

Title: Taut Wire

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Abstract

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With the advent of DGNSS, advances in acoustics, radar and laser based position reference systems, and movement of operations into ever deeper water, taut wire has become less prevalent as a DP Position reference. However there are still many taut wires in use and it has proved to be a reliable and consistent means of measuring a vessel's position for dynamic positioning.

Taut wires compared to other position reference systems are simple mechanical devices. Their use is restricted to water depths up to around 350m. The factors affecting accuracy are the effects of catenaries due to self weight of the wire and sea currents, and the ability to maintain a constant tension in the wire.

This paper explores the principles of taut wire, advantages and disadvantages, physical limitations and various methods of implementation. There is a review of the MTS operating guidelines for tautwires incorporating their failure effects.

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