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Craven et al.

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(54) **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR CONSTRUCTING COASTAL REVETMENT**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***E02B 3/121*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC combination set(s) only.
See application file for complete search history.

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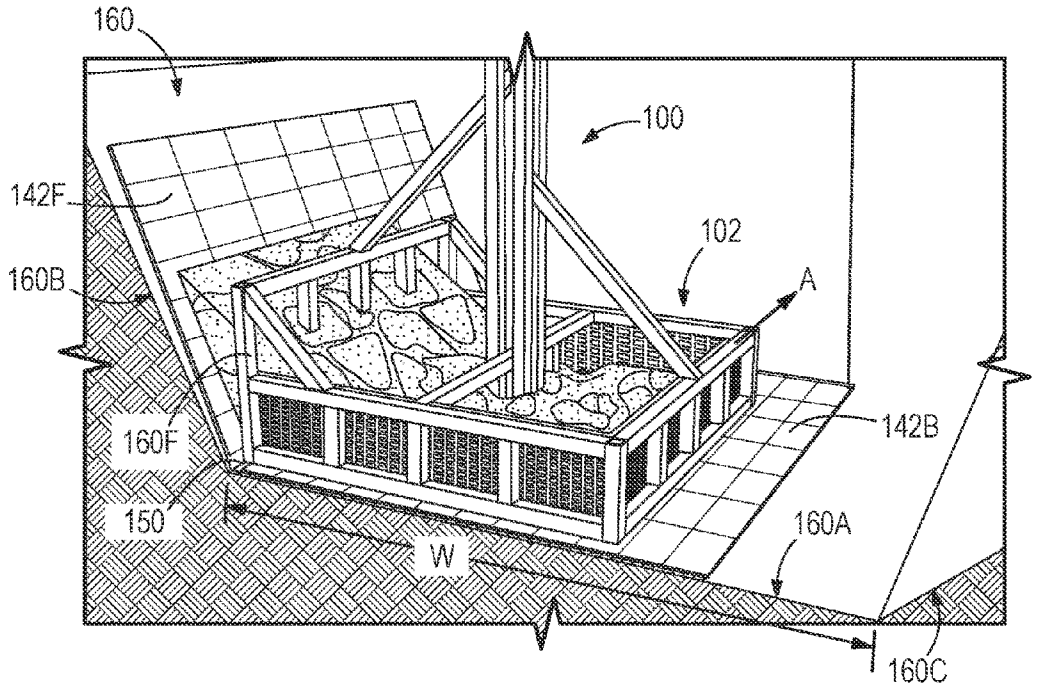
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A revetment construction apparatus includes a reusable plunger device and a pair of panels coupled with a movable joint. The plunger includes a box portion having an open bottom and a plurality of sides, including an open front side, a rear side opposite the front side, and a pair of spaced apart lateral sides extending between the front and rear sides. The plunger further includes a mast portion extending vertically upward from the box portion and providing at a top end thereof a picking cap for engagement by a construction machine. The panels include front and bottom panels extending, respectively, along the front and open bottom of the box portion. Each of the panels is a reinforced anti-erosion fabric panel coupled to the box portion with break-away fasteners configured to passively detach from the box portion upon lifting of the plunger after the box portion has been loaded with revetment foundation rock.

20 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets



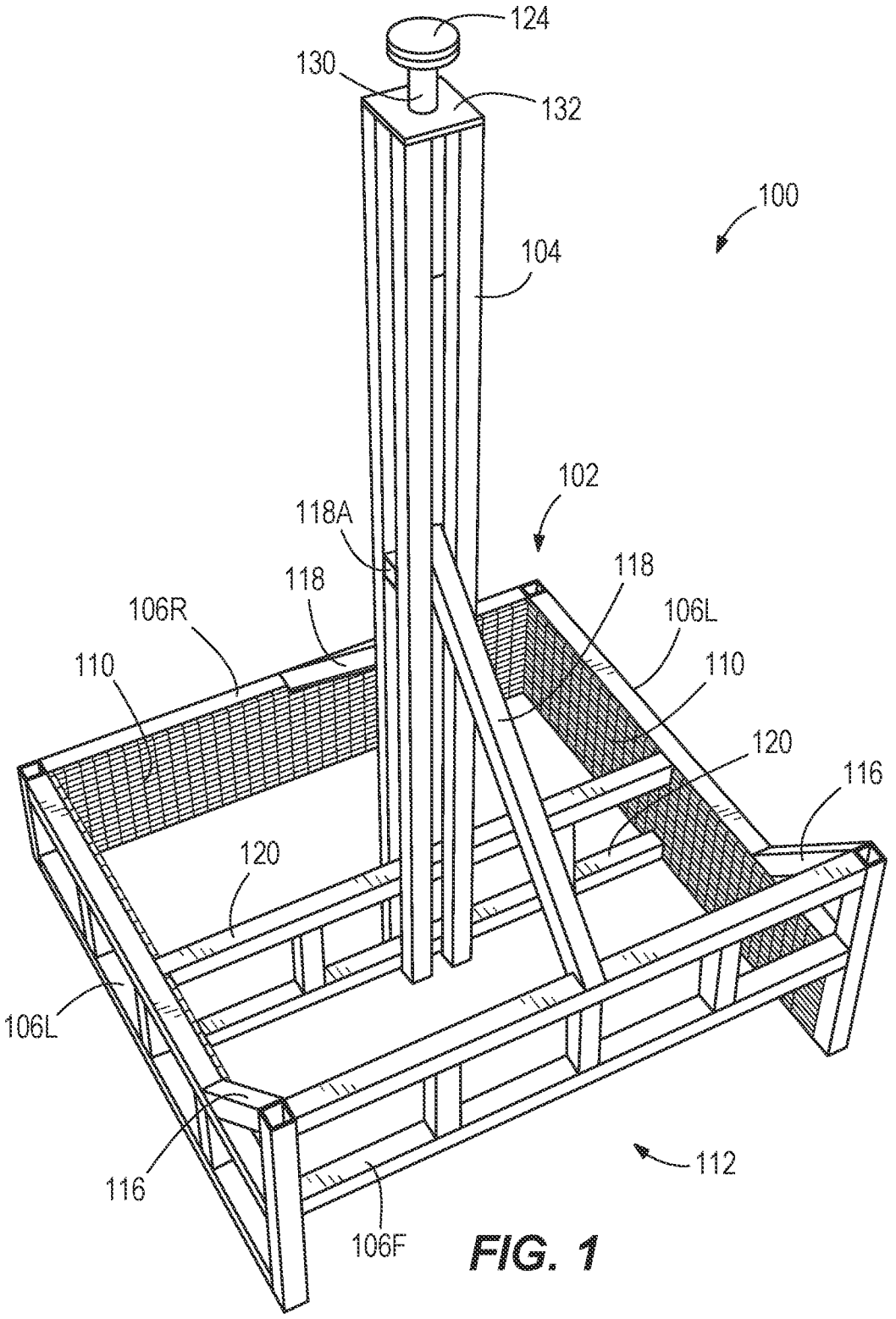

124
130
132
100
104
102
118A
118
106R
106L
110
110
120
116
120
106L
116
112
106F

FIG. 1

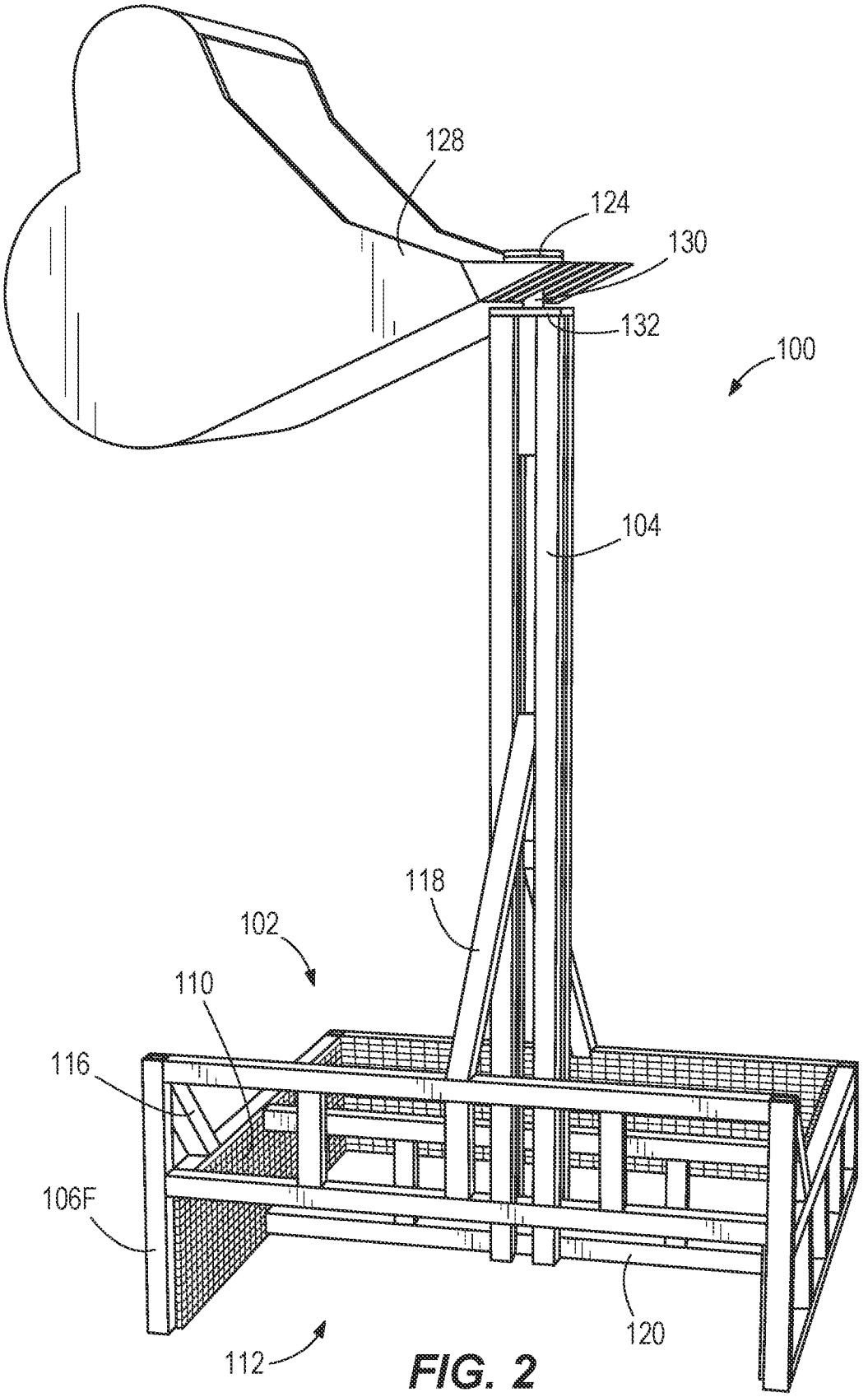


FIG. 2

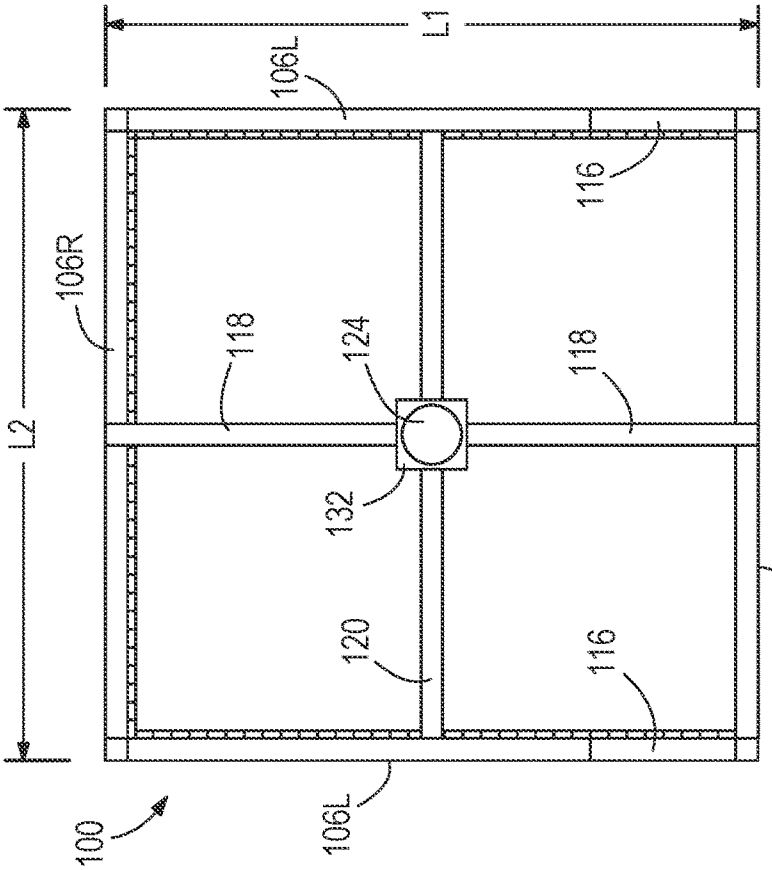

L1
106L
116
106R
118
124
118
L2
132
120
116
106F
106L
100

FIG. 4

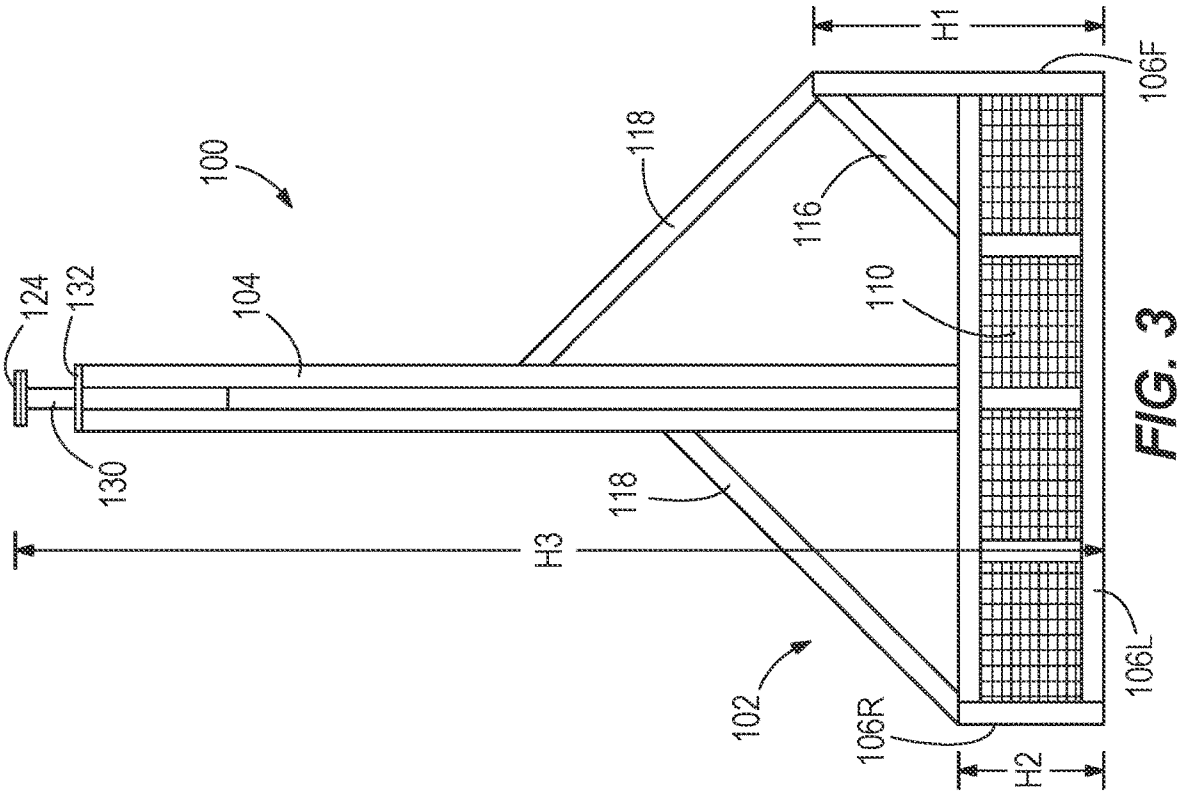

H1
106F
118
100
116
124
132
104
110
130
118
H3
102
106L
106R
H2

FIG. 3

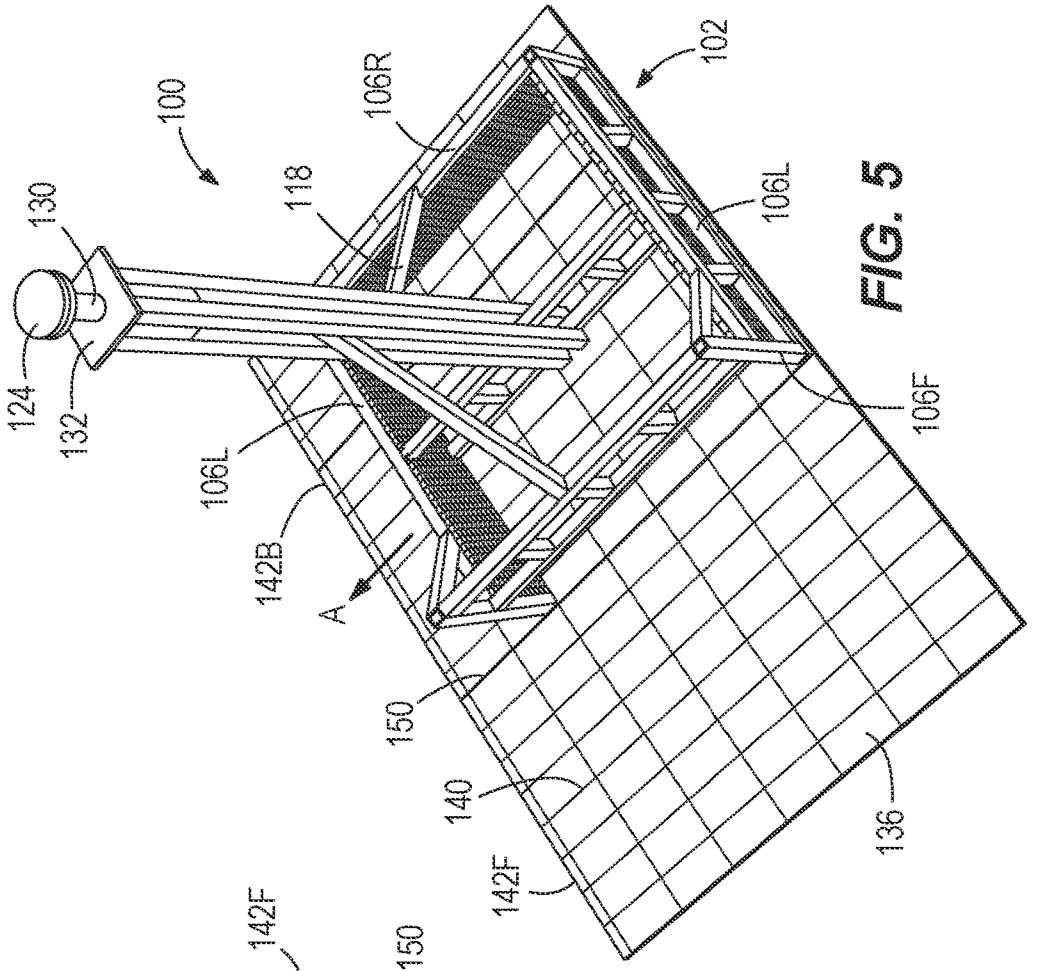

100
102
106R
118
130
106L
124
132
106F
106L
142B
A
150
140
136
142F

FIG. 5

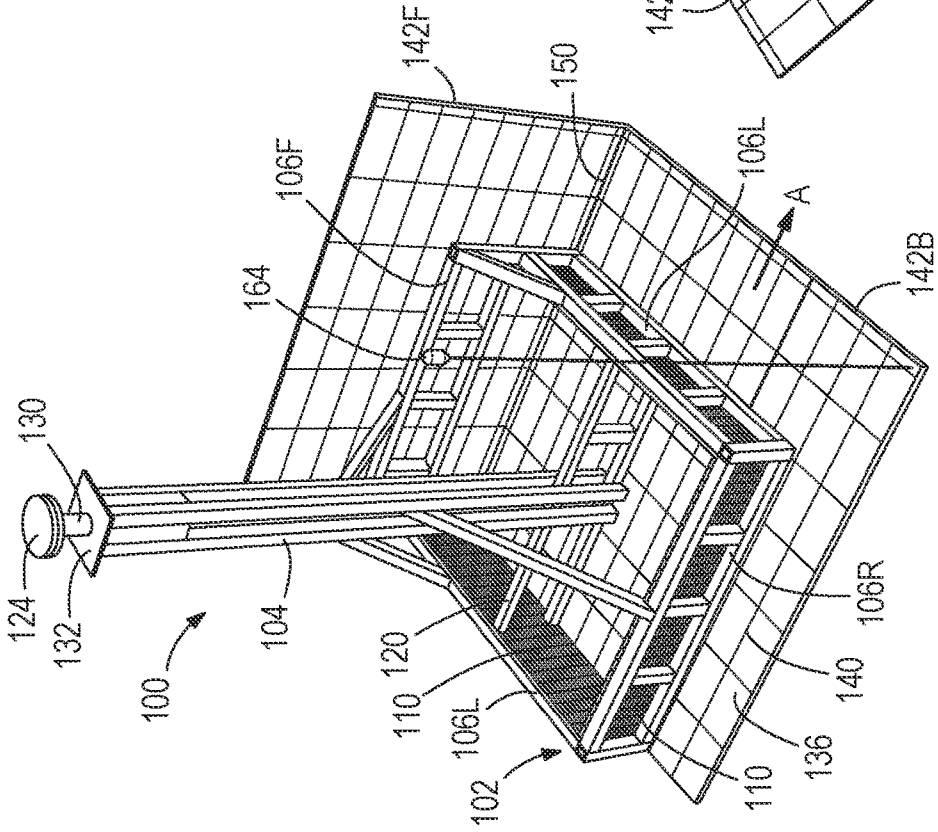

142F
150
106F
106L
A
164
142B
130
124
132
104
106R
100
120
140
110
106L
136
102
110

FIG. 6

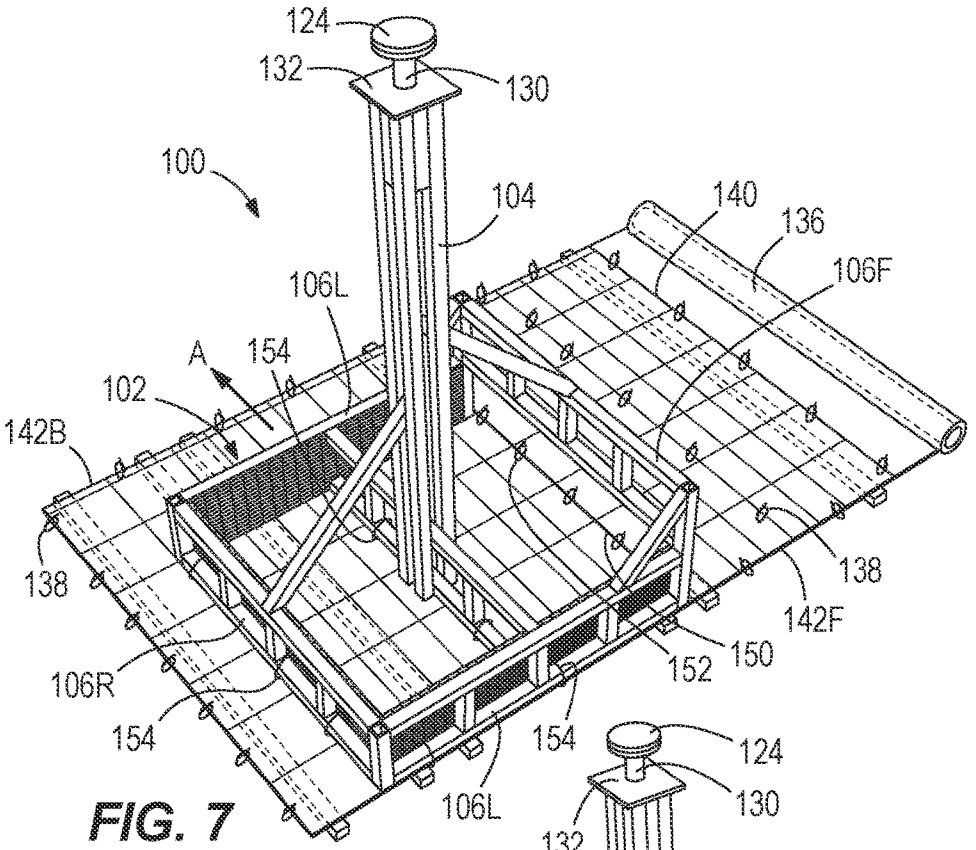

124
132
130
100
104
140
136
106F
106L
A
154
102
142B
138
142F
150
152
106R
154
154
106L

FIG. 7

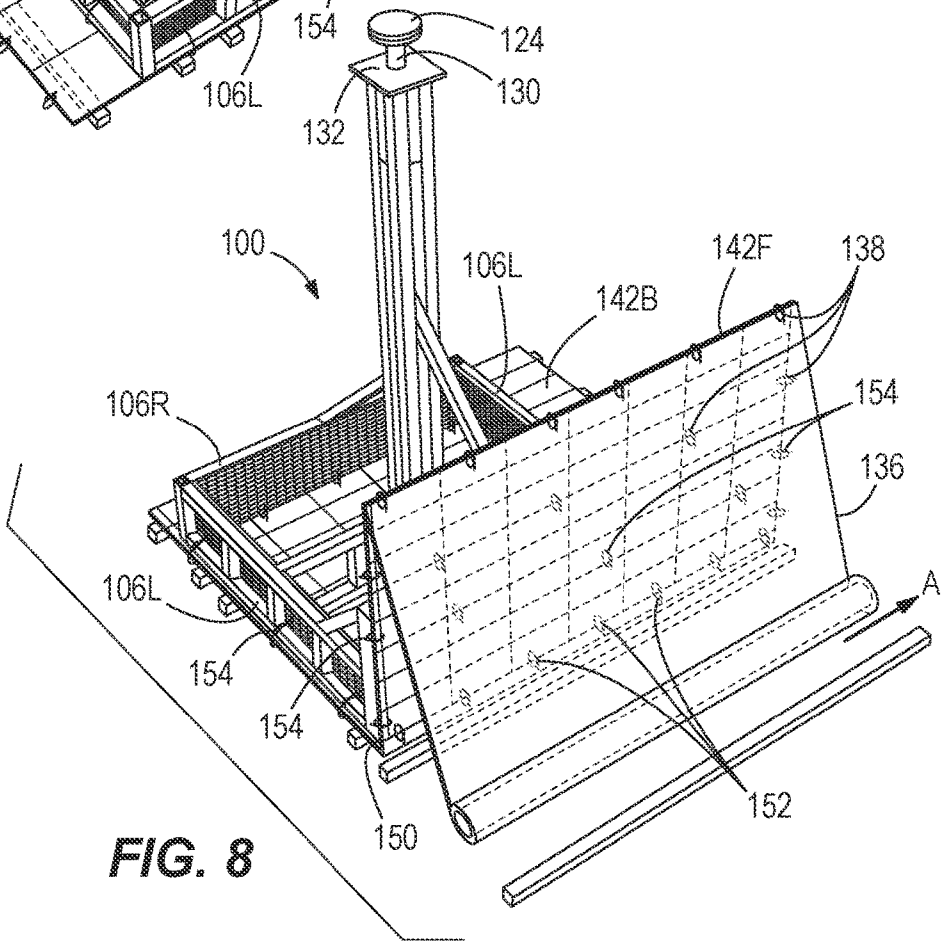

124
130
132
100
106L
142F
138
142B
154
106R
136
106L
A
154
154
152
150

FIG. 8

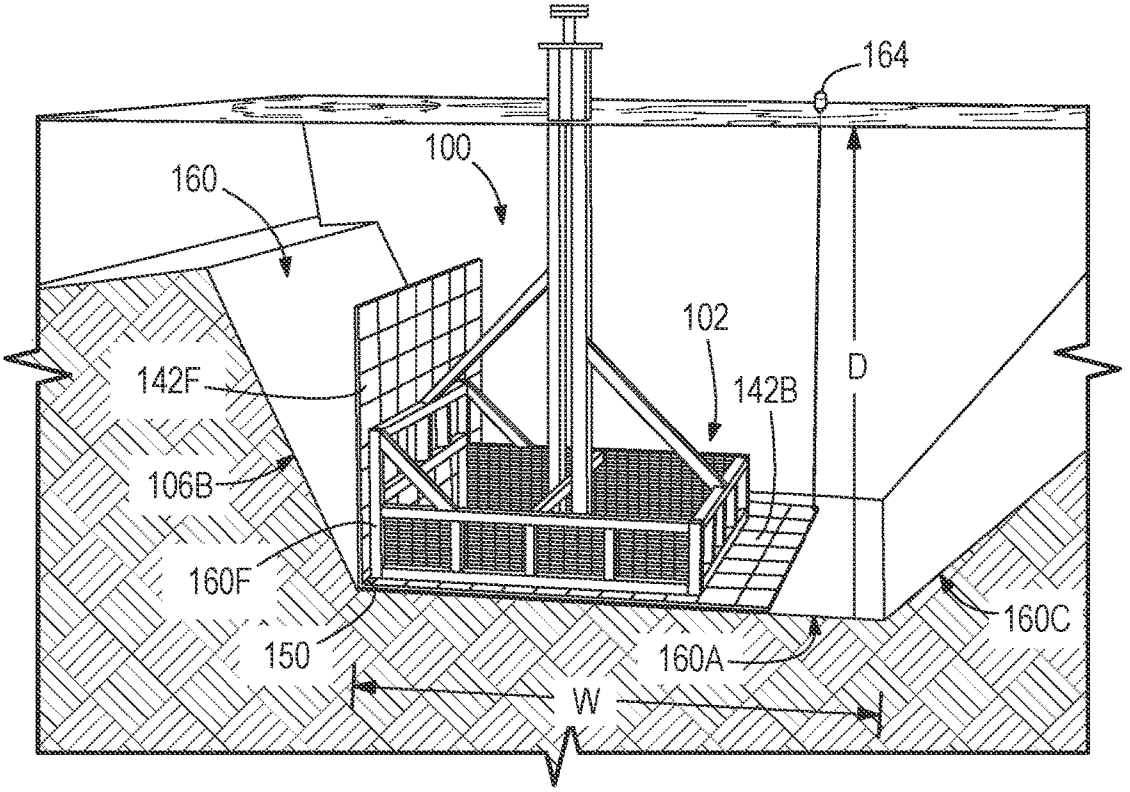

164
100
160
102
142F
142B
D
106B
160F
160C
150
160A
W

FIG. 9

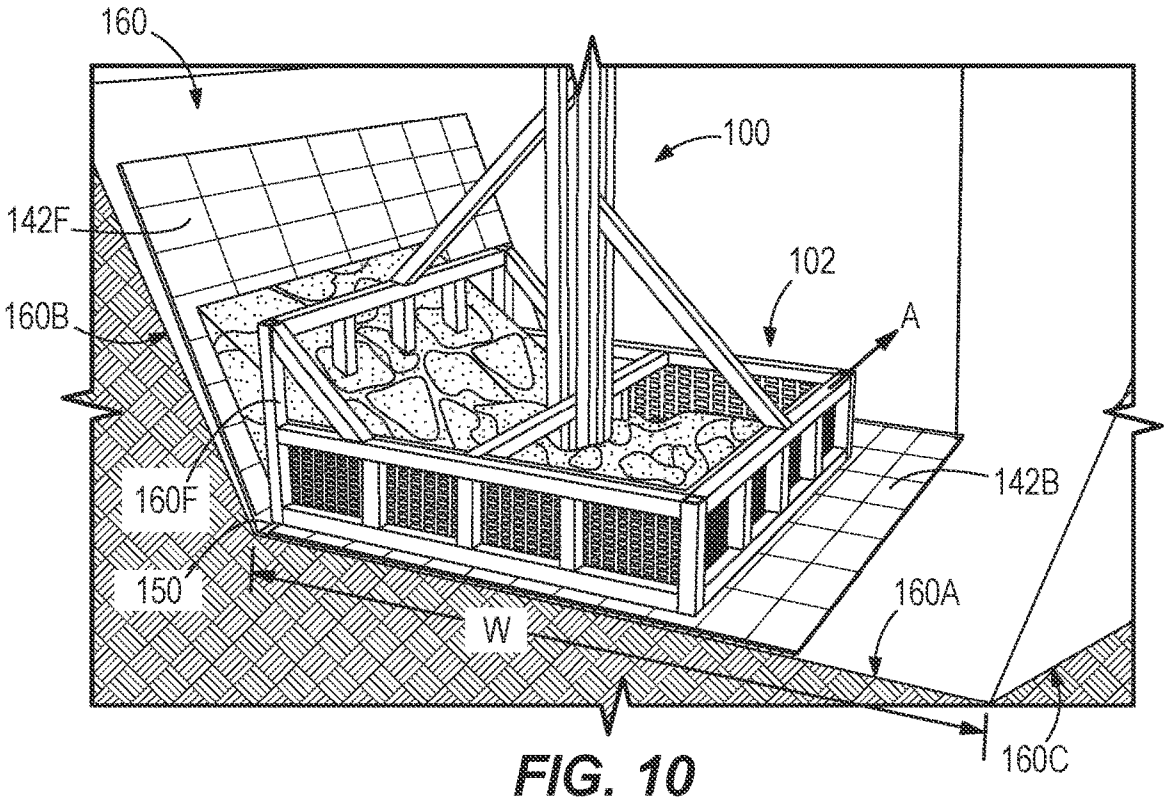

160
100
142F
102
160B
A
142B
160F
150
160A
W
160C

FIG. 10

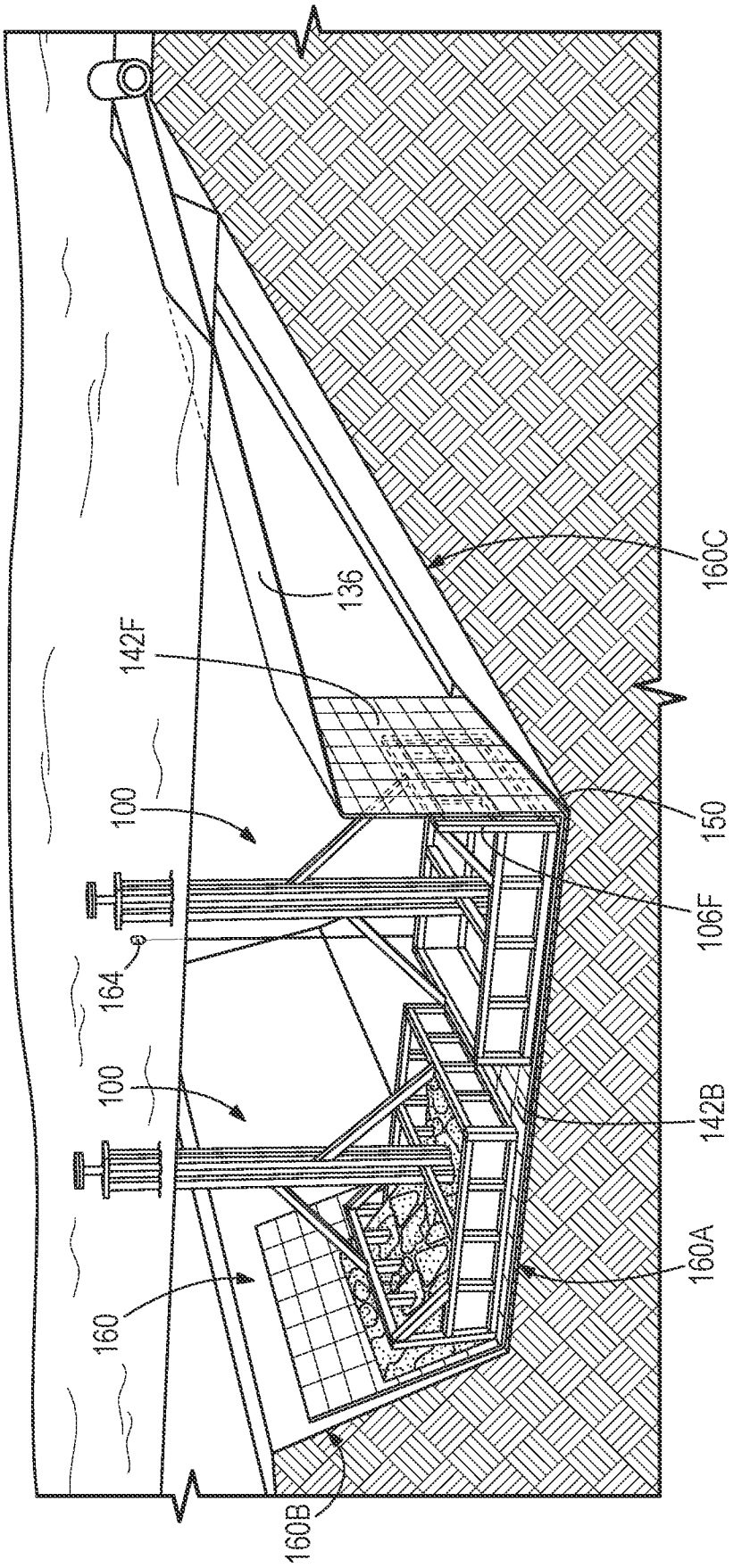


FIG. 11

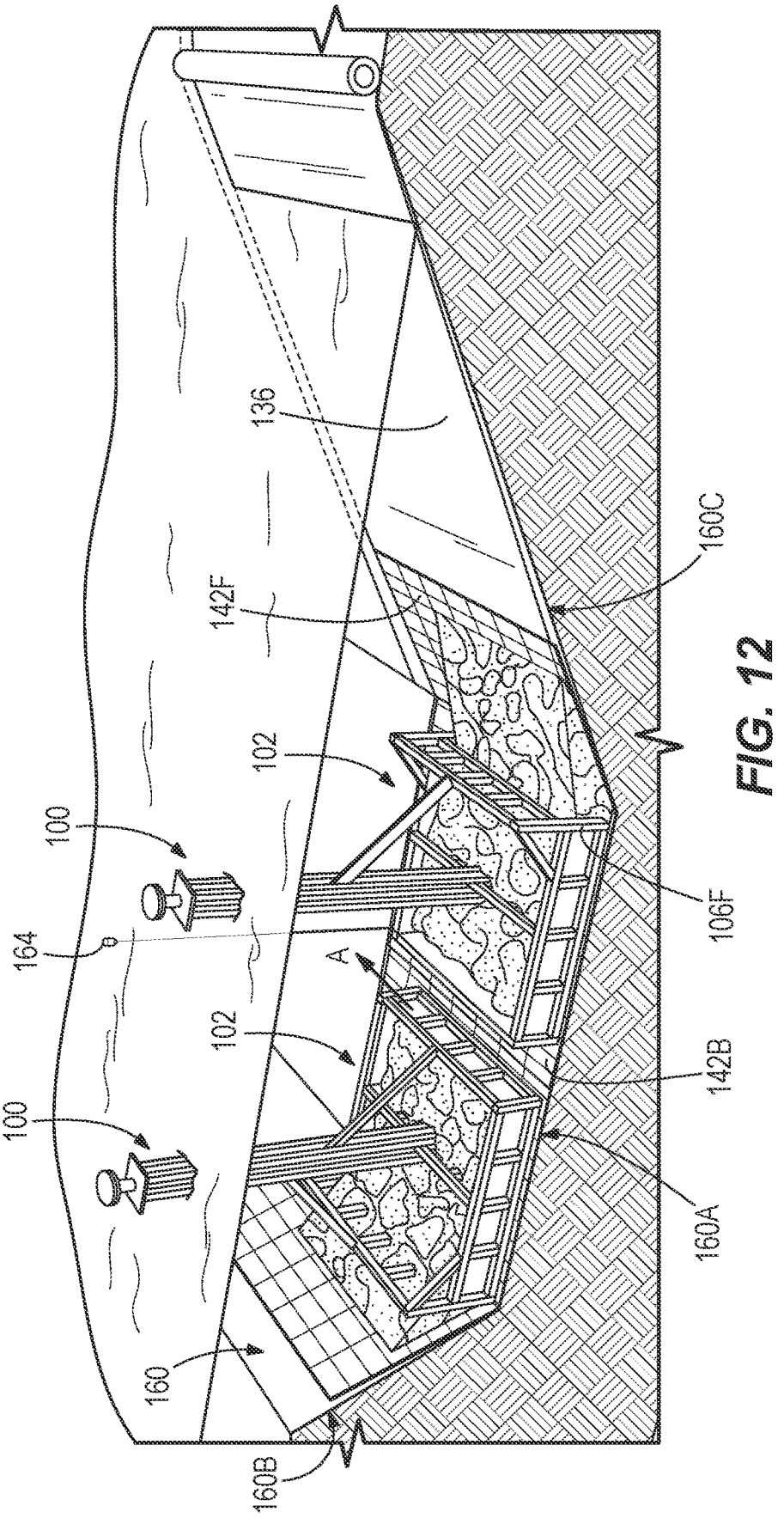


FIG. 12

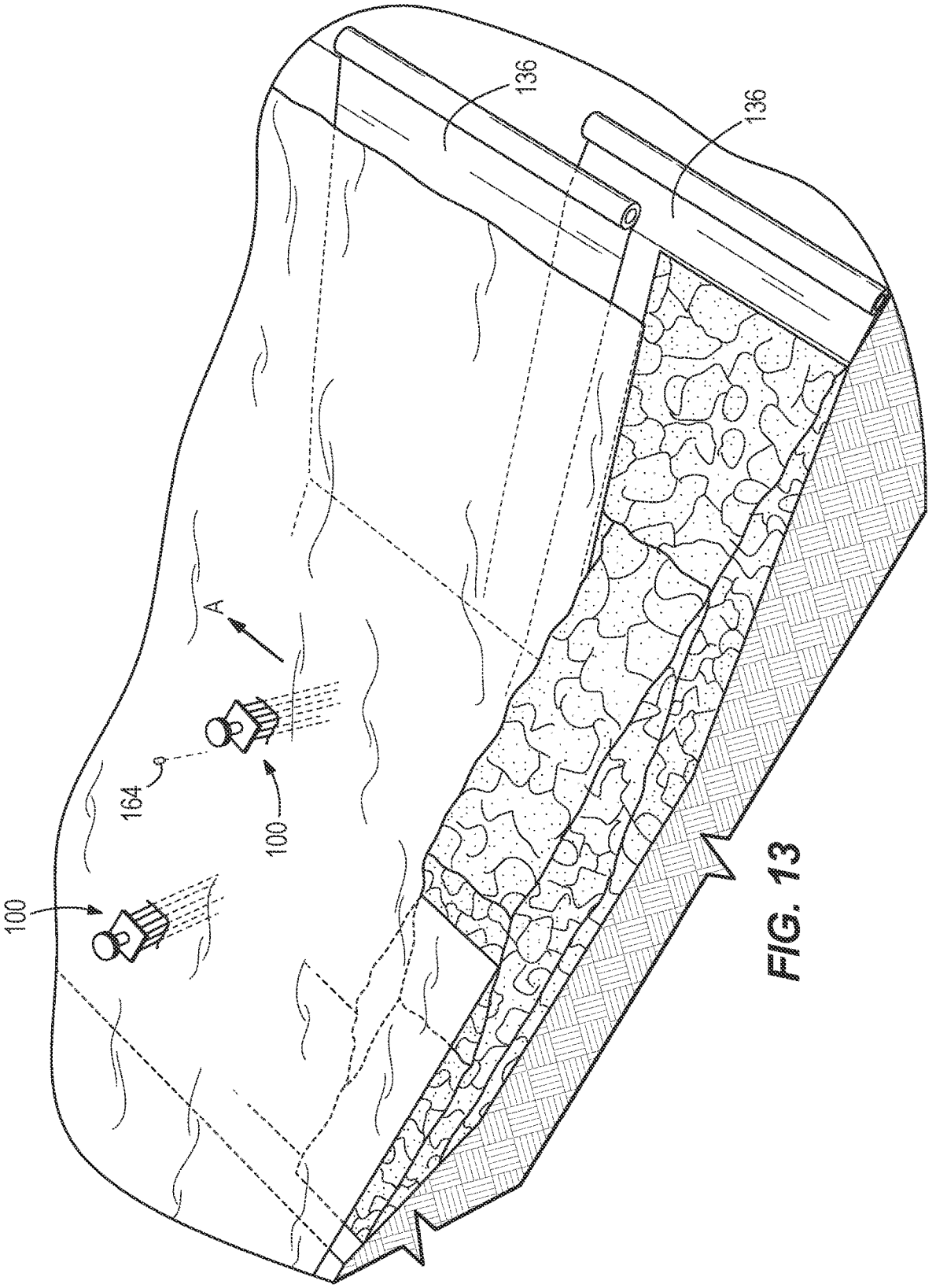


FIG. 13

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR CONSTRUCTING COASTAL REVETMENT

BACKGROUND

The invention relates to revetment construction along a shoreline of a body of water. More particularly, the invention relates to one or more pieces of construction apparatus and/or a process of using the same.

Revetments are sloped structures that may be constructed along a coastline to protect against erosion caused by waves, currents, etc. within the body of water. Revetments may be constructed of natural and/or manmade materials. Although a revetment may be at least partially above the surface of the water, it is typically required to perform working procedures under the surface of the water, which introduces complications associated with placing foundational elements of the revetment.

SUMMARY

In one aspect, the invention provides a revetment construction apparatus including a reusable plunger device and a pair of panels coupled with a movable joint. The reusable plunger device includes a box portion having an open bottom and a plurality of sides, including an open front side, a rear side opposite the front side, and a pair of spaced apart lateral sides extending between the front and rear sides. The reusable plunger device further includes a mast portion extending vertically upward from the box portion and providing at a top end thereof a picking cap for engagement by a construction machine. The pair of panels includes a front panel extending along the front side of the box portion and a bottom panel extending along the open bottom of the box portion. Each of the front and bottom panels is a reinforced anti-erosion fabric panel coupled to the box portion with breakaway fasteners configured to passively detach from the box portion upon lifting of the reusable plunger device after the box portion has been loaded with revetment foundation rock.

In another aspect, the invention provides a method of revetment construction including providing a reusable plunger device including a box portion and a mast portion extending upward from the box portion. The box portion is provided with an open bottom and a plurality of sides, including an open front side, a rear side opposite the front side, and a pair of spaced apart lateral sides extending between the front and rear sides. A sheet of anti-erosion fabric is provided, and the sheet is reinforced with a structural reinforcement layer to form a first reinforced fabric panel and a second reinforced fabric panel coupled with the first reinforced fabric panel by a movable joint. The first and second reinforced fabric panels are coupled to the reusable plunger device with breakaway fasteners such that the first reinforced fabric panel extends along the front side of the box portion and the second reinforced fabric panel extends along the open bottom of the box portion. The mast portion is engaged by a piece of construction equipment, which is manipulated to place the reusable plunger device, with the first and second reinforced fabric panels, into an underwater revetment trench so that the first and second reinforced fabric panels extend, respectively, along a side wall and a bottom wall of the underwater revetment trench.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a plunger box according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **2** is an alternate perspective view of the plunger box of FIG. **1** engaged by a bucket of a piece of construction equipment.

FIG. **3** is a side elevation view of the plunger box of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **4** is a top plan view of the plunger box of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **5** is a perspective view of a water-side plunger box during assembly with a strip of fabric and two wire mesh panels on which the fabric strip is mounted.

FIG. **6** is a perspective view of the water-side plunger box of FIG. **5** following the upward folding of a front one of the two wire mesh panels.

FIG. **7** is a perspective view of a land-side plunger box during assembly with a roll of fabric and two wire mesh panels on which a portion of the roll of fabric is mounted.

FIG. **8** is a perspective view of the land-side plunger box of FIG. **7** following the upward folding of a front one of the two wire mesh panels.

FIG. **9** is a perspective view illustrating placement of the water-side plunger box, with the folded wire mesh panels and attached fabric strip, into an underwater trench formed along a coastline.

FIG. **10** is a perspective view illustrating the water-side plunger box, following partial unfolding of the front wire mesh panel against a side slope of the trench and initial loading of rock into the plunger box atop the fabric strip.

FIG. **11** is a perspective view illustrating placement of the land-side plunger box, with the folded wire mesh panels and attached fabric roll, into the underwater trench adjacent the water-side plunger box.

FIG. **12** is a perspective view illustrating the land-side plunger box, following partial unfolding of the front wire mesh panel against a side slope of the trench and initial loading of rock into the plunger box atop the fabric.

FIG. **13** is a perspective view illustrating the first water-side and first land-side plunger boxes removed, and a second water-side plunger box and second land-side plunger box placed in the underwater trench.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

FIGS. **1** to **4** illustrate a plunger box **100** that can be used in revetment construction according to the following description. For example, one or more of the plunger boxes **100** can be used to place and hold anti-erosion fabric within an underwater revetment trench for installation of rock that forms the revetment foundation. The plunger box **100** includes a lower box portion **102** and an upstanding mast portion **104**. The lower box portion **102** is partly or fully bottomless, and is constructed in a rectangular shape with a front side **106**F, a rear side **106**R, and two lateral sides **106**L. The lower box portion **102** is constructed from bars or beams (e.g., of metal), and screening grate material **110** is secured (e.g., by welding) along the rear and both lateral sides **106**R, **106**L. All the parts of the lower box portion **102**, aside from the screening grate material **110**, can be constructed from a single, uniform material stock, for example square metal tube of a given size and material (e.g., 4 inches by 4 inches, wall thickness of 0.250 inch), and the material may be a suitable grade of steel in some constructions. The parts of the lower box portion **102** can be joined by welding throughout. The front side **106**F is left without such material **110** so as to define an opening **112** communicating the inside and outside of the lower box portion **102** through the front side **106**F. The screening grate material **110** is configured to be water permeable while defining a containment compartment for containing rock fill of a prescribed size. As illustrated,

beams forming the front side **106**F are positioned exclusively at or above the uppermost beams forming the rear and lateral sides **106**R, **106**L. As such, the height of the front side **106**F measured from the bottom of the plunger box **100** is greater than the height of the other sides **106**R, **106**L. For example, the front side **106**F can extend up from the bottom to define a first height H**1** that is at least 1.5 times, or at least 2.0 times, the second height H**2** defined by the other sides **106**R, **106**L (FIG. **3**). In one example, the front side **106**F defines a first height H**1** of 4 feet, and the other sides **106**R, **106**L terminate at a second height H**2** of 2 feet. The mast portion can extend to a third height H**3** that is at least 2.0 time the first height H**1**, or at least 3.0 times the first height H**1**. Box corner braces **116** can be provided, for example at a 45-degree angle (FIG. **3**), between the top of the front side **106**F and the top of the respective lateral sides **106**L. Furthermore, mast braces **118** can be provided between the mast portion **104** (e.g., at an intermediate height thereof) and one, two, or more sides of the lower box portion **102** (e.g., connecting at the top edges of the front and rear sides **106**F, **106**R). The mast braces **118** may also be oriented at a 45-degree angle with respect to the vertical mast portion **104** and the horizontal top edges along the lower box portion **102** to which they are connected at respective ends. Some or all of the braces **116**, **118** can be constructed of the same material stock as that used throughout the lower box portion **102**.

A bottom portion of the mast **104** is secured to one or more crossbeams **120** that traverse the lower box portion **102**. For example, the crossbeams **120** can extend between respective central portions of the two lateral sides **106**L. The crossbeams **120** subdivide the interior of the lower box portion **102** into separate compartments, including a rear compartment adjacent the rear side **106**R and a front compartment that is exposed to the front opening **112**. The mast **104** can comprise a plurality of elongate beams in parallel arrangement (e.g., four vertical beams placed in spaced relation with one another in a rectangular pattern). The beams forming the mast **104** can be constructed of the same material stock as that used throughout the lower box portion **102** and/or the braces **116**, **118**. An additional internal mast brace **118**A can be provided within the central portion of the mast **104**, between individual adjacent vertical mast members. The internal mast brace **118**A is positioned at or adjacent a height position at which the mast braces **118** are attached to the mast **104** for resisting buckling of the mast **104** due to large lateral loads imparted from the braces **118**. An upper portion of the mast **104** terminates at a picking cap **124** for engagement by a piece of construction equipment such as the illustrated bucket **128** of FIG. **2**. In practice, the plunger box **100** can be manipulated by a backhoe, an excavator, a crane, or other practical means of construction equipment that may be on site for the revetment project. The picking cap **124** can be positioned atop a picking pin **130**, for example a solid metal pin of circular cross-section, that extends vertically above the primary mast beams. The picking pin **130** can be exposed between the picking cap **124** and a picking plate **132**. The picking pin **130** can have a transverse dimension (e.g., diameter) sized to fit between adjacent teeth of the bucket **128** and to rest against the bucket frog, for example a diameter of 3.5 inches in one exemplary embodiment. At least the picking cap **124** and the picking pin **130** constitute a lifting structure for use by construction equipment to lift the plunger box **100** and place it at least partially under water into a revetment trench as will be described in further detail below. The cross-section shape of the picking pin **130** is devoid of flats or edges so as to enable the plunger box **100** to be turned about a central axis through the pin **130** when lifted by the construction equipment, which can aid in setting a necessary orientation for installation.

As can be seen in the top view of FIG. **4**, the lower box portion **102** is shaped as a rectangle, and particularly one with four sides of equal length to form a square profile. Each side of the lower box portion **102** can be 6 feet long or greater (e.g., 9 feet), and the size can be determined as a function of revetment trench base width. As referred to herein, the lower box portion **102** defines a front-to-back length L**1** and a side-to-side length L**2**. These lengths L**1**, L**2** can be equal or unequal. Each of the lengths L**1**, L**2** can be greater than the first height H**1**, or at least greater than the second height H**2**. In the illustrated construction, each of the lengths L**1**, L**2** is at least 2.0 times the first height H**1**.

According to the following description, the plunger box **100** provides a reusable revetment construction apparatus. As a first function thereof, the plunger box **100** acts as a installation tool for the placement and temporary retention of anti-erosion fabric sheeting material on the bottom of the revetment trench. Although steps of an exemplary construction procedure are explained further below, the equipment preparation utilizing two of the plunger boxes **100** is first described with respect to FIGS. **5**-**8**. FIGS. **5** and **6** illustrate a first plunger box **100** prepared for use on a "water-side" of the revetment trench, while FIGS. **7** and **8** illustrate a second plunger box **100** prepared for use on a "land-side" of the revetment trench. With brief reference to FIG. **9**, the water-side is the side of the trench to the left side, furthest from the shoreline, while the land-side is the side of the trench to the right side, adjacent the shoreline. As shown in FIGS. **5** and **6**, a sheet of geotextile fabric **136** is provided to be attached at least partially underneath the plunger box **100**. The fabric sheet **136**, which may be a single, continuous strip, can have dimensions exceeding those of the lower box portion **102** in top view so that the fabric sheet **136** covers the entire area directly under the lower box portion **102** and also extends outwardly therefrom on at least two or three sides. As shown, the fabric sheet **136** has a large overhang from the lower box portion **102** to the front side **106**F, and also has smaller overhangs to the rear side **106**R and one lateral side **106**L (in lateral direction A). As will become more apparent from the following description, the direction A is defined as a revetment construction direction, with respect to the length of the trench. For the water-side plunger box **100** of FIGS. **5** and **6**, the direction A is to the left when viewing the plunger box **100** from the front.

The fabric sheet **136**, which by itself may not have the rigidity required to maintain planar form during use such as movement under water, is reinforced by an attached structural reinforcement layer **140**. In some constructions, the structural reinforcement layer **140** is provided by welded wire mesh panels of crisscross metal wires. Although other types of reinforcement may be substituted, the cost and amount of material may generally be minimized as it is merely a means to facilitate the installation of the material of primary interest, which is the fabric sheet **136**. The structural reinforcement layer **140** and the fabric sheet **136** can be attached together by suitable fasteners such as wire ties **138** in a number and arrangement sufficient to hold the fabric sheet **136** into the shape of the structural reinforcement layer **140**. In some constructions, the fasteners that hold the fabric sheet **136** to the reinforcement layer **140** are cable ties, or "zip ties." As implemented, the reinforcement layer **140** is divided into two separate sections such that a multi-panel assembly of reinforced fabric can be provided,

including a front panel **142**F and a bottom panel **142**B. The front and bottom panels **142**F, **142**B are movably or hingedly coupled together at a hinge **150**. The hinge **150** can be, but need not be, formed with a conventional or off-the-shelf hinge mechanism or hardware. Rather, the hinge **150** can be formed by a plurality of loosely fixed fasteners such as wire ties **152**. The front panel **142**F is configured to be swingable or pivotable with respect to the bottom panel **142**B so that it can be folded upwardly from the orientation of FIG. **5** to the orientation of FIG. **6** in which it extends upward vertically along the front side **106**F. As assembled and folded, the hinge **150** extends along the bottom edge of the front side **106**F where the opening **112** is formed. The front and bottom panels **142**F, **142**B can be temporarily secured to the plunger box **100**, e.g., by a plurality of fasteners such as wire ties **154**. The wire ties **154** form breakaway fasteners, each of which is twisted in a configuration that is adapted to untwist and slip apart under a prescribed weight or tensile force. As shown in FIG. **6**, the first section of the reinforcement layer **140** enables the front reinforced fabric panel **142**F to extend upward beyond the top edge of the front side **106**F of the lower box portion **102**, and the second section of the reinforcement layer **140** enables the bottom reinforced fabric panel **142**B to extend rearward beyond the rear side **106**R of the lower box portion **102**. The front reinforced fabric panel **142**F may extend upward beyond the top edge of the front side **106**F by at least half the height thereof H**1** (e.g., or by the full height H**1**). The bottom reinforced fabric panel **142**B may extend rearward beyond the rear side **106**R by at least half the height H**2** thereof (e.g., or by the full height H**2**). Both panels **142**F, **142**B extend beyond the lower box portion **102** in the lateral construction direction A.

As shown in FIGS. **7** and **8**, preassembly of the second plunger box **100** with front and bottom reinforced fabric panels **142**F, **142**B for the land-side is very similar to that of the first plunger box **100** of FIGS. **5** and **6**. In particular, the reinforced fabric panels **142**F, **142**B are constructed in generally the same way as those of FIGS. **5** and **6** to include the two separate sections of structural reinforcement layer **140** along with the fabric sheet **136**. The structural reinforcement layer **140** and fabric sheet **136** can be attached by suitable fasteners such as wire ties **138** in a number and arrangement sufficient to hold the fabric sheet **136** into the shape of the structural reinforcement layer **140**. The panels **142**F, **142**B are coupled via a hinge **150**, and this can be carried out by a plurality of loosely fixed wire ties **152** so that the hinge **150** allows the front panel **142**F to be folded upwardly from the orientation of FIG. **7** to the orientation of FIG. **8** in which it extends upward vertically along the front side **106**F of the land-side plunger box **100**. The front and bottom panels **142**F, **142**B can be temporarily secured to the plunger box **100**, e.g., by a plurality of loosely fixed wire ties **154**. As shown in FIG. **8**, the front reinforced fabric panel **142**F extends upward beyond the top edge of the front side **106**F of the lower box portion **102**, and the bottom reinforced fabric panel **142**B extends rearward beyond the rear side **106**R of the lower box portion **102**. In a key difference from the water-side assembly of FIGS. **5** and **6**, both panels **142**F, **142**B on the land-side plunger box **100** of FIGS. **7** and **8** extend beyond the lower box portion **102** (in the lateral construction direction A) to the right when viewed from the front, as the water-side and land-side plunger boxes **100** are put into use in a back-to-back arrangement in which the rear sides **106**R are placed adjacent each other. The orientations with respect to the direction A, for both the water-side and land-side plunger boxes **100** assumes that the construction procedure is carried out from left to right as viewed from the land toward the water. If working to construct the revetment along the opposite lengthwise direction of the trench, then the direction A, and associated fabric overhang, is reversed for both plunger boxes **100** such that they will still be set up dissimilarly from one another. The other key difference with the assembly of FIGS. **7** and **8** is that the front side panel **142**F has both a reinforced section of the fabric sheet **136** and also an extended, unreinforced section of the fabric sheet **136** connected thereto. The fabric sheet **136**, including the reinforced and unreinforced sections, can be continuous portions of a single roll of fabric sheeting. In some constructions, the unreinforced section can extend 30 feet or more, and in some cases 40 feet or more. This extra fabric is configured to be extended up the backslope of the trench on the land-side.

An exemplary procedure for the use of the plunger boxes **100** is described with reference to the sequential views of FIGS. **9** to **13**. Prior to the placement of the first water-side plunger box **100** as shown in FIG. **9**, the trench **160** is created in the sub-aqueous earth floor along the edge of the body of water. The trench **160** has a length (into the page) and a cross-section shape taken perpendicular to the length, the cross-section shape including a base or bottom wall **160**A, a non-vertical water-side side wall **160**B extending upward from the bottom wall **160**A at a sloped angle, and a non-vertical land-side side wall **160**C extending upward from the bottom wall **160**A at a sloped angle, which may be the same as or different than the angle on the water-side. Between the side walls **160**B, **160**C, the bottom wall **160**A has a width W. At the initial stages of construction, as shown in FIG. **9**, the width W may be narrower than the final dimension. In other words, the width W may be extended following placement of the first water-side plunger box **100**. In some constructions, the initial trench width W at the time of placing the first plunger box **100** can be at least 1.3 times the corresponding plunger box width (e.g., at least 12 feet for a plunger box with a 9-foot lower box portion **102**). Before, during, or after excavation of the revetment trench **160**, one or more of the water-side and land-side plunger boxes **100** can be prepared with the reinforced fabric panels **142**F, **142**B as described above and shown in FIGS. **6** and **8**. This includes hinging the panels together (e.g., via the wire ties **152**), making connections (e.g., via wire ties **138**) between the fabric sheet **136** and the reinforcement layer **140**, and also making connections (e.g., via wire ties **154**) between the panels **142**F, **142**B and the plunger box **100**.

A piece of construction equipment, in particular a piece of heavy earth-moving equipment such as an excavator or backhoe, is positioned adjacent the trench **160**, for example on a level working bench of earth positioned adjacent a top end of the land-side trench side wall **160**C. By manipulation of the construction equipment (e.g., the bucket **128** engaging the picking cap **124** and the picking pin **130**), the first water-side plunger box **100** is picked up from a staging area along the shoreline. If necessary, the first water-side plunger box **100** is rotated about its central axis, for example by engagement of a second piece of construction equipment, to set a proper orientation. Then, by further manipulation of the construction equipment, the first water-side plunger box **100** is submerged and placed into the trench **160** as shown in FIG. **9** such that the hinge **150** between the front and bottom panels **142**F, **142**B is positioned at the outside "toe" where the water-side side wall **160**B meets the bottom wall **160**A. The lateral construction direction A is to right when looking toward the water-side side wall **160**B (i.e., or generally into the page as viewed in FIG. **9**). The portion of the bottom

panel **142**B that protrudes from the lower box portion **102** extends along the bottom trench wall **160**A toward the land-side side wall **160**C. At the rearmost edge of the bottom reinforced fabric panel **142**B, and furthest toward the lateral construction direction A, a buoy **164** can be strung on a line approximately equal to the depth D of the bottom trench wall **160**A below the water surface. The buoy **164** is strung prior to placement of the plunger box **100** into the trench **160** and serves as a visual locator or point of reference for an above-ground construction equipment operator during further procedures described below. In practice, the buoy **164** can have an extended vertical length and correspondingly reduced attachment line with respect to the illustrated embodiment. For example, to resist movement by waves within the water, the buoy **164** can be elongated to have a length of at least 3 feet, at least 4 feet, or at least 6 feet (e.g., 1.5 times the expected wave height). The construction equipment can be disengaged from the first water-side plunger box **100** once positioned as shown in FIG. **9**.

One or more loads of revetment foundation rock are then loaded into the lower box portion **102** of the first water-side plunger box **100** as shown in FIG. **10**. First, the bucket **128** can be filled with a load of rock from a nearby supply (e.g., 4-inch to 10-inch filter stone). The material makeup of the rock can be natural or manmade, as specified for the particular revetment project. The bucket **128** is then positioned against the top portion of the front reinforced fabric panel **142**F, which is still vertical or upright and spaced away from the water-side trench side wall **160**B. The bucket **128** is manipulated to urge the front reinforced fabric panel **142**F against the water-side trench side wall **160**B, breaking the connection temporarily provided by the wire ties **154** to the front side **106**F of the lower box portion **102**. In practice, the wire ties **154** may unwind, become severed, or a combination of these breakaway means to allow the front panel **142**F to release from the lower box portion **102**. The bucket **128** is then manipulated to dump all or part of the rock on the front reinforced fabric panel **142**F, for example while still holding the top of the front reinforced fabric panel **142**F against the water-side trench side wall **160**B. The rock dropped here settles and builds up at and around the toe of the trench where the walls **160**A, **160**B meet. Some of the rock also enters the front compartment of the lower box portion **102** through the front opening **112**. If less than all of the first load of rock is put into the front part of the lower box portion **102**, a remaining portion can be placed from the bucket **128** into the other (rear) part of the lower box portion **102**, rearward of the crossbeam **120**. The weight of the first load of rock bears down on both of the reinforced fabric panels **142**F, **142**B, and not on the plunger box **100**, which is bottomless. One or more additional loads of rock can then be placed into the lower box portion **102** so that it becomes mostly or completely full, though not overflowing.

With both panels **142**F, **142**B of the first water-side plunger box **100** in final position, and with the plunger box **100** still in position in the trench **160**, the revetment construction moves on as follows. Prior to placement of the first land-side plunger box **100**, the trench width W may be expanded by further excavation, e.g., to the final design subgrade. The above-water working bench for the earth-moving equipment may also be widened at this stage of the procedure. The first land-side plunger box **100** with the attached front and rear reinforced fabric panels **142**F, **142**B is then picked up by the equipment, e.g., engaged by the bucket **128**. The first land-side plunger box **100** is placed in line with the already placed water-side plunger box **100** as shown in FIG. **11**, in particular directly in front of the water-side plunger box **100** as viewed from the land toward the water. The buoy **164** may provide a visual guide for placing the first land-side plunger box **100**. The first land-side plunger box **100** is placed with an orientation that is reversed from that of the water-side plunger box **100** such that the respective rear sides **106**R face each other. As such, the outwardly projecting portions of the respective bottom panels **142**B can overlap along the trench bottom wall **160**A. Furthermore, the land-side plunger box **100** is positioned so that the attached front panel **142**F of reinforced fabric is in facing relation with the land-side trench side wall **160**C. The hinge **150** between the front and bottom panels **142**F, **142**B on the land-side plunger box **100** is placed at the edge where the trench bottom wall **160**A meets the land-side trench side wall **160**C. As the first land-side plunger box **100** is put into place, the length of fabric **136** extending from the front panel **142**F can be maintained outside the trench **160**, e.g., above the water on or adjacent the working bench. This length of fabric **136**, which may include a roll of excess fabric, can be handled by one or more workers.

One or more loads of revetment foundation rock are then loaded into the lower box portion **102** of the first land-side plunger box **100** as shown in FIG. **12**. First, the bucket **128** can be filled with a load of rock from a nearby supply (e.g., 4-inch to 10-inch bedding stone). The bucket **128** is then positioned against the top portion of the front reinforced fabric panel **142**F, and the bucket **128** is manipulated to urge the front reinforced fabric panel **142**F against the land-side trench side wall **160**C. Just as with the water-side plunger box, this action from the bucket **128** breaks the connection temporarily provided by the wire ties **154** to the front side **106**F of the lower box portion **102**. The bucket **128** is then manipulated to dump all or part of the rock on the front reinforced fabric panel **142**F, for example while still holding the top of the front reinforced fabric panel **142**F against the land-side trench side wall **160**C. The rock dropped here settles and builds up where the walls **160**A, **160**B meet. Some of the rock also enters the front compartment of the lower box portion **102** through the front opening **112**. If less than all of the first load of rock is put into the front part of the lower box portion **102**, a remaining portion can be placed from the bucket **128** into the other (rear) part of the lower box portion **102**, rearward of the crossbeam **120**. The weight of the first load of rock bears down on both of the reinforced fabric panels **142**F, **142**B, and not on the plunger box **100**, which is bottomless. One or more additional loads of rock of the same or another type can then be placed into the lower box portion **102**, if necessary, so that it becomes at least half full, mostly full, or completely full, though not overflowing.

From the configuration of FIG. **12**, the working bench may again be expanded so that work can continue further along the construction direction A. If necessary, the water-side toe excavation may be expanded to at least the distance needed for placement of another water-side plunger box **100** alongside the first water-side plunger box **100**. Using the first row of plunger boxes **100** and/or buoy(s) **164** as a positional reference, a third plunger box **100** (prepared similarly to the first water-side plunger box **100**) is set in place. The third plunger box **100** is the second water-side plunger box **100** and is positioned with one of its lateral sides **106**L on top of the projecting portion (projecting from the lower box portion **102** in direction A) of the bottom reinforced fabric panel **142**B installed with the first water-side plunger box **100**. Minimal spacing distance in the construction direction A may be maintained between the first and second water-side plunger boxes **100**. The front panel **142**F is then folded down by breaking away the wire ties **154**

from the lower box portion **102** on the second water-side plunger box **100**. Rock is then loaded into the lower box portion **102** of the second water-side plunger box **100**. These steps are carried out similar to the steps already described for the earlier-placed plunger boxes **100** in the first row, and are thus, not repeated in detail. Then, rather than turning immediately to placement of the corresponding land-side plunger box **100** for the second row, the construction equipment can instead be directed back to engage the first water-side plunger box **100**, which can be engaged by the bucket **128** and pulled up out of the trench **160**, leaving behind the reinforced fabric panels **142**F, **142**B thereof below the foundation rock resting thereupon. With the first water-side plunger box **100** removed, the construction equipment can be manipulated to spread out the rock in the space vacated by the plunger box. The rock may be spread to a relatively uniform design depth, for example 12 inches. Then, a second rock layer (e.g., filter stone, for example 800 to 1500 pounds each) is placed atop this area of bedding stone to create a platform, maintaining a slope (e.g., about 45 degrees) toward the rear side **106**R of the first land-side plunger box **100** and toward the adjacent lateral side **106**L of the second water-side plunger box **100** so as to avoid burying them with the additional rock. The depth of the filter stone layer can be about twice the depth of the bedding stone layer in some constructions. Armor stone(s) (e.g., 3 to 7 tons each) are then placed on the resulting platform and stacked to grade, e.g., two stones thick and one to two stones wide. The specific stone layering is mentioned by way of example, and it will be understood that revetments are commonly engineered to different specifications. Thus, some applications may call for more or less bedding stone, no bedding stone, more or less filter stone, filter stone of different size, or multiple differing layers of filter stone for example, according to the project engineer's discretion.

The construction method may continue with further excavation of trench **160**, particularly widening of the trench bottom wall **160**A and re-sloping of the land-side side wall **160**C, prior to any further actions with any of the plunger boxes **100**. Then, using the first land-side and second water-side plunger boxes **100** and/or buoy(s) **164** as a positional reference, a fourth plunger box **100** (prepared similarly to the first land-side plunger box **100**) is set in place. The fourth plunger box **100** is the second land-side plunger box **100** and is positioned with one of its lateral sides **106**L on top of the projecting portion (projecting from the lower box portion **102** in direction A) of the bottom reinforced fabric panel **142**B installed with the first land-side plunger box **100**. Minimal spacing distance in the construction direction A may be maintained between the first and second land-side plunger boxes **100**. The front panel **142**F is then folded down by breaking away the wire ties **154** from the lower box portion **102** on the second land-side plunger box **100**. Rock (e.g., a layer of bedding stone) is then loaded into the lower box portion **102** of the second land-side plunger box **100**. These steps are carried out similar to the steps already described above. Then, rather than turning immediately to placement of the next plunger box **100** (for starting the third row), the construction equipment can instead be directed back to engage the first land-side plunger box **100**, which can be engaged by the bucket **128** and pulled up out of the trench **160**, leaving behind the reinforced fabric panels **142**F, **142**B thereof below the foundation rock resting thereupon. With the first land-side plunger box **100** removed, the construction equipment can be manipulated to spread out the rock in the space vacated by the plunger box. As with the steps following pull-out of the first water-side plunger box **100**, the rock may be spread to a relatively uniform design depth, for example 12 inches. Then, a second rock layer (e.g., filter stone, for example 800 to 1500 pounds each) is placed atop this area of bedding stone to create a platform, maintaining a slope (e.g., about 45 degrees) toward the adjacent lateral side **106**L of the second land-side plunger box **100** so as to avoid burying it with the additional rock. The depth of the filter stone layer can be about twice the depth of the bedding stone layer in some constructions. Armor stone(s) (e.g., 3 to 7 tons each) are then placed on the resulting platform and stacked to grade, e.g., two stones thick and one to two stones wide. The specific stone layering is mentioned by way of example. Once this is completed, the remaining steps are a sequence of repeated steps already described above, beginning with the placement of the next water-side plunger box **100** to begin construction of the third row. The steps are repeated for as many rows are necessary to complete the length of the revetment. Because the plunger boxes **100** can be used over and over again, and are universal for the water and land sides, a minimal supply of plunger boxes **100** is required (e.g., as few as 3), although additional reserves may be kept on hand in the event of damage or simply to speed up the construction process by having additional plunger box(es) **100** being prepared with the reinforced fabric panels **142**F, **142**B while others are being used in the water.

Various features of the present disclosure are set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A revetment construction apparatus comprising:

a reusable plunger device comprising

a box portion having an open bottom and a plurality of sides, including an open front side, a rear side opposite the front side, and a pair of spaced apart lateral sides extending between the front and rear sides, and

a mast portion extending vertically upward from the box portion and providing at a top end thereof a picking cap for engagement by a construction machine; and

a pair of panels coupled with a movable joint, including a front panel extending along the front side of the box portion and a bottom panel extending along the open bottom of the box portion,

wherein each of the front and bottom panels is a reinforced anti-erosion fabric panel coupled to the box portion with breakaway fasteners configured to passively detach from the box portion upon lifting of the reusable plunger device after the box portion has been loaded with revetment foundation rock.

2. The revetment construction apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the front and bottom reinforced anti-erosion fabric panels are constructed of a continuous sheet of anti-erosion fabric reinforced by two separate planar sections of structural reinforcing material.

3. The revetment construction apparatus of claim **2**, wherein each of the sections of structural reinforcing material is a metal mesh reinforcement layer.

4. The revetment construction apparatus of claim **3**, wherein the front and bottom reinforced anti-erosion fabric panels are hingedly coupled with a plurality of loosely fixed wire ties.

5. The revetment construction apparatus of claim **4**, wherein the front side of the box portion is taller than the rear side and the pair of lateral sides.

6. The revetment construction apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the front and bottom reinforced anti-erosion fabric

panels are constructed of a continuous sheet of anti-erosion fabric reinforced by two separate planar sections of structural reinforcing material.

7. The revetment construction apparatus of claim **1**, wherein each reinforced anti-erosion fabric panel is reinforced with a metal mesh reinforcement layer.

8. The revetment construction apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the front side of the box portion is taller than the rear side and the pair of lateral sides.

9. The revetment construction apparatus of claim **1**, further comprising a crossbeam extending between two of the sides of the box portion, the crossbeam subdividing an interior of the box portion into separate compartments.

10. The revetment construction apparatus of claim **9**, wherein the mast portion has a bottom end secured to the crossbeam.

11. The revetment construction apparatus of claim **9**, wherein the mast portion, the box portion, and the crossbeam are all constructed in majority from a single, uniform material stock.

12. The revetment construction apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the breakaway fasteners are twisted wire ties.

13. A method of revetment construction comprising:

providing a reusable plunger device including a box portion and a mast portion extending upward from the box portion, the box portion having an open bottom and a plurality of sides, including an open front side, a rear side opposite the front side, and a pair of spaced apart lateral sides extending between the front and rear sides;

providing a sheet of anti-erosion fabric;

reinforcing the sheet of anti-erosion fabric with a structural reinforcement layer to form a first reinforced fabric panel and a second reinforced fabric panel coupled with the first reinforced fabric panel by a movable joint;

coupling the first and second reinforced fabric panels to the reusable plunger device with breakaway fasteners such that the first reinforced fabric panel extends along the front side of the box portion and the second reinforced fabric panel extends along the open bottom of the box portion; and

engaging the mast portion with a piece of construction equipment and manipulating the piece of construction equipment to place the reusable plunger device, with the first and second reinforced fabric panels, into an underwater revetment trench so that the first and second reinforced fabric panels extend, respectively, along a side wall and a bottom wall of the underwater revetment trench.

14. The method of claim **13**, further comprising placing at least one load of revetment foundation rock into the box portion onto the sheet of anti-erosion fabric.

15. The method of claim **14**, further comprising removing the reusable plunger device from the underwater revetment trench, leaving the revetment foundation rock and the sheet of anti-erosion fabric in place.

16. The method of claim **14**, wherein the side wall is a water-side side wall of the underwater revetment trench and the reusable plunger device is a first reusable plunger device, the method further comprising:

providing a second reusable plunger device including a box portion and a mast portion extending upward from the box portion, the box portion having an open bottom and a plurality of sides, including an open front side, a rear side opposite the front side, and a pair of spaced apart lateral sides extending between the front and rear sides;

providing a second sheet of anti-erosion fabric, reinforced with a structural reinforcement layer to form a third reinforced fabric panel and a fourth reinforced fabric panel coupled with the third reinforced fabric panel by a movable joint;

coupling the third and fourth reinforced fabric panels to the second reusable plunger device with breakaway fasteners such that the third reinforced fabric panel extends along the front side of the box portion of the second reusable plunger device and the fourth reinforced fabric panel extends along the open bottom of the box portion of the second reusable plunger device; and

engaging the mast portion of the second reusable plunger device with the piece of construction equipment and manipulating the piece of construction equipment to place the second reusable plunger device, with the third and fourth reinforced fabric panels, into the underwater revetment trench so that the third reinforced fabric panel extends along a land-side side wall of the underwater revetment trench and the fourth reinforced fabric panel extends along the bottom wall of the underwater revetment trench, with a portion of the fourth reinforced fabric panel overlapping with a portion of the second reinforced fabric panel on the first reusable plunger device.

17. The method of claim **16**, further comprising placing at least one load of revetment foundation rock into the box portion of the second reusable plunger device onto the second sheet of anti-erosion fabric, and placing a third reusable plunger device against the water-side side wall, adjacent the first reusable plunger device, prior to removing the first reusable plunger device from the underwater revetment trench.

18. The method of claim **17**, wherein a reinforced fabric panel coupled to the third reusable plunger device is placed so that a portion thereof overlaps a portion of the second reinforced fabric panel on the first reusable plunger device.

19. The method of claim **16**, wherein an unreinforced portion of the second sheet of anti-erosion fabric extending from the third reinforced fabric panel is held up out of the water at a position adjacent a top of the land-side side wall during the placement of the second reusable plunger device.

20. The method of claim **14**, further comprising, prior to placing the at least one load of revetment foundation rock into the box portion, manipulating the piece of construction equipment to break the breakaway fasteners and fold down the first reinforced fabric panel against the side wall of the underwater revetment trench.

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