of 1:1. Preferably, the chelating agent is either EDTA or DTPA. It has been found that when the polymer dispersants are blended with EDTA or DTPA in the above weight ratio, the resulting blend exhibits a synergistic effect on the inhibition of colloidal silica or metal silicate formation in brine, including in the presence of multivalent cations.

[0007a] In accordance with one aspect of the disclosure, there is provided a method of inhibiting silica and metal silicate scale formation, said method comprising the steps of:

treating an aqueous system comprising silica with an effective amount of a mixture of a chelating agent and an acid and alkylene oxide derived polymer dispersant;

wherein said chelating agent is ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) or diethylene triamine pentaacetic acid (DTPA);

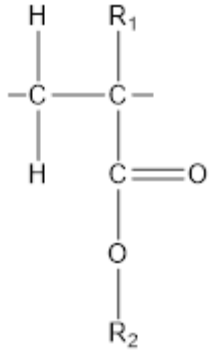
wherein said acid and alkylene oxide derived polymer dispersant has a number average molecular weight from 500 Daltons to 40,000 Daltons; and

wherein said chelating agent is mixed with said acid and alkylene oxide derived polymer dispersant in a weight ratio from greater than 1.0:0.5 to less than 1.0:3.0, agent to dispersant; and

wherein said acid and alkylene oxide derived polymer dispersant is a bottle brush polymer comprising side chains A, backbone B, and optionally side chains C;

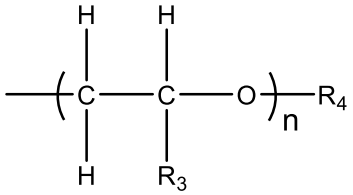
wherein A is the repeat unit obtained after the polymerization of one or more anionic monomers selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, carboxylate, and mixtures thereof;

wherein B is the repeat unit obtained after the polymerization of one or more polyoxoalkylene-containing monomers having the chemical formula:



wherein R_1 is H or CH_3;

wherein R_2 has the chemical formula:



wherein R_3 is H;

wherein R_4 is H, or a C_1 through C_4 alkyl group, or mixtures thereof;

wherein n = 5-100;

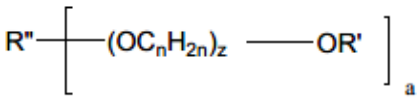
wherein C is either: (1) the repeat unit obtained after the polymerization of one or more anionic monomers selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, carboxylate, sulfonic acid, sulfonate, acrylic phosphate, and mixtures thereof; or (2) the repeat unit obtained after the polymerization of one or more nonionic monomers selected from the group consisting of methacrylates, acrylates, and acrylamides;

wherein A comprises 5 wt.% to 45 wt.% of the bottle brush polymer;

wherein B comprises 55 wt.% to 95 wt.% of the bottle brush polymer; and

wherein C comprises 0 wt.% to 25 wt.% of the bottle brush polymer; and/or

wherein said acid and alkylene oxide derived polymer dispersant is a polymerizable-acid graft polymer comprising from 3.0% to 35% by weight of an unsaturated grafting acid and an alkylene oxide polymer backbone, said alkylene oxide polymer backbone having the following formula:



wherein each R' is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a methyl group, an ethyl group, and an amine groups;

wherein R" is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a methyl group, an ethyl group, and an amine group;

wherein each "Z" has, independently, a value of from 4 to 1,800;

wherein "a" has a value of from 1 to 4; and

wherein each "n" has, independently, a value of from 2 to 4, such that said alkylene oxide polymer backbone is a copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide polymers having a weight ratio from 45:55 to 55:45 ethylene oxide to propylene oxide; and;

wherein said grafting acid is selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, maleic acid, and mixtures thereof.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0008] FIG. 1 is a chart depicting percent inhibition of a control and scale inhibitors Sample A through Sample G for 400 ppm silica in presence of Na^+, K^+, Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}, and Al^{3+}.

[0009] FIG. 2 is a chart depicting reactive silica in solution using a control and scale inhibitors Sample A through Sample G for 400 ppm silica in presence of Na^+, K^+, Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}, and Al^{3+}.

[0010] FIG. 3 is a chart depicting percent inhibition of a control and scale inhibitors Sample A, Sample D, and Sample H for 400 ppm silica in presence of Na^+, K^+, Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}, and Al^{3+}.

[0011] FIG. 4 is a chart depicting reactive silica in solution using a control and scale inhibitors Sample A, Sample D, and Sample H for 400 ppm silica in presence of Na^+, K^+, Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}, and Al^{3+}.

[0012] FIG. 5 is a chart depicting percent inhibition of a control and scale inhibitors Sample A, Sample D, and Sample I for 400 ppm silica in presence of Na^+, K^+, Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}, and Al^{3+}.

[0013] FIG. 6 is a chart depicting reactive silica in solution using a control and scale inhibitors Sample A, Sample D, and Sample I for 400 ppm silica in presence of Na^+, K^+, Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}, and Al^{3+}.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0014] The disclosed invention covers a method of inhibiting silica and metal silicate scale formation via treating an aqueous system containing silica with an effective amount of a chelating agent blended with an alkylene oxide derived polymer dispersant. The chelating agent is blended with the polymer dispersant in a weight ratio range from greater than 1.0:0.5 to less than 1.0:3.0, agent to dispersant, including blends in a weight ratio of 1:1. It has been found that when the polymer dispersants are blended with the chelating agent in the above weight ratios, the resulting

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of inhibiting silica and metal silicate scale formation, said method comprising the steps of:

treating an aqueous system comprising silica with an effective amount of a mixture of a chelating agent and an acid and alkylene oxide derived polymer dispersant;

wherein said chelating agent is ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) or diethylene triamine pentaacetic acid (DTPA);

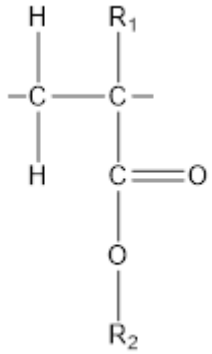
wherein said acid and alkylene oxide derived polymer dispersant has a number average molecular weight from 500 Daltons to 40,000 Daltons; and

wherein said chelating agent is mixed with said acid and alkylene oxide derived polymer dispersant in a weight ratio from greater than 1.0:0.5 to less than 1.0:3.0, agent to dispersant; and

wherein said acid and alkylene oxide derived polymer dispersant is a bottle brush polymer comprising side chains A, backbone B, and optionally side chains C;

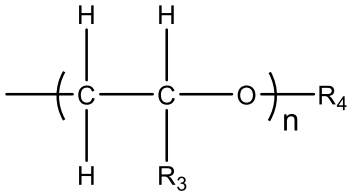
wherein A is the repeat unit obtained after the polymerization of one or more anionic monomers selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, carboxylate, and mixtures thereof;

wherein B is the repeat unit obtained after the polymerization of one or more polyoxoalkylene-containing monomers having the chemical formula:



wherein R_1 is H or CH_3;

wherein R_2 has the chemical formula:



wherein R_3 is H;

wherein R_4 is H, or a C_1 through C_4 alkyl group, or mixtures thereof;

wherein n = 5-100;

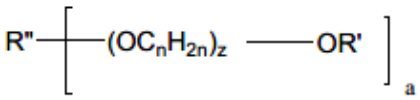
wherein C is either: (1) the repeat unit obtained after the polymerization of one or more anionic monomers selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, carboxylate, sulfonic acid, sulfonate, acrylic phosphate, and mixtures thereof; or (2) the repeat unit obtained after the polymerization of one or more nonionic monomers selected from the group consisting of methacrylates, acrylates, and acrylamides;

wherein A comprises 5 wt.% to 45 wt.% of the bottle brush polymer;

wherein B comprises 55 wt.% to 95 wt.% of the bottle brush polymer; and

wherein C comprises 0 wt.% to 25 wt.% of the bottle brush polymer; and/or

wherein said acid and alkylene oxide derived polymer dispersant is a polymerizable-acid graft polymer comprising from 3.0% to 35% by weight of an unsaturated grafting acid and an alkylene oxide polymer backbone, said alkylene oxide polymer backbone having the following formula:



wherein each R' is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a methyl group, an ethyl group, and an amine groups;

wherein R" is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a methyl group, an ethyl group, and an amine group;

wherein each "Z" has, independently, a value of from 4 to 1,800;

wherein "a" has a value of from 1 to 4; and

wherein each "n" has, independently, a value of from 2 to 4, such that said alkylene oxide polymer backbone is a copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide polymers having a weight ratio from 45:55 to 55:45 ethylene oxide to propylene oxide; and;

wherein said grafting acid is selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, maleic acid, and mixtures thereof.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein 10 % of said repeat units of said alkylene oxide polymer backbone are grafted with said acrylic acid.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein A is the repeat unit obtained after the polymerization of an anionic monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, the salt of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, the salt of methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, the salt of itaconic acid, maleic acid, the salt of maleic acid, and mixtures thereof;

wherein B is the repeat unit obtained after the polymerization of a polyoxoalkylene-containing monomer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol methacrylate, polyethylene glycol acrylate, polyethylene glycol methyl ether methacrylate, polyethylene glycol methyl ether acrylate, and mixtures thereof; and

wherein C is present and is the repeat unit obtained after the polymerization of nonionic monomer selected from the group consisting of methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, hydroxy ethyl methacrylate, hydroxy propyl acrylate, cellosolve acrylate, (meth)acrylamide, N-methyl acrylamide, N-isopropyl acrylamide, N,N-dimethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, t-butyl acrylamide, t-octyl acrylamide, dimethylacrylamide, and mixtures thereof.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein C is present and is the repeat unit obtained after the polymerization of nonionic monomer selected from the group consisting of methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, hydroxy ethyl methacrylate, hydroxy propyl acrylate, cellosolve acrylate, (meth)acrylamide, N-methyl acrylamide, N,N-dimethylacrylamide, N-isopropyl acrylamide, N-t-butyl acrylamide, N,N-dimethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, t-octyl acrylamide, and mixtures thereof.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein A is the repeat unit obtained after the polymerization of methacrylic acid and is from 5 wt.% to 10 wt.% of the bottle brush polymer;

wherein B is the repeat unit obtained after the polymerization of polyethylene glycol methyl ether methacrylate and is from 70 wt.% to 75 wt.% of the bottle brush polymer; and

wherein C is the repeat unit obtained after the polymerization of methyl methacrylate and is from 20 wt.% to 23 wt.% of the bottle brush polymer.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein A is the repeat unit obtained after the polymerization of acrylic acid and is from 8 wt.% to 10 wt.% of the bottle brush polymer;

wherein B is the repeat unit obtained after the polymerization of polyethylene glycol methyl ether methacrylate and is from 80 wt.% to 84 wt.% of the bottle brush polymer; and

wherein C is the repeat unit obtained after the polymerization of methacrylic acid and is from 8 wt.% to 10 wt.% of the bottle brush polymer.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said acid and alkylene oxide derived polymer dispersant has a number average molecular weight from 2,500 Daltons to 12,000 Daltons.