fender is in the withdrawn position, the jaws can be moved substantially across the structure contacting face of the said fender.

8. Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the fender comprises a plurality of side surfaces, wherein the side surfaces of the fender and the structure contacting surfaces of the jaws are so shaped as to fit together when the fender is in the first position.
9. Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the side surfaces of the fender and the structure contacting surfaces of the jaws comprise a plurality of interlocking teeth.
10. Apparatus according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the jaws are attached to the rest of the apparatus via ball joints.
11. Apparatus according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the means of actuation of at least a jaw or the fender comprises a pneumatic ram.
12. Apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 10, wherein the means of actuation of at least a jaw or the fender comprises a hydraulic ram.
13. Apparatus substantially as described herein, with reference to and as illustrated by any appropriate combination of the text and / or drawings.
14. A floating craft, comprising apparatus according to any of the preceding claims.
15. A floating craft, comprising apparatus substantially as described herein, with reference to and as illustrated by any appropriate combination of the text and / or drawings.