CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

1. A method of removing a section of a wellbore, comprising:

conveying a casing cutting tool into the wellbore on a conveyance, the wellbore being lined with at least one casing string having a lower casing collar and an upper casing collar being separated by a predetermined axial distance along the wellbore and secured in the wellbore by cement, and the casing cutting tool including a jetting tool having one or more jetting nozzles arranged thereon;

stroking the casing cutting tool with the conveyance over the predetermined axial length while ejecting a fluid from the one or more jetting nozzles arranged thereon,

thereby forming a plurality of longitudinal cuts through the at least one casing string and the cement between the lower casing collar and the upper casing collar, and through the lower casing collar and the upper casing collar; and

dislodging one or more slats from the wellbore and thereby exposing formation rock along at least a portion of the predetermined axial length.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein stroking the casing cutting tool with the conveyance over the predetermined axial length comprises stroking the casing cutting tool over the predetermined axial length multiple times.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein stroking the casing cutting tool with the conveyance over the predetermined axial length comprises stroking the casing cutting tool over the predetermined axial length multiple times beginning at the lower casing collar and ending at the upper casing collar.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein stroking the casing cutting tool with the conveyance over the predetermined axial length comprises stroking the casing cutting tool over the predetermined axial length multiple times beginning at the upper casing collar and ending at the lower casing collar.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein stroking the casing cutting tool with the conveyance over the predetermined axial length comprises rotating the casing

cutting tool about its longitudinal axis at two or more axially offset locations along the predetermined axial length while ejecting the fluid from the one or more jetting nozzles and thereby forming a plurality of axially offset transverse cuts in the at least one casing string and the cement between the lower casing collar and the upper casing collar.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising washing the formation rock with the fluid, wherein the fluid is an abrasive cutting solution.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein dislodging the one or more slats from the wellbore and thereby exposing the formation rock along at least a portion of the predetermined axial length comprises eroding an area behind each of the one or more slats with jet pressure generated by the one or more jetting nozzles.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the one or more slats in a rathole defined in the wellbore below the predetermined axial length of the wellbore.

9. A system, comprising:

a wellbore formed through one or more subterranean formations and being lined with at least one casing string having a lower casing collar and an upper casing collar being separated by a predetermined axial distance along the wellbore and secured in the wellbore by cement; and

a casing cutting tool conveyable into the wellbore on a conveyance and including a jetting tool having one or more jetting nozzles arranged thereon, the jetting tool being configured to eject a fluid through the one or more jetting nozzles to form a plurality of longitudinal cuts through the at least one casing string and the cement between the lower casing collar and the upper casing collar, and through the lower casing collar and the upper casing collar,

wherein one or more slats are defined in the wellbore as a result of the plurality of longitudinal cuts.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein a rathole is defined in the wellbore below the predetermined axial length of the wellbore, the rathole being configured to receive the one or more slats upon being dislodged from surrounding formation

rock and thereby exposing the formation rock along at least a portion of the predetermined axial length,

and wherein a bridge plug is arranged within the wellbore below the rathole.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the jetting tool is further configured to eject the fluid through the one or more jetting nozzles to form a plurality of transverse cuts through the at least one casing string and cement between the lower casing collar and the upper casing collar, and through the lower casing collar and the upper casing collar.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein the one or more jetting nozzles are arranged about a circumference of the jetting tool in a single axial plane.

13. The system of claim 9, wherein the fluid is an abrasive cutting solution.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the abrasive cutting solution is a cement slurry.

15. The system of claim 9, wherein jet pressure generated by the one or more jetting nozzles serves to dislodge the one or more slats from the surrounding formation rock.