

VESSEL-GENERATED UNDERWATER
RADIATED NOISE COMPARISON
STUDY (TUGS): *EWOLF, TIOGA, AND
LEADER*

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
META PROGRAM

SUMMARY BRIEFING

PROJECT GOALS

- Compare underwater noise generated by battery-electric and conventional diesel propulsion vessels
- Identify potential underwater noise reductions that can be linked to vessel designs with reduced greenhouse gas emissions

Measured Vessels

eWOLF

Z-Drives, Battery-Electric



Tioga

Z-Drives, Hard Mounted Diesel Engines



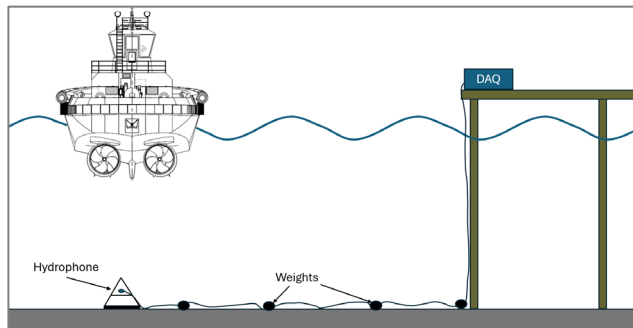
Leader

Voith, Hard Mounted Diesel Engines



MEASUREMENT CONDITIONS

- **Transit Conditions**
 - 10, 8, 6, 4, and 2 knots
 - Four vessel transits per condition
- **Simulated Tug Assist (STA) Conditions**
 - Power: 100%, 80%, 60%, 40%, and 20%,
 - Based on RPM/Pitch
 - Each condition measured 3 times
- **Background Noise**



Deployment Arrangement Schematic



STA Test, *Leader*

PROCESSING OVERVIEW

- **For Each Measurement:**
 - Background noise spectrum determined
 - Received level at hydrophone measured
 - **Transit:** Time of maximum level verified as the Closest Point of Approach (CPA)
 - **STA:** minimum 30 seconds of data used (vessel stationary over hydrophone)
 - Process noise spectrum at hydrophone
 - If transit, data at CPA +/- 30 degrees (per ANSI S12.64)
 - If STA, all data used
 - Data inspected for clear signs of interference; reject as necessary
 - Noise spectrum background corrected as necessary (per ANSI S12.64)
 - Distance corrected 1-meter source level calculated using spherical spreading
 - $20 \cdot \log_{10}(d)$, where d is the distance between the hydrophone and the vessel at CPA
- **Data averaged over multiple runs for each measured vessel/condition**

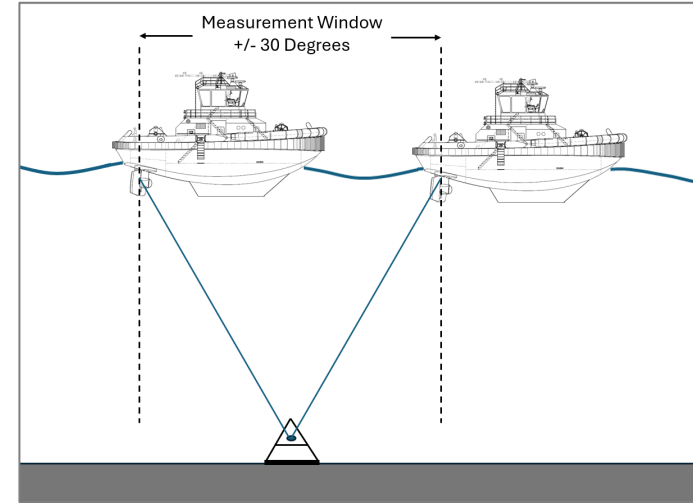
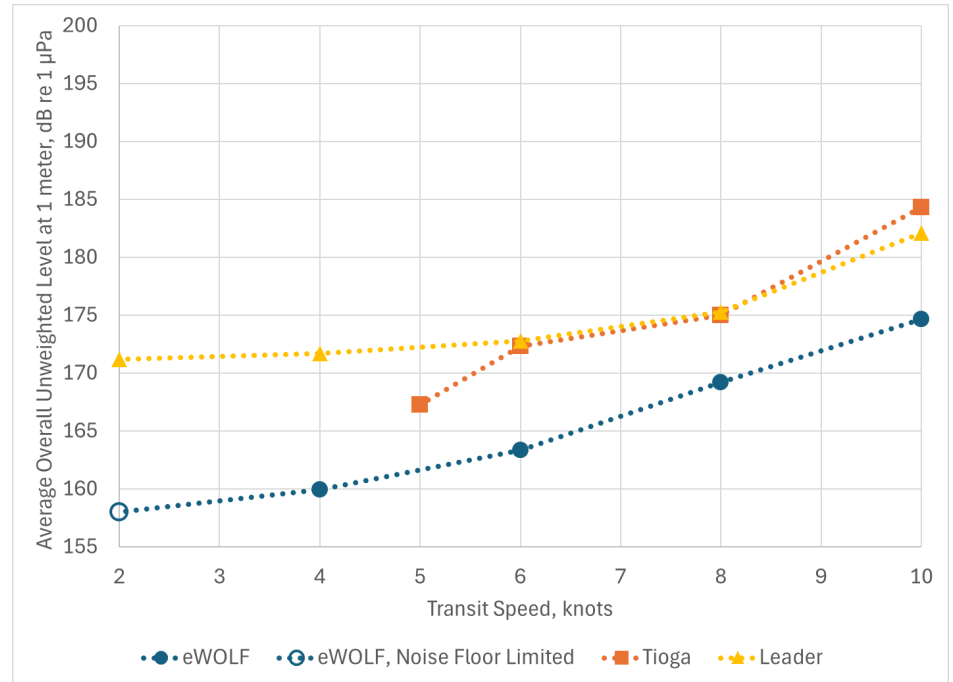


Diagram of Measurement Window

OVERALL LEVELS: TRANSIT CONDITIONS

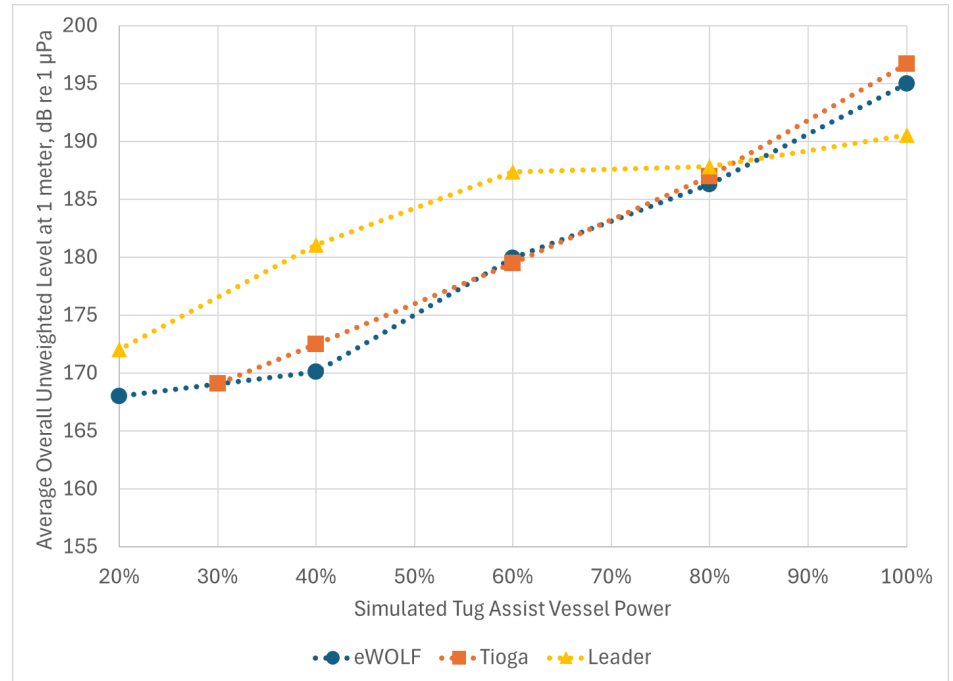
- At all transit speeds, the *eWOLF* overall level is at least 6 dB lower than those of the *Tioga* and *Leader* at comparable speeds
- “Hard mounted” diesel engines of *Tioga* and *Leader* main cause of higher levels
- Difference could potentially be reduced with noise control treatments for propulsion engines



Transit Condition, Average Overall Levels at 1-meter

OVERALL LEVELS: STA CONDITIONS

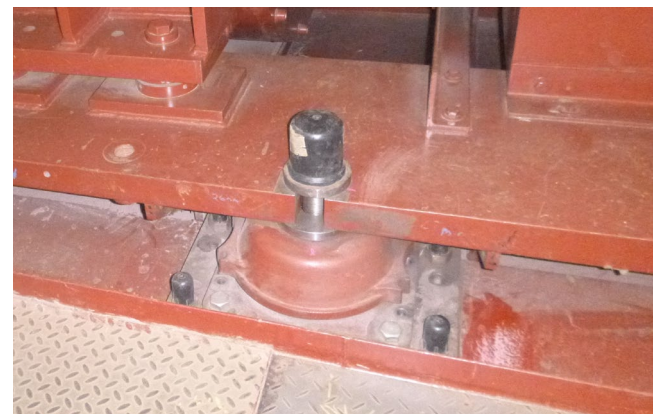
- At all STA Conditions, *eWOLF* noise is similar to or louder than the other vessels
- *eWOLF* propellers produce significant noise once cavitation is present, similar to *Tioga*
- Propeller noise from the *Leader* is generally lower than other vessels because the Voith Schneider propulsion system cavitation is minimal
- Engine noise controls *Leader* levels



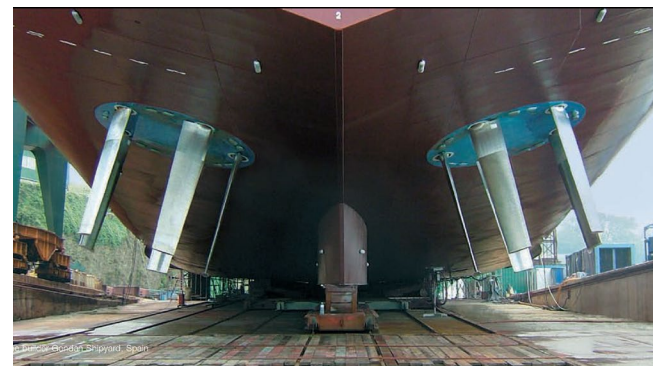
STA Condition, Average Overall Levels at 1-meter

CONCLUSIONS

- **Underwater noise reductions for tugs are possible by implementing battery-electric propulsion systems**
 - Limited to slower speed transit and low power tug assist operating conditions when propeller cavitation is not present or is minimal
 - Impact on noise reduction will be further diminished when compared to tugs that have applied noise controls to their diesel engines
- **Noise reduction at higher speeds and STA conditions requires design stage efforts to reduce cavitation**
 - Conventional propeller designs with reduced cavitation may be possible if implemented as goal at the design stage
 - Alternative propulsion systems present opportunities to reduce cavitation (e.g. cycloidal systems)



Resilient Mount



Voith Schneider Propellers on Drydocked Vessel

