

Weeks Marine: As a market leader in dredging and maritime construction, Weeks Marine, Inc. is a pioneer in efficiency, technology and environmental sensitivity, and is focused on customer service and a long-standing commitment to safety.

«PANOLIN products exceed our expectations»

If you read up on the American company Weeks Marine, you will quickly discover that, despite its impressive history and size, the company is still based on a unique family culture, longevity and trust. Weeks Marine is a collection of talented employees and motivated individuals supported by shared goals and sustainable values. Values that are shared by their partner from Switzerland, PANOLIN.

Weeks Marine is divided into three key areas which include construction, dredging and marine services. As a market leader in maritime construction and dredging, Weeks Marine has successfully completed projects in North and South America, from inland waterway projects to offshore work in the Pacific and Atlantic. Founded in 1919, Francis H. Weeks and his son, Richard B. Weeks, started the company with two floating cranes in the Port of New York. At the beginning of the Second World War, they had expanded their fleet to seven cranes, and in the years that followed, the fleet grew rapidly, creating the current infrastructure for its operations. Through acquisitions and upgrades to the fleet, the company became one of today's leading providers in this field with over 1,600 employees working across North America. Today, the company operates more than 1,200 cranes, tugs, excavators, barges and dredges.

The company has also become a pioneer in efficiency, technology and environmental protection. «Considering the sensitive water-based environments in which we operate, Weeks Marine has made it a requirement to use environmentally approved lubricants (EALs) on our vessels», Hans B. Blomberg Technical Manager/Hopper Dredges at Weeks Marine, told Feedback. «The use of EALs is part of our company's initiative for environmental

accountability and sustainability to ensure both present and future generations can enjoy the resources found on our lands, along our coastlines, and at sea.» After she had passed her sea trials, the newest and most environmentally friendly ship of the Weeks fleet, M/V Magdalen, was put into service in 2017. The seaworthy trailing suction hopper dredge is the company's largest single investment in its history to date, costing around US\$100 million. The vessel has a length of 356 ft, a beam of 79.6 ft and a shallow draft of 25.3 ft, which will allow it to operate in a wide range of areas, including coastal zones and inland waterways.

One of the reasons might also be the use of environmentally friendly PANOLIN products on the M/V Magdalen. PANOLIN HLP SYNTH 68 is used for hydraulics, PANOLIN STELLA MARIS 100 for the stern tube and environmentally friendly universal greases such as the MARGREASE EP2 for other equipment on board. According to Blomberg, the PANOLIN products on board Magdalen have exceeded the company's expectations. «PANOLIN products are used in any application where direct oil-to-sea contact is possible in the event of a seal failure», explains Blomberg. Weeks Marine uses PANOLIN oils in its stern tubes and several hydraulic systems on board M/V Magdalen. «We also use PANOLIN grease products for our deck equipment such as gantries and windlasses», explains Blomberg. «These greases are particularly durable in washing areas on board the ship.» The long-term use of these PANOLIN products will bring the company significant cost savings, Blomberg explains. «At the same time, we know that in the unlikely event of an accidental spill, the environment will continue to be protected.» Since 2017, Weeks Marine has converted four ships to PANOLIN.