

ZH offshore

Riser & Conductor Engineering

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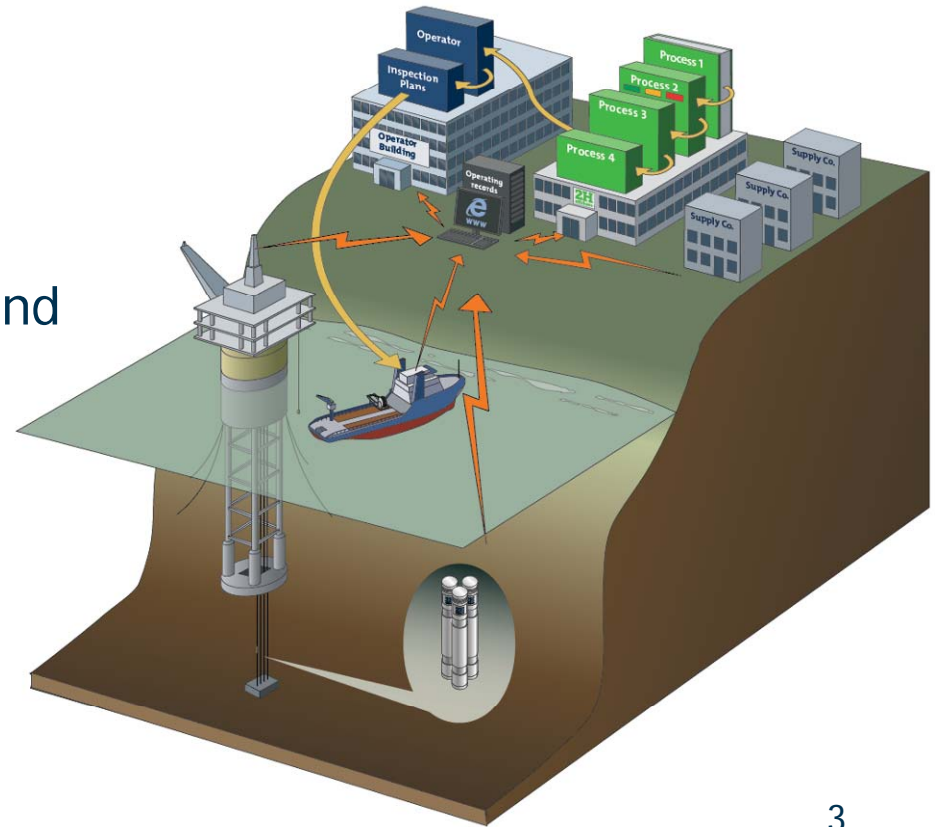


Looking Ahead: Riser System Integrity Management in the GoM

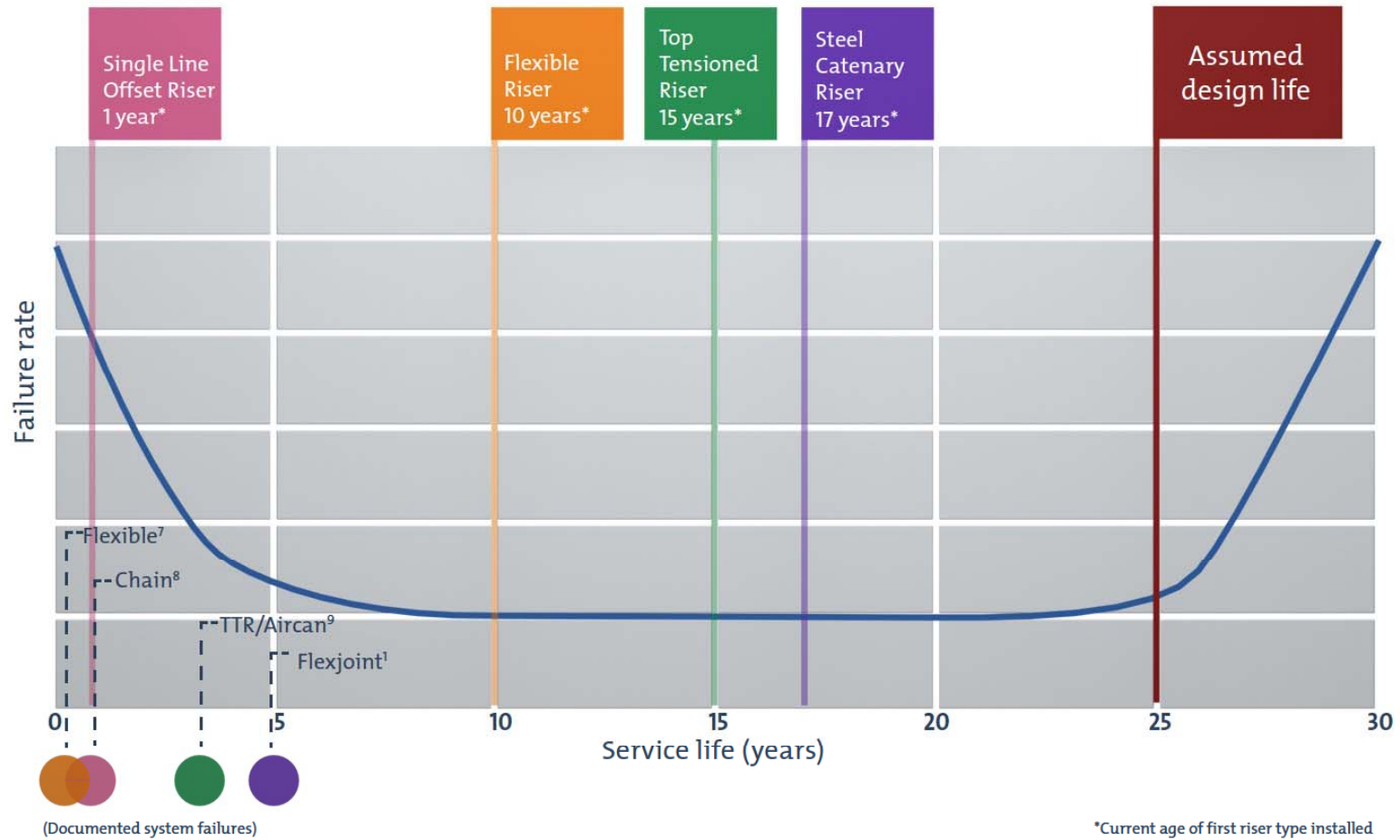
June 2011

Agenda

- Deepwater Gulf of Mexico riser lifecycle;
- Background
- Riser systems sectioning;
- Section criticality vs. integrity management maturity;
- Review of key threats the issue and some recommendations;
- Conclusions.



Riser Lifecycle

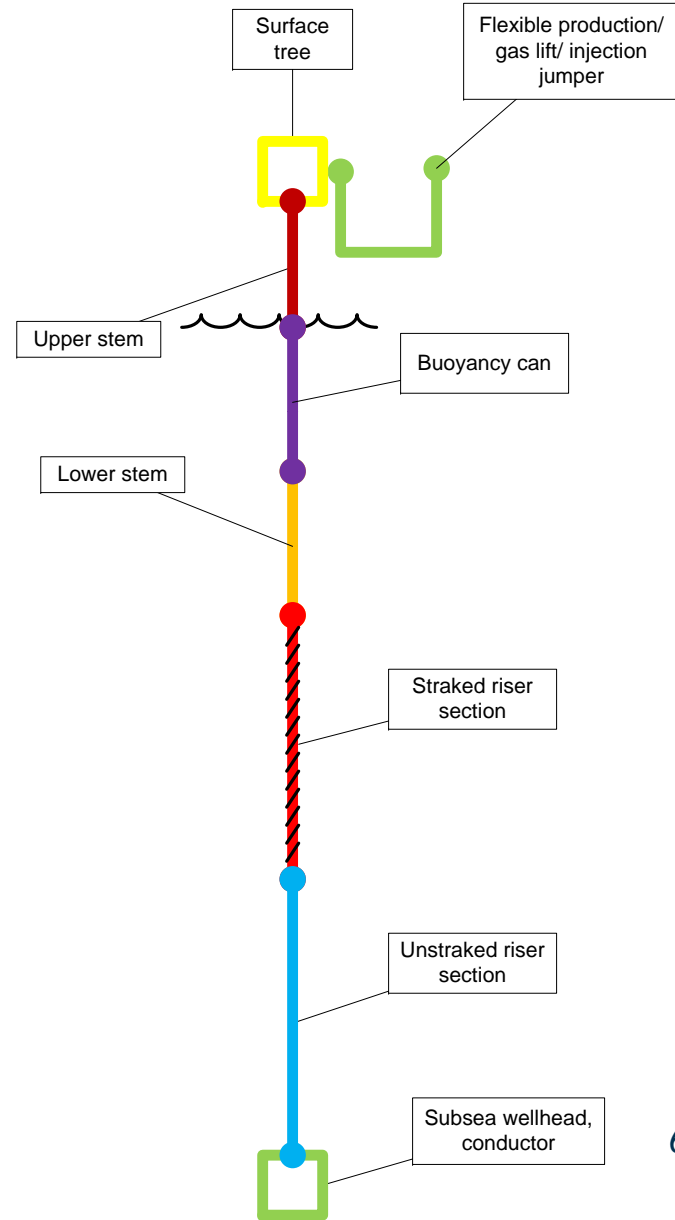
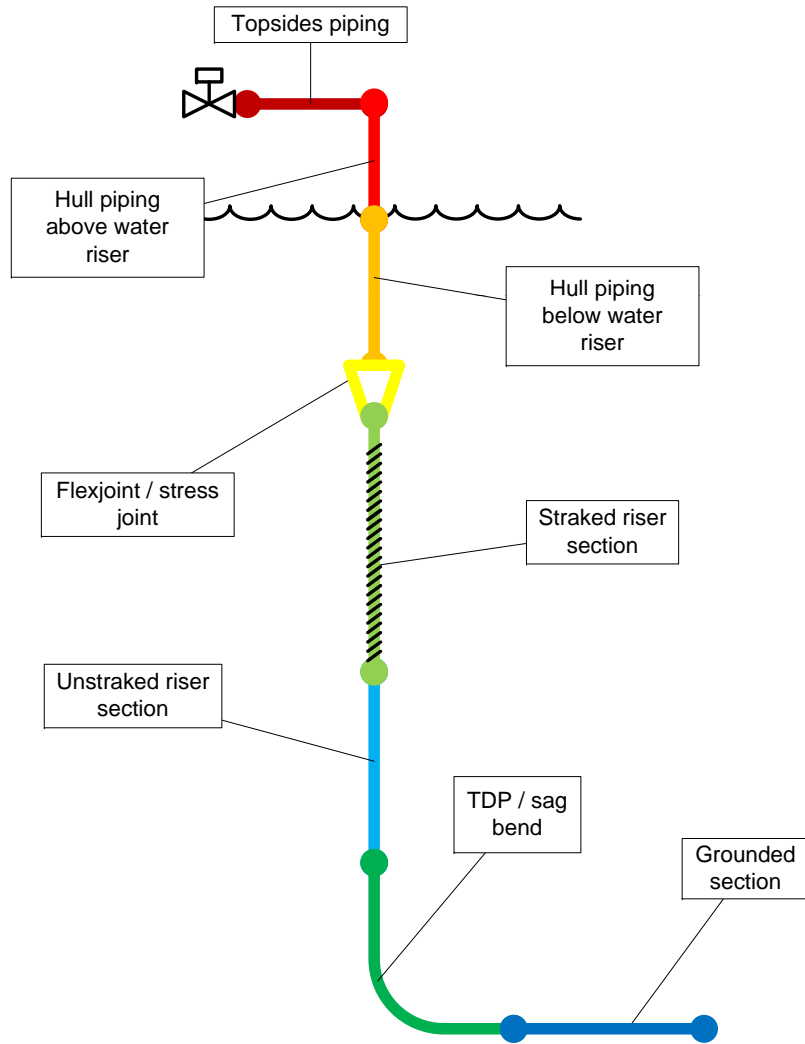


Background

- Integrity Management has been in place to address operational issues;
- Recent events have sharpened the focus;
- Integrity Management has developed as its own discipline within the GoM;
- Emergence of common processes and specialized Engineers trying to anticipate threats rather than respond to problems;
- This presentation sets out to review key risks and evaluate our readiness, or maturity, to address them.

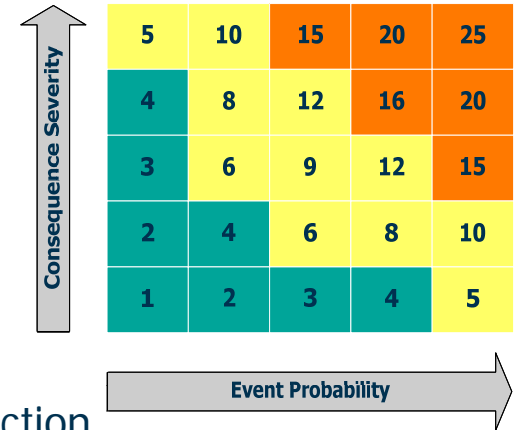


Primary Sections (Nodes)

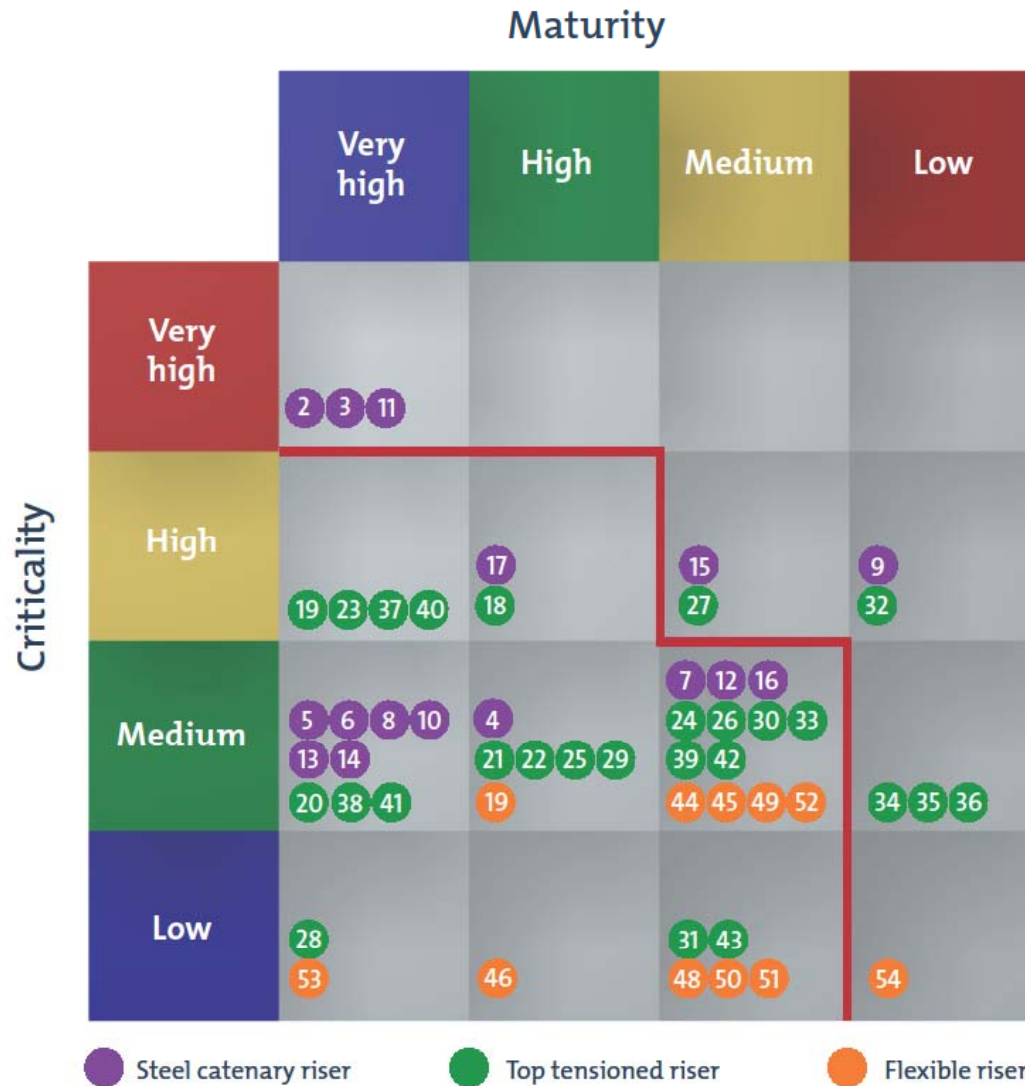


Evaluation Criteria

- Sectioned systems for discreet evaluation;
 - 3 Riser types (TTR, SCR, Flexible)
 - 18 Sections
 - 13 Threats
- 53 Sections to evaluate, rank, and plot;
 - Completed a typical qualitative risk assessment for each section
 - Criticality is the result of plotting probability against impact
 - Evaluated the maturity of industry through 6 equally weighted questions
 1. Is the failure mechanism well understood? (predictable)
 2. Can it be designed against?
 3. Can it be mitigated during operation? (easy to control/repair)
 4. Can it be monitored? (data acquisition & processing)
 5. Can the degradation be discreetly measured? (determine MTTF)
 6. Do we (industry) regularly implement barriers/inspections?
- Will review highest ranked sections in detail.



Criticality & Maturity Matrix



Key Areas for IM Technology Development

| No. | Riser | Section | Threat | Criticality | Maturity |
|-------|----------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 2 | SCR | Above water hull piping | External corrosion | Very High | Very High |
| 3 | SCR | Above water hull piping | Internal corrosion | Very High | Very High |
| 9 | SCR | FlexJoint | Material degradation | High | Very Low |
| 11 | SCR | Straked riser section | VIV Fatigue | Very High | Very High |
| 15 | SCR | TDP region | fatigue | High | Low |
| 27 | TTR | Upper riser at tensioner | Overstress/Fatigue | High | Low |
| 32 | TTR | Upper riser in aircan | External corrosion | High | Very Low |
| 34,35 | TTR | Upper riser in aircan | Overstress/Fatigue | Medium | Very Low |
| 36 | TTR | Keel joint in aircan | Overstress | Medium | Very Low |
| 54 | Flexible | Internals | Internal corrosion | Low | Very Low |

SCR Above Water Hull Piping Internal & External Corrosion

Issue

- Single barrier and proximity to personnel
- Insulation and coating transitions can act as incubators
- Topsides coupons often in co-mingled fluids
- Chemical injection rates alone may be misleading

Recommendation

- Regular topsides inspection (incl. ropes access)
- Improved Coatings
- Guided Wave Ultrasonics
- Develop on-line methods for in-process corrosion prediction
- Develop approach for pigging unpiggable lines



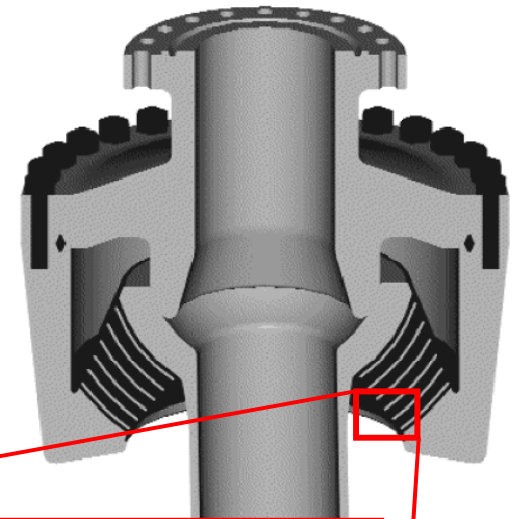
SCR FlexJoint Degradation

Issue

- Premature degradation of the elastomer
- Failure is difficult to predict, no method of monitoring
- Surface cleaning with close visual inspection is only indicator

Recommendation

- Develop failure prediction methods based on P&T data [1]
- Improve CVI tools and modeling methods
- Improved elastomeric materials
- Implement learning's from drilling riser elastomers



Straked Riser Sections VIV

Issue

- Strakes foul with marine growth
- Fouling is near surface...i.e. the high current regions
- Have seen complete fouling in 3-5yrs
- Growth over 1/3rd fin height begins to reduce suppression efficiency [2]

Recommendation

- Develop efficient and effective cleaning tools
- Improve anti-fouling treatments
- Evaluate fouled fairing performance



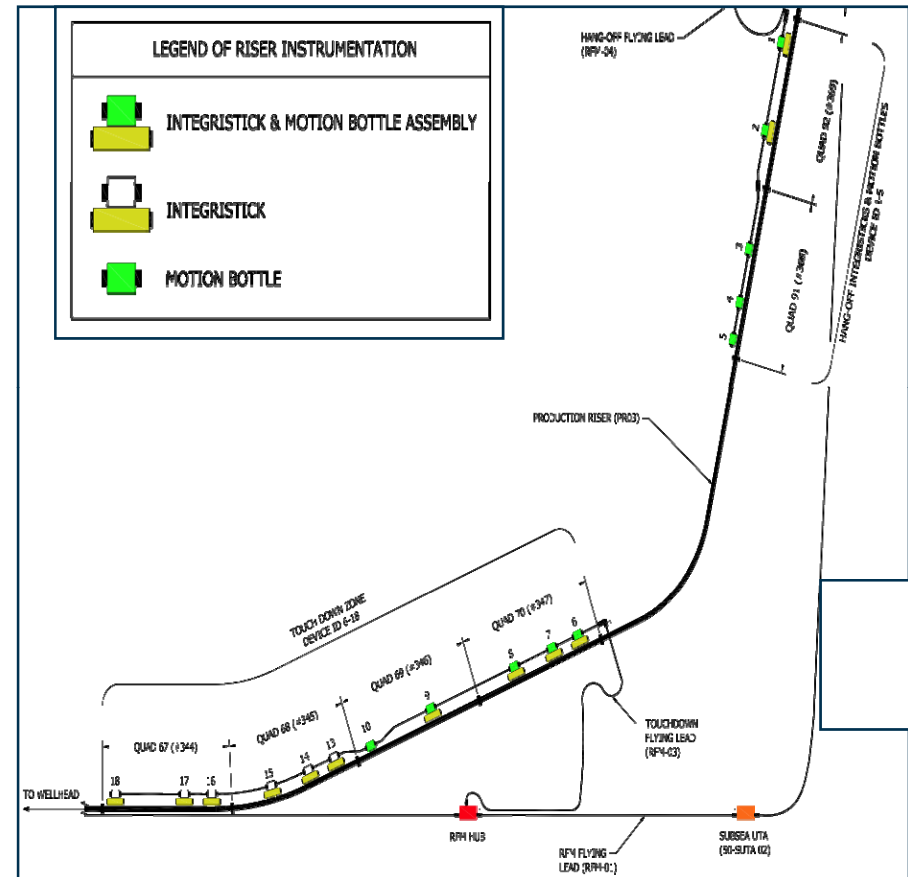
SCR Touch Down Point Stress & Fatigue

Issue

- Increasing depth, HPHT; increased fatigue complexity and sensitivity
- Limited validation of design assumptions (i.e. environment, response, seabed/flowline)
- Difficult to process real time data
- Difficult to measure degradation

Recommendation

- Mature ILI tools for 'unpiggable' lines
- Develop methods for accumulating long term fatigue
- Marginal designs should implement data monitoring to validate assumptions [3]
- Know what a leak 'looks like' for sub-ambient risers



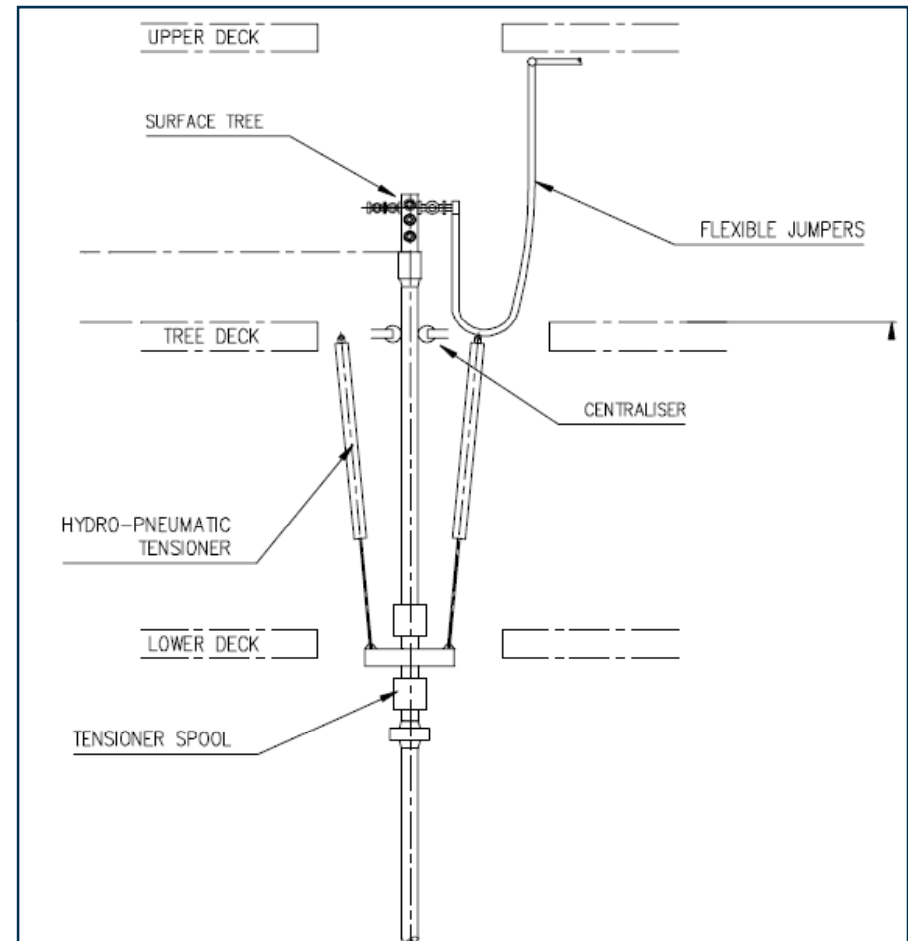
TTR Upper Riser Stress & Fatigue

Issue

- Platform centralizers back off or degrade
- Bending moments in upper sections optimized by centralizer location
- Topside tree mass can have a 'flagpole' effect on upper stem/riser

Recommendation

- Centralizers are a key system component, conduct regular inspections [4]
- Process data from load sensors for trends or degradation



TTR Riser Within Stem Stress, Fatigue, and Corrosion

Issue

- Riser bending moments optimized by centralizer location
- No direct inspection methods
- Condition of riser or environment inside aircan/stem is unknown
- Interface loads with the hull [5]

Recommendation

- Access and methods for regular inspection
- Verification of as installed condition with centralizer locations
- Process data from load sensors for trends or degradation



Flexible Internal & External Corrosion

Issue

- Degradation methods difficult to predict or measure
- Few early warnings from external visual inspections
- Annulus volume testing is subjective

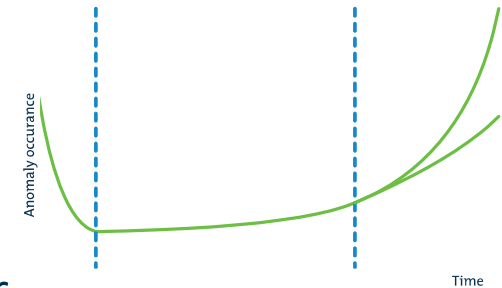
Recommendation

- Improve reliability and accuracy of volume tests
- Corrosion modeling or methods to predict onset of corrosion
- Embedded fiber optics for monitoring
- External inspection/scanning tools [6]
- Acoustic monitoring



Conclusions

- Anticipate an increase in end-of-life (wear out) failures;
- Transition points are emerging as key areas for integrity threats;
- Need to mature the monitoring systems available for deepwater systems;
- Need to improve/develop methods for real time assessment of accumulated stress, fatigue, and corrosion;
- Designs should include capacity for inspection or long term monitoring methods;
- Design consideration for mitigation and/or replacement.



Other Challenges Ahead

- Common standards will be key to driving dialog (common language) and methods (common approach);
- IM should be a consideration in design, and a budget line item in operations;
- A common database of industry failures will yield more relevant risk assessments;
- Personnel will be light (gap in the 35-45 yr technical leaders).





Questions?

References

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