Abstract for OSVDPA's Proposed Presentation to the 2018 DP Conference

Title: "DP Sea Time Validation: An in-depth review of the commonly utilized DP validation practices and suggestions for how the industry can improve."
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Abstract:

The Offshore Service Vessel Dynamic Positioning Authority (OSVDPA) proposes a paper recommending and justifying minimum standards for sea time validation techniques utilized when reviewing the experience accrued by DPOs and Prospective DPOs. The paper shall also describe how the resources utilized to record onboard DP experience could be modified to facilitate better validation techniques.

The OSVDPA's DPO Certification Scheme is predicated on the belief that certification is a product of classroom learning, experience gathering, and the passing of practical assessments. While the OSVDPA believes the primary component is passage of practical assessments, it also believes that all three components require independent and effective validation prior to issuing a certificate.

In its attempt to validate sea time, the OSVDPA has found that a significant amount of experience recorded by DPOs and Prospective DPOs should not qualify as DP experience gathering because there is scant evidence that the DP system was utilized during the record period. Moreover, the OSVDPA is concerned that the industry-accepted sea time validation techniques do not catch these mischaracterizations.

As a result of these concerns, the OSVDPA has developed a comprehensive and extensive sea time validation technique that involves comparing the DPO or Prospective DPO's logbook against a company-produced sea service letter as well as independent data on the vessels actual activities during the times recorded by the DPO or Prospective DPO. By using this system, the OSVDPA has found that many DPOs or Prospective DPOs have less DP experience than what is claimed in their logbook.

As previously stated, the OSVDPA believes that passage of assessments is a better metric for ensuring a DPO or Prospective DPO meets the certification requirements. However, the OSVDPA also realizes that much of our industry heavily or exclusively utilizes sea time for this purpose. As such, the OSVDPA offers to present its sea time validation process in the hopes that this process—or something meeting an equivalent standard—is accepted throughout the industry. In addition, this review will also discuss how the OSVDPA's system has been hindered by the existing sea time validation tools and discuss how improvements to these tools would result in more detailed validation and ultimately a more competent industry.