



**VORTEX**  
**SUBSEA SOLUTIONS**

# **BLACK HOLE** **8-INCH DREDGE**

**DREDGE EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS MANUAL**

PATENTED



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All information correct as July 2023 and subject to changes without notification.

# Introduction

The Vortex Black Hole 8-inch is characterised by the following advantages:

- No depth limitations
- Quick mobilization
- Easy operation

The Black Hole 8-inch dredge is designed for higher capacity hydraulic supplies that enable a dredge inlet vacuum up to 15.3 in/hg (52 kpa) at 3000 psi and 80lpm. The Vortex Black Hole 8-inch is designed for Subsea excavation and disposal of seabed materials up to 150 millimeters in size. It can be mounted to any Work Class ROV and requires no ship deck space and sea fastening. The Vortex Black Hole 8-inch is very powerful, has no depth limitations and is quick and easy to mobilize and operate, it must NOT be run in air. Only in water.

The Vortex BLACK HOLE 8-inch equipment can be operated and maintained by the ROV crew.

Vortex has developed a dredge kit with two primary considerations:

First priority is ease of mobilization. The client needs to see rapid deployment of hire gear. The entire kit is shipped in one single box.

Second priority is power. Our BLACK HOLE 8-inch dredge has shown under real world conditions to provide removal rates well in excess of other 8-inch dredges. We have included the option of a jetting head kit.

The Vortex BLACK HOLE 8-inch equipment is easy to set up and use. However, if on site support is agreed in the contract, Vortex Personnel will assist during mobilization and demobilization and or support the project during the entire operation.

Your safety is your responsibility. Please ask if you are unsure about anything.

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## **OPERATING LIMITS**

The operating limit for the Vortex BLACK HOLE 8-inch , will be the responsibility of the Senior ROV person on-site. The limitation being the ability to safely deploy and recover the ROV system with the Vortex BLACK HOLE 8-inch attached. Care must be taken whilst during launch and recovery operations to prevent damage to all components of the dredge system and the ROV.

## **RISKS - NORMAL OPERATIONS**

All personnel involved in deck operations shall be aware of the potential risk described hereafter.

- Crane Handling (possible danger of e.g. heavy falling object)
- Launch and recovery of equipment over the side of the vessel
- Personnel working over open sea (typical personnel working with launch and recovery of equipment from vessel deck or moon pool)
- Object falling down from height (rocks following the equipment when recovering)
- Working with equipment under pressure (hydraulics or water)
- Hydraulic oil spillage

## **SAFETY**

Personal protection equipment recommended for use when working on ship/platform deck

- Hard Hat
- Safety glasses
- Gloves
- Safety Boots
- Overall

## **VORTEX BLACK HOLE 8-INCH INTRODUCTION**

The Vortex BLACK HOLE 8-inch is designed for Subsea excavation and disposal of sediments and gravel up to 200 millimeters. It is easily mounted to the ROV and requires no ship deck space and sea fastening.

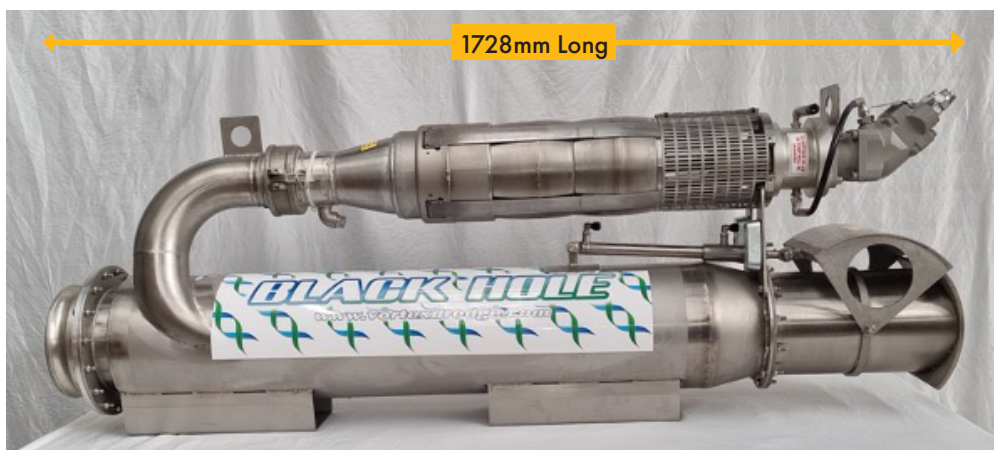
The Vortex BLACK HOLE 8-inch requires no specialist operator or additional cables between ship and sea floor.

# Specifications

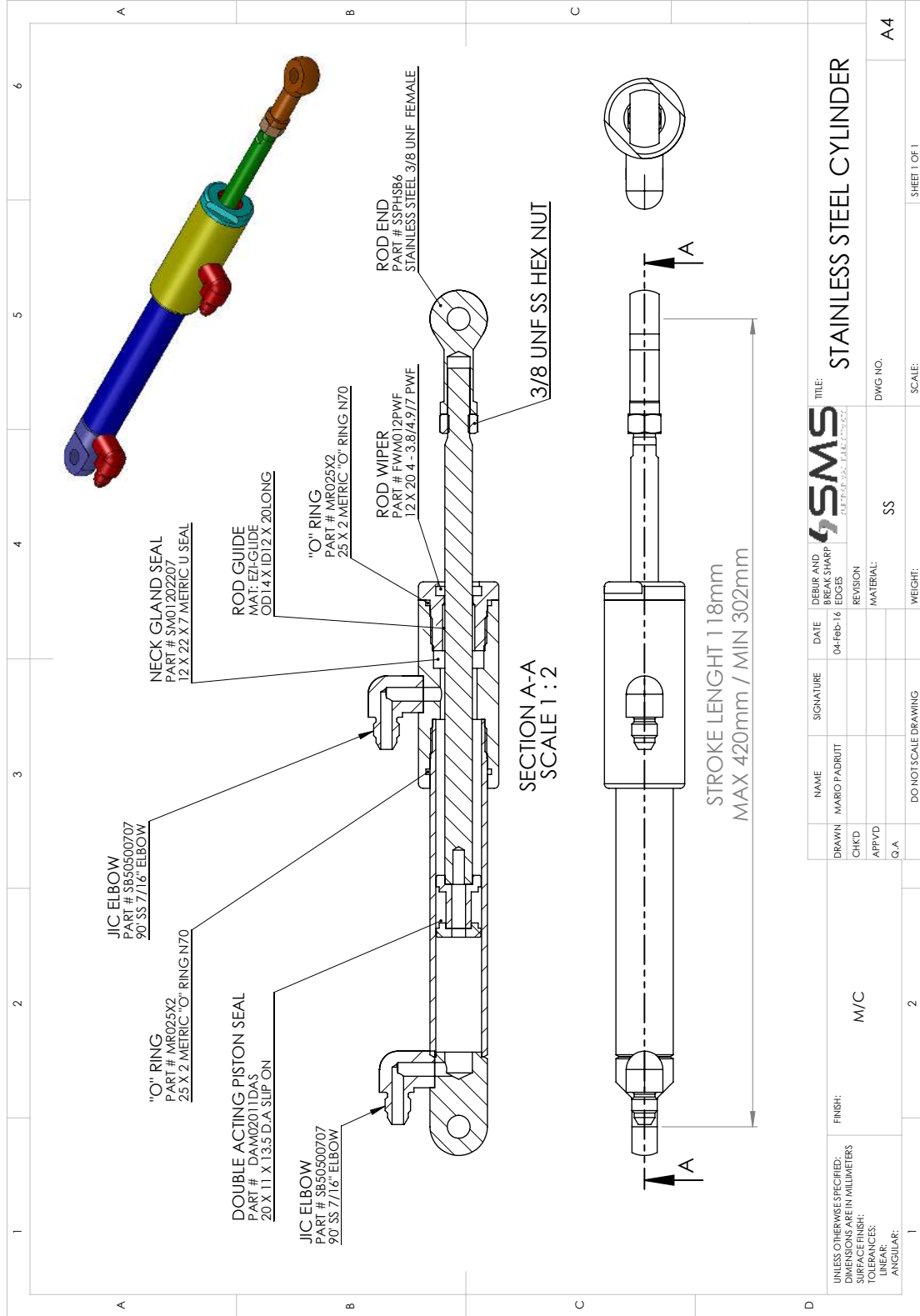
- Removal rates\* based on actual material moved during testing using Magnetite black iron sand and rocks weighing 2.375 kg per liter
  - \* 120 to 128 plus ton / hr
  - \* 58 to 60 plus cubic meter / hr
  - \* 10 plus % solids by volume
- Hydraulic supply required: 85 lpm (22.4 gpm) and 206 bar (3000 psi)
- Hydraulic hoses supplied:  
Pressure and return = 4 mtr long, 4000 psi (275 bar) rated. -12 jic female swivel ends.  
Case drain = 4 mtr long, 1000 psi (68 bar), -6 jic female swivel ends
- Suction capabilities = 32 kpa (9.4 in/hg) using 85 lpm and 206 bar
- Pump weight in air 111 kg (complete pump unit)
- Pump weight in Seawater 89 kg (complete pump unit)
- Suction hose diameter = 202 mm
- Actual internal dredge diameter = 200 mm
- Potential debris diameter = 198 mm
- Shipping box = 2360 mm L x 590 mm W x 900 mm H.  
Weight = 300kgs complete kit

**Your safety is your responsibility: If you don't know, please ask.**

646 mm High



# Grab arm cylinder assembly



# User Checklist

## BEFORE DIVE

To prevent any damage to the equipment this checklist must be followed

Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Dredge No.: \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	CHECKED	COMMENTS	DATE
1.	Ensure ROV can and does supply: OPTIMUM FLOW IS 85 lpm (22.4 gpm) OPTIMUM PRESSURE IS 3000 psi (206 bar) (4500 psi max) Follow hose directions as shown.		<b>DO NOT RUN PUMP IN AIR: ALWAYS RUN IN WATER.</b>	
2.	All fittings are checked for leakage.			
3.	All hose clamps are checked			
4.	Pumps are fastened, no loose screws.			
5.	Suction hose is fastened.			
6.	Dredge is fastened, no loose ends.			
7.	All hoses are fastened and in proper condition.			
8.	Filter for induction is mounted in clean water.			
9.	No hoses are squeezed or bent.			
10.	Inlet nozzle is mounted correctly.			
11.	Case drain and coupling are filled with clean oil.			

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Dredge checked by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# User Checklist

## AFTER DIVE

To prevent any damage to the equipment this checklist must be followed

Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Dredge No.: \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	CHECKED	COMMENTS	DATE
1.	Equipment used in the sea must be properly cleaned with fresh water.		<b>DO NOT RUN PUMP IN AIR: ALWAYS RUN IN WATER.</b>	
2.	All fittings are checked for leakage.			
3.	All hose clamps are checked			
4.	Pumps are fastened, no loose screws.			
5.	Suction hose is fastened.			
6.	Dredge is fastened and in proper condition.			
7.	All hoses are fastened and in proper condition.			
8.	No hoses are squeezed or bent.			
9.	Hydraulic motor and coupling is filled with clean oil.			
10.	Broken parts are reported to vortex.			

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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Dredge checked by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

What were the positives: \_\_\_\_\_

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What were the negatives: \_\_\_\_\_

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Suggestions to make this kit better for you to use in the field: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Vortex HURRICANE 8-inch Hydraulics

## DO NOT RUN PUMP IN AIR: ALWAYS RUN IN WATER

### Motor / pump hoses and connectors

3/4" Pressure	Hydraulic Hose -12	JIC Female fittings	4 mtr long
3/4" Return	Hydraulic Hose -12	JIC Female fittings	4 mtr long
3/8" Case Drain	Hydraulic Hose -6	JIC Female fittings	4 mtr long

### Reversal valve actuator hoses and connectors

1/4" suck	Hydraulic Hose -4	JIC Female fittings	3 mtr long
1/4" blow	Hydraulic Hose -4	JIC Female fittings	3 mtr long

### Hydraulic Motor Requirements

Hydraulic flow / Pressure: 85 lpm minimum (22.4 gpm minimum)  
206 bar minimum (3000 psi minimum)

### Reversal valve actuator hose Connectors

Hydraulic flow / Pressure: 10 lpm minimum (2.6 gpm minimum)  
68 bar minimum (1000 psi minimum)

## VORTEX BLACK HOLE 8-INCH PUMP AND MOTOR

The pump must be mounted on the ROV with ample room for both hydraulic and water hose connections. Hydraulic connections seen at the top. Fill hydraulic motor with clean oil before start up. Pump can also be run in air.

## VORTEX BLACK HOLE 8-INCH PIPE WORK

Vortex pipe-work with cam locks for suction hose and pressure hose (left) and exhaust tube (right). The pipework is easily fixed to the ROV using cargo straps or ropes.

## SUCTION HOSE AND HANDLE

The suction head comes equipped with a fish-tail style handle for ROV manipulator. Other handle versions can be supplied. Depth markings supplied for ease of operation.

# Vortex HURRICANE 8-inch Hydraulics

**DO NOT RUN PUMP IN AIR: ALWAYS RUN IN WATER**

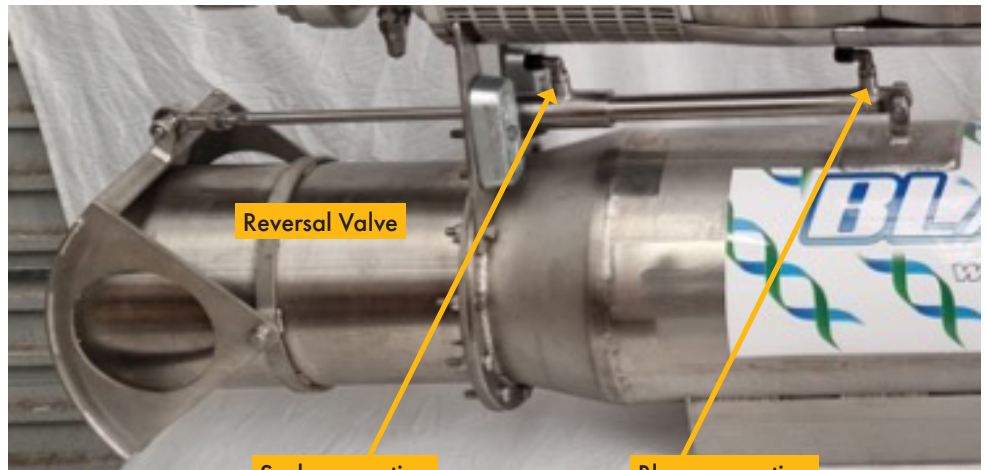
## Hydraulic Schematics

### VORTEX BLACK HOLE 8-INCH HYDRAULIC HOSES

- Hydraulic hoses for pump/motor connections.
- Two 4 mtr lengths 3/4" hoses
- One 3 mtr length 3/8"



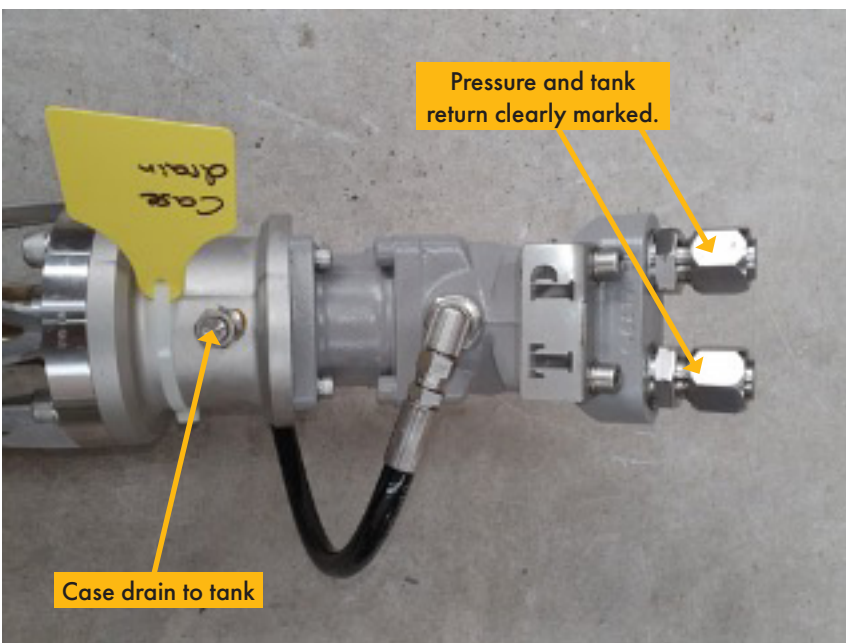
150psi check valve on case drain must be in place. This loads up the mechanical seal for effective sealing.



Reversal Valve

Suck connection

Blow connection



Pressure and tank return clearly marked.

Case drain to tank

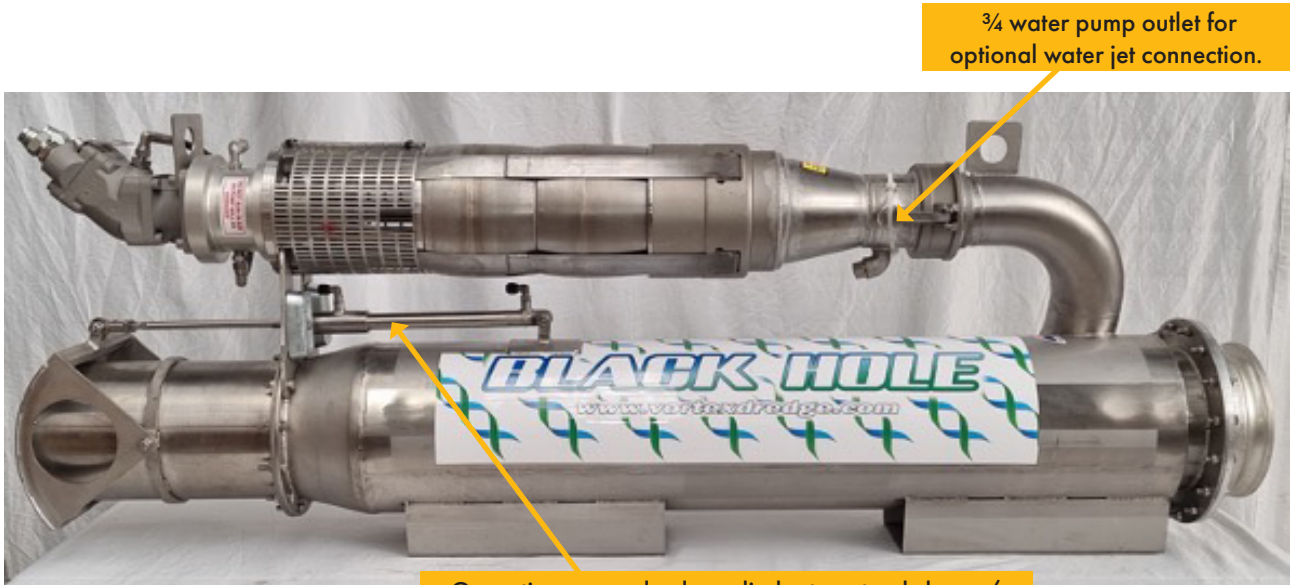


Hydraulic hoses 4 mtr long each.  
4250 psi (293 bar) pressure rating.  
-12 jic Pressure, -12 jic tank, -6 jic case drain.

Ensure ROV can and does supply 85 lpm min (22.4 gpm min) 206 bar min (3000 psi min) Before fitting dredge kit.

# Installation

## REVERSAL VALVE CONNECTIONS AND ROV MOUNT PLATE



3/4 water pump outlet for optional water jet connection.

Operating reversal valve cylinder to extend closes / blocks flow through reversal valve and changes dredge direction and go into "blow" mode.

Operating reversal valve cylinder to retract opens flow path allowing dredge to revert to "suck" mode.



'SUCK' mode



'BLOW' mode

# Installation

## HOSE CONNECTIONS



Inlet hose with suction head and ROV manipulator handle

Hydraulic hose fitted with clear markings to facilitate mobilization times. Pressure and return hoses have identical pressure rating to avoid chance of failure through incorrect assembly.

Ensure ROV can and does supply 85 lpm minimum (22.5 gpm minimum) 206 bar minimum (3000 psi minimum) before fitting dredge kit.

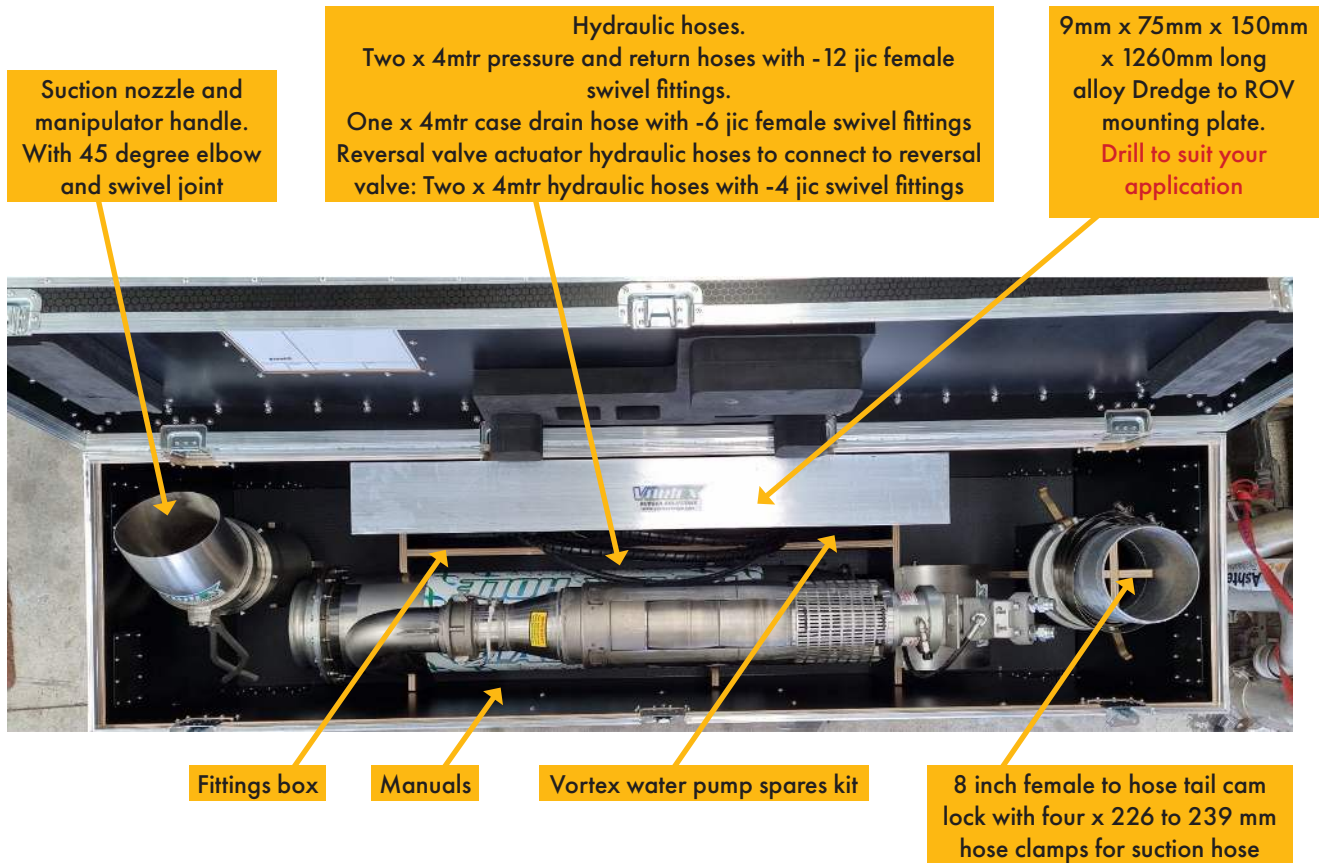


Optional water jetter shown. Uses water taken from the water pump outlet and shown in tests not to affect dredge suction performance.

Included in kit, 'Slip-on' jetter head goes on the end of suction inlet, diverter valve & hydraulic hoses

# Shipping Box

## PLACEMENT OF COMPONENTS.



## 8 INCH BLACK HOLE DREDGE CASE DIMENSIONS:

2360mm x 590mm x 900mm.  
Weight: 300kgs

# Inventory

- 8 inch dredge unit with integral reversal valve
- Two x 4mtr long - 12 Jic female swivel P and T hoses
- One x 4mtr long -6 jic female swivel case drain hose
- Two x 1.5mtr long, 3/4" long water hoses to connect pump to reversal valve and two x 4mtr hydraulic hoses with -4 jic swivel fittings
- 9mm x 75mm x 150mm x 1260mm long alloy Dredge to ROV mounting plate. **Drill to suit your application.**
- One x 8 inch female cam lock with 8 inch hose tail. For suction hose
- One x generic spares kit as shown below
- One x water pump spares kit as shown below 1 x Mech. seal rotor # 101851 x Mech. seal seat # 10180
- One x operations manual
- One 8 inch Suction nozzle and manipulator handle with 45 degree elbow and swivel joint



## FITTINGS BOX:

- One x 3/4 BSPT blanking plug
- One x 3/4 BSPT hose tail
- Eight x M10 x 40 bolts, nylocks and washers to mount dredge to aluminium bracket



## VORTEX WATER PUMP SPARES KIT:

- Shaft seal.
- One x Mech. seal rotor # 10185
- One x Mech. seal seat # 10180

# Axial pump repair procedures

## **Mechanical seal replacement:**

1. Remove pump suction screen
2. Remove M12 bolts holding aluminium motor adaptor to stainless pump terminal and remove drive assembly
3. Holding motor in a vise with shaft pointing vertical upwards, unfasten motor capscrews and remove aluminium adaptor from motor assembly, taking care to avoid contact between seal stationary seat and shaft surface.
4. Remove circlip and seal seat retainer from motor adaptor. Remove seat and replace with new item from service kit. Refit retainer in same orientation as when removed and replace circlip.
5. Slide mechanical seal rotor from shaft and fit replacement seal rotor hard back against rear shoulder of sleeve using light hydraulic oil as a lubricant.
6. Clean both seal face using a lint free cloth and clear gasoline (or equivalent) – lubricate rotor face with a drop of clean hydraulic oil.
7. Assemble parts in reverse order using torque settings as laid down in torque chart in this instruction set.

## **Hydraulic motor replacement:**

1. Disassemble unit per steps 1-3 in “Mechanical seal change” instruction
2. Fit plastic protecting sleeve from service kit to shaft spline, holding firmly with vise-grip, and using a 5mm allen key, remove the shaft retaining capscrew. Using slide hammer with a 12mm thread remove the shaft from the hydraulic motor.
3. Lubricate the replacement hydraulic motor shaft with a light Moly disulphide paste, refit spacer and key and slide on the splined stub shaft. If necessary use a hollow drift onto the slide end shoulder to drive the shaft hard down against the spacer.
4. Clean up the 6mm shaft fastening capscrew and apply a light coating of “BlueMax” or equivalent silicone sealant to the underside of the head and torque the capscrew to 8 nm.
5. Replace the seal rotor and reassemble the pumpset all per steps 4-6 in the “Mechanical seal replacement” description.

## **Torque settings:**

M6 – shaft retainer capscrew	8nm
M10 – motor retaining capscrew	12nm
M12 – Adaptor bolts	20nm

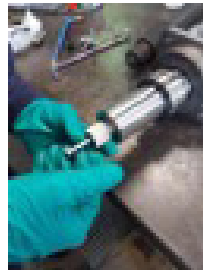
# Axial pump repair procedures



Remove shaft - using slide hammer if necessary



fit shaft with hollow drift.



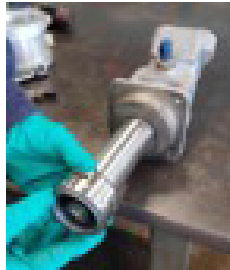
Apply Blue Max " or equivalent silicone sealant to underside of cap screw.



Torque sleeve fastening cap screw.



Lubricate shaft with light hydraulic oil as a lubricant.



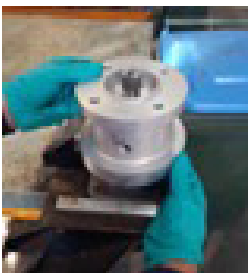
Push seal onto shaft with silicone grease.



Fit O-ring - seat - retainer ring and circlip.



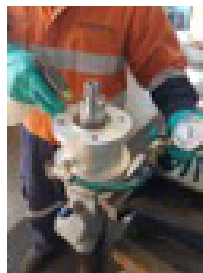
Fit O ring into adaptor recess.



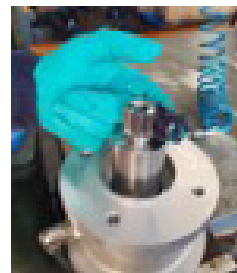
Fit adaptor to motor.



Fasten motor to adaptor.



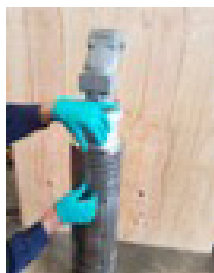
Air test mechanical seal - 20psi.



Apply grease to spline.



Fasten pump affixing cap screws.



Slide joint section to remove screen from pump.



# Trouble Shooting

## **SYMPTOM: WATER PUMP NOT OPERATING**

### **Remedy:**

1. Ensure that the hydraulic hoses are connected as per manual drawings and match connection labels.
2. Check that 85 lpm minimum (22.4 gpm minimum) 206 bar minimum (3000 psi minimum) can be seen directly at the Vortex water pump hydraulic motor.
3. Check any quick connect fittings you may have in the circuit as they can sometimes be faulty.
4. Are your thrusters using most of the available system flow and starving your circuit feeding the Vortex water pump?
5. Ensure the Vortex case drain is connected directly to tank. It is preferable to connect as close as possible to the reservoir and not run any hoses through quick connects.

## **SYMPTOM: DEBRIS REMOVAL SLOW**

### **Remedy:**

1. Check the caged nozzle of inlet hose is not blocked. Stop hydraulic flow to water pump to allow rocks and debris to be cleared.
2. Check that all cam locks are fastened and secured correctly.
3. Check all cam lock o-rings are in place and in good condition.
4. Use steady and consistent movements when plunging suction hose inlet into seabed. Try side to side and up and down movements of suction hose inlet. Differing conditions may require changing methods.
5. Check all hydraulic remedies as seen in "water pump not operating" section of trouble shooting.
6. Check inlet and exhaust hoses are not bent or blocked.

# Contacts



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