

257210

Another point which is highlighted by a survey such as this, with long periods of weather downtime, is the absolute necessity of the contractors equipment operating reliably and consistently. This was not the case on this survey as on top of the weather downtime there was a non weather downtime figure of approximately ten percent. From this author's experience a figure of around half of this figure would be considered acceptable i.e. about ten percent of the total time for line change and online production. One decision the contractor made which influenced these figures detrimentally was to shut down operations, including the termination of line 195 to carry out a personnel transfer. The figure for lost time in this instance was further inflated by a gunstring/streamer tangle which occurred when trying to resume production.

Figure 4.1.1 illustrates the breakdown of the daily activities during the survey. From this diagram it can be seen that production was completed in two separate periods. The first from the 12th to the 15th and the second from the 17th to the 21st. Also illustrated however is the consistency of equipment failure, which occurred in one form or another on seven of the twelve survey dates covered.

Two fairly significant areas in the contract were highlighted by this survey and bear some further discussion. In common with most of today's marine seismic contracts, there was very little definition of the time at which standby charges became applicable. This is normally taken as the time at which the crew is in the survey area with all equipment deployed and operational, and was applied in this instance. However there can be complications and it would be more satisfactory if future contracts defined the time charges as being applicable after and only after the first acceptable shotpoint of production.

A second area which was lacking in true definition was the method of calculating the chargeable production. Again normal conventions were applied where chargeable kilometers were calculated from the number of shotpoints on a line times the shotpoint interval. However this also could be the source of some confusion and it is recommended that future contracts specifically define the method of calculation for chargeable production.