

IMCA

news letter

April 2002

The International Marine Contractors Association

Representing offshore, marine and underwater engineering companies

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Working Safer Offshore

86 delegates attended IMCA's seminar on safety, health and the environment in marine contracting held at Manchester United's Old Trafford stadium in January. This major event brought together onshore and offshore managers responsible for safety with operational personnel to discuss a diverse range of offshore safety issues and to share best practice. Participants heard an impressive set of talks and took part in some lively discussions about how culture, behaviour and legislation affect safety and how management should be aware of such influences and utilise that knowledge to improve safety management.

Oceanology 2002

IMCA became one of the official supporters at Oceanology International this year. This biennial exhibition – primarily aimed at ROV and offshore survey sectors – relocated this year from Brighton to a purpose built conference and exhibition centre in London's docklands.

The four day event was well attended and the IMCA stand proved a popular stopping-off point, especially for members but also for other exhibitors.

IMCA hosted two meetings at the event. One, a lunchtime talk, outlined the work of IMCA and in particular that being undertaken by its Offshore Survey Division to potential new members from this sector. The other IMCA event was an evening meeting for personnel agency representatives to update them on developments in the IMCA Competence Assurance and Assessment Scheme.

Jane Bugler, Tony Read and Phil Wiggs all spent some time on the stand during the show and enjoyed meeting new faces as well as renewing acquaintances with old friends.

Opening the discussion Sjaak Pappe of ITIM, a culture and management consultancy, gave a well received interactive presentation on how individuals from differing cultures react in surprisingly different ways to safety matters. This gave insight into one's own thinking and conditioning as well as how understanding of a nationality's culture is often essential for assessing how to effectively manage safety among personnel assembled from different parts of the globe.

Mark Guest, Halliburton, followed this with an American perspective in a talk on behaviour-

based safety management, emphasising the need for two-way communication between workforce and management and for a total emphasis on teaching safe behaviour, sufficient to ensure employees want to work safely. By focussing on the desire to return home safely to family and loved ones it can be easier to bring home the benefits of safe behaviour and the human consequences of safety failure. Most of all, Mark stressed the need to be passionate about safety and to demonstrate commitment to it. That commitment would itself result in support beyond expectations.

continued on page 10



Ken London (Stolt Offshore) talking with SEL Committee and session chairman Chris van Beek of Heerema Marine Contractors at IMCA's recent offshore safety seminar

Helicopter landing criteria

Members operating in the UK sector are concerned about a problem where helideck landings are declining in number despite the fitting of equipment required by recent amendments to CAP 437 – operational guidelines for helicopters from the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). At a meeting held last November between a cross section of interested parties it became apparent that helicopter operators also wished to improve the situation.

While preliminary ideas were formulated and some progress was made it became apparent that research underway by the CAA needed to be completed before anything meaningful could be achieved.

On 11 April 2002, the CAA presented the results of its recent research (completed by consultants WS Atkins) on helicopter landing criteria at a meeting arranged by IMCA and held at the offices of Technip-Coflexip, Aberdeen. The meeting was attended by a cross section of stakeholders involved: representatives from the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the British Helicopter Advisory Board (BHAB), the United Kingdom Offshore Operators Association's (UKOOA) aviation and marine committees, members of IMCA Marine Division Management Committee, two serving vessel masters, and an operational helicopter pilot.

Dr Paul Gallagher and Dr Athena Scaperdas of WS Atkins presented a summary of their work for this project, together with David Howson of CAA. There was also an overview of the work that had been done toward individual vessel indexing by Technip-Coflexip and Halliburton Subsea, presented by Brian Robertson and Pete Somner.

The work of the CAA centred on the forces acting on a helicopter once it was on a helideck and the presentation provoked a lively and interesting discussion. This debate identified a clear need for a small but adequate work group to tackle a complex range of tasks as quickly as possible and to provide information to the CAA and BHAB. In the mean time the CAA will also continue its research.

The goal of this combined effort is to deliver safe operations and an improved number of landings. The meeting showed a desire on the part of all parties to make progress on this matter and all who attended this meeting made a clear commitment to maintain good communication on the topic. IMCA will do its best to keep that impetus alive.

Midsummer Charity Ball 2002

This year's event on 14 June at Ardoe House in Aberdeen will feature the Atholl Smith Jazz Trio and Stone Cold Sober. Booking forms have been circulated – if you want tickets please contact Vicki Graham <vicki@imca-int.com>.

To book accommodation please contact the venue direct <enquiries@macdonald-hotels.co.uk> or tel: +44 (0)1224 860 600

Members' website soon complete

By the time you read this, plans for the members' website should be in the hands of the Overall Management Committee for final review and approval, prior to being launched by mid-May 2002.

The website will give members access around the clock, around the world to:

- 126 Guidance Notes from IMCA's two core activities and four divisions, plus those produced previously by AODC and DPVOA and guidance from the Diving Medical Advisory Committee (DMAC)
- 34 Safety Flashes – the complete set from 1998 onwards
- Over 200 Information Notes from 1998 onwards that are still considered current from across the divisions and core activities
- 20 sets of minutes from various management committees and regional sections, to keep members up-to-date about work completed or underway on their behalf.
- Various other documents still being added.

Alongside this vast array of documentation you will find everything you've come to expect from the IMCA website – the latest news and in-depth guides to services provided, guidance produced and areas of activity addressed by the various committees, plus links to a range of related websites. However you'll now also find them interspersed with links to documents available for download, so you won't need to think hard about how to get your hands on that

publication you're reading a review of.

For the technophobes, there is even a help section, containing advice on everything from finding your way around the site to obtaining and using the software necessary to view the various documents. This will be updated with members' frequently-asked questions, but the site has been designed to be easy to use, so we wonder just how few of those there'll actually be!

Don't worry about your existing routes for getting IMCA documentation – they will remain in place, with both printed and e-mail options available for receiving the latest minutes, information notes and safety flashes according to your needs and preferences. This latest development merely aims to enhance the service provided to members.

All members will be notified automatically once the site is launched. Please contact Adam Hugo, IMCA's IT Operations Co-ordinator, for more information and with any post-launch feedback.

Other new e-Developments

The 2002 edition of *IMCA's Guidance on Offshore Diving CD* is being prepared and will be issued to members shortly. The CD also includes the full range of ROV information – see page 9 for more on this.

IMCA Marine Division plans to issue members with a CD of its guidance later in the year – more news in the next issue.

Lifting incident reporting

Lifting activities are common to marine, diving, offshore survey and ROV operations. A new IMCA Lifting Appliance Incident Form for use in reporting failures involving fixed and mobile cranes, A-frames and associated lifting equipment used for ROVs, diving operations, life-boat davits, etc has been circulated to members in hard copy. It's set out in two parts – the first to be completed on site promptly and the second to be completed onshore after completion of the final incident report. This new IMCA initiative aims to allow information sharing on lessons learned among members to further improve the safe operation of all lifting appliances offshore and consequently to reduce incidents, lost time and damage to equipment.

An electronic version of the form is available on request.

Recently I had the pleasure of chairing IMCA's Overall Management Committee, a group made up of the chairmen and vice chairmen of the individual committees that together set the objectives and provide the framework for the activities of the Association.

The effort put in and the breadth of the activity is impressive. The output is a wide range of guidelines intended to improve the technical, safety and environmental performance of our industry through a policy of self-regulation. This is by far the more preferable mode of operation, the alternative being the imposition of prescriptive rules and regulations by governments and customers.

To maintain faith in our ability to self regulate and in the long-term interest of the industry, it is essential that members both support the effort and adhere to the guidelines. While applications for new membership are vetted, it is impractical and probably undesirable for IMCA to audit adherence to the guidelines. Our preference is to encourage acceptance by our customers and for compliance to be assured directly between them and the individual member. This will not always happen and I would like to remind you that within the IMCA constitution there is a complaints procedure under which IMCA has the right to investigate such complaints and expel members who are found to operate in flagrant disregard of the Association's guidelines. While this would obviously be a last resort it is essential that we retain this right and use it to sustain IMCA's fine reputation because loss of reputation would impair our ability to self regulate.

IMCA's Chief Executive, Mr Tony Read, retires shortly, after five years of sterling effort. Tony announced his intention towards the back-end of last year and we set about the difficult task of recruiting a successor. I am delighted to say that we had some fine candidates and successfully appointed Mr Hugh Williams, who takes over on 29 April. Tony will then assist with an orderly hand-over while gradually reducing his involvement over a three month period. We will pay full tribute to Tony's efforts in the next issue of IMCA News, suffice now to offer my sincerest appreciation of his skill and dedication at this time.

Hugh is a chartered engineer, married with two children and holds a degree in Civil Engineering from Durham University. He has worked in most aspects of the marine construction industry over a 25 year period, from design and construction to business development and contracts. He has worked with Rendel Palmer and Tritton (where he even trained and worked as a diver/engineer). At Noble Denton, Heerema and latterly Global Maritime, Hugh focussed on offshore construction including towage, lifting, pipelay, decommissioning and ports and harbours. The

role he assumes at IMCA is a difficult post requiring a broad skill set so I am delighted to have Hugh on board. His appointment will provide a natural catalyst for a re-focus of IMCA's activities as we move into a new phase.



IMCA Overall Management Committee

President & Chairman: John Smith, Halliburton Subsea
Chairman Diving: Alan Forsyth, Halliburton Subsea
Chairman Marine: Hugo Bekker, Allseas Engineering
Chairman ROV: Kevin Kerins, Oceaneering
Chairman Offshore Survey: Alf Parker, DSND Subsea
Chairman SEL: Chris van Beek, Heerema Marine Contractors
Chairman TCPC: Terry Hirst, Stolt Offshore
Vice Chairman Diving: OC Andersen, Stolt Offshore
Vice Chairman Marine: Pete Somner, Halliburton Subsea
Vice Chairman ROV: Dave Walker, Technip-Coflexip
Vice Chairman SEL: Mike O'Meara, Halliburton Subsea
Vice Chairman TCPC: Brendan Kelly, Oceaneering
Chairman, Middle East & India Section: Steve MacMillan, J Ray McDermott Diving Division
Chairman, Asia-Pacific Section: Andy Bolton, Technip-Coflexip Asia Pacific
IMCA Technical Director, Jane Bugler
IMCA Chief Executive & Secretary: Tony Read

Second joint seminar

Following the success of the joint diving & marine seminar held in Stavanger last year, the Diving Division is currently assembling a full and varied programme for another one day event to be held on 5 November in Aberdeen in conjunction with the first part of the Marine Division's 11th annual station keeping seminar on current developments and issues in DP/marine operations.

Although the event is still several months away please note the date in your diary now.

Further details will be circulated soon and will also be made available on the IMCA website at <www.imca-int.com/seminar/>

Talking jobs in the offshore industry

IMCA is supporting the 'Talking Jobs' initiative sponsored by the UK Offshore Operators Association and the UK Department of Trade & Industry. The concept is to interest young people in working for the offshore industry, by creating an interactive and interesting website for teenagers and those in higher education.

On the website, it will be possible to see people working in the industry. By way of short video clips selected young professionals – real people, not actors – will speak plainly about what they do and how they got there. Further links will also be possible to company websites.

The database compiled will be hosted on the Continuing Education Gateway website at <www.ceg.org.uk> and will of course be accessible worldwide via the web. The TCPC and divisional committees have already asked some members to suggest suitable candidates for these 'talking heads' and selected characters are to be filmed in a realistic setting by the end of April. Half hour interviews will be edited back to short clips (4-6 minutes).

The aim is for school children to identify with the people portrayed and want to emulate them. This project should help recruit new personnel to the sector. Given the shortfalls existing or expected in various branches of the industry, IMCA is keen to encourage initiatives that will help attract suitable new recruits.

For further details contact Jane Bugler at IMCA

TCPC Core Committee

Chairman: Terry Hirst, Stolt Offshore
Vice Chairman: Brendan Kelly, Oceaneering

Lodewijk Wijngaard, Allseas
Ed Danson, Fugro-UDI
Donald Beezer, Global Marine Systems
Eric Law, Halliburton Subsea
Mike Lloyd, Technip-Coflexip
Brian Robertson, Technip-Coflexip
Sarah Willetts, Thales GeoSolutions

Vicki Graham, IMCA Schemes Administrator

Secretary: Tony Read

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Diary date

It's nearly four years since the launch of IMCA's *Competence Assurance & Assessment Scheme* so documentation is due for review and possible revision in the light of members' experience. A seminar is planned for 13 November 2002 at which it is hoped all divisions will discuss issues arising from implementation and suggested changes to the documentation. Further details of this event will be circulated nearer the time, but *please note the date in your diaries NOW.*

Marine competence

Due to the complexity of the *IMCA Competence Assurance & Assessment Scheme* for marine personnel – covering 19 safety critical positions and 9 different activities, a phased approach has been developed for marine contractors to use where they feel it would help with their implementation of the scheme.

Plans and procedures for implementation phases 1 and 2 have now been developed and are set

out in IMCA information notes TCPC 14/01 (M31/01) and TCPC 04/02 (M 09/02).

The information note for the second phase sets out some possible target dates for introduction and implementation of both phases. The TCPC committee would be interested to learn from members how they are progressing with their own implementation programmes and whether they find the information provided about this phased approach helpful.

Please contact <Jane.Bugler@imca-int.com>

TCPC Information Notes *published since Issue 22*

- TCPC 17/01 IMCA Diving Supervisor & Life Support Technician schemes: Revision of examination procedures
- TCPC 01/02 2001 information notes
- TCPC 02/02 Six-month grace period for STCW compliance
- TCPC 03/02 IMCA recognition of diving-related training courses: Updated listing
- TCPC 04/02 Guidance on phased implementation of the IMCA CAAS for safety-critical marine positions: Phase II
- TCPC 05/02 Progress in meeting objectives for 2001
- TCPC 06/02 Objectives for 2002

Norwegian regulations

Five new sets of regulations came into force on 1 January 2002 in Norway designed to make management and supervision of health, safety & environment as coherent and co-ordinated as possible within the petroleum sector. The new rules are common to the Norwegian ministries for Labour & Government Administration, Environment & Health. They will be enforced by the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate, the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority (SFT) and the Norwegian Board of Health within their respective spheres.

The main regulations or framework rules are accompanied by four supplementary regulation sets covering management, information duty, facilities and activities. All of these regulations are accompanied by guidelines which provide more detail on the particular requirements for each set of rules and which often refer to appropriate standards.

An English translation of the regulations, together with the guidelines and information on links to relevant websites such as the Norwegian standards body NOR-SOK is now available in electronic format from <www.npd.no/regelverk/r2002/frame_e.htm>

Zero injury goal

IMCA has published safety statistics of members' performance annually for the past five years. The annual exercise is well supported by IMCA members with 31 contractor companies, representing 65.6 million hours worked, contributing to the statistics for 2000. While they offer only a lagging indicator of health, safety and environmental performance, these statistics are nonetheless seen as providing a useful insight into performance in this area and there has been a progressive year-on-year improvement in the lost time injury frequency rate.

This encouraging sign led IMCA Council to publish a statement of intent that set IMCA the target of "an injury-free work place". To help deliver this, substantial continuous improvement in the LTIFR (lost time injury frequency rate) figures needs to be achieved in 2002 through the use of IMCA initiatives and by each member's use of its safety management system. To that end all members are strongly encouraged to set and work towards aggressive targets of their own in order to achieve the ultimate goal of an injury free workplace within the membership as a whole.

Don't forget that IMCA offers a range of materials to assist you in this work, not least the safety flash system, safety indicators; guidance on the initial and refresher familiarisation of vessel crews and guidance on basic safety training for non-marine personnel on specialist vessels.

Safety, Environment & Legislation Core Committee

Chairman: Chris van Beek, Heerema Marine Contractors

Vice Chairman: Mike O'Meara, Halliburton Subsea

Wayne Seelbach, Cal Dive International
Richard Curtis, Diamond Offshore Drilling
Phil Bradbury, DSND Subsea
David Rankin, Global Maritime
Mat Schreurs, Heerema Marine Contractors
Sal Ruffino, Saipem
Ken London, Stolt Offshore
Allan Hannah, Technip-Coflexip
Secretary: Tony Read

SEL Information Notes *published since Issue 22*

- SEL 35/01 European maritime safety agency
- SEL 01/02 2001 information notes
- SEL 02/02 General guidelines on environmental reporting: Joint CBI/UK government guidelines
- SEL 03/02 UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency proposals for changes to the seafarer medicals
- SEL 04/02 EU Noise Directive: Update
- SEL 05/02 Protection of ships from terrorism and sabotage
- SEL 06/02 ILO publication: Drug and alcohol prevention programmes in the maritime industry
- SEL 07/02 EU Working Time Directive
- SEL 08/02 IMO developments
- SEL 09/02 Proposed IMO action on offshore supply vessels
- SEL 10/02 Proposed IMO wrecks convention
- SEL 11/02 Core committee
- SEL 12/02 Helicopter landing criteria
- SEL 13/02 Offshore cranes
- SEL 14/02 Review of offshore helideck management guidelines
- SEL 15/02 Finalisation of EU vibration directive
- SEL 16/02 Proposed EU directive on temporary workers
- SEL 17/02 Progress in meeting objectives for 2001
- SEL 18/02 Objectives for 2002

Expertise in security

Security has long been an issue offshore and apart from the obvious high profile targets in this industry, there has long been the difficulty of piracy, the perennial problems of dock security and of overall security of vessels and offshore units.

Companies have evolved their own strategies over the years to deal with different threats and have acquired a wealth of expertise and experience. Such expertise is almost bound to be kept low profile and publication of security measures is obviously self defeating. There could be some benefit however in sharing ideas between like minds.

The International Maritime Organization recently asked: "With the recent focus on maritime security and combating terrorism, companies and individuals with the relevant maritime security experience had offered their expertise to the Organization. It would, however, be appreciated if IMO Member States and organizations could assist in identifying such experts."

IMCA has passed on this request to the division management committees. The next IMCA seminar will include an item on security. If any members have ideas for that item, or help for IMO, please contact Philip Wiggs <philip.wiggs@imca-int.com>

Asia-Pacific

Having decided to meet in Kuala Lumpur in late March to coincide with their participation in the 2002 HSE conference of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, Tony Read and AP Chairman, Andy Bolton felt extremely gratified to see about 30 contractor members including two new ones attend the IMCA section's quarterly event.

This was the largest meeting so far held in the region and indicates that the Association and its objectives are regarded with a great deal of importance by people working in the area. However it remains the section's intention to hold meetings in less central areas within the region and Andy Bolton hopes that such good attendance will be repeated in other locations.

The meeting in Kuala Lumpur focussed on the work of the section's three working groups. It is hoped that the three topics (cross hauling of bells, surface mixed gas diving and ROV mobilisation guidelines) will all be submitted to the relevant IMCA management committees by the end of April for approval prior to issue.

Another hot topic on the agenda in KL was the issue of compliance with IMCA codes of practice among contractor members. There was concern that minimum standards might not be met in some cases. It was concluded that in areas where regulatory auditing is scarce, client education offers by far the best way to tackle issues of non-compliance among contractor members. To follow this up the AP Section will be running an initiative to raise awareness among clients of IMCA codes and requirements.

Asia Pacific Section

Chairman: Andy Bolton,
Technip-Coflexip Asia Pacific
Hon. Secretary: Greg Eller, Stolt Offshore

The next AP Section meeting is to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 20 June followed by a local client familiarisation session on 21 June.

Middle East & India

Election

At the meeting of the Middle East and India Section held on 28 January 2002, Steve MacMillan of McDermott was elected as the new Chairman of the section. The other new officers of the Section are David Bastow of Dulam International as the new Chairman of the Safety and Technical Committee with Mustafah El Beheiri of Mutawa Marine Works and Barry Evans of CCC being elected as the two committee members. Charlie Rogerson continues as the Hon. Secretary of the Section.

Farewell and thanks

Troy Holford, the outgoing Chairman, has moved to a new post with Fraser Diving in Perth Australia and now looks forward to working with IMCA's Asia-Pacific Section. Troy has a background in diving and has worked as a diver, welder, supervisor and superintendent on various saturation/air diving projects. In 1991 he moved to the management side of Fraser Diving while in Brunei, and then relocated to Dubai in 1994 as their General Manager.

Shortly after arriving in Dubai, Troy was elected IMCA Middle East Chairman in 1995, and has held that position for the last 7 years. As the first regional body set up by IMCA, the Middle East & India Section has achieved a number of objectives and milestones, such as:

- Client acceptance and use IMCA guidelines
- Promotion to the diving contractors themselves to agree to join IMCA and work to the IMCA standards and guidelines
- Creation and agreement by members of a non-conformance reporting and action plan based on self-regulation
- Establishment of a regional appendix to the IMCA international diving code
- Training, government, and regulatory issues
- Expansion to include India in the IMCA Middle East regional regime

To accomplish these milestones IMCA had to promote itself, advise clients about the benefits of working with an IMCA diving contractor and deal with various internal issues amongst members. Having just taken over as Chairman in 1995, one

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Outgoing ME&I Section Chairman Troy Holford – we look forward to seeing you resurface into IMCA Asia Pacific from your new job in Australia

issue remains in Troy's mind – the SCUBA diving issue. Back then some diving contractors used SCUBA, and reaching agreement to change to surface supplied SCUBA replacement gear was challenging to say the least. The discussions were lively but after resolving the SCUBA issue everything else seemed easy!" says Troy.

IMCA wishes to thank Troy for the energy he brought to his role in the region and to wish him every success in his new post.

Many members attended the recent section meeting in Kuala Lumpur

Development of offshore legislation in Brazil

In January, IMCA Technical Director Jane Bugler attended the 'Regulatory Model for Offshore Operational Safety' workshop organised by Brazil's Agencia Nacional do Petroleo (ANP).

To begin the workshop, presentations were made by regulatory agencies about various different offshore regulatory regimes – Australia, Canada, Norway, UK and USA. After consideration of these regimes, ANP then presented its draft regulatory model inviting comments from workshop participants.

ANP is proposing a safety-case-type of regime for operators, and currently envisages that this will cover a description of the installation and facilities, a formal risk assessment, safety critical element identification, a life cycle management system and independent verification. The Brazilian regulator also envisages that contractors will have in place a safety management system covering their activities.

IMCA was pleased to be invited to participate in the workshop and has provided comments on these proposals. We await the finalised proposals with interest because ANP has informed us that it is revising the proposals based on input received from workshop participants.

New Section Chairman

IMCA welcomes Steve MacMillan into the post of Chairman. Steve started diving in 1980, with Taylor Diving on Brown & Root barges in the Far East. From 1985 he joined McDermott as a diver and worked with them until 1991. He then worked for OPI until 1995 as an operations manager, before returning to McDermott in 1996 as the Far East Area Manager. In 1999 Steve added the Middle East &

India area as well when McDermott combined the two regions together (Far East & Middle East) and formed J Ray McDermott Eastern Hemisphere. In October 2000 Steve relocated from Singapore to Dubai. Steve now holds an IMCA Bell Diving Supervisor certificate.

The next Middle East & India Section meeting will be held in Abu Dhabi on 29 April. Contact Charles Rogerson, <crogerson@ccc.co.ae>



Committee by e-mail

The Safety, Medical, Technical & Training (SMTT) Committee of the Diving Division was formed in 1997 by amalgamating the Safety & Medical Sub-Committee, the Technical Sub-Committee and the Training Sub-Committee. The single SMTT Committee meets regularly and much of the guidance produced by the Diving Division is prepared by this group.

Alan Forsyth, who chairs both the SMTT and the Diving Division committees recently appealed for new members to come forward to help progress some of the issues arising on the work programme. Although the SMTT Committee has traditionally met in Aberdeen, its membership is highly international. Moreover, with the advent of e-mail and other faster means of communication, membership of this committee is strongly welcomed from all IMCA Diving Division members around the globe.

Would anyone who wishes to volunteer to assist in the committee's work please contact Jane Bugler for further details.

Diving Information Notes

published since Issue 22

- D 27/01 IMCA Diving Supervisor and Life Support Technician schemes: Revision of examination procedures
- D 01/02 2001 information notes
- D 02/02 IDAN risk assessment guide for recompression chambers
- D 03/02 Training course for medical examiner of divers
- D 04/02 Lost/stolen diver training certificates
- D 05/02 IMCA recognition of diving-related training courses: Updated listing
- D 06/02 Update on heliox gas transfer incidents
- D 07/02 Progress in meeting objectives for 2001
- D 08/02 Objectives for 2002

2001 statistics

The latest information note on the annual diving statistics for the North Sea – which IMCA has produced since 1982 – is currently being prepared.

Although there has been a decline in diving activity over the years the data collected for 2001 shows an increase for diving activity in the North Sea for the first time in a number of years. Although there was a slow start to the year, levels of activity increased as the year progressed. There was an increase in both air and mixed gas diving activity.

Diving Division Management Committee

Chairman: Alan Forsyth, Halliburton Subsea
Vice-Chairman: OC Andersen, Stolt Offshore

Jerry Starling, DSND Subsea
John Rabone, Interdive
Bjørn Kahrs, Norwegian State Diving School
Martin Fraser, Oceaneering International
Andy Cruickshanks, Promarine
Georges Arnoux, Stolt Offshore
Derek Beddows, Technip-Coflexip
John Greensmyth, Technip-Coflexip

Asia-Pacific Section:

Daryl Brighthouse, Marine & Offshore Group

Chairman, Middle East & India Section:
Steve MacMillan, J Ray McDermott Diving Division

Hon Sec., Middle East & India Section: Charles Rogerson, Consolidated Contractors Co.

Secretary: Tony Read

Contaminated waters

The advent of decommissioning brings with it increased risks of diving in cuttings piles where forward planning for safe diving is essential. Following discussion at last year's annual workshop, a working group was set up to develop further IMCA guidance on diving in contaminated waters. The group, with representatives from IMCA contractor members, an oil company, an equipment supplier and a working diver, has now met three times.

This guidance will offer protection principles that may be adapted and tailored to different situations. These will cover

everything from contamination of the diver, equipment and people onshore handling equipment post-dive to the use of appropriate diving suits and useful low technology solutions. "IMCA is eager to have practical advice from divers working at the sharp end as well as feedback from the companies they work for," says IMCA Technical Director, Jane Bugler.

The group has already prepared a short interim information note specifically concerned with diving in drill muds and this should be available shortly.

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Revised and updated CD-ROM references

The title of IMCA's *Guidance on Offshore Diving CD-ROM* reflects the range of Diving Division, AODC and DMAC material this item contains but belies the fact that the collection also includes the complete range of Remote Systems & ROV Division material, not least:

- all eight Remote Systems & ROV Division publications;
- five AODC publications on ROV use still considered current;
- relevant information notes from 1998 onwards; plus
- all IMCA safety flashes over the same period, which include a number of key lessons learned in the ROV sector.

The 2002 version of the CD is now being prepared and should be available from May onwards. It will automatically be issued to all members of both Diving and Remote Systems & ROV divisions. Additional copies will be available for purchase for onward distribution through member companies.

Remote Systems & ROV Division Management Committee

Chairman: Kevin Kerins,
Oceaneering International

Vice-Chairman: Dave Walker,
Technip-Coflexip

Dave Rhodes, DSND Subsea
Bob Gillespie, Fugro-UDI
Peter Howson, Global Marine
Systems

Paul Brain, Halliburton Subsea
Karl Erik Selvig, Halliburton Subsea
Norway

Andrew Beveridge, Rovtech
Keith Robathan, Sonsub
Colin Mackay, Stolt Offshore
Alan Edwards, Thales GeoSolutions

Hon. Sec, Asia-Pacific Section:
Greg Eller, Stolt Offshore

Secretary: Tony Read

Schools competition

The Scottish Council for Development & Industry set up a network of Young Engineers Clubs some years ago to encourage more young people to continue studying science, engineering and technology. It now has over 140 registered clubs in primary and secondary schools throughout Scotland. To support the involvement of local industry the United Kingdom Offshore Operators Association (UKOOA) has set up an ROV competition to design and make a small working model of an ROV for the oil and gas industry that will collect ping pong balls – representing rocks – from a square area within two minutes. IMCA is delighted to

have been asked to help judge this competition on 21 April at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh, a task that will fall to Brendan Kelly, Oceaneering, the Vice-Chairman of the TCPC Committee.

Statistics 2001

The report for ROV activity on three dates – 1 May, 1 July and 1 September – in 2001 is being pulled together currently and an information note should be available shortly.

Data collected for 2001 shows a clear peak in September, reflecting a trend toward greater levels of activity in the latter half of the year. It has been agreed to collect figures for four dates in 2002, including 1 November.

ROV Contracts

In February IMCA published *Terms and Conditions for ROV Support Services (IMCA R 008)* based on the set of principles published earlier this year. *R 008* has been prepared for use by IMCA members in particular, but not exclusively, in the situation where the client entity contracting for and that providing such services are both members of IMCA. They have been prepared for use under English law. If other governing law is being used, some clauses may need to be amended to reflect the circumstances. The terms and conditions are also not binding on members – each IMCA member remains free to enter into whatever contract it deems to be in its own interest.

Copies of *R 008*, members £5, non-members £10 zero VAT



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Remote Systems & ROV Division Information Notes

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Allan Hannah, Technip-Coflexip, gave a thought-provoking overview of behaviour-based accident prevention, illustrating the horror of injury, both pictorially and by naming personnel and their individual injuries. He pointed out how, despite numerous safety initiatives and a decreasing trend, accidents were still happening and people were still getting hurt. He then outlined his company's approach to identifying behaviours, collating data and, through consultation, using that data to remove dangers, exploring how such a process worked in practice and what pitfalls to watch out for during implementation.

Delegates then took part in discussions on behavioural safety management. Each group then fed their answers back to the floor and took part in a further final discussion on this topic.

Following on from this Joop van de Westen of ITIM asked whether legislation improved safety and cited positive and negative examples to illustrate his views. He asked whether it was necessary to have a culture of punishment for breaking safety rules, and whether this distracted from the rule's fundamental purpose. Given the potential for individual misinterpretation great care must be taken when presenting rules or giving a warning. Reiterating a theme of the day he stressed the need to concentrate on leading people to think safely as opposed to blindly following rules.

Opening day two of the seminar SEL vice chair Mike O'Meara of Halliburton KBR conformed to his UK stereotype when he waved a Portsmouth FC scarf provocatively at his audience. Ken London of Stolt Offshore then spoke about six key leading performance indicators (LPIs) currently proposed for IMCA (how they had been determined and why they were now being

presented for wider consultation/feedback). Lively table discussions generated some constructive feedback that will now be carefully studied.

Sal Ruffino, European Marine Contractors, then discussed the effectiveness or otherwise of safety incentive schemes. His comments attracted much support from the floor when he argued that, despite the best of intentions, some schemes can be counter-productive and the overall objective to bring about safety improvement, modify behaviour and heighten awareness can be lost. That theme was reinforced during table discussions later.

The remainder of the second day was devoted to studying various offshore incidents and how or whether lessons were learned from them. IMCA gratefully acknowledges the contribution made by the presenters to the seminar itself, provoking fascinating and very constructive debate, and into the wider work programme of IMCA's SEL Core Committee. One highlight was Stephen Bruce's candid account of his previous experience in the North Sea fishing industry and its totally different approach to safety. He used video of an actual rescue to emphasise the dangers involved. His telling point, at the close of his talk, was that companies could easily be employing people brought up in such cultures or similar in many areas of the world.

After a general discussion about common lessons and how to apply them to make offshore work sites safer SEL chair Chris van Beek brought the seminar to a close. Coming from so many different perspectives it was striking that many speakers reached very similar conclusions. Most participants were left feeling a stronger need to take safety initiatives forward, to look at the ordinary routine issues as well as the extraordinary. Many would now consider culture issues differently and some will think more about managing change more directly by encouraging better communication between managers and workforce. Training, familiarisation and contingency planning remain central but companies must demonstrate support for any personnel who query safety practice, no matter when or from what level such comments come. Safety flashes and company safety notices should be followed up and not discarded as irrelevant because they might be old. There should be more information sharing and a greater willingness to disseminate and learn from incidents.

A forest of hands from the floor showed agreement that the seminar had been worthwhile and that a repeat event should be arranged for next year. It was also hoped that any future session would involve more people from the offshore workforce. The seminar closed and lunch followed before many participants attended a much appreciated full tour of the Old Trafford Stadium.

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Modernisation of GPS & GLONASS

Information notes *IMCA M 10/02* and *IMCA M 12/02* were recently issued about GPS and GLONASS. Essentially, these documents detail the maritime requirements for a global maritime navigation system and expresses a view on who should bear the financial burden.

A new GPS system is expected to be operating by 2008. On 26 March 2002, EU transport ministers released the funding for the Galileo project, which will establish a commercial European system.

It should be interesting to see the improvements achieved in accuracy and ease of use, given the enormous changes in technology since the existing systems started operating around the end of the seventies. The project team will also be able to benefit from the experience of putting the earlier systems in place.

IMCA M 10/02 asked members whether IMCA should make proposals on what the requirements from GNSS should be for specific offshore positioning applications. We have the opportunity now to propose additions to the IMO requirements. Members are reminded to let us know their views.

Operational communications

During a well attended workshop on DP/dive communications at the last annual seminar in Stavanger, a broad range of topics arose including communications system design, ergonomics, hard wire digital links, standardisation of alarm indicators, and the range of communication styles likely to be used.

It was also proposed that a work group be set up to examine all forms of communication used both to identify problem areas and perhaps to establish a communications standard (to help ensure safe communications and operations on all types of vessels and in all types of work as well as DP/dive operations).

Preliminary enquiries have now been made and the new work-group looks set to convene in Aberdeen in early June.

If you would like to be part of this group, please contact <philip.wiggs@imca-int.com> as soon as possible.

If you are interested, but cannot attend, a presentation can be made on your behalf, or a conference call arranged.

Lifeboat design

In March IMCA attended the Ship Design and Equipment Sub Committee of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee. In support of IADC, IMCA presented a paper on lifeboat safety during in-service testing and survey of lifeboats.

In the paper it was pointed out that the in-service test of release gear, described in an MSC resolution as a prototype test, had been transformed by reference in SOLAS into an in-service test accepted by many administrations.

IMCA called for more consideration to be given to the practicalities of in-service maintenance and testing during the design and approval process for new lifeboats. IMCA also highlighted several concerns including problems of boat loading to simulate the weight of personnel, the dangers of quick release arrangements and the necessary use of maintenance pennants.

Likewise, IMCA added that davit design should itself result in a system which could be used easily and safely, under stressful conditions and in difficult environments, by personnel already encumbered by survival equipment, without so many inherent dangers inflicted by the davits and boats themselves.

IMO rules for FPSOs

Should an FPSO have a double hull or should that be a decision

for the shelf state depending on the specific situation of the unit? IMO will be considering specific guidance on the application of MARPOL 73/78 to FPSOs/FSUs at a meeting in June.

IMCA has made representations on earlier drafts, building on the experience of SBM and Navion, and will be following the finalisation of this matter closely to ensure members' interests are safeguarded.

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Personnel agencies

IMCA hosted a meeting recently at Oceanology International to update personnel agencies regarding the IMCA *Competence Assurance & Assessment Scheme*. This followed a previous meeting last year.

Andy McNeill gave a short presentation outlining the performance criteria for use with the offshore survey competence scheme, to be published shortly alongside information regarding the proposed operation of the scheme. These criteria have been developed to help aid consistency in the implementation of the scheme within member companies. IMCA contractor members felt it was important for these criteria to be in place before progressing too far with implementation.

In addition to the 'core' and 'key' competences outlined in the scheme documents, the Offshore Survey Division has identified certain performance criteria as essential. These are elements within each of the performance criteria that are considered necessary for an individual to achieve before he/she can be confirmed in that grade.

Newcastle initiative

It was reported in the January 2002 issue of *IMCA News* that the Association is supporting a year-long initiative – run out of Newcastle University – to raise the profile of both onshore and offshore surveying and to increase recruitment into the industry.

We are pleased to report that there have been two significant developments with this work since it started:

Firstly a new website has been established that provides extensive teaching resources to help bring geomatics (surveying) into the classroom, for use by school-teachers <www.geomatics.org.uk>.

The site also contains information about people working in the industry with details of their career paths and their work in action through a diverse collection of case studies.

Secondly the UK government-funded Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council has given a grant of £55,000 to the initiative to prepare teaching packs for secondary schools.

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Offshore Survey Information Notes

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- S 01/02 2001 information notes
- S 02/02 Maritime requirements for future global navigation satellite systems (GNSS)
- S 03/02 GPS & GLONASS status reports
- S 04/02 Progress in meeting objectives for 2001
- S 05/02 Objectives for 2002

Marine Information Notes published since Issue 22

- M 40/01 European maritime safety agency
- M 41/01 Helicopter landing criteria
- M 42/01 Multi-support vessel (MSV) – India
- M 01/02 2001 information notes
- M 02/02 Removal costs for UKCS installations
- M 03/02 Voyage data recorders
- M 04/02 UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency proposals for changes to the seafarer medicals
- M 05/02 Six-month grace period for STCW compliance
- M 06/02 Protection of ships from terrorism and piracy
- M 07/02 Amendments to the Int. Regs for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972
- M 08/02 IMO developments
- M 09/02 Guidance on proposed implementation of the IMCA CAAS for safety-critical marine positions: Phase II
- M 10/02 Maritime requirements for future global navigation satellite systems
- M 11/02 Proposed IMO action on offshore supply vessels
- M 12/02 GPS & GLONASS status reports
- M 13/02 Proposed IMO wrecks convention
- M 14/02 DGPS differential signal drop-out off East Coast Canada
- M 15/02 Helicopter landing criteria
- M 16/02 Offshore cranes
- M 17/02 Review of offshore helideck management guidelines
- M 18/02 Progress in meeting objectives for 2001
- M 19/02 Objectives 2002

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New members

IMCA welcomes:

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 Ocean Works Asia
 Petrovietnam Manpower Training College
 TL Geohydrographics
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Name changes

Please note

ABB Automation is now simply ABB

Alstom Power Conversion is now part of Alstom T&D Ltd

Defence Research Agency is now QinetiQ Ltd

Fremantle Maritime Training Centre is now WA Maritime Training Centre – Fremantle

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Part of the Ganesh Group of companies that began life in 1974. Chemical and petrochemical manufacturer, with an infrastructure division and ship management business since 1992. The group currently manages and maintains three multi-support vessels and one geotechnical/diving support vessel belonging to ONGC. These ships are classed with IRS, LRS and DNV, repair and maintenance work is carried out under standards laid down by ONGC and Germanischer Lloyd and the company is due to complete its ISM Code and ISO certification process shortly.

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Ocean Works Asia, Inc.

An established Japanese registered company founded in 1971 to provide underwater services to the offshore oil and gas industries, electric power industries, offshore contractors and marine and river civil engineering contractors. Main services include, shallow/deep water diving; ROV; underwater hydraulic machine service; underwater inspection, repair and construction services. Presently owns three full spread saturation systems, two of which are 100m rated, and the other 200m rated.

Contact: Osamu Shitamori
 Tel: +65 (265) 9300 19301
 Fax: +65 (264) 1971

Petrovietnam Manpower Training College (PVMTC)

A subsidiary of Vietnam Oil and Gas Corporation (Petrovietnam) founded in 1975. Offers a wide range of training including that for qualified technical workers in all sections of the oil and gas industry, safety and environment training. Also runs seminars and scientific symposia.

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IMCA News

Published quarterly to promote knowledge of safety and technical matters affecting the marine, underwater and engineering industry.

Succinct, positive contributions of potential interest to a wide cross-section of IMCA members are welcome.

Views expressed on these pages do not automatically reflect policies or positions of IMCA itself.

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