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(54) **BAFFLE SYSTEM FOR MITIGATION OF THRUSTER WAKE DEFICIT**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A baffle system for mitigating thruster wake deficit is provided in the environment of an underwater vehicle. The baffle system includes at least one baffle member initially housed within a thruster housing of the underwater vehicle and an actuating member for selectively positioning the at least one baffle member into a fluid flow over an outer surface of the underwater vehicle. The baffle members deflect the fluid flow from the thruster into surface contact with the outer surface of the underwater vehicle aft of the thruster housing on a discharge side thereof and directs the fluid flow into the thruster housing on an intake side thereof. The baffles may be as few as two and as many as four, and are selectively introduced into the fluid flow passing over the outer surface of the vehicle to direct the fluid flow accordingly.

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(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **B63H 25/46**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **114/151**

(58) **Field of Search** 440/38-42; 114/150, 114/151, 337, 338, 312, 330

(56) **References Cited**

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15 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

