Offshore Special Regulation 3.03 – Hull Construction Standards (Scantlings)

Keel Inspections

A submission from the Chairman, Special Regulations Sub-Committee

Purpose or Objective

To add 3.03.5 to recommend regular inspection of the keel structure and structure in way of the keel

Proposal

3.03.5 It is strongly recommended that a keel and the hull structure in way of the keel is regularly and carefully inspected, especially in the case of keel fins that have been fabricated or welded in any manner.

Current Position

There are no recommendations for regular inspection of the keel structure.

Reason

1. Recent yacht keel failures may have been prevented by regular inspection of the keel structure, particularly in the area of welding or fabrication where cracks or corrosion can significantly reduce the structural effectiveness of a fabricated keel joint.