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Dubois et al.

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[54] PROPELLER ASSEMBLY FOR AN UNDERWATER DEVICE

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[57] ABSTRACT

[21] Appl. No.: 09/090,328

In an underwater device adapted to sink in water, the device having a propeller disposed in a tail cone portion thereof and operable to rotate in a first direction to move the device toward a surface of the water, an assembly for preventing the propeller from rotating in a second direction during the sinking of the device in the water. The assembly includes a circular shroud fixed to outboard tips of blades of the propeller and encircling the propeller. A ramp is disposed on an outside surface of the shroud. A tail cone ring is fixed to the tail cone portion and surrounds the shroud. A pivotally movable flap is mounted on an inside surface of the tail cone ring. The ramp and the flap are engageable and configured to prevent rotation of the shroud, and thereby the propeller, in the second direction, and to permit rotation of the shroud, and thereby the propeller, in the first direction.

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[52] U.S. Cl. 416/169 R; 416/196 R

[58] Field of Search 416/153, 169 R, 416/194, 195, 196 R

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16 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

