



North Sea - Swarf Recovery



In some situations casing milling prior to cement placement is required to achieve an effective cement-to-formation seal during wellbore abandonment.

Milling generates large quantities of hazardous swarf, which finds its way into BOP cavities. This can damage seals and even compromise functionality. The BOP stack is a well control measure and it is essential that it is in working order at all times. Our client identified this issue during their operations and approached Coretrax to provide a solution.

Our client is conducting an extensive decommissioning campaign in one of their fields using Awilco's WilHunter semisubmersible rig. Section milling of casing is required on every well on Ivanhoe and Rob Roy (and a few on FFFA) to set cement plug barriers. Although removal of swarf out of the wellbore is very good when conducting its section milling on every well, our client still recognized a requirement to clean out as much swarf from the ram cavities to protect BOP equipment and components in the mud circulating system. Coretrax Technologies was asked to design a combination tool which would comprise a powerful jetting action to remove swarf from the deeper recesses of the ram cavities and bring the swarf back to surface.

The tool provided is now extensively used after each milling run whilst waiting on cement. It will bring back up to 40kg of swarf in its first run, dropping to 1kg on the 3rd one. Non-magnetic custom-built scrapers to suit the profile of the magnets and long swarf resistant gloves are used to ensure the safety of rig floor personnel. Very minimal swarf is now encountered upon opening up the annulars and rams. 11

