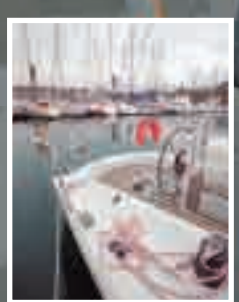
FLYGT

Impeller

69:2005



SHIPS KEPT IN SHIPSHAPE
AT THE DRY DOCKS IN TRIESTE, ITALY

RELIEF FOR SAINT-MALO YACHTSMEN • STEPHEN PAYNE: MAKER OF QUEENS

Oil on the water

While efforts to avoid oil spills on the open sea and coastal areas have resulted in fewer such spills, researchers continue to look for ways to minimise the damage when spills do occur. In such research efforts, simulation is a very useful tool to understand how oil spreads and drifts on water.

The Coastal Engineering Laboratory at the Technical University of Bari in Italy has undertaken an advanced oil-spill simulation project. The mathematical models created under the project are analysed with software developed by the Danish Hydraulic Institute. The physical simulation is performed in a 12,000-square-metre facility with variable water temperature and depth capacities and movable wave makers. There is also a large channel for the study of streams and ocean circulation.

An NZ 3152 Flygt pump was chosen for handling the water at this facility because of its reliability, efficiency and low energy consumption and maintenance costs.

PHOTO UNIVERSITY OF BARI

PHOTO GETTY IMAGES

Kon-tiki sails again

In 1947, Norwegian Thor Heyerdahl sailed in a balsa raft, the Kon-tiki, from Peru over the Pacific to Polynesia using only the most rudimentary navigation tools. The success of Heyerdahl and his team proved to the world that ancient mariners could, in fact, have travelled across the Pacific.

Now another Heyerdahl and another Kon-tiki are preparing for a new adventure, to draw world attention to the environmental threats to the oceans. This time the balsa raft will be equipped with high-tech navigation and communication systems. And at the helm will be 27-year-old Olav Heyerdahl, the grandson of Thor, who died in 2002.

During the journey, supported by both the Norwegian government and the United Nations Environmental Programme, the crew of five will perform continuous tests of the water to assess current levels of contamination.

You can follow the expedition's progress through the Internet at www.tangaroa.no.

Sewage non-stop

At a wastewater treatment plant in Poteau, Oklahoma, in the US, sharp objects carried by sewage inflow were causing repeated failures of a diaphragm pump. This resulted in disruptions to the operation of the plant, and in addition the plant received written warnings about the adverse environmental impact.

To solve the problem, the local public works department considered a costly overhaul of the entire grit chamber where the pump was situated.

But first the engineers turned to an alternate solution – using a heavy-duty Flygt pump of the kind used in industrial and mining applications. A Flygt HS 5100 slurry pump equipped with a case-hardened impeller and agitator was fitted in the existing structure.

According to official reports, the new pump solved the problem entirely, plus it had a much higher sustained efficiency than the older one. And best of all, the price tag was a 10th of the cost of an overhaul.

PHOTO CITY OF POTEAU

Instead of overhauling the grit chamber, Poteau, Oklahoma in the US bought an HS 5100 pump.