United States Patent [19]

Langeland et al.

[54] METHOD FOR DETERMINING THE POSITION OF SEISMIC STREAMERS IN A REFLECTION SEISMIC MEASURING **SYSTEM** [75] Inventors: Jan-Age Langeland, Garnes; Stein ASheim: Biorn Nordmoen, both of Oslo; Erik Vigen, Drammen, all of Norway Geco A.S., Sandvika, Norway [73] Assignee: [21] Appl. No.: 460,146 Jun. 6, 1989 [22] PCT Filed: PCT/NO89/00055 [86] PCT No.: § 371 Date: Jan. 30, 1990 Jan. 30, 1990 § 102(e) Date: [87] PCT Pub. No.: WO89/12236 PCT Pub. Date: Dec. 14, 1989 Foreign Application Priority Data [30] Jun. 6, 1988 [NO] Norway 882495 [51] Int. Cl.⁵ G01V 1/38 References Cited [56] U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS 4,845,686 7/1989 Brac 367/19 FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

> 2393320 12/1978 France. 2620536 3/1989 France. 0831513 5/1984 Norway.

Patent Number: [11]

[45]

Date of Patent:

4,992,990

Feb. 12, 1991

WO07732 12/1987 World Int. Prop. O. .

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Sonerdyne Limited Publication, "A Hydro-Acoustic System for Precision Tracking of Twin Seismic Hydrophone Streamers," 7/87.

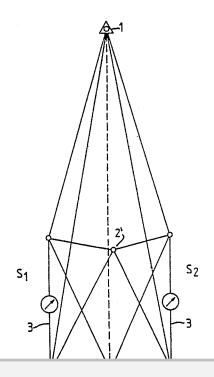
"Improving the Accuracy of Merile 3D Seismic Surveys," Ocean Industry, Jan. 1987.

Primary Examiner—Ian J. Lobo Attorney, Agent, or Firm-Fleit, Jacobson, Cohn, Price, Holman & Stern

ABSTRACT [57]

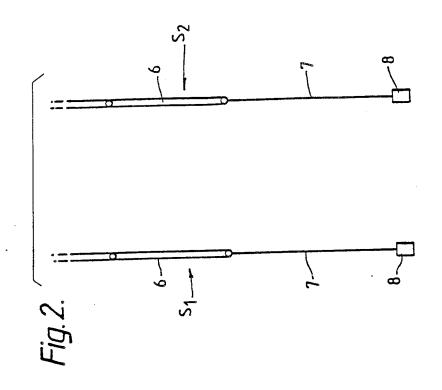
A method for determining the position of at least two seismic streamers (S1, S2) in a reflection seismic measuring system, wherein hydroacoustic distance measurements are used which are taken by means of acoustic transceivers provided in vessels (1), buoys (8), floats (5), seismic sources (2) and in the seismic streamers (S_1, S_2) . Absolute reference positions are determined by position determining equipment provided in at least two locations, for instance, on a vessel (1) or a float (5). The acoustic transceivers and the position determining equipment form a three-dimensional structure. The position determination takes place by trilateration between the acoustic transceivers and the determination of at least two reference positions so that there is no dependency on compass bearings or optical visibility, and high redundancy is obtained. The method is particularly suited for application in connection with three-dimensional marine seismic surveys. The method may be integrated with suitable surface navigation systems in order to find the reference positions and provide absolute positions at any point within a marginal error of 5 to 10 m.

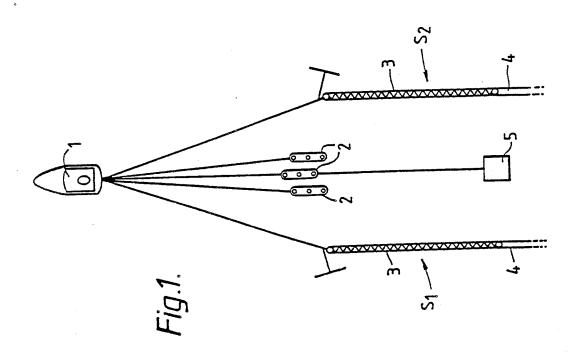
18 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



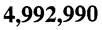


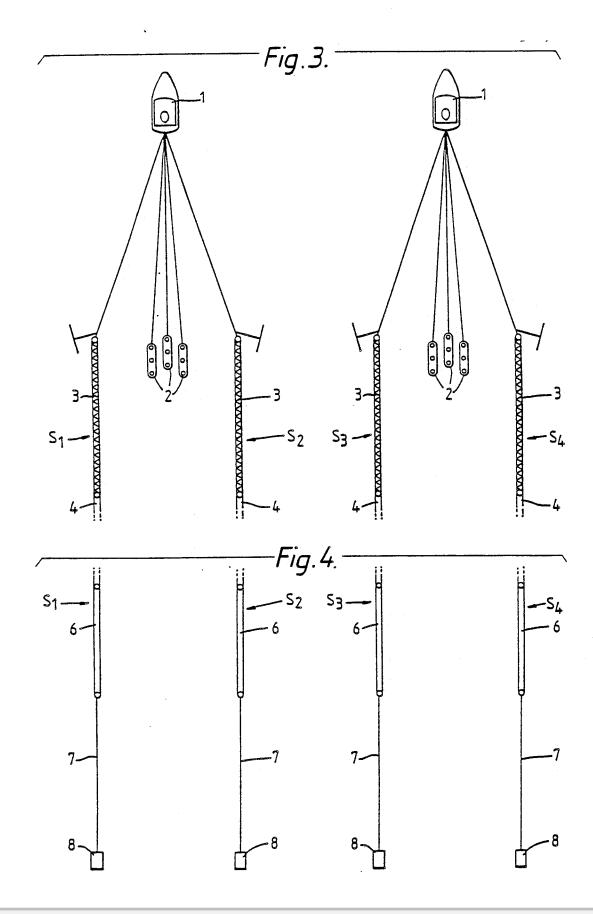
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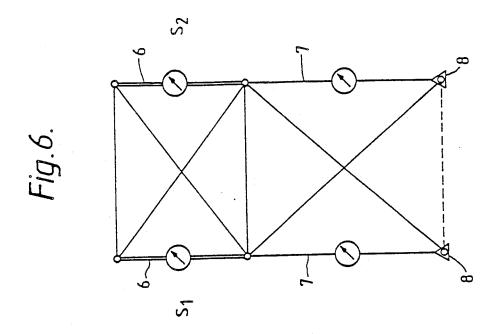
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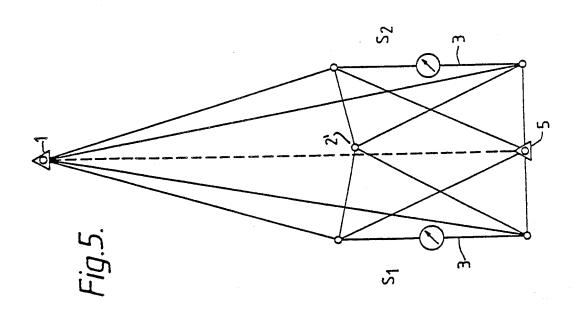


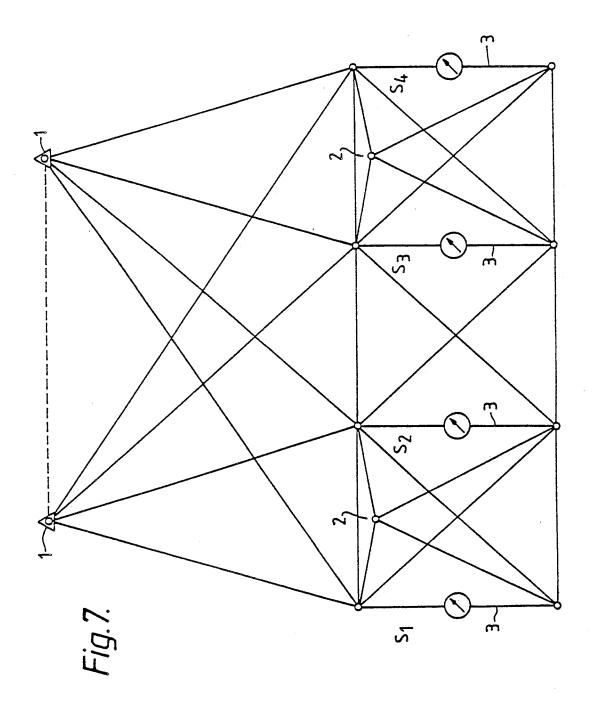




U.S. Patent









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