

Title: DP, Past Present and Future

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Abstract

Fifty years of DP is a small line in time. This paper looks at just the last 30 to help keep today's DP performance and safety in perspective. It is in three parts; past, present and future. The past part outlines the evolution of good practice between 1980 and 1994 and then covers the major changes shortly thereafter with the boom of new DP Class 2 and 3 vessels and the soaring expectations of clients. The present part shows how there has been a shift (a drift off perhaps) in expectations and a growing concern with safety. It concentrates on the DP Class, the DP work and the DP Guidance and compares past expectations with present expectations to provide input to future predictions. The future part gives three scenarios and takes them down in a logical sequence. One is pessimistic, one is optimistic; the third is the one in between and perhaps more likely. Each of these is discussed as it affects different DP work. The foundations of safe and reliable DP is also discussed and the most important area for attention to achieve the optimistic path.

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