

COMMENTS ON OPERATIONS: By Esso Field Supervisor

The M/V Merino and Paulmarkson, originally coastal freighters, are not well suited for seismic work due to lack of power and manoeuverability. The reel deck on the Merino is too high above the water, resulting in a long lead-in suspended between reel and water. The ship's vibration is transmitted down the lead-in causing considerable noise on channels 23, 20, and 16. Low cut filtering was used to reduce this noise to a tolerable level. In addition, more elastic sections were added at various times. The direction in which a line was shot depended on the weather. Occasionally, when heading into the weather the Paulmarkson could not keep up, and in a following sea, could not slow down enough, so shot point positions relative to the streamer, were at times, one to two stations off.

Actual instrument down time was considerably more than the seven days shown in G.S.I.'s report. When possible, such time is marked off against another concurrent category. From the end of December until mid-March when the DFS was changed, a considerable number of short reel blocks were recorded, due to improper operation of the DFS. G.S.I. has a tape copy program, which interpolates the missing bits prior to digital processing, which is being applied to the data to correct short reel blocks. This defect is not apparent on the wiggly trace playbacks, and although G.S.I. was aware of the problem from tape checks run in Dallas during the survey, Esso not not advised until digital data processing began in Sydney.

Any additional processing costs due to DFS malfunction are for G.S.I.'s account.

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