

A SHARK TALE

In the midst of a New England winter, The Maritime Aquarium of Norwalk, Connecticut ran into a serious problem. Their 100,000-gallon shark tank and its seven sand tiger shark inhabitants were in danger. Two 200-ton reciprocating chillers had gone down because tube leaks introduced moisture, and inevitably rust, into the refrigerant. These chillers are necessary to keep the tank temperatures within a comfortable range for the sharks to survive and thrive.

When a contractor was called in to assess the situation, it was determined that unless rust and moisture were completely removed, the problem would return. The leaks could be repaired but the refrigerant would need to be dehydrated in order to extract the moisture and rust. To further complicate matters, the chiller units were located on a rooftop several floors up.

Fortunately, the aquarium program director and animal curator, Jack Schneider, was able to work with the city of Norwalk and technicians to connect the water supply to the city. Since it was winter, they were able to circulate the water and keep it cold enough for these 6- to 8-foot sharks. However once spring started to arrive, the aquarium and contractor had to find a way to address the problem with minimal impact to the sharks.

Enter Hudson Technologies ZugiBeast®! This unique and portable recovery-reclamation system and its proprietary drier were trucked to the location. When the Hudson technician arrived, the still-wet refrigerant had been returned to the offline rooftop chillers to await dehydration, and the leaks were already repaired.

The technician positioned the ZugiBeast® on the back of the truck to allow easy access. He carried the necessary hoses to the rooftop and hooked up the chiller, then



dropped the hoses down to the ZugiBeast® and drier. The dehydration process was initiated which entailed flooding the rooftop units, refrigerant piping, and remote evaporators with refrigerant. It was then circulated through the two systems where moisture, rust and other contaminants were removed.

Once the refrigerant was dried to proper standards, it was returned to the chiller to absorb more moisture. The chillers were soon back up and running at top efficiency, and it took only two days to complete the project in its entirety.

Gabe Marra, Hudson Technologies regional manager, said “we could have done the same job on-line if the chillers had been running. But since they were hooked up to city water, we did it this way.”

Visitors to the aquarium were not disrupted in any way. And the best part? The sharks didn't notice a single thing!

REFRIGERANTSIDE® SOLUTIONS

- Chiller dehydration & decontamination (online & offline)
- Refrigerant moisture reduction (online & offline)
- Rust and particulate reduction
- Hermetic burnout decontamination
- Residue and particulate removal & decontamination
- Oil logged chiller decontamination
- Chiller decontamination including elimination of mineral oil
- SF6 field recovery

OTHER SERVICES

- Refrigerant recovery
- Refrigerant/oil sampling & analysis
- Refrigerant reclamation
- Cylinder maintenance
- Lithium Bromide Recovery, disposal & analysis
- Glycol Recovery, disposal & analysis

PRODUCTS

- Refrigerant sales
- Refrigerant buyback

