

Swell compensators

Achieving optimal production



The natural movements of a vessel in lively sea conditions and the natural undulations of the bottom mean that precise draghead control is necessary to prevent it being lifted from its position, thus reducing production and avoiding undue stresses on the system. The IHC Parts & Services swell compensator addresses this challenge.

Ideal position

One of the most important ways of maximising production from a trailing suction draghead is to constantly optimise the draghead's position on the bottom. The type of bottom material determines the ideal height of the head off the bottom. If too high, the mixture tends to contain too much water, if too deep or at full weight, the draghead does not extract the optimum quantities of bottom material at the best solids/water mix.

Precise control

The Parts & Services swell compensator has been designed to operate effectively in both commonly met to very difficult operating conditions. Apart from highly uneven bottom profiles, it can compensate vertical vessel motion at the gantry of up to 6 meters. To achieve optimal production every swell compensation system is designed specifically for the individual vessel, hardware and range of conditions in which it will work. It is assembled from regularly available components such that it forms a reliable link in the trailing suction installation.

Continuous adjustment

A swell compensator is basically a spring device integrated in the hoisting wire system. It consists of a set of pressurised air vessels connected to a hydraulic cylinder between sheaves. The compensation levels necessary for the various different soil types are read off tables that are prepared especially for different suction tube arrangements on individual dredgers. The monitoring system may include oil pressure, oil level or cylinder position indicators.



Designed to require a minimum of space on deck, the swell compensator can handle impressive vertical vessel motion at the gantry.

Rope strainers

Rope strainers are light forms of swell compensator to avoid slack in the hoisting wire. They can be incorporated in the swell compensator or separately placed on an intermediate gantry. On intermediate gantries in multi-part drag arms in almost stationary deep dredging conditions, rope strainers aid the swell compensator to handle the dynamics of the suction tube.



... significant production improvements and major savings on the dredge cycle.

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IHC Parts & Services

***Keeping dredging
hardware profitably at work***