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Chemical collection and processing vessel and methods for fluid transfer at sea

Abstract

Embodiments disclosed herein include a vessel for floating and traveling adjacent to an upper surface of a body of water. In an embodiment, the vessel comprises a support structure, a first floatation chamber coupled to the support structure, a second floatation chamber coupled to the support structure, the second floatation chamber laterally spaced apart from and fluidly coupled to the first floatation chamber, and a third floatation chamber coupled to the support structure, the third floatation chamber laterally spaced apart from the first floatation chamber and from the second floatation chamber. In an embodiment, the vessel further comprises a robot system coupled to the support structure, where the robot system comprises an end effector and a nozzle head coupled to the end effector.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS (1) This application is a Continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/438,077, filed on Feb. 9, 2024, which claims the benefit of U.S.

BACKGROUND

(1) A buoyant, wave energy conversion (WEC) device is best deployed in a location where ocean waves are found. In the absence of a subsea electrical cable to carry its energy to shore, the energy a WEC extracts from ocean waves must either be used at sea to perform work there, or else be converted into a chemical fuel so that it may be transported to land and used by consumers there. Producing chemical fuels at sea requires a low-cost and efficient infrastructure to synthesize, collect, and transport to shore, those chemical fuels.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTIONS

(2) Disclosed is a novel type of ocean-going vessel configured to: 1) collect liquids, gasses and/or other chemical products from a wave energy conversion (WEC) apparatus (or other oceanic platform) via a transfer apparatus, and store and/or process said liquids, gasses and/or other chemical products based on the specific mission of the embodiment; 2) when at rest, to drift adjacent to an upper surface of a body of water over which waves pass in a manner similar to that of a WEC from which it retrieves chemical products, thereby reducing the likelihood of complications such as those that might arise during an attempt to couple two vessels moving out of phase as they oscillate in response to the passage of waves; 3) deliver collected and/or synthesized chemical products to shore, to other vessels and/or to other platforms, and/or reintroduce portions of synthesized chemical products back into the environment as dictated by the specific mission of the embodiment.

(3) Herein disclosed is a vessel that tends to drift adjacent to a moving upper surface of a body of water in a fashion similar to that of a free-floating WEC, while also possessing a capability to retrieve, store, and/or process liquids, gasses and other chemical products obtained from a WEC. The vessel disclosed herein permits a significant simplification of an otherwise inherently complex process and/or infrastructure, and is expected to thereby significantly reduce cost of that infrastructure and/or the execution of that process.

(4) The storage and transportation of gases tends to require a compression of those gases in order to increase the density of material to be stored and transported. However, compression consumes additional energy. And compressed gases must be stored in strong vessels that won't break or leak and those vessels tend to be relatively expensive. By contrast, the storage and transportation of liquids tends to be relatively simple and inexpensive.

(5) Embodiments of the vessel disclosed herein permit and facilitate the alteration, e.g. from gases to liquids, of chemical products retrieved from WECs, prior to the transportation of those altered and/or reconfigured chemical products. This enables a significant increase in the efficiency with which energy and/or valuable chemicals can be gathered from the sea and the benefit of that energy and/or those valuable chemicals shared with consumers on land.

(6) An embodiment of the vessel disclosed herein retrieves from WECs both hydrogen gas (H_2) and aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (HCl). The embodiment uses the HCl in order to facilitate its extraction of carbon dioxide (CO_2) from seawater. And, finally, it reacts the H_2 and the CO_2 in order to synthesize liquid green (i.e. made from renewable sources) methanol (CH_3OH) which it then transports to shore or provides to other vessels for consumption or transportation to shore.

(7) Another embodiment of the vessel disclosed herein also retrieves from WECs both hydrogen gas (H_2) and aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (HCl). However, this embodiment uses the H_2 to generate electrical power. And, it uses that electrical power to retrieve and store the HCl, and to then move, and/or transport, the HCl to deep subsurface waters via a hose or a lowered tank, thereby reducing acidity at the surface of the body of water on which it floats, and thereby allowing ancient calcareous deposits, and/or deep, relatively alkaline water, to neutralize and/or dilute that acid immediately instead of the process that would tend to naturally occur over the course of

millennia.

(8) Also disclosed are methods for making a fluid connection and achieving the transfer of fluids from a first floating body (e.g. a WEC) to a second floating body (e.g. an embodiment of the tripod vessel disclosed herein) using a cable robot integral to and controlled by the second floating body and associated hoses and pipes.

(9) While the present disclosure focuses on the use and benefits of the disclosed vessels with respect to the retrieving, storing, processing, and/or sequestering (at depth) of liquids, gasses and/or any contents offloaded from a WEC, similar vessels to those disclosed herein will have utility and benefits with respect to the offloading, storing, processing, synthesis using, and/or sequestering of liquids, gasses and or any chemical products collected at sea, or upon any large body of water, from devices other than WECs, and the scope of the present disclosure includes, but is not limited to, all such other embodiments of the disclosed technologies.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) FIG. 1 is a perspective side view of a first embodiment of a collection vessel of the present invention;

(2) FIG. 2 is a top-down view of the first embodiment;

(3) FIG. 3 is a bottom-up view of the first embodiment;

(4) FIG. 4 is a side view of the first embodiment;

(5) FIG. 5 is perspective bottom-up view of the first embodiment;

(6) FIG. 6 is a side view of the first embodiment;

(7) FIG. 7 is a detailed close-up partial perspective view of the first embodiment;

(8) FIG. 8 is a detailed close-up partial perspective view of the first embodiment with some surfaces removed for clarity;

(9) FIG. 9 is a detailed close-up partial perspective view of the first embodiment with some surfaces removed for clarity;

(10) FIG. 10 is a detailed close-up partial perspective view of the first embodiment with some surfaces removed for clarity;

(11) FIG. 11 is a detailed close-up partial perspective view of the first embodiment with some surfaces removed for clarity;

(12) FIG. 12 is a partial close-up perspective view of the first embodiment;

(13) FIG. 13 is a side perspective view of the first embodiment;

(14) FIG. 14 is a detailed close-up partial perspective view of the first embodiment;

(15) FIG. 15 is a side view of the first embodiment;

(16) FIG. 16 is a detailed close-up partial perspective view of the first embodiment;

(17) FIG. 17 is a detailed close-up partial perspective view of the first embodiment;

(18) FIG. 18 is a detailed close-up partial perspective view of the first embodiment with some surfaces removed for clarity;

(19) FIG. 19 is a detailed close-up partial perspective view of the first embodiment with some surfaces removed for clarity;

(20) FIG. 20 is an infographic;

(21) FIG. 21 is an infographic;

(22) FIG. 22 is a side view of an energy flow diagram of energy products starting at a WEC, delivered to a vessel, and transported to shore;

(23) FIG. 23 is a side view of a transport vessel with a computing system and a wireless communications system;

(24) FIG. 24 is a side perspective view of a WEC with a computing system and a wireless

communications system;

(25) FIG. 25 is a perspective view illustration of a computing system suitable for use on a transport vessel or a WEC;

(26) FIG. 26 is a perspective view illustration of a server system suitable for use on a transport vessel or a WEC;

(27) FIG. 27 is a process flow diagram of a process for extracting hydrogen from a WEC and converting the hydrogen into methanol through a reaction with carbon dioxide;

(28) FIG. 28 is a process flow diagram of a process for transporting an energy product from a WEC to a storage facility with a transport vessel;

(29) FIG. 29 is a process flow diagram of a process for converting energy products and transporting energy products with a transport vessel;

(30) FIG. 30 is a process flow diagram of a process for converting a first energy product into a second energy product on a transport vessel and delivering the second energy product to a storage facility;

(31) FIG. 31 is a cross-sectional illustration of a WEC for generating an energy product; and

(32) FIG. 32 is a cross-sectional illustration of a WEC for generating a biological energy product.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

(33) For a fuller understanding of the nature and objects of the invention, reference should be made to the preceding Summary of the Invention, taken in connection with the following figures, the illustrations offered therein, and their associated figure descriptions. The following figures, and their associated figure descriptions, offer explanatory illustrations. The following figures, the illustrations offered therein, and their associated figure descriptions, in no way constitute limitations, either explicit or implicit, on and/or of the present invention.

(34) In some implementations, the different embodiments are practiced separately. However, embodiments are not limited to embodiments being practiced in isolation. For example, two or more different embodiments can be combined together in order to be practiced as a single device, process, structure, or the like. The entirety of various embodiments can be combined together in some instances. In other instances, portions of a first embodiment can be combined with portions of one or more different embodiments. For example, a portion of a first embodiment can be combined with a portion of a second embodiment, or a portion of a first embodiment can be combined with a portion of a second embodiment and a portion of a third embodiment.

(35) The embodiments illustrated and discussed in relation to the figures included herein are provided for the purpose of explaining some of the basic principles of the disclosure. However, the scope of this disclosure covers all related, potential, and/or possible, embodiments, even those differing from the idealized and/or illustrative examples presented. This disclosure covers even those embodiments which incorporate and/or utilize modern, future, and/or as of the time of this writing unknown, components, devices, systems, etc., as replacements for the functionally equivalent, analogous, and/or similar, components, devices, systems, etc., used in the embodiments illustrated and/or discussed herein for the purpose of explanation, illustration, and example.

(36) As used herein, “fluidly connected” may refer to two components that are configured to allow for the transfer of one or more fluids (e.g., gas and/or liquid) between the two components. For example, a first chamber may be fluidly connected to a second chamber, when a gas from the first chamber is capable of flowing (either actively (e.g., through pumping) or passively (e.g., through pressure differentials)) from the first chamber to the second chamber and/or from the second chamber to the first chamber. Fluidly connected components may be directly connected to each other. That is, there may not be any intervening components between the first component and the second component. In other instances, one or more additional intervening components (e.g., pipes, valves, chambers, reactors, etc.) may be provided between the first component and the second component so long as the one or more fluids are capable of being transferred between the first chamber and the second chamber along a path that includes the one or more intervening

components. Additionally, while “components” may be fluidly connected with each other, the concept of fluidic connections is not limited to structures such as chambers, containers, and the like. That is, a first volume of a liquid or gas may be fluidly connected to a second volume of a liquid or gas even if one or both of the first volume and the second volume are not confined by any specific structure. For example, a volume of fluid within a chamber may be fluidly connected to a generally unconfined volume (e.g., a body of water or the atmosphere surrounding the chamber) through a pipe, tube, port, opening or other passage through a surface of the chamber.

(37) FIG. 1 shows a side perspective view of an embodiment **100** of the current disclosure.

(38) The disclosed vessel **100** floats and travels adjacent to an upper surface of a body of water **101** for the purpose of coupling with and offloading chemical products from WECs **102** that have been deployed at sea for a period of time, and thereafter storing, utilizing, processing, and/or sequestering said chemical products.

(39) FIG. 2 shows a top-down view of the same embodiment **100** of the present disclosure that is illustrated in FIG. 1.

(40) Three flotation spheres (a first degassing sphere **103**, a second degassing sphere **104**, and a methanol ballast sphere **105**) are connected to the primary structure of the vessel **100** by a plurality of beams, trusses, girders and like structure **130**. While referred to herein as “spheres”, it is to be appreciated that the first degassing sphere **103**, the second degassing sphere **104**, and the methanol ballast sphere **105** may comprise any shaped chamber. For example, a first degassing chamber **103**, a second degassing chamber **104**, or a methanol ballast chamber **105** may comprise spherical chambers, spherical cap chambers, rectangular chambers, pyramid shaped chambers, frustum shaped chambers, oblong chambers, or the like. The chambers **103**, **104**, and/or **105** may be symmetric about one or more axes. The chambers **103**, **104**, and/or **105** may be asymmetric about one or more axes. The upper deck **135** of the vessel is comprised of a latticework of beams, trusses, girders, and structure that provide a platform upon which are mounted and/or affixed chemical storage and processing facilities, equipment, and/or mechanisms, including, but not limited to, tanks and equipment utilized, respectively, for the storage of H₂ and HCl retrieved from WECs, and for the extraction from seawater of CO₂, as well as the processing of H₂ and CO₂ in order to synthesize methanol (CH₃OH).

(41) FIG. 3 shows a bottom-up view of the same embodiment **100** of the present disclosure that is illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2. Each of the first **103** and second **104** degassing spheres, and the methanol ballast sphere **105**, includes two directional thrusters, propellers, water jets or other propulsion mechanisms, **106c** and **106d**, **106a** and **106b**, and **106e** and **106f**, respectively, for the purposes of propelling and steering the vessel across bodies of water. Each such thruster is mounted within a nominally submerged tunnel within one of the said spheres.

(42) FIG. 4 shows a side view of the same embodiment **100** of the present disclosure that is illustrated in FIGS. 1-3. The upper deck **135** includes a bridge or control station **140**, spaces for a housing of crew **145**, and a structure **150** for accommodating electronic equipment for the purposes of navigation, communications, and for control of onboard chemical synthesizing and/or processing equipment. Some embodiments of the present disclosure may be remotely or autonomously controlled and require no human crew. A plurality **155** of antenna, transmitters, dishes, aerials, and/or receivers, are mounted and/or affixed to the vessel in order to support and/or enable the embodiment's navigational and communications systems.

(43) FIG. 5 shows a perspective bottom-up view of the underside of the same embodiment **100** of the present disclosure that is illustrated in FIGS. 1-4, with the lower portion of the WEC **102** not shown.

(44) A cable robot system provides a means and/or mechanism which enables the embodiment to fluidly connect to, and to offload fluid contents from, a WEC **102** positioned approximately beneath the embodiment adjacent to a surface of the same body of water.

(45) The cable robot system is comprised of a nozzle head **160**, which is situated on an underside

of an end effector **165**, a composite hose **170**, six coiling winch motors **175a-f** (**175b** and **175f** not visible and shown elsewhere), six control cables **180a-f**, three cameras **185a-c**, and a plurality of computational electronics (not shown). Three of the coiling winch motors **175a-c** are attached to an underside of the upper deck of the embodiment **100**, and three coiling winch motors **175d-f** are respectively attached to each of the embodiment's spheres (i.e. to the first **103** and second **104** degassing spheres, and to the methanol ballast sphere **105**). Each coiling winch motor, e.g. **175a**, is attached to and controls the effective length of a control cable, e.g. **180a**, one end of which is secured to the end effector **165**. The nozzle head **160** is further connected to composite hose **170** where through fluid and/or gaseous chemical products of a WEC are retrieved and/or removed from the WEC when the nozzle head **160** is engaged with, and/or fluidly connected to, the WEC offloading nozzle **112**. Target nodes **190a-c** on the WEC **102** allow an optical and/or visual location tracking of an orientation and/or position of the WEC **102** relative to the nozzle head **160** via cameras **185a-c** and associated computational electronics thereby tending to facilitate a coupling the nozzle head **160** to the WEC's offloading nozzle **112**. In some embodiments, control cables **180a-f** are controlled by motors on the upper deck of those embodiments, with said control cables passing through sheaves disposed on the degassing and methanol ballast spheres and/or elsewhere to provide the requisite angles of the cables incident to the end effector **165**.

(46) FIG. **6** shows a side view of the same embodiment **100** of the present disclosure that is illustrated in FIGS. **1-5**, with the lower portion of WEC **102** not shown.

(47) As the embodiment **100** approaches and positions itself over a WEC **102** in a body of water **101**, three cameras **185a-c** (**185c** is not visible and shown elsewhere) track target nodes **190a-c** (**190c** is not visible and shown elsewhere) on the WEC **102**. As the cameras **185a-c** and associated computational electronics process data so as to determine and/or track a location of the WEC **102** relative to the embodiment's end effector **165**, the end effector **165** is moved into a coupling position with the WEC **102** by means of control cables **180a-f** (**180c** and **180f** are not visible and shown elsewhere) and coiling winch motors **175a-f** (**175c** and **175f** are not visible and shown elsewhere.) Each cable, e.g. **180a**, is retracted or allowed to extend by a respective coiling winch motor, e.g. **175a**, controlled by a computational and control system programmed to control, move, and optimize, a location of the end effector **165** relative to the WEC **102** for the purpose of fluidly coupling the nozzle head **160** with the WEC nozzle **112**.

(48) As the WEC **102** and the embodiment **100** move and/or oscillate in response to passing ocean waves, data collected by cameras **185a-c** is used in computations and/or calculations which continuously adjust the respective lengths of cables **180a-f** via respective coiling winch motors **175a-f**. The synchronized retractions and extensions of the control cables **180a-f** move, position, and orient, the embodiment's end effector **165** and nozzle head **160** in six degrees of freedom so as to facilitate, enable, and/or realize, a coupling, and/or a fluid-connection, of the nozzle head to the WEC nozzle **112**.

(49) Each extension or retraction of a control cable, e.g. **180a**, via a respective and/or paired coiling winch motor, e.g. **175a**, is synchronized with appropriate extensions and/or retractions of one or more complimentary control cables, e.g. **180a-f**, thereby tending to expeditiously move the end effector **165** and nozzle head **160** into a coupling position with the WEC's offloading nozzle **112**, and to thereafter maintain that coupling position, even as the embodiment and the WEC move relative to one another. Computations informing the embodiment of proximities and locations of the WEC **102** and end effector **165** relative to one another, and of the embodiment relative to the WEC **102**, provide a basis for a continuous alteration, adjustment, and/or control, of a position and/or orientation of the embodiment's end effector **165** via coiling winch motors **175a-f** and control cables **180a-f** until the nozzle head **160** is successfully fluidly coupled with the offloading nozzle **112** of the WEC.

(50) In some embodiments, a mechanical locking mechanism on either or both of the respective embodiments' nozzle heads and/or respective WECs' offloading nozzles, is initiated and maintained

when positive contact, and fluid connection, is confirmed, e.g. via a plurality of electronic sensors, between the respective nozzle heads and WEC offloading nozzles. Once fluidly coupled, a signal from such a nozzle locking mechanism can trigger the cable robot to enter a neutral or slack configuration, where the coiling winch motors **175a-f** no longer impose significant tension nor significantly inhibit extension and retraction of the cables **180a-f**. The coiling winch motors **175a-f** and thereby cables **180a-f** are allowed to move relatively freely with the movement of the WEC **102** during the offloading process.

(51) FIG. 7 shows a partial perspective bottom-up view of the lower side of the same embodiment of the present disclosure that is illustrated in FIGS. 1-6, with the majority of the embodiment not shown for clarity.

(52) The nozzle head **160** is comprised of a plurality of ports **110a-c** (each of which is fluidly connected to a respective hose incorporated within composite hose **170**), one or more of which will fluidly connect with a respective one of a WEC's offloading nozzle ports **112** when the nozzle head **160** and WEC offloading nozzle **112** are engaged. Once coupled, an electronic signal initiated by positive engagement of electromagnetic lock, e.g. **195a**, will trigger the cable robot to enter a neutral or slack configuration, whereby the coiling winch motors **175a-f** (not visible and shown elsewhere) no longer impose tension nor inhibit extension and retraction of the cables **180a-f** (**180c-d** are not visible and shown elsewhere) except to the extent required to prevent a cable from becoming slack. The coiling winch motors **175a-f** (are not visible and shown elsewhere) and thereby the respective cables **180a-f** are allowed to move more freely with the relative movement of the WEC **102** that tends to result in response to passing ocean waves during the offloading process. Having multiple ports **110a-c** per nozzle head allows flexibility of offloading in that a single nozzle head **160** may be used to offload different chemical products from different WEC **102** types (i.e. WECs providing hydrochloric acid solution, H₂, or some other liquid or gas) using the same embodiment.

(53) In some embodiments, the cable robot will continue to process data as to the relative position and orientation of a WEC **102** to the nozzle head **160** and end effector **165** after coupling, thereby continually and actively adjusting the length and tension of cables **180a-f** with coiling winch motors **175a-f** during an offloading process in order to maintain engagement of the nozzle head **160** with the WEC offloading nozzle **112** during the offloading process.

(54) FIG. 8 shows a partial perspective side view of the end effector and nozzle head of the same embodiment of the present disclosure that is illustrated in FIGS. 1-7, with the majority of the embodiment not shown for clarity, and surfaces of the end effector **165** removed for clarity.

(55) Nozzle head **160** comprises a tooling feature **107** (in addition to electromagnetic locks **195a-c**, which are not visible and shown elsewhere) and a plurality of ports **110a-c** (**110a** and **110c** are not visible and shown elsewhere). Ports **110a-c** are further connected to hoses that form part of composite hose **170**, one or more of which will fluidly connect with a respective one or more of a WEC's offloading nozzles **112** when nozzle head **160** and WEC offloading nozzle **112** are engaged. In addition to electromagnetic locks, the engagement of the port **110a-c** on nozzle head **160** and WEC offloading nozzle **112** is enabled by tooling feature **107** within nozzle head **160**, and a tooling feature **108** on WEC offloading nozzle **112**. As the nozzle head **160** begins to couple with WEC offloading nozzle **112** and is initially engaged by an electromagnetic lock, e.g. **195b**, a tooling feature **107** will couple and lock the nozzle head **160** with a complimentary tooling feature **108** within the WEC offloading nozzle **112**. This allows flexibility in that nozzle head **160** may be used to offload contents from different WEC **102** types (i.e. WECs providing hydrochloric acid solution, H₂, or some other liquid or gas) using a single, same embodiment.

(56) In some modes of operation, compressed gaseous H₂ is offloaded from a WEC **102** via the WEC's offloading nozzle **112** and the vessel's **100** nozzle head **160**. The nozzle head **160** comprises a plurality of ports (**110a-c**), one of which is specific for offloading H₂ from a WEC **102**. Once nozzle head **160** and WEC offloading nozzle **112** are coupled, and the tooling feature described

previously has enabled and/or achieved positive engagement of the H2 ports on nozzle head **160** and WEC offloading nozzle **112**, offloading of the H2 begins. H2 stored under pressure on the WEC will tend to flow through the ports that are engaged via nozzle head **160** and the WEC offloading nozzle **112**. Composite hose **170** is routed to and connects to a pump and valve interface **144** (not visible and shown elsewhere) which routes H2 to H2 tank **155** (not visible and shown elsewhere). In some instances the gaseous H2 may be generated by the WEC through the conversion of wave energy into electrical energy (e.g., through the use of a turbine or the like). The electrical energy can be used to power an electrolyzer that converts water into H2 and O2. The H2 can be stored on the WEC and the O2 may be vented to the atmosphere.

(57) FIG. **9** shows a partial perspective view of the end effector and nozzle head of the same embodiment of the present disclosure that is illustrated in FIGS. **1-8**, with the majority of the embodiment not shown for clarity, and portions of the end effector **165** removed for clarity.

(58) In some modes of operation, a liquid and/or aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (HCl) is offloaded from a WEC **102** via the WEC's offloading nozzle **112** and the embodiment's nozzle head **160**. The nozzle head **160** comprises a plurality of ports **110a-c** (**110b** and **110c** are not visible and shown elsewhere), one of which further comprises two tubes (one tube **186**, of a smaller diameter, coaxially disposed within another tube **187**, of a larger diameter) which are specific for offloading HCl from the WEC **102**. Once nozzle head **160** and WEC offloading nozzle **112** are fluidly coupled, and the tooling feature **107** and tooling feature **108** described previously has enabled positive engagement of the HCl-specific port **110a**, offloading of the HCl begins. In some instances the HCl may be generated by the WEC through the reaction of H2 gas and Cl2 gas stored on the WEC. The H2 gas and/or the Cl2 gas may be generated through electrolysis using electrical energy from the conversion of wave energy. The H2 gas and the Cl2 gas can be reacted to form HCl in an exothermic reaction, and the HCl may be stored on the WEC. Cl2 may also be generated through pumped osmosis techniques, or the Cl2 may be stored on the WEC as a precursor that is periodically replenished.

(59) Water is forced down inner tube **186** by means of a pump and valve interface **144** (not visible and shown elsewhere). As water moves down through inner tube **186** of the composite hose **170**, through the engaged nozzle head **160** port, through WEC offloading nozzle **112** port, and into the WEC, the downward force of the water forces HCl within a circuitous tank on the WEC **102** to be pushed up through outer tube **187** of the composite hose **170** via the engaged port on the WEC offloading nozzle **112** and the nozzle head **160**. The HCl is pushed up composite hose **170** which is routed to and connects to a pump and valve interface **144** (not visible and shown elsewhere), which in turn routes the HCl to HCl storage tank **143** (not visible and shown elsewhere), whereby the HCl is stored until such a time that it is used for a chemical process, offloaded to another ship, or sequestered in deep water, sequestration occurring either immediately, or after a determined amount of HCl has been collected and stored aboard the embodiment.

(60) Once chemical products, and/or a sufficient quantity of chemical products, of a WEC **102** are offloaded, nozzle head **160** is decoupled from the WEC's offloading nozzle **112** by means of an automated release switch (not shown) which in turn signals the cable robot to re-tension control cables **180a-f** with the respective coiling winch motors **175a-f**. The end effector **165** is then moved thereby to a stowed position, approximately centered under the embodiment until such time as the embodiment settles over another WEC for coupling and offloading.

(61) An alternate embodiment utilizes, incorporates, and/or includes, a nozzle head **160** that is further comprised of a port and hose for transferring CH3OH synthesized aboard the embodiment to another vessel for eventual transport to a land-based storage and distribution facility.

(62) FIG. **10** shows partial perspective side view of the same embodiment of the present disclosure that is illustrated in FIGS. **1-9**, with part of the outer first degassing sphere's **103** surfaces depicted as transparent for clarity. First degassing sphere **103** is comprised of a nozzle **125** through which seawater enters the sphere, a pump **121** that moves seawater to a second degassing sphere (not

visible) and maintains a partial vacuum within the first degassing sphere.

(63) First degassing sphere **103** includes a rigid floor **118**, and an outlet connection **119** to a venturi circuit **114**. The first degassing sphere utilizes, incorporates, and/or includes, two directional thrusters, propellers, water jets and/or other propulsive mechanisms, e.g. **106a-b**, which, when energized by the embodiment's control system and/or human operator, propels the vessel through the body of water on which it floats. The region within the first degassing sphere that is positioned beneath the rigid floor **118** constitutes a permanent buoyancy compartment and can be filled with a gas, a vacuum, and/or a buoyant material, e.g. plastic foam.

(64) Mounted to the embodiment's first degassing sphere **103** is a venturi circuit **114**, which is comprised of a looped hollow tube wherein a portion of the tube's internal channel is tapered to a constricted and/or narrowed venturi tube section **113**. At one end of the venturi tube section is a pump **116**. At a larger diameter portion of the tube's internal channel is a recessed high-point **122** that acts as a separation gallery and/or collection chamber which allows, facilitates, and/or enables, a collection of N₂ and O₂ bubbles that coalesce within the seawater flowing therethrough. The recessed high point **122** within the tube's internal channel is fluidly connected to an exhaust port **123** through which said N₂ and O₂ gases are expelled, ejected, and/or vented, into the atmosphere above the embodiment.

(65) The venturi circuit is further comprised of an outlet hose **120** that allows any excess water introduced to the circuit (e.g. as water vapor) to be expelled.

(66) As first degassing sphere **103** floats on an upper surface of a body of water, seawater tends to move up, into, and through nozzle **125**, and is thereafter ejected from an upper mouth of the nozzle **125** and therefrom into an interior of the first degassing sphere **103**. The partial vacuum drawn inside the first degassing sphere **103** by pump **121** facilitates and/or enables, the flow of seawater from the body of seawater on which the embodiment floats, and into, through, and out from, nozzle **125**.

(67) The upper mouth of nozzle **125** is constricted which tends to cause water ejected from the nozzle and injected into the first degassing sphere **103** to spray, which tends to cause the ocean water so ejected to disperse as droplets within an interior of the first degassing sphere. Because first degassing sphere is comprised of a rigid, horizontal floor **118**, water injected into, and trapped inside, the first degassing sphere tends to slosh, splash, agitate, and/or move about, in a vigorous manner (more so than if the interior was entirely, truly, and/or completely, spherical), which movements tend to create splashing and spray, which in turn causes ocean water within the first degassing sphere to disperse as droplets.

(68) Seawater is circulated within the venturi circuit **114** by a pump **116**, and the low static pressure of said fluid within the venturi throat section **113** of said circuit draws fluid from first degassing sphere **103** through outlet connection **119**, thereby reducing a pressure within the first degassing sphere. The resulting suction within the first degassing sphere tends to create a relative vacuum within the first degassing sphere **103**, and because of this suction and/or partial vacuum, gases dissolved within the seawater within the first degassing sphere will tend to be released, and/or to evolve, and said evolved gases will tend to move from an interior of the first degassing sphere to and/or into the venturi circuit **114** through outlet connection **119** that connects the narrow, constricted portion of the venturi circuit **114**, where static pressure within the fluids flowing through the venturi circuit will tend to be minimal, to the interior of the first degassing sphere **103**.

(69) Pump **116** circulates seawater through venturi circuit **114**. The venturi circuit is a roughly circular hollow tube of which a portion of an interior channel of the tube is of a larger diameter than an interior channel of the venturi tube **113** section. The venturi circuit **114** tapers down to the venturi throat section **113**, which is the narrowest point of the circuit, and/or the narrowest portion of an internal channel of the tube. As seawater circulates within the venturi circuit, the relative speed at which the seawater circulates within the tube's internal channel will tend to be higher where the pump **116** forces this liquid through the venturi tube section **113** of the tube, and will

tend to be relatively slower as and after the seawater enters a non-constricted portion of the tube with a larger diameter. This slowing of the fluid within the venturi circuit, following its passage through the venturi portion of the circuit, tends to allow N₂ and O₂ to coalesce into gas bubbles. As these coalesced bubbles of gases continue to flow through the venturi circuit, N₂ and O₂ will tend to collect in the recessed, elevated, and/or expanded, portion of the tube's channel, i.e. high point **122**. N₂ and O₂ that collect in this high point are expelled and/or vented into the atmosphere via an exhaust port **123**.

(70) The continual suction of N₂ and O₂ into the venturi circuit **114**, and the concomitant expulsion and/or venting of N₂ and O₂ into the atmosphere, tends to result in a degassing of N₂ and O₂ of the water within the first degassing sphere **103**. An outlet hose **120** located on, and fluidly connected with, the venturi circuit tends to expel any excess water introduced into the venturi circuit, by suction, from the degassing sphere. The venturi circuit **114** is a form of vacuum pump.

(71) Ocean water within degassing sphere one **103** that has been degassed of N₂ and O₂ is moved to second degassing sphere **104** via a pump **121** and pipe **127** and, prior to introduction into the second degassing sphere **104**, is combined with hydrochloric acid solution collected from WECs and stored aboard the vessel **100**.

(72) FIG. **11** shows partial perspective side view of the same embodiment of the present disclosure that is illustrated in FIGS. **1-10**, with the second degassing sphere's **104** outer surfaces depicted as transparent for clarity.

(73) Second degassing sphere **104** utilizes, incorporates, and/or includes, a nozzle **131** through which seawater degassed in the first degassing sphere (not visible, see **103** in FIG. **10**) flows into, and/or enters, an interior of the second degassing sphere. The second degassing sphere also utilizes, incorporates, and/or includes, a pump **132** and a pipe **133** for removing seawater from the sphere and ejecting it into the ocean on which the embodiment floats. The second degassing sphere also utilizes, incorporates, and/or includes, a rigid floor **134**, and an outlet connection **128** to a venturi circuit **136**. The second degassing sphere **104** is also comprised of water jets, e.g. **106c-d**, which, when energized, propel the vessel through the body of water on which the embodiment floats. The second degassing sphere incorporates and/or includes a permanent buoyancy compartment beneath a rigid floor **134**.

(74) Mounted and/or affixed to second degassing sphere **104** is a venturi circuit **136**, which is comprised of a looped tube having a hollow interior channel of which a portion of the tube is tapered and/or constricted to form a relatively narrow venturi tube section **137**. At one end of the venturi tube section is a pump **138**. Another, larger-diameter portion, of the looped tube has an expanded volume (i.e. high-point **139**) that acts as a separation gallery and accommodates a collection and/or consolidation of CO₂ bubbles, a transfer hose **129** for routing said CO₂ for CH₃OH synthesis, and an outlet hose **142** that allows excess water introduced to the venturi circuit **136** to be expelled.

(75) Extraction of dissolved CO₂ from water by vacuum is inefficient, if not impossible, if the pH of said water is not first lowered to or below a threshold acidity. CO₂'s solubility in water is an apparent exception to Henry's Law (whereby the amount of dissolved gas in a liquid is directly proportional to the partial pressure of the gas above the liquid) as CO₂ reacts with water to form carbonic acid which ionizes into bicarbonate ions. Bicarbonate ions are not subject to Henry's Law; therefore only a small amount of dissolved inorganic carbon can be released and collected through vacuum methods alone. To effectively degas and thereby release and collect dissolved inorganic carbon from water, the pH of the water must be low enough to alter the equilibrium between the bicarbonate ions and the CO₂. At a pH of 8.3 or higher, primarily bicarbonate ions are present in water. At a pH level of approximately 4.5, or lower, most dissolved inorganic carbon in water is present as a dissolved gas (relatively little bicarbonate is present). Therefore, an introduction and/or addition of an HCl solution into water being pumped from the first degassing sphere **103** (not visible), prior to introduction of said water into the second degassing sphere **104**, lowers the pH to

a degree sufficient to cause dissolved inorganic carbon in that water to exist primarily in the form of dissolved CO₂, thereby allowing a relatively significant amount of CO₂ to be released when the partial pressure of CO₂ gas is reduced by suction within the second degassing sphere.

(76) Ocean water degassed of N₂ and O₂ is pumped from the first degassing sphere **103** (not visible) and combined with an HCl solution obtained and/or drawn from HCl stored in an intermediary tank **146** which is injected into the second degassing sphere **104** at the top and/or from a mouth of a nozzle **131**. The HCl stored in intermediary tank **146** may be retrieved by the vessel **100** from one or more WECs **102** (not shown in FIG. **11**). In some instances, the WECs **102** may generate the HCl through a process that includes the conversion of wave energy into electrical energy. The HCl stored in intermediary tank **146** may also be provided to the vessel **100** by a resupply vessel (not shown in FIG. **11**) or any other storage facility for HCl. The mouth of nozzle is constricted such that the acidified water injected into the second degassing sphere tends to spray, causing the HCl solution to disperse into an interior of the second degassing sphere as droplets, thus increasing the surface area of said injected HCl solution. Because the second degassing sphere incorporates and/or includes a rigid, horizontal floor **134**, the acidified water within the sphere tends to slosh, splash, and/or move about, in a vigorous manner (more so than if the interior was truly and/or completely spherical), which tends to create spray, which in turn causes the acidified water to disperse as droplets with increased surface area.

(77) Liquid, e.g. seawater, is circulated within the venturi circuit **136** by a pump **138** which draws fluid under suction from an interior of the second degassing sphere **104** through outlet connection **128**. This suction creates a partial vacuum within the second degassing sphere, and because of this suction and partial vacuum, dissolved gasses within the water inside the second degassing sphere will tend to bubble out of that water, gather in an upper portion of an interior of the second degassing sphere, and then, under suction, enter the venturi circuit through an outlet connection that connects the narrow, constricted portion of the venturi circuit to the interior of the second degassing sphere.

(78) Pump **138** forces fluid (primarily water and CO₂ drawn in by suction) through the constricted venturi tube section **137** of the venturi circuit **136**. The venturi circuit is a roughly tube with a roughly circular cross-sectional shape, in which a portion of the tube's internal channel is of a larger diameter than is the venturi tube **137** section. The venturi circuit tapers down to the venturi tube section, which is the narrowest point of the circuit's tubular channel. Fluid circulating within the tube will tend to speed up as the pump **138** forces gas through the venturi tube section and will subsequently tend to slow down as the gas enters the portion of the tube with a larger diameter. This slowing down of the fluid tends to allow CO₂ to coalesce into larger gas bubbles. As this coalesced gas continues to travel throughout the venturi circuit, CO₂ gas will tend to collect within the recessed high point **139** of the venturi circuit. CO₂ is collected from the recessed high point **139** in venturi circuit **136** via connection tube **129**. An outlet hose **142** located on the venturi circuit tends to expel excess water that collects within the venturi circuit. The venturi circuit **136** is a form of vacuum pump.

(79) FIG. **12** shows a partial perspective side view of the same embodiment of the present disclosure that is illustrated in FIGS. **1-11**. A hydrochloric acid (HCl) solution storage tank **143** collects HCl solution offloaded from a WEC **102** via a pump and valve interchange **144** and composite hose **170** connected to the nozzle head **160**. HCl solution may be transferred to an intermediary tank and combined with degassed seawater for CH₃OH synthesis. HCl solution may also be transferred directly overboard via a hose **151** and reel apparatus **152** from HCl solution storage tank **143** or transferred and stored in a tank **153** to be sequestered and lowered to the seafloor via a cable **148** and winch **149**.

(80) FIG. **13** shows a partial perspective side view of the same embodiment of the present disclosure that is illustrated in FIGS. **1-12**. Hydrochloric acid (HCl) solution synthesized aboard a WEC **102** is collected via nozzle head **160** and routed to storage tank **143**.

(81) In one mode of operation, a reel apparatus **152** deploys a drain hose **151** from the embodiment **100** down into a body of water **101** prior to nozzle head **160** (not visible and shown elsewhere) coupling with the WEC nozzle **112** (not visible and shown elsewhere). The length of the drain hose **151**, and therefore the depth at which the offloaded HCl solution flows back into the body of water **101**, e.g. 3 kilometers deep, is sufficient for the HCl solution thus deposited to be diluted and neutralized.

(82) In this mode of operation, HCl solution is on boarded via nozzle head **160** (not visible and shown elsewhere) and subsequently sequestered in deep water as part of a single operational process. The embodiment **100** couples with the WEC via the nozzle head. The HCl solution is on boarded and moves directly to the drain hose **151** via a pipe **156** whence it is temporarily collected in storage tank **143** before being drained overboard and into the depths of the body of water **101**. Each WEC is drained of its HCl solution at the respective location and/or position of each respective WEC. A portion of HCl solution may be retained to enable the embodiment's degassing-extraction of CO₂ from seawater (as explained elsewhere). After draining a WEC of its store of HCl solution, reel apparatus **152** retracts drain hose **151**, after which the embodiment is able to travel to the location of another WEC.

(83) In another mode of operation, hose **151** is deployed to depth prior to nozzle head **160** coupling with WEC nozzle **112** and HCl solution is offloaded from the WEC **102** in the same manner described previously, yet once a WEC **102** is drained of its store of HCl, drain hose **151** remains deployed and the embodiment **100** travels to the location of a second WEC (not shown), couples with that second WEC as previously described, and offloads and deposits at depth that WEC's store of HCl solution. In this mode of operation, an embodiment can travel to and drain numerous WECs of HCl solution without retracting drain hose **151**.

(84) FIG. **14** shows a detailed perspective side view of an upper portion of the same embodiment of the present disclosure that is illustrated in FIGS. **1-13**, with the majority of the vessel not shown for clarity.

(85) In this illustrated mode of operation, hydrochloric acid (HCl) solution synthesized aboard a WEC **102** is collected via nozzle head **160** as described and shown elsewhere and routed to an HCl tank **143** via a pipe **156**. The HCl solution is then routed to tank **153** via an HCl transfer hose **157**. Tank **153** is secured to a length of cable **148** which is wound upon a winch and reel assembly **149**.

(86) FIG. **15** shows side view of the same embodiment of the present disclosure that is illustrated in FIGS. **1-14**, with hydrochloric acid (HCl) solution tank **153** being lowered into a body of water **101**.

(87) In this mode of operation (the same mode partially described in FIG. **14**), HCl solution synthesized aboard a WEC and collected via nozzle head **160** is routed to HCl solution tank **143** via a pipe **156**. The HCl solution is then routed to tank **153** via an HCl transfer hose **157** (not visible and shown elsewhere), which is secured to a length of cable **148** which is wound upon a winch and reel assembly **149**.

(88) Embodiment **100** may collect HCl solution from multiple WECs until the HCl solution tank **153** is full and/or at capacity. Once full, the HCl solution tank **153** is lowered to an appropriate depth, e.g. 3 kilometers, using the winch and reel assembly **149** and the corresponding length of cable **148**. Once the tank **153** is at the appropriate depth, a hatch **154** (not visible and shown elsewhere) operated by a pressure switch opens. The HCl solution is more dense and/or heavier than the surrounding water, therefore once hatch **154** is open, said HCl solution drains out, and/or is expelled, into the body of water **101**.

(89) The depth at which the HCl solution flows back into the body of water **101** is sufficient that the HCl solution will be diluted and neutralized there and will result in a net alkalization of the surface waters from which it was extracted. When HCl solution tank **153** is drained of its HCl, the winch and reel assembly **149** retract cable **148**, thereby returning the HCl solution tank **153** to the embodiment **100**. The embodiment may travel to, couple with, and continue the collection of HCl

solution from additional WECs and sequester that additional HCl solution into the ocean via tank **153** in the manner previously described.

(90) In some embodiments, the HCl solution tank **153** is provided with weights, floats, and/or otherwise buoyancy calibrated so that the HCl solution tank is negatively buoyant when it contains HCl solution, and, by contrast, is net buoyant when it contains only seawater—thereby minimizing the energy required to lower it to depth and pull it back to the surface of the body of water.

(91) FIG. **16** shows a partial perspective bottom-up view of tank **153** deployed in a body of water **101**. Tank **153** has been lowered by a reel assembly **149** (not visible and shown elsewhere) and cable **148** to an appropriate depth, e.g. 3 km, where hatch **154** opens by a pressure switch, thereby releasing and sequestering acidity collected from the surface waters.

(92) FIG. **17** shows a partial perspective top-down view of the CH₃OH processing infrastructure that comprises an upper deck area of the embodiment.

(93) With respect to the embodiment of the present disclosure illustrated in FIGS. **1-16**, green methanol (CH₃OH) is formed, synthesized, and/or created, through a chemical process of CO₂ hydrogenation.

(94) Hydrogen gas (H₂) collected from one or more WECs **102** (not visible and shown elsewhere) and stored in H₂ tank **158**, and CO₂ extracted from seawater aboard the embodiment and stored in CO₂ tank **159**, are transferred by CO₂ pump **191** and H₂ pump **192** into mixer **161** wherein they mix together. Also transferred into mixer **161** is a recirculated stream from flash vessel **162** which tends to heat the initial stream of H₂ and CO₂ gases. The heated and mixed H₂ and CO₂ gases are then transferred to and/or into catalytic reactor vessel **163** via pipe **164**.

(95) Inside the catalytic reactor vessel **163**, the H₂ and CO₂ gas mixture is heated to approximately 150° C. by a heat exchanger within the reactor vessel in which an exothermic reaction takes place in the presence of appropriate catalysts. The temperature within the catalytic reactor vessel **163** can reach 250° C. and the pressure within the catalytic reactor vessel can reach 65 bar or higher. A gas product resulting from the reaction is pumped to heat exchanger **167** and then to flash vessel **162**, where the temperature and pressure can be 30.0° C. and 64.5 bar, respectively. The top outlet stream of flash vessel **162** is reintroduced to reactor vessel **163** via a pump **169** and pipe **172** at the mixer **161**. Purge gas is released to expunge byproducts such as hydrocarbons, inert gases, etc., via an outlet valve (not shown) prior to that stream's reintroduction into the mixer **161** and reactor vessel **163**.

(96) A crude liquid stream of CH₃OH (also containing water and other undissolved gasses) from a bottom-most portion of flash vessel **162** is reheated (e.g., to 85° C.) by heat exchanger **167** and transferred to distillation tower **171** through a pipe **174** and a compressor pump **173** at an inlet pressure that is approximately 1.3 bar. Distillation tower **171** completes the CH₃OH synthesis by separating CH₃OH from water. Gaseous CH₃OH is transferred to methanol ballast sphere **105** (not visible and shown elsewhere) by compressor pump **178** and pipe **179**, where the CH₃OH is cooled to form a liquid. Water separated from the aqueous solution of CH₃OH within and/or by the distillation tower is expelled from the bottom of the distillation tower.

(97) Alternate embodiments of the present disclosure may use additional heat exchangers, flash vessels, pumps, compressors, and other components and may operate at different temperatures and pressures as will be apparent to one skilled in the art. Given streams of CO₂ and H₂, multiple related methods exist in the prior art for methanol synthesis, and all such alternate methods, and alternate mechanisms for executing them, are included within the scope of the present disclosure.

(98) FIG. **18** shows a partial perspective side view of methanol ballast sphere **105** with some surfaces removed for clarity. A quantity of synthesized CH₃OH **162** (not visible and shown elsewhere) is stored within the methanol ballast sphere which additionally acts and/or serves as a floatation implement for the disclosed embodiment. The methanol ballast sphere is of the same or similar size as the previously disclosed first **103** and second **104** degassing spheres and is separated internally into two chambers by an approximately vertical bulkhead **163**, one chamber being for the

storage of CH₃OH synthesized and purified aboard the embodiment, and the other chamber containing a supply of water **164** and air **165** with an alteration of the relative amounts of each allowing a buoyancy of the sphere to be maintained even as the volume of CH₃OH stored in the adjacent chamber is steadily increased, and maintaining a buoyancy of that methanol ballast sphere which is approximately equal to the buoyancies of the embodiment's first and second degassing spheres.

(99) A ballast pump **183** maintains an appropriate ratio of air and water in the methanol ballast sphere so as to maintain proper buoyancy in that sphere, depending on the quantity of methanol stored in the methanol chamber.

(100) FIG. **19** shows a partial perspective side view of methanol ballast sphere **105** with some surfaces removed for clarity. The sphere is separated internally into two separate laterally adjacent chambers by an approximately vertical bulkhead **163**, the chamber visible in FIG. **19** being the chamber used for storage of CH₃OH **162**. A pump **178** and pipe **179** move CH₃OH **162** into the methanol ballast sphere **105** after it is synthesized, and pump **178** and a pipe **182** transfers CH₃OH **162** to another vessel or land-based storage facility, e.g. via an engaged end effector.

(101) FIG. **20** shows a diagram detailing a process by which seawater is degassed of N₂, O₂ and carbon dioxide (CO₂) via first **103** and second **104** degassing spheres, venturi circuits, pumps, plumbing, piping and valves as described previously. Ocean water **201** enters the first degassing sphere wherein dissolved N₂ and O₂ gases are removed via a venturi circuit **114**. Degassed water is combined with hydrochloric acid (HCl) solution from intermediary tank **146** as it is pumped to second degassing sphere where it dissolved CO₂ gas is removed via a venturi circuit **136**. Said CO₂ gas is collected in CO₂ tank **159** and subsequently used for methanol (CH₃OH) synthesis **206**. The methanol synthesis **206** may also be provided H₂ gas from an H₂ store **158**. The H₂ store **158** may be a chamber on the vessel, or the H₂ store **158** may be a WEC that is fluidly coupled to the vessel during the methanol synthesis **206** process. Degassed seawater is reintroduced into the ocean **207**.

(102) FIG. **21** shows a diagram detailing the process by which CH₃OH is synthesized from, by, and/or through, CO₂ hydrogenation. CO₂ stored in CO₂ tank **159** and H₂ stored in H₂ tank **158** are pumped with pump **191** and pump **192** and combined in a mixer **161** with a recirculated stream from flash vessel **162**. The mixed stream (of CO₂ and H₂ gases) is pumped to a catalytic reactor vessel **163** where an exothermic reaction takes place, and the temperature and pressure can reach 250° C. and 65 bar, respectively, or higher. The post-reaction stream exits the catalytic reactor vessel **163** and passes through heat exchanger **167** and then enters flash vessel **162** where the temperature and pressure will be approximately 30.0° C. and 64.5 bar, respectively.

(103) A stream of H₂, CO and CO₂ from flash vessel **162** is recirculated back to mixer **161** by pump **169** after being purged of a small amount of gas to further purify the stream. The liquid stream from flash vessel **162** enters heat exchanger **167** which is then pumped to distillation tower **171** by pump **173**. The crude CH₃OH stream entering distillation tower **171** can be at a temperature and pressure of 85° C. and 1.3 bar, respectively. A final separation of CH₃OH and water takes place within distillation tower **171**. Gaseous CH₃OH is pumped to methanol ballast sphere **105** via a compressor pump **178** where the CH₃OH is cooled to liquefaction. Water extracted from the crude aqueous CH₃OH is released from a bottom of the distillation tower **171**. Other processes for synthesizing methanol from CO₂ and H₂ are known in the prior art and can be used in place of the one shown. Embodiments utilizing, incorporating, and/or including, such other methanol synthesis processes and/or associated mechanism and equipment are included within the scope of the present disclosure.

(104) FIG. **22** a schematic diagram of a wave energy harvesting system **300** is shown. The wave energy harvesting system **300** may include a first free-floating body **301** and a second free-floating body **350** which may transiently couple to one another while floating on a surface **305** of a body of water **304**. In an example embodiment, the first free-floating body **301** may be configured as a

wave engine **301** (e.g., a WEC or hydrodynamic pump, such as those described herein) and the second free-floating body **350** may be a reaction and storage vessel **350**, such as a vessel **100** described in greater detail herein. For example, the storage vessel **350** may comprise a first degassing chamber **353**, a second degassing chamber **354**, and a methanol ballast chamber **355**. The chambers **353-355** may be fluidly connected to each other, as described herein. The chambers **353-355** may be mechanically coupled to each other by a structure **386** (e.g., a deck or platform) that is supported by reinforcing members **380**, or the like. The chambers **353-355** may be positioned at vertices of a triangle in order to provide a stable base to support the structure **386** on the surface **305** of the body of water **304**.

(105) In some embodiments, the wave engine **301** may include a receiving port **320** operable to receive a nozzle **385** in fluidic communication with a conduit **383** from the vessel **350** and thereby fluidly couple the wave engine **301** to the vessel **350** via the conduit **383** for transfer of one or more fluids therebetween.

(106) In an embodiment, the fluidic communication (or fluidic coupling) between the wave engine **301** and the vessel **350** may be enabled through the use of automated, autonomous, and/or passive systems. In some embodiments, for instance, the nozzle **385** may be coupled to an end effector (not shown in FIG. 22, but described elsewhere herein) that is able to be moved with wires and pulleys that enable six degrees of freedom so as to facilitate, enable, and/or realize, a coupling, and/or a fluid-connection of the nozzle **385** to the WEC **301** receiving port **320**. Further, since both the WEC **301** and the vessel **350** are floating on the same surface **305** of the body of water **304**, the relative motion between the WEC **301** and the vessel **350** is minimal, which facilitates simpler coupling. That is, the WEC **301** and the vessel **350** may float in a manner similar to each other since both the WEC **301** and the vessel **350** experience substantially the same wave patterns, currents, wind, and/or other environmental conditions.

(107) A set of Cartesian coordinate axes **368** is shown in FIG. 22 for contextualizing positions of the various components of the wave energy harvesting system **300**. Specifically, x-, y-, and z-axes are provided which are mutually perpendicular to one another, where the x- and z-axes define a plane of the schematic diagram shown in FIG. 22 and the y-axis is perpendicular thereto. In some embodiments, a direction of gravity may be parallel to and coincident with a negative direction of the z-axis.

(108) Though exemplified herein in the context of wave engines, the first free-floating body **301** may be configured as any free-floating body capable of self-propulsion, e.g., by extracting energy from stored fuel, inducing a flow of pressurized water, and/or harnessing one or more ambient environmental forces, so as to translate along the surface **305** of the body of water **304**. For example, the first free-floating body **301** may be a ship (such as a deployment ship, a tanker ship or other storage vessel, or another transport vessel), a buoy, a wind turbine, an offshore platform, such as a floating data center, or the like.

(109) In embodiments where the first free-floating body **301** is configured as the wave engine **301**, water may pass into and through the wave engine **301** with upward and downward motion **306** (e.g., in a positive direction of the z-axis and the negative direction of the z-axis, respectively) of water waves. As described in greater detail herein, the upward and downward motion **306** may induce the water passing into and through the wave engine **301**, energy from which may be captured and converted to an energy product **308** (as indicated by a dashed arrow **326a**). The energy product **308**, for example, may include one or more of an electrolysis product or other fuel/chemical, such as H₂ gas, HCl, etc., removed carbon, minerals, a biological product, digital goods, or an executed computational algorithm, such as, but not limited to a proof-of-work mechanism for a cryptocurrency, a trained machine learning algorithm, or the like.

(110) In some embodiments, the first free-floating body **301** may include a first onboard controller or other computing device **310** and/or the second free-floating body **350** may include a second onboard controller or other computing device **329**, the first and second onboard controllers **310**,

329 each including non-transitory memory on which executable instructions may be stored. The executable instructions may be executed by one or more processors of the first and second onboard controllers **310**, **329** to respectively perform various functionalities of the first and second free-floating bodies **301**, **350**. Accordingly, the executable instructions may include various routines for operation, propulsion, maintenance, tracking, and testing of the first and second free-floating bodies **301**, **350**. The first and second onboard controllers **310**, **329** may be communicably coupled to various components (e.g., valves, power supplies, etc.) of the first and second free-floating bodies **301**, **350** to command actuation and use thereof (wired and/or wireless communication paths between the first and second onboard controllers **310**, **329** and the various components are omitted from FIG. 22 for clarity). For instance, the first onboard controller **310** may command actuation of one or more first coupling elements annularly distributed on the receiving port **320** and the second onboard controller **329** may command actuation of one or more second coupling distributed on the nozzle **385** so as to selectively engage and disengage the one or more first coupling elements with one or more second coupling elements (first and second coupling elements not shown at FIG. 22). (111) In certain embodiments, the first and second onboard controllers **310**, **329** may be communicably coupled to a remote controller or computing device **314** via a wireless network **312**. The various controllers **310**, **314**, **329** may be configured in a substantially similar manner to one another, excepting, in some examples, one or more modifications or differences for a given use case. For example, the remote controller **314** may be positioned so as to be accessible to an operator of the wave energy harvesting system **300**, e.g., on a ship or in a physical structure **316** on land **318** (as illustrated in FIG. 22). As such, even when one or both of the first and second free-floating bodies **301**, **350** are not geographically located within a national or subnational jurisdiction, the one or both of the first and second free-floating bodies **301**, **350** may nevertheless be in continuous (e.g., substantially uninterrupted) or periodic communication with the remote controller **314** which may be geographically located within a national or subnational jurisdiction (e.g., on the land **318**).

(112) In some embodiments, because the remote controller **314** may be configured for use by the operator, the remote controller **314** may include a user interface at which the operator may enter commands or otherwise modify operation of the wave energy harvesting system **300**. The user interface may include various components for facilitating operator use of the wave energy harvesting system **300** and for receiving operator inputs (e.g., requests to direct the nozzle **385** to the receiving port **320**), such as one or more displays, input devices (e.g., keyboards, touchscreens, computer mice, depressible buttons, mechanical switches, other mechanical actuators, etc.), lights, etc. In additional or alternative embodiments, one or both of the first and second onboard controllers **310**, **329** may be configured with the user interface as described hereinabove.

(113) An overall energy flow **326** of the wave energy harvesting system **300** is schematically depicted in FIG. 22, in which energy captured at the first free-floating body **301** from water induced therethrough by the upward and downward motion **306** of the water waves (as indicated by the dashed arrow **326a**) may be converted to the energy product **308** and transferred to the second free-floating body **350** (as indicated by a dashed arrow **326b**) and then transferred from the second free-floating body **350** to a land-based vehicle **330** (as indicated by a dashed arrow **326c**) to be transported to a storage facility and/or an end user for consumption. For example, in some embodiments, the wave energy harvesting system **300** may include a plurality of nodes including a plurality of first free-floating bodies **301**, one or more second free-floating bodies **350** to transport a plurality of energy products **308** from the plurality of first free-floating bodies **301** to the land **318**, and one or more land-based vehicles **330** to transport the plurality of energy products **308** from the one or more second free-floating bodies **350** to the storage facility and/or the end user. In other instances, the energy products **308** may be directly transported from the second free-floating body **350** to a storage facility and/or end user on the land **318** or within a certain distance of the land **318** (e.g., up to 100 kilometers from land, up to 40 kilometers from land, up to 1 kilometer

from land, up to 500 meters from land, or up to 50 meters from land). Though storage facilities or consumption locations may be further from land in other embodiments.

(114) In an example embodiment, the energy product **308** may be a fluid (e.g., a liquid or a gas) which is transferred from the first free-floating body **301** to the second free-floating body **350** via the nozzle **385** and the conduit **383**, the conduit **383** being configured to transiently fluidly couple an internal reservoir of the second free-floating body **350** to an internal reservoir of the first free-floating body **301** via one or more internal passages extending at least a length of the conduit **383** (internal reservoirs and internal passage(s) not shown at FIG. 22). In certain embodiments, the conduit **383** may include a plurality of internal passages, each of which may convey a different fluid between the first and second free-floating bodies **301**, **350**. As an example, the conduit **383** may include a first internal passage configured to supply an energy product precursor (e.g., an electrolysis reactant, such as deionized water) from the second free-floating body **350** to the first free-floating body **301** so as to replace the energy product **308** being transferred to the second free-floating body **350**. Accordingly, in such an example, the conduit **383** may further include a second internal passage configured to siphon the energy product **308** (e.g., an electrolysis product, such as hydrogen gas) from the first free-floating body **301** to the second free-floating body **350**. As such, the overall energy flow **326** may be maintained by periodically (e.g., once per week) replenishing a capacity of the first free-floating body **301** to convert captured energy into a chemical energy product.

(115) In some embodiments, the adjustments to the position of the nozzle **385** may be executed based on a manual operator input, e.g., at the user interface of the remote controller **314**. In additional or alternative embodiments, the adjustments to the position of the conduit assembly **383** may be automatically adjusted, e.g., based on feedback from one or more sensors and/or data received via the wireless network **312**. As an example, one or both of the first and second free-floating bodies **301**, **350** may include an accelerometer (e.g., an inertial measurement unit; not shown) configured to gather changes in local positional data, e.g., resulting from water wave motions. As an additional or alternative example, one or both of the first and second free-floating bodies **301**, **350** may include a global positioning system (not shown) configured to gather geographic positional data. As an additional or alternative example, one or both of the first and second free-floating bodies **301**, **350** may include a wind speed sensor (not shown) configured to measure wind speed. As an additional or alternative example, such data (e.g., the positional data and/or the wind speed) may be received via the wireless network **312**, in addition to other data such as meteorological data (e.g., water wave height, direction of water wave propagation, water wave period, weather, etc.). In some embodiments, directions and magnitudes of applied forces may be inferred based on the feedback from the one or more sensors and/or the data received via the wireless network **312**, such that specific operational parameters (e.g., the one or more continuously adjustable parameters) may be adjusted responsive such that changes in individual applied forces may be accounted for with specificity.

(116) In the embodiment shown in FIG. 22, a first energy product **308** is generated at the first free-floating body **301** and subsequently converted to a second energy product **309** on the second free-floating body **350**. The energy conversion process from the first energy product **308** to the second energy product **309** may be similar to any of the conversion processes described in greater detail herein. For example, a reaction of H₂ gas (a first energy product **308** generated on the first free-floating body **301**) with CO₂ gas (a precursor generated on the second free-floating body **350**) may produce methanol (a second energy product **309**). The second energy product **309** may be stored in the chamber **355** in some embodiments. The CO₂ gas may be formed in degassing chambers **353** and **354** (with the inclusion of HCl from a storage tank **393**), as described in greater detail herein. The second energy product **309** is transported to land **318**. That is, the second energy product **309** may not undergo any subsequent processing after it has been produced. However, in other embodiments, the second energy product **309** may be further processed in order to generate an

alternative product before reaching land **318** (or near land). For example, the second energy product **309** may be filtered, compressed (e.g., from gas to liquid), used in a reaction as a precursor, or otherwise processed before reaching land **318** or near land.

(117) FIG. **23** is a side view illustration of a transport vessel **450**. The transport vessel **450** may comprise a first degassing chamber **453**, a second degassing chamber **454**, and a methanol ballast chamber **455**. The chambers **453-455** may be fluidly connected to each other, as described herein. The chambers **453-455** may be mechanically coupled to each other by a structure **486** (e.g., a deck or platform) that is supported by reinforcing members **480**, or the like. The chambers **453-455** may be positioned at vertices of a triangle in order to provide a stable base to support the structure **486** on the surface **405** of the body of water. The first degassing chamber **453** and the second degassing chamber **454** may be used to process seawater in order to extract CO₂ gas. The first degassing chamber **453** may be used to remove N₂ and O₂ gas from the seawater. The processed seawater may then be degassed in the second degassing chamber **454** by lowering a pH of the seawater through the application of HCl from a storage tank **493**. The CO₂ gas from the second degassing process may be reacted with H₂ obtained from a WEC (not shown) by a nozzle **485** and conduit **483** to form methanol that is stored in chamber **455**. The reaction process may be similar to any of the reaction processes described in greater detail herein.

(118) In an embodiment, the H₂ gas is obtained from a single WEC and used in the reaction as it is being transferred onto the vessel **450**. That is, there may not be a dedicated chamber for storing H₂ gas. In other embodiments, the H₂ gas is stored in a chamber (not shown) on the vessel **450** and used in a chemical reaction at a subsequent time. This may allow for H₂ to be harvested from multiple WECs to provide a larger amount of H₂ for the reaction. Similarly, the HCl may be removed from a WEC and used at the time of harvesting so that there is no dedicated chamber for storing HCl. In other embodiments, one or more WECs may be harvested for HCl, and the HCl is stored in chamber **493** for subsequent use. The HCl may also be a precursor that is periodically supplied to the vessel **450** from another vessel or source of HCl.

(119) The vessel **450** may also comprise a computing system **429** and one or more antennas **427**. A housing may protect the computing system **429** from environmental conditions. The computing system **429** and the one or more antennas **427** may be powered by any suitable source of electrical power. For example, a hydrogen fuel cell or other fuel cell construction may be used in order to convert H₂ gas (received from WECs) into electrical power. Though, other sources of power (e.g., batteries, generators, etc.) may also be used in some embodiments. The computing system **429** may include any number of components, such as processors, memories, control interfaces, and the like. The computing system **429** may be configured with a plurality of processing systems integrated with each other in order to perform complex computer processing operations. The computing system **429** may be optimized and/or configured to implement one or more of data center hosting, implementing block-chain mining, training ML or AI algorithms, or the like. The outcome of the computational work (e.g., block-chain coins or tokens, trained algorithms, data center capacity, etc.) can be transmitted to external devices over a wireless network through one or more antennas **427**, or other wireless systems. A more detailed description of a suitable computing system **429** may be provided in greater detail herein.

(120) Referring now to FIG. **24** a side perspective view of a WEC **500** that includes a an integrated computing system **529** on a platform **507** at the top of the WEC **500** is shown, in accordance with an embodiment. The WEC **500** floats adjacent to an upper surface **501** of a body of water over which waves tend to pass. The WEC **500** comprises a hollow buoyant chamber **506**, and/or buoy. In an embodiment a tube **504** is coupled to the buoyant chamber **506**.

(121) As described in other embodiments, an energy product may be generated by way of conversion of wave energy into electrical power. In some embodiments, the energy product may be a gas or other fluid, such as hydrogen gas. In some instances, the energy product may be stored in a chamber **505** coupled to the tube **504**. The energy product may also be stored in the buoyant

chamber **506**, in a chamber (not shown) on the platform **507**, or any other location of the WEC **500**. In an embodiment, the energy product generated by the WEC **500** may be offloaded by a vessel similar to any of the vessels described in greater detail herein. For example, the vessel may harvest the energy product from the WEC **500** and convert the energy product into a different energy product similar to processes described in greater detail herein.

(122) In an embodiment, the platform **507** may be provided over a top of the buoyant chamber **506**. A computing system **529** may be provided on the platform and include an enclosure to protect components from water and the elements. Any number of computational systems (e.g., processors, graphics processors, etc.), memories, and/or the like may be housed within the enclosure. The computing system **529** may be configured with a plurality of processing systems integrated with each other in order to perform complex computer processing operations. The computing system **529** may be optimized and/or configured to implement one or more of data center hosting, implementing block-chain mining, training ML or AI algorithms, or the like. The outcome of the computational work (e.g., block-chain coins or tokens, trained algorithms, data center capacity, etc.) can be transmitted to external devices over a wireless network through one or more antennas **527**, or other wireless systems. The computing system **529** may be powered by energy generated by the WEC **500** through conversion of wave energy into electrical power, or through conversion of the energy product stored in a chamber back into electrical power (e.g., through the use of a hydrogen fuel cell or the like).

(123) Referring now to FIG. **25** a perspective view of an computing system **600** that may be integrated with a WEC or a vessel, such as those described in greater detail herein, is shown, in accordance with an embodiment. For example, the computing system **600** may be used as the computing system **429** in FIG. **23** or computing system **529** in FIG. **24**. The computing system **600** may comprise an array of electronics, hardware, and/or software that are configured to control one or more aspects of the wave-energy generation device. While the components illustrated in FIG. **25** are shown on a single board, it is to be appreciated that components may be on separate boards, structures, or the like. The computing system **600** may be housed within a water tight chamber or enclosure provided on the WEC or the vessel.

(124) Computing system **600** may comprise a computing device **610**. The computing device **610** houses a board. The board may include a number of components, including but not limited to a processor **601**. The processor **601** may include, but is not limited to, a central processing unit (CPU), a graphics processing unit (GPU), an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a field programmable gate array (FPGA), and/or the like. The processor **601** is physically and electrically coupled to the board. Other components of computing device **610** include, but are not limited to, memory **602** and/or **603**, such as volatile memory (e.g., DRAM), non-volatile memory (e.g., ROM), flash memory, a mass storage device (such as hard disk drive, compact disk (CD), digital versatile disk (DVD), and so forth). The computing device may comprise a communications chipset **604**, a digital signal processor **605**, a chipset **606**, an antenna **607**, and/or an input/out device **608**.

(125) Computing system **600** may comprise a communications device **620**. The communications device **620** enables wireless communications for the transfer of data to and from the computing system **600**. The term “wireless” and its derivatives may be used to describe circuits, devices, systems, methods, techniques, communications channels, etc., that may communicate data through the use of modulated electromagnetic radiation through a non-solid medium. The term does not imply that the associated devices do not contain any wires, although in some embodiments they might not. The communications device **620** may implement any of a number of wireless standards or protocols, including but not limited to Wi-Fi (IEEE 802.11 family), WiMAX (IEEE 802.16 family), IEEE 802.20, long term evolution (LTE), Ev-DO, HSPA+, HSDPA+, HSUPA+, EDGE, GSM, GPRS, CDMA, TDMA, DECT, Bluetooth, derivatives thereof, as well as any other wireless protocols that are designated as 3G, 4G, 5G, and beyond. The computing system **600** may include a

plurality of communications devices **620**. For instance, a first communications device **620** may be dedicated to shorter range wireless communications such as Wi-Fi and Bluetooth and a second communications device **620** may be dedicated to longer range wireless communications such as GPS, EDGE, GPRS, CDMA, WiMAX, LTE, Ev-DO, and others. The communications device **620** may be communicatively coupled to one or more antennas, satellite dishes, or other device to broadcast and/or receive wireless communications. The antennas or the like may be external to the enclosure, or the antennas may be within the enclosure.

(126) Computing system **600** may also comprise a server rack **630**. The server rack **630** may comprise a plurality of processors with associated hardware and software. The server rack **630** may execute computational work in order to provide a revenue generating service. The server rack **630** may be powered through energy generated by the WEC or stored on the vessel, such as those described in greater detail herein. While a constant power supply may be desired, computing system **600** may still function with an intermittent or non-constant power supply provided by wave-energy generation. To deal with the variable power supply, server rack **630** may include controllers that adjust clock speed for the processors. This allows for power consumption to be directly controlled to coincide with available power. In some instances, the server rack **630** may perform data center operations or tasks. The server rack **630** may host and/or deliver content, or otherwise provide a link between consumers and centralized data storage. In some instances, the server rack **630** may perform services in conjunction with block-chain technologies, such as cryptocurrency mining. The server rack **630** may perform services such as ML or AI training as well.

(127) Computing system **600** may include a positioning system **640**. The positioning system **640** may include one or more modules, components, and/or apparatuses for determining a geolocation of the wave-energy generation device. In some instances, the positioning system **640** may comprise a GPS, a compass, an accelerometer, a gyroscope, and/or the like. The positioning system **640** may include a processor and/or controller to enable navigation for the wave-energy generation device. For example, actuators may be controlled in order to steer or direct the wave-energy generation device in a particular direction. Propulsion devices (e.g., propellers, water jet flows, etc.) on the WEC or vessel may also be powered and/or directed by components of the positioning system **640**.

(128) Computing system **600** may include a sensor module **660**. The sensor module **660** may include processors, memory, and associated hardware and software to control and/or record data from one or more sensors that monitor various aspects of the WEC. Sensors may comprise, but are not limited to, a pressure sensor, a gas composition sensor, a water level sensor, a temperature sensor, a fluid flow rate sensor, an electrical current sensor, a power sensor, a camera, an optical sensor, or the like. The physical sensors may be distributed throughout the WEC, and the controlling circuitry/software may be provided in the sensor module **660** within the computing system **600**.

(129) Computing system **600** may include an interface module **650**. The interface module **650** may comprise one or more components used to interface with the wave-energy generation device. The interface module **650** may include one or more input devices. For example, a keyboard, a mouse, a touchscreen display, or the like may be provided in the interface module **650**. Output devices, such as a display screen, a speaker, or the like may also be provided in the interface module **650**. The interface module **650** may further comprise a camera, a video camera, a biometric screening device, or the like.

(130) Computing system **600** may include a battery module **670**. The battery module **670** may include any type of battery. The battery may include a rechargeable battery, such as a lithium based battery (e.g., a lithium-ion battery). The battery of the battery module **670** may be charged by electricity generated by the WEC or vessel. The battery module **670** may be used as a store of power in order to power one or more electrical components of the embodiment **600**, or any other powered device of the wave-energy generation device. The battery module **670** may be used in order to normalize power delivery to electrical components. For example, the battery module may

supply power in order to equalize total power delivery when the wave-energy generation device provides variable power over time.

(131) Referring now to FIG. **26** a perspective view of a server rack **630** that may be integrated into a WEC or vessel, such as those described in greater detail herein. As shown, the server rack **630** may include a plurality of server blades **635** that are provided on a rack **632**. The server blades **635** may be communicatively coupled to each other through the rack **632** and/or associated cabling, in order to provide enhanced processing power. The server blades **635** may include processors, such as, but not limited to, central processing units (CPUs), graphics processing units (GPUs), application-specific integrated circuits (ASICs), field programmable gate arrays (FPGAs), and/or the like.

(132) In some instances the server rack **630** is communicatively coupled to an antenna **637** to enable wireless communication. The antenna **637** may include a parabolic dish antenna or any other antenna configuration. The ability to wirelessly transmit data from the server rack **630** allows for data to be processed remotely at the source of power generation (e.g., in the ocean) while still being useful to the end consumer. The data delivery, hosting, computation, and the like can be executed at lower energy costs using such wave-energy generation devices. Further, the server rack **630** can be passively cooled by the body of water surrounding the wave-energy generation device (e.g., the server rack **630** can be in a water tight enclosure that is submersed in water). In some instances, the server rack **630** functions as a cryptocurrency mining rig that is powered through the energy produced by the WEC or vessel.

(133) FIG. **27** is a process flow diagram of a process **710** for converting a first energy product into a second energy product. In a particular embodiment, the first energy product comprises hydrogen gas and the second energy product comprises methanol. In an embodiment, the process **710** may begin with operation **711**, which comprises coupling a vessel to a wave energy conversion (WEC) device adjacent to an upper surface of a body of water. In an embodiment, the vessel comprises seawater. The seawater may be loaded onto the vessel through any suitable process, such as pumping or the like. The seawater may be stored in a first chamber.

(134) The process **710** may continue with operation **712**, which comprises transferring hydrogen from the WEC to the vessel. The hydrogen may be transferred through the use of a nozzle and conduit assembly with the nozzle fluidly connecting the WEC to the vessel. The nozzle may be controlled in up to six degrees of freedom. Since both the WEC and the vessel are floating on the same surface of the body of water, the relative motion between the WEC and the vessel is minimal, which facilitates simpler coupling. That is, the WEC and the vessel may float in a manner similar to each other since both the WEC and the vessel experience substantially the same wave patterns, currents, wind, and/or other environmental conditions. In other embodiments, multiple WECs may be harvested in order to supply a larger amount of hydrogen to the vessel.

(135) The process **710** may continue with operation **713**, which comprises degassing nitrogen and oxygen from the seawater on the vessel. The degassing operation may be implemented in the first chamber using a venturi circuit coupled to the first chamber. The nitrogen and oxygen may be vented to the environment or stored for other purposes.

(136) The process **710** may continue with operation **714**, which comprises adding hydrochloric acid to the seawater and degassing carbon dioxide from the seawater on the vessel. The carbon dioxide degassing may occur in a second chamber. The hydrochloric acid may be supplied to the second chamber from a chamber for storing hydrochloric acid provided on the vessel. The hydrochloric acid may sometimes be sourced from one or more WECs, such that hydrochloric acid is transferred to the vessel from one or more WECs.

(137) The process **710** may continue with operation **715**, which comprises reacting the hydrogen and the carbon dioxide to form methanol on the vessel. The methanol may be stored in a third chamber. The first chamber, the second chamber, and the third chamber may be buoyant chambers suitable for floating the vessel adjacent to the upper surface of the body of water. The chambers

may sometimes be referred to as flotation chambers. In an embodiment, the reaction of hydrogen and carbon dioxide may be similar to any of the reaction processes described in greater detail herein.

(138) FIG. **28** is a process flow diagram of a process **720** for generating an energy product with a WEC and transporting the energy product to an alternative location, in accordance with an embodiment. In an embodiment, the process **720** may begin with operation **721**, which comprises converting wave energy into an energy product with a WEC device. The WEC may be similar to any of the WECs described in greater detail herein. The energy product may be similar to any of the energy products described in greater detail herein. For example, the energy product may be a liquid or gas fuel (e.g., hydrogen), a chemical (e.g., HCl), a biological product (e.g., algae, fish, or any other marine species), or the like. The generation of the energy product may be made using any process described herein. For example, electrical power generated by the WEC can be used in order to produce the energy product.

(139) In an embodiment, the process **720** may continue with operation **722**, which comprises moving the energy product from the WEC to a transport vessel. The transport vessel may be similar to any vessel described herein. For example, the transport vessel may comprise a vessel that harvests the energy product from the WEC and converts the energy product into a different energy product through one or more different chemical reactions done on the vessel. In some embodiments, one or more of the precursors for one or more of the chemical reactions is generated on the transport vessel. The transport vessel is capable of controlled motion on, through, and/or over the body of water on which the WEC floats. The energy product may be delivered or moved (actively or passively) to the transport vessel through any mechanism, such as a hose, a pipe, a cable, or the like.

(140) In an embodiment, the process **720** may continue with operation **723**, which comprises moving the energy product to a storage facility or a power plant with the transport vessel. The storage facility or a power plant may be provided at a location that is different than an approximate location of the WEC. In one embodiment, the location is at land. Though, in other embodiments, the location is near land (e.g., up to 100 kilometers from land, up to 40 kilometers from land, up to 1 kilometer from land, up to 500 meters from land, or up to 50 meters from land). In other embodiments, the storage facility may be a second vessel. For example, the first vessel may take the energy product from the WEC and deliver it to the second vessel. The second vessel may then take the energy product towards shore.

(141) FIG. **29** is a process flow diagram of a process **730** for converting a first energy product into a third energy product and transporting the third energy product to a storage facility or power plant. In an embodiment, the process **730** may begin with operation **731**, which comprises converting wave energy into a first energy product with a WEC device. The WEC may be similar to any of the WECs described in greater detail herein. The first energy product may be similar to any of the energy products described in greater detail herein. For example, the energy product may be a liquid or gas fuel (e.g., hydrogen), a chemical (e.g., HCl), a biological product (e.g., algae, fish, or any other marine species), or the like. The generation of the first energy product may be made using any process described herein. For example, electrical power generated by the WEC can be used in order to produce the energy product.

(142) In an embodiment, the process **730** may continue with operation **732**, which comprises converting the first energy product into a second energy product through one or more processes on the WEC. The conversion of the first energy product to the second energy product may include converting one type of fuel or chemical into another fuel or chemical. In one embodiment, the first energy product may comprise hydrogen, and the second energy product may be hydrochloric acid. Other conversion processes may also be used, such as, but not limited to, filtering, compression (e.g., from a gas to a liquid), purification, or the like may be used. Conversions may also include processing biological products. For example, algae may be processed into algae oil, or fish may be

processed into fish oil. The conversion process may be implemented on or within the vicinity of the WEC.

(143) In an embodiment, the process **730** may continue with operation **733**, which comprises moving the second energy product from the WEC to a transport vessel. The transport vessel may be similar to any vessel described herein. For example, the transport vessel may comprise a vessel that harvests the second energy product from the WEC and converts the second energy product into a third energy product through one or more different chemical reactions done on the vessel. In some embodiments, one or more of the precursors for one or more of the chemical reactions is generated on the transport vessel. The transport vessel is capable of controlled motion on, through, and/or over the body of water on which the WEC floats. The energy product may be delivered or moved (actively or passively) to the transport vessel through any mechanism, such as a hose, a pipe, a cable, or the like.

(144) In an embodiment, operation **733** may also comprise transferring the first energy product to the vessel as well. That is, both a first energy product and a second energy product may be provided to the transport vessel. In the case of a methanol conversion, the first energy product may comprise hydrogen, and the second energy product may comprise hydrochloric acid.

(145) In an embodiment, the process **730** may continue with operation **734**, which comprises converting the second energy product to a third energy product on the transport vessel. For example, in the case of methanol conversion, the transport vessel generates carbon dioxide through the use of hydrochloric acid in a degassing operation (as described in greater detail herein). The carbon dioxide may be reacted with the hydrogen in order to generate methanol (i.e., the third energy product), which can be stored in a chamber on the transport vessel.

(146) In an embodiment, the process **730** may continue with operation **735**, which comprises delivering the third energy product to a storage facility or a power plant with the transport vessel. The storage facility or a power plant may be provided at a location that is different than an approximate location of the WEC. In one embodiment, the location is at land. Though, in other embodiments, the location is near land (e.g., up to 100 kilometers from land, up to 40 kilometers from land, up to 1 kilometer from land, up to 500 meters from land, or up to 50 meters from land). In other embodiments, the storage facility may be a second vessel. For example, the first vessel may take the third energy product from the WEC and deliver it to the second vessel. The second vessel may then take the third energy product towards shore.

(147) FIG. **30** is a process flow diagram of a process **740** for converting a first energy product into a second energy product and transporting the second energy product to storage facility or power plant. In an embodiment, the process **740** may begin with operation **741**, which comprises converting wave energy into a first energy product with a WEC device. The WEC may be similar to any of the WECs described in greater detail herein. The first energy product may be similar to any of the energy products described in greater detail herein. For example, the energy product may be a liquid or gas fuel (e.g., hydrogen), a chemical (e.g., HCl), a biological product (e.g., algae, fish, or any other marine species), or the like. The generation of the first energy product may be made using any process described herein. For example, electrical power generated by the WEC can be used in order to produce the energy product.

(148) In an embodiment, the process **740** may continue with operation **742**, which comprises moving the first energy product from the WEC to a transport vessel. The transport vessel may be similar to any vessel described herein. For example, the transport vessel may comprise a vessel that harvests the energy product from the WEC and converts the energy product into a different energy product through one or more different chemical reactions done on the vessel. In some embodiments, one or more of the precursors for one or more of the chemical reactions is generated on the transport vessel. The transport vessel is capable of controlled motion on, through, and/or over the body of water on which the WEC floats. The first energy product may be delivered or moved (actively or passively) to the transport vessel through any mechanism, such as a hose, a

pipe, a cable, or the like.

(149) In an embodiment, the process **740** may continue with operation **743**, which comprises converting the first energy product into a second energy product through one or more processes on the transport vessel. The conversion of the first energy product to the second energy product may include converting one type of fuel or chemical into another fuel or chemical. In one embodiment, the first energy product may comprise hydrogen, and the second energy product may comprise methanol. Additional precursors (e.g., CO₂) may be reacted with the first energy product in order to generate the second energy product. For example, a process similar to the process described with respect to FIG. **21** may be used in some embodiments. In an embodiment, one or more additional precursors may be generated on the transport vessel. For example CO₂ may be formed with a multi-step degassing operation that includes application of HCl to seawater to lower a pH of the seawater. Other conversion processes may also be used, such as, but not limited to, filtering, compression (e.g., from a gas to a liquid), purification, or the like may be used.

(150) In an embodiment, the process **740** may continue with operation **744**, which comprises delivering the second energy product to a storage facility or a power plant with the transport vessel. The storage facility or a power plant may be provided at a location that is different than an approximate location of the WEC. In one embodiment, the location is at land. Though, in other embodiments, the location is near land (e.g., up to 100 kilometers from land, up to 40 kilometers from land, up to 1 kilometer from land, up to 500 meters from land, or up to 50 meters from land). In other embodiments, the storage facility may be a second vessel. For example, the first vessel may take the energy product from the WEC and deliver it to the second vessel. The second vessel may then take the energy product towards shore.

(151) FIG. **31** illustrates a cross-sectional view of a WEC **800**, in accordance with an embodiment. The WEC **800** floats adjacent to an upper surface **801** of a body of water over which waves pass. The WEC **800** may include a buoyant chamber **802** with an interior volume **829**. The interior volume **829** may be partially filled with water **827**. Gasses (e.g., oxygen, hydrogen, air, or the like) may fill additional portions of the interior volume **829**. Internal structures may also be provided within the buoyant chamber **802**. For example, baffles, walls, sub-chambers, doors, or the like may be provided within the chamber **802**. The internal structures may be used to control flow or movement of water **827** within the chamber **802**, provide housing for different gas species, or the like.

(152) The chamber **802** may be axially symmetric in some instances. For example, in FIG. **31**, the chamber **802** is a spherical segment with a substantially horizontal top surface. In other instances, the chamber **802** may be a spherical cap, or any other type of axially symmetric shape. Though, the chamber **802** may be non-axially symmetric in other instances. For example, the chamber **802** may have a keel or hull shape similar to that of a floating vessel (e.g., a boat or ship). Openings, ports, or the like may also be provided through the walls of the chamber **802** in order to access materials and/or substances within the chamber **802**, to provide control of pressure within the chamber **802**, and/or the like.

(153) A tube **804** may be coupled to the chamber **802**. The tube **804** may have an open bottom that is in fluid communication with the water surrounding the WEC **800**. The tube **804** may pass through a wall of the chamber **802** and pass into the interior volume **829**. An opening at the top of the tube **804** is fluidically coupled to the interior of the chamber **802**. The tube **804** may have a constant diameter through its length. In other instances, the tube **804** may have a non-uniform diameter through its length. For example, the tube **804** may have a first portion **804A** with a constant diameter and a second constricted portion **804B** where the diameter is reduced. The tube **804** may be cylindrical or have any other shaped cross-section.

(154) As shown, water **821** may reside in the tube **804** with a free surface **823**. As indicated by the double arrow **824** across the free surface **823**, the level of the oscillates up and down in response to oscillation of the WEC **800**. Oscillation is driven by interaction with waves that pass along the

surface **801** of the body of water. The confined water **821** within the tube **804** may acquire momentum during oscillation of the WEC **800**. At some points in time, the free surface **823** rises above the top opening of the tube **804** and is expelled (as indicated by arrows **826**) into the interior volume **829** of the chamber **802**. The water from the tube **804** maintains a level **828** of water **827** within the chamber **802**.

(155) In order to generate energy, water **827** from the interior of the chamber **802** is expelled out a pipe. As water **827** passes through the pipe, an energy generation device **830** is engaged. The energy generation device **830** may comprise a hydropower turbine, such as a reaction turbine (e.g., a propeller turbine, a bulb turbine, a straflo turbine, a tube turbine, a Kaplan turbine, a Francis turbine, or a kinetic turbine) or an impulse turbine (e.g., a Pelton turbine, or a cross-flow turbine). In some instances, a single turbine is used for the energy generation device **830**, and in other instances, multiple turbines arranged in series are used for the energy generation device **830**. While a single energy generation device **830** is shown in the WEC **800**, embodiments may include a plurality of energy generation devices **830**.

(156) The energy generation device **830** may be coupled to an electrical generator (not shown). The energy generation device provides rotational energy which is converted into electrical energy by the electrical generator. The electrical energy may be stored (e.g., in a battery) or consumed for one or more purposes, which will be described in greater detail herein. While an electrical generator is one option, other generator types may also be used. For example, generators described herein may include any generator, alternator, other mechanism, device, and/or component that converts energy from one form into another. In some instances, one or more of the energy generation systems may be replaced with a magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) generator, which generates electricity directly from a flow of liquid without the need for connection with a turbine and associated rotating shaft. That is, a combination of a turbine connected to a generator by a shaft can be replaced, in some instances and with an appropriate choice of working fluid, with a MHD generator.

(157) As noted above, WEC **800** may generate significant amounts of energy that needs to be stored or used in a constructive manner. In some instances, energy generated from WEC **800** may be stored in a battery. The battery may provide an accessible energy source in order to run one or more electrical components integrated into the WEC **800**. Alternatively (or in addition), WEC **800** may provide a material conversion process in order to “store” energy in a more transportable form. For example, energy generated by WEC **800** can be stored in the form of an energy product, such as those described in greater detail herein.

(158) In the case of the energy product being hydrogen gas, an electrolyzer **893** may be provided on the WEC **800**. The electrolyzer **893** may be fluidly coupled to a water source, such as water **832** within a chamber **803**. Water **832** may be deionized, filtered, distilled, and/or otherwise purified. Water **832** may be provided to the WEC **800** as a precursor material. Energy generated by the WEC **800** may be consumed by the electrolyzer **893** to convert water into oxygen and hydrogen. The hydrogen gas may be stored in the internal volume **834** of the chamber **803** or any other confined space associated with the WEC **800**. The oxygen gas may be vented to atmosphere. After hydrogen gas is produced, the gas may be collected (i.e., removed or offloaded from the WEC **800**) periodically be an external vessel, ship, air-ship, submersible, drone, or any other vehicle, such as a transport and reaction vessel, such as those described in greater detail herein.

(159) WEC **800** may be an autonomous device with the ability to move and/or navigate in a controlled manner about the body of water. Propulsion of the WEC **800** may be driven through one or more different mechanisms. In one instance, the expelled water **831** out of the pipe provides a propulsive force that can move the WEC **800**. The WEC **800** can be steered through control of the force of the expelled water **831** and/or the direction of the expelled water **831**. In some instances, one or more rudders (not shown) can be coupled to the WEC **800** in order to provide directional control, rotational control, and/or the like.

(160) In some embodiments, propulsion of the WEC **800** may be provided through one or more

active propulsion devices. For example, propellers or the like may be used in some instances. Energy to drive the active propulsion devices may be obtained through the energy generation of the WEC **800**, or from batteries that were charged through the wave-energy generation of the WEC. In other instances, hydrogen or other gasses generated on the WEC **800** can be consumed (e.g., through the use of a fuel cell) in order to power active propulsion devices.

(161) The WEC **800** may include an enclosure **835** that is provided on the chamber **802**. The enclosure **835** may be a water proof chamber for securing one or more electrical components. For example, a computing system, a positioning system, and/or a communications system may be provided in the enclosure **835**. The computing system may provide one or more processors and associated hardware and/or software that enables control of the WEC **800**. For example, the computing system may control power generation, such as by controlling flow rates of water to the energy generation device **830**. The positioning system may include a GPS, a compass, an accelerometer, a gyroscope, or any other suitable navigational system. The positioning system may control propulsion and steering systems in order to navigate the WEC **800**. The communications system may include an antenna, a receiver, and associated circuitry, hardware, and/or software. The communications system may provide a communication link to external systems, other waver-energy generation systems, or the like. The systems described in the enclosure **835** on the WEC **800** are exemplary in nature, and it is to be appreciated that many different systems, control apparatuses, and/or the like may be provided in the enclosure **835**. For example, computing systems and/or servers similar to those described in greater detail with respect to FIG. **25** and FIG. **26** may be provided in the enclosure **835** in some embodiments.

(162) FIG. **32** illustrates a cross-sectional view of a WEC **900**, in accordance with an embodiment. The WEC **900** may be similar to the WEC **800** described above, with the exception of the energy product that is being generated or produced by the WEC **900**. For example, WEC **900** may include a buoyant chamber **902** coupled to an injection tube **904A/904B**. Water **921** within the tube **904** oscillates so that the surface **923** raises and lowers within the tube **904**. In some instances water **921** may flow out **926** of the tube **904** into the interior **929** of the chamber **902** in order to fill water **927** in the chamber **902**. Water **927** in the chamber **902** can be expelled through energy generation device **930** and exit **931** the WEC **900** in order to generate energy. An enclosure **995** may be provided at a top of the chamber **902** for housing electronics and/or a computing system, such as those described in greater detail herein.

(163) However, instead of producing a gas as an energy product (or only gas), the WEC **900** may produce a biological product. The biological product may comprise one or more of marine algae (e.g., micro-algae and/or macro-algae), seaweed, other marine plants, fish, krill, or other marine organisms. More specifically, electrical power generated through the operation of an energy generation device **930** can be used to power lights **942**, lamps, thermal devices (e.g., heaters), and/or the like. For example, lights **942** may be light emitting diode (LED) lights or any other suitable source for generating electromagnetic radiation **943**. The electromagnetic radiation **943** can be consumed by the biological product within the WEC **900** in order to induce growth of the biological product.

(164) As shown in FIG. **32**, the lights **942** may be arranged, attached, or otherwise coupled to interior surfaces of the chamber **902**. Additionally, lights **942** may be provided along sidewalls of the injection tube **904**. While shown as being coupled directly to interior wall surfaces, other embodiments may comprise suspending lights **942** within an interior volume of the chamber **902**. The lights **942** in FIG. **32** are all shown as being submerged in water **927** or **921**. Though, in other embodiments, lights **942** may be provided above the surface **928** of the water **927** within the chamber **902**.

(165) In one instance, designed to promote the growth of biological products (e.g., algae and/or other marine based plant life), an approximately circular net **941** spans, and/or is adjacent to, an approximately flow-normal and/or horizontal cross-section of the water reservoir **927**, adjacent to

the surface **928** of the water **927**. Net **941** entrains the biological product within the lower portion of the water **927** thereby tending to reduce, if not prevent, the outflow and/or loss of that macroalgae through the energy generation device **930**. In other embodiments, other structures (e.g. a sieve, catchment, mesh, or grating) are positioned in the path of water flow to the energy generation device **930** in order to prevent outflow or loss of biological products.

(166) Periodically, biological products may be removed from the water **927** by a ship, platform, or other vessel. A ship may insert a suction tube into and through an access tube **945**. Once inserted into and through access tube **945**, an inserted suction tube can be positioned near the bottom of the embodiment's reservoir of water **927** and suck out a portion of the biological product therein. A complementary access tube (not shown), and/or a complementary channel within a single access suction tube **945**, can return water to the reservoir while biological products, are being removed from the reservoir of water **927**, thereby maintaining and/or preserving the original level **928** of the water **927** in the reservoir.

(167) The access tube **945** allows algae, water, nutrients, and/or other materials, to be added to, and/or withdrawn from, the reservoir of water **927** when that reservoir is otherwise sealed inside the chamber **902**. Because the access tube is open to the atmosphere (as indicated by arrow **948**) at its upper mouth **947**, and open to the water and biological product in the water **927** at its lower mouth **944**, water **927** from the reservoir is free to rise up within the algae access tube **945**. Because of the pressure of the air trapped within the air pocket **929** of the interior of the chamber **902**, and the corresponding pressure of the water **927**, the surface **946** of the water within the access tube **945** tends to rise to a height above the surface **928** of the water **927** within the reservoir whose head pressure approximately corresponds to the pressure of the air within hollow chamber **902**.

(168) In addition to growing biological products, especially macroalgae, within the water **927** reservoir inside the hollow chamber **902**, biological products, especially macroalgae, may be grown inside the embodiment's injection tube **904**. An upper barrier net **951** spanning an upper portion, and/or at an upper position, of the injection tube **904** prevents at least a portion of the algae within the injection tube **904** from too closely approaching the upper constricted portion of the injection tube **904** which, if not prevented, could potentially clog the injection tube **904** at that location.

(169) Macroalgae or other biological products are grown within a net enclosure and/or containment bag **953** that forms a porous bag entraining most, if not all, of the biological products. An upper end of the algae containment bag **953** is pulled upward by a float **952**, tending to position the upper end of the bag proximate to the lower side of the barrier net **951**. The biological product within the containment bag **953** are encouraged to grow through the embodiment's provision of light, e.g. **943**, emitted by lamps, e.g. **942**, positioned along the interior wall and/or surface of the injection tube **904**.

(170) A lower end of the containment bag **953** is pulled downward by a weight **954** connected to the bag by a tether, chain, rope, linkage, and/or cable **955**. Also connected to the weight **954**, and therethrough to the containment bag **953**, is a tether, chain, rope, linkage, and/or cable **956** an upper end of which is connected to a float **957** that tends to float at the surface **901** of the body of water on which the WEC **900** floats.

(171) Periodically, biological products may be removed from the WEC's **900** injection tube **904** by a ship or other vessel. A ship may attach a secondary cable to cable **956** and then lower a secondary weight to increase the total weight tending to pull the algae containment bag **953** down and out of the injection tube **904**. After the containment bag **953** has been pulled down and become free of the injection tube **904**, the containment bag **953** may be pulled up by the secondary cable and therewith lifted onto and/or into the ship where its biological products may be harvested. The same containment bag **953** that was removed may be reinserted into the injection tube **904** using the same second cable, using an underwater autonomous vehicle, and/or using another method, mechanism, and/or system. If the same containment bag **953** is reinserted into the embodiment's inertial water tube **904**, it will tend to be so reinserted after most, but not all, of its entrained

biological product has been harvested and/or removed. By leaving a portion of the biological product in the containment bag **953**, the residual biological product can grow and give rise to another harvest. If a “new” second containment bag **953** is inserted into the embodiment's injection tube **904** to replace the removed containment bag **953**, then it is advantageous to first “seed” that containment bag **953** with biologic stock so that a new crop of a preferred species of algae can be grown.

(172) The scope of the present disclosure includes a complementary ship to periodically harvest the biological products grown within the embodiment, as well as the facilities on a shore, floating platform, and/or other ship where the harvested algae are processed and/or stored, as well as a method for harvesting biological products wherein: a wave energy converter of a type herein disclosed is deployed on a body of water; electrical energy produced by said wave energy converter operating in waves is used to power LEDs, or other lamps, or other sources of light emissions, that are mounted on, within, inside, or outside, of said wave energy converter, and/or LEDs, or other lamps, or other sources of light emissions, that are suspended from walls, surfaces, and/or structural members, within, inside, or outside, of said wave energy converted; biological products are permitted to grow in an enclosure, cavity, or vicinity of said wave energy converter using light from said lamps as a source of metabolic energy; said biological products (or products or byproducts produced therefrom, e.g. algal oil, fish oil, etc.) is transferred to a ship or other floating vessel; said ship or floating vessel transfers said biological products (or products or byproducts produced therefrom, e.g. algal oil, fish oil, etc.) to a shore facility for processing and/or storage.

(173) The aquaculture configuration embodiment illustrated in FIG. **32** may also include fish within either or both of the water **927** reservoir and/or the algal containment bag **953**. If one or more species of fish that are able to eat and/or consume the type(s) of algae being grown within the embodiment are selected and included within the respective growth areas prior to each growth cycle, then a portion of those fish may be harvested along with whatever algae remains uneaten. The scope of the present disclosure includes a method for harvesting fish wherein: a wave energy converter of a type herein disclosed is deployed on a body of water; electrical energy produced by said wave energy converter is used to power LEDs, or other lamps, or other sources of light emissions, that are mounted on, within, inside, or outside, of said wave energy converter, as well as LEDs, or other lamps, or other sources of light emissions, that are suspended from walls, surfaces, and/or structural members, within, inside, or outside, of said wave energy converter; algae are permitted to grow in an enclosure, cavity, or vicinity of said wave energy converter using light from said lamps as a source of metabolic energy; fish or other marine organisms are permitted to grow in an enclosure, cavity, or vicinity of said wave energy converter, feeding, at least in part, on said algae as a source of metabolic energy; said fish or other marine organisms are transferred to a ship or other floating vessel; said ship or floating vessel transfers said fish and/or other marine organisms (or products or byproducts produced therefrom, e.g. fish meal or fish oil) to a shore facility for processing and/or storage.

(174) The scope of the present disclosure includes, but is not limited to, the growth and/or harvesting of any and every kind of microalgae, macroalgae, fish, or crustacean. Fish that do not eat the varieties of algae grown may nonetheless receive nutrition, e.g. plankton and phytoplankton, from the water that is regularly introduced to the reservoir of water **927** and injection tube **904** as a result of wave action. In addition to introducing potentially nutrient-rich water from outside the embodiment into the water **927** reservoir and injection tube **904** as a result of wave action, the embodiment also tends to remove waste-containing and/or nutrient-depleted, water from the water **927** reservoir and injection tube **904** as a result of the same water cycle (i.e. water enters tube **904**, and therefrom enters the water **927** reservoir, and thereafter flows out of the water reservoir through the energy generation device **930**).

(175) The scope of the present disclosure includes embodiments utilizing water reservoir lamps and/or inertial water tube lamps emitting light of any single wavelength, any range of wavelengths,

and/or any combinations of wavelengths or ranges of wavelengths.

(176) The scope of the present disclosure includes embodiments in which lamps are attached to the inner surface of the upper portion of the hollow chamber **902**, i.e. within the air pocket **929**. The scope of the present disclosure includes embodiments in which lamps are attached to the outer surfaces of the hollow chamber **902** and/or injection tube **904** thereby encouraging biological product growth, and the establishment of communities of fish or other marine life, outside the WEC **900**, but in the vicinity of the WEC **900**.

(177) In addition to the generation of biological energy products, energy products such as hydrogen gas can be produced by an electrolyzer **933** on the WEC **900**. The electrolyzer **933** may be fluidly coupled to a water source, such as water **932** within a chamber **903**. Water **932** may be deionized, filtered, and/or otherwise purified. Water **932** may be provided to the WEC **900** as a precursor material. Energy generated by the WEC **900** may be consumed by the electrolyzer **933** to convert water into oxygen and hydrogen. The hydrogen gas may be stored in the internal volume **934** of the chamber **903**, or any other confined space associated with the WEC **900**. The oxygen gas may be vented to atmosphere. After hydrogen gas is produced, the gas may be collected (i.e., removed or offloaded from the WEC **900**) periodically be an external vessel, ship, air-ship, submersible, drone, or any other vehicle.

(178) While the foregoing disclosure has described various embodiments, it is understood that the invention is not limited to any specific embodiment or depiction herein. A person of ordinary skill in the art would readily appreciate modifications and substitutions herein, and the scope of the invention includes all such modifications and substitutions. Accordingly, the scope of the invention should not be construed to be limiting by the foreign description except where expressly so stated, but rather the invention's scope is properly determined by the appended claims, using the common and ordinary meanings of the words therein consistent with, but not limited by, the descriptions and figures of this disclosure.

EXAMPLES

(179) Example 1: a vessel for floating and traveling adjacent to an upper surface of a body of water, the vessel comprising: a support structure; a first floatation chamber coupled to the support structure; a second floatation chamber coupled to the support structure, the second floatation chamber laterally spaced apart from and fluidly coupled to the first floatation chamber; a third floatation chamber coupled to the support structure, the third floatation chamber laterally spaced apart from the first floatation chamber and from the second floatation chamber; and a robot system coupled to the support structure, the robot system comprising an end effector, and a nozzle head coupled to the end effector.

(180) Example 2: the vessel of Example 1, wherein the first floatation chamber is a first degassing chamber.

(181) Example 3: the vessel of Example 2, wherein the second floatation chamber is a second degassing chamber.

(182) Example 4: the vessel of Examples 1-3, wherein the third floatation chamber is a chemical storage chamber.

(183) Example 5: the vessel of Examples 1-4, wherein the first floatation chamber is a first degassing chamber, the second floatation chamber is a second degassing chamber, and the third floatation chamber is a chemical storage chamber.

(184) Example 6: the vessel of Examples 1-5, wherein one or more of the first floatation chamber, the second floatation chamber, or the third floatation chamber has a spherical shape.

(185) Example 7: the vessel of Examples 1-6, wherein the first floatation chamber, the second floatation chamber, and the third floatation chamber form vertices of a triangle.

(186) Example 8: the vessel of Examples 1-7, wherein one or more of the first floatation chamber or the second floatation chamber comprises a venturi circuit.

(187) Example 9: the vessel of Examples 1-8, wherein the robot system further comprises a

composite hose coupled to the nozzle head.

(188) Example 10: the vessel of Example 9, wherein the composite hose comprises a plurality of tubes.

(189) Example 11: the vessel of Example 10, wherein one of the plurality of tubes comprises an inner tube coaxially within an outer tube.

(190) Example 12: the vessel of Examples 1-11, wherein the nozzle head is configured for coupling to a wave energy conversion (WEC) device.

(191) Example 13: the vessel of Example 12, wherein the nozzle head comprises a tooling feature for coupling a port of the nozzle head to a nozzle of the WEC device.

(192) Example 14: the vessel of Examples 1-13, wherein the robot system further comprises a plurality of cables to move, position, or orient the nozzle head in six degrees of freedom.

(193) Example 15: the vessel of Examples 1-14, wherein the support structure comprises one or more structures selected from the group consisting of a beam, a truss, and a girder.

(194) Example 16: the vessel of Examples 1-15, further comprising a platform coupled to the support structure.

(195) Example 17: the vessel of Example 16, further comprising a chemical storage tank coupled to the platform.

(196) Example 18: a method comprising: coupling a vessel to a wave energy conversion (WEC) device adjacent to an upper surface of a body of water, the vessel comprising a support structure, a first floatation chamber coupled to the support structure, a second floatation chamber coupled to the support structure, the second floatation chamber laterally spaced apart from and fluidly coupled to the first floatation chamber, a third floatation chamber coupled to the support structure, the third floatation chamber laterally spaced apart from the first floatation chamber and from the second floatation chamber, and a robot system coupled to the support structure, the robot system comprising an end effector, and a nozzle head coupled to the end effector, the coupling comprising connecting the nozzle head of the vessel to a nozzle of the WEC; transferring a chemical from the WEC to the vessel; and at least one of (i) storing the chemical on the vessel, or (ii) forming a chemical fuel on the vessel using the chemical, or (iii) dispensing the chemical from the vessel to a location beneath the upper surface of the body of water.

(197) Example 19: the method of Example 18, wherein the chemical comprises H₂.

(198) Example 20: the method of Examples 18-19, wherein the chemical comprises HCl.

(199) Example 21: the method of Examples 18-20, comprising the storing the chemical on the vessel.

(200) Example 22: the method of Examples 18-21, comprising the forming the chemical fuel on the vessel using the chemical.

(201) Example 23: the method of Example 22, comprising storing the chemical fuel in one of the first floatation chamber, the second floatation chamber, or the third floatation chamber of the vessel.

(202) Example 24: the method of Examples 18-23, comprising the dispensing the chemical from the vessel to a location beneath the upper surface of the body of water.

(203) Example 25: a method of forming methanol, the method comprising: coupling a vessel to a wave energy conversion (WEC) device adjacent to an upper surface of a body of water, the vessel having seawater therein; transferring hydrogen from the WEC to the vessel; and while the vessel is floating on the body of water, degassing nitrogen and oxygen from the seawater on the vessel, then adding hydrochloric acid to the seawater on the vessel, then degassing carbon dioxide from the seawater on the vessel, and then reacting the hydrogen and the carbon dioxide to form methanol on the vessel.

(204) Example 26: the method of Example 25, further comprising: transferring hydrochloric acid from the WEC device to the vessel.

(205) Example 27: the method of Examples 25-26, further comprising: storing the methanol in a

floatation chamber of the vessel.

(206) Example 28: the method of Examples 25-27, wherein the degassing the nitrogen and oxygen from the seawater is performed in a floatation chamber of the vessel.

(207) Example 29: the method of Example 28, wherein the degassing the carbon dioxide from the seawater is performed in a second floatation chamber, the second floatation chamber fluidly coupled to the floatation chamber.

(208) Example 30: a vessel for floating and traveling adjacent to an upper surface of a body of water, the vessel configured to collect liquids, gasses or other chemical products from a wave energy conversion (WEC) apparatus via a transfer apparatus, and store or process said liquids, gasses or other chemical products, the vessel configured to, when at rest, drift adjacent to the upper surface of the body of water over which waves pass in a manner similar to that of the WEC apparatus from which it retrieves chemical products, thereby reducing complications that can otherwise arise during an attempt to couple two vessels moving out of phase as they oscillate in response to the passage of waves, and the vessel configured to deliver collected or synthesized chemical products to shore, to other vessels or to other platforms, or reintroduce portions of synthesized chemical products back into the environment.

Claims

1. A method of forming an energy product, the method comprising: coupling a vessel to a wave energy conversion (WEC) device adjacent to an upper surface of a body of water, the vessel comprising a support structure, a first floatation chamber coupled to the support structure, a second floatation chamber coupled to the support structure, the second floatation chamber laterally spaced apart from and fluidly coupled to the first floatation chamber, a third floatation chamber coupled to the support structure, the third floatation chamber laterally spaced apart from the first floatation chamber and from the second floatation chamber, the coupling comprising positioning the WEC within a footprint defined by the first floatation chamber, the second floatation chamber, and the third floatation chamber; transferring hydrogen from the WEC to the vessel; and while the vessel is floating on the body of water, converting the hydrogen into the energy product on the vessel.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the energy product is methanol.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein converting the hydrogen into the energy product comprises reacting the hydrogen and carbon dioxide.
4. The method of claim 3, further comprising: forming the carbon dioxide by degassing carbon dioxide from water on the vessel.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the degassing the carbon dioxide from the water is performed in the second floatation chamber.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein the water comprises seawater.
7. The method of claim 3, wherein the energy product is methanol.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein converting the hydrogen into the energy product comprises adding hydrochloric acid to water on the vessel.
9. The method of claim 8, further comprising: transferring the hydrochloric acid from the WEC device to the vessel.
10. The method of claim 8, wherein the energy product is methanol.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein converting the hydrogen into the energy product comprises degassing nitrogen and oxygen from water on the vessel.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the degassing the nitrogen and the oxygen from the water is performed in one of the first floatation chamber, the second floatation chamber, or the third floatation chamber of the vessel.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein the energy product is methanol.
14. The method of claim 11, wherein the water comprises seawater.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising: storing the energy product in one of the first floatation chamber, the second floatation chamber, or the third floatation chamber of the vessel.
 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the energy product is methanol.
 17. The method of claim 1, wherein converting the hydrogen into the energy product comprises adding hydrochloric acid to water on the vessel, and wherein converting the hydrogen into the energy product comprises reacting the hydrogen and carbon dioxide.
 18. The method of claim 1, wherein converting the hydrogen into the energy product comprises degassing nitrogen and oxygen from water on the vessel, and wherein converting the hydrogen into the energy product comprises reacting the hydrogen and carbon dioxide.
 19. The method of claim 1, wherein converting the hydrogen into the energy product comprises degassing nitrogen and oxygen from water on the vessel, wherein converting the hydrogen into the energy product comprises adding hydrochloric acid to the water on the vessel, and wherein converting the hydrogen into the energy product comprises reacting the hydrogen and carbon dioxide.
 20. The method of claim 1, wherein converting the hydrogen into the energy product comprises degassing nitrogen and oxygen from water on the vessel, and wherein converting the hydrogen into the energy product comprises adding hydrochloric acid to the water on the vessel.
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