

Multi-Diameter Pig Development for the Gannet Field

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Background

- Gannet to Fulmar 16" oil export pipeline commissioned 1992
 - Regular operational pigging currently carried out for wax removal and corrosion management
 - Alternative export route required
- New oil export route will require pigs to traverse 16", 24" and 34" sections with increase in travel distance from 107km to 450km
- Not an option to stop pigging, use of wax inhibitors/depressants and corrosion inhibitors will not be sufficient
 - → Multi-diameter pigging with 132% increase in pipeline size is unknown territory for Shell (& the industry?)



Current Route

- Bi-directional metal bodied pigs varying in aggressiveness launched approximately every 7 – 10 days
- Selection of pigs dependent on wax returns recovered at Fulmar and monitoring of pipeline fouling factor







Future



- Requirements vary for each section of the pipeline
 - $16'' \rightarrow$ Sweep water and remove wax
 - $24'' \rightarrow$ Sweep water and remove wax
 - $34'' \rightarrow \text{Travel only}$
- Low flow rates through <u>x4</u> wye sections which decrease over time...



Trial Overview

- Series of trials completed at vendor facility to test multi-diameter prototypes in February and June 2018 (with new trials ongoing)
 - "Sun" Pig Prototype 16/24 A



Titanium Body Pig – Prototype 16/24 C



Metal Body Pig – Prototype 16/24 B



Steel Body Pig – Prototype 16/24 D





Trial Criteria

- Remove wax & water in 16" & 24" sections
- Traverse asymmetrical diameter changes from 16", 24" & 34"
- Traverse wye structures at low flow
- Self travel in 34" sections

Prototype E currently awaiting testing

Trial Setup

- Trials proved that pigs can travel through 16" and 24" sections
- Key challenge is transiting through the wye pieces... pigs do not seal completely and require very high flow rates



Test Cases

- 16", 24" & 34" transitions with wye pieces
- Wax removal
- Buoyancy tests
- Interaction with other 24" and 34" pigs

Trial #1 - February 2018

- Prototypes A & B tested... Sun and metal bodied pigs
 - Sun Pig Prototype 16/24 A

Metal Body Pig – Prototype 16/24 B

- Different hardness of polyurethane trialled to test wax removal and sealing capabilities (different colour discs)
- Similar performance from both prototypes, though type B slightly more successful hence selected for further development

Prototype A - Sun Pig

- Able to travel in 16" and 24" sections
 - Successfully removed wax in 16", more limited in 24"
 - Issues with transition from 16" to 24"
 - Large flow rates required to move in 34"

VIDEO

Prototype B - Metal Bodied

- Similar performance to 'Sun' pig, though slightly better at removing wax in 24"
 - Some issues noted with uniform fold away of 24" discs in 16"

VIDEO

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Trial #2 - June 2018

- Prototypes C & D tested... Steel and titanium metal bodied pigs
 - Titanium Body Pig Prototype 16/24 C

Steel Body Pig – Prototype 16/24 D

Titanium pig able to self-transit at lower flow rates in 34"

- Finger spacers added to the front of sealing discs to give additional support in 24" and centralise the pig, more uniform folding of 24" sealing discs in 16" section
- Syntactic foam added to try make it neutrally buoyant for self transit in 34" section

Prototype C - Titanium Metal Bodied

- Steel metal bodies replaced with titanium and syntactic foam added
 - Fingers good at removing wax in 24" but leaving streaks of wax

Titanium Body Pig – Prototype 16/24 C

 Prototype D... similar performance but heavier due to steel instead of titanium

Backup Option

- 16" cast PU pig with syntactic foam
 - Wax removal and water sweep in 16" section only
 - Able to self transit in both 24" and 34"
- No water removal from 70m section between two wyes...
 mitigate with larger corrosion allowance
- Dual diameter foam pig considered to sweep water from 70m section... not viable

Next Steps

- Prototype E currently in development...
 - Investigate replacing PU support components with carbon fibre or composites
 - Trial low drag materials where PU components contact pipe wall
 - → Trials have identified a suitable design to progress... Results expected November 2018

1. Replace steel components with titanium (bolts, tow arm) Pig design too heavy... high 2. Add syntactic foam to PU flow rates discs required **3. Replace** non-wear PU components with syntactic foam

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