

SERPENT scene

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➔ SERPENT at Tunza 2008

A thousand participants from 106 countries descended on Stavanger, Norway in June to attend Tunza 2008, the UN International Children's Conference on the Environment.

The participants, children between the ages of 10 and 14 had carried out various environmental projects in their home countries prior to the conference. The conference offered a broad programme which included a total of 70 workshops and 50 excursions. The aim of Tunza 2008 was to expose the children to ways in which they can help create a better environment and climate on the planet.

StatoilHydro, a leading partner of the SERPENT project was supporting the conference, which opened on 17 June. At Tunza, the children were able to express their views and thoughts about the environment and had a unique opportunity to help bring about change. The event also helps to raise awareness among authorities, business and industry and the society at large that it is important to have a dialogue with children and youth with regard to environmental work.

SERPENT outreach coordinator Rob Curry in partnership with StatoilHydro, the Norwegian gas and oil company and Oceaneering, a world leading ROV company, designed and delivered a highly successful workshop entitled "Deep sea species - what is actually down there?"

It was an excellent opportunity to show children how the SERPENT project uses industrial Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) to do deep sea research and to search for creatures.

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The children attending the workshop who came from 10 different countries, enjoyed the 7 different activities on offer, which gave them an opportunity to have fun and understand the work of SERPENT and its relationship to its industrial partners. The workshop was held at Oceaneering's high-tech ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) MIMIC simulation at the Stavanger facility in Norway.



The star attractions were the simulators themselves. These are cutting-edge training simulators that allow Oceaneering to offer an almost limitless range of deep sea hardware scenarios at a fraction of the cost of using real ROVs. Like a giant video game, the

children had great fun in maneuvering their ROV in a realistic environment to undertake a deceptively simple task on an undersea structure

The children all agreed that they had had a great time and learned a lot about the sub sea environment through their experience in the SERPENT workshop

SERPENT would like to thank Nina Aas, Ingvild Fladvad Størdal, Lars Petter Myhre and Anne-Lise Heggø of StatoilHydro and Espen Rødsand and Eirik Gravdal of Oceaneering, without whom

Send us more. . . !



Do you have any questions, interesting stories, images or videos? Share them with us! Email r.curry@noc.soton.ac.uk

Eire

New area and a new SERPENT for Ireland!

Dr Andrew Gates recently visited the Cashel prospect off the West coast of Ireland.

Cashel

Mission Partners:
StatoilHydro, Oceaneering.
Rig operator: Diamond Offshore
At the Cashel site off the West coast of Ireland,

Dr Andrew Gates embarked on a series of missions to a new area for SERPENT. In May and June he made two trips to the Republic of Ireland to visit the Ocean Vanguard semi-submersible drilling rig at the Cashel field to the west of Donegal. These were the first two in a series of three visits to the StatoilHydro operated field this year.

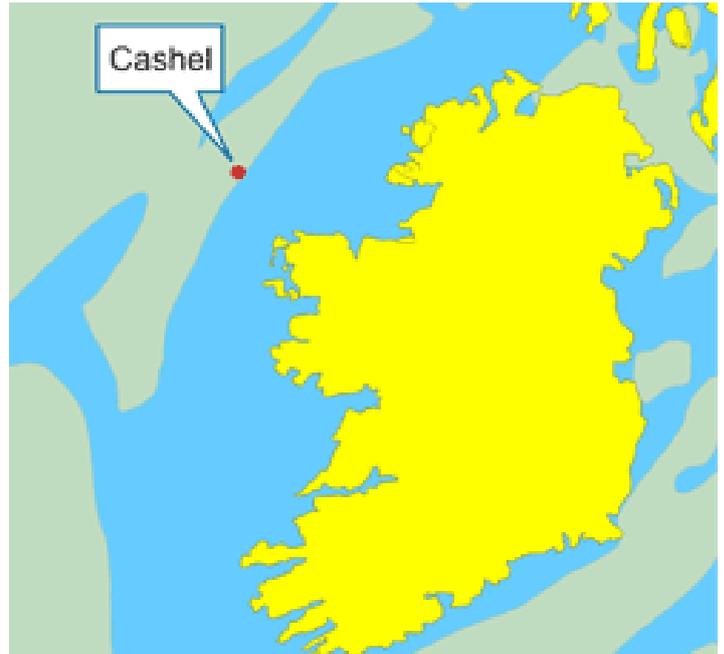
After a helicopter ride taking in some of North West Ireland's spectacular coastline, Andrew arrived on the Diamond Offshore installation. The first visit was very early in the drilling programme and provided the opportunity to use the Oceaneering ROV to look at the sea bed before it was disturbed.



The Ocean Vanguard rig

Working closely with the ROV team Andrew collected data to plan experimental work for the subsequent visit. This included using video surveys to identify and count the most common animals in the area.

There was a great diversity of life under nearly 200 metres below the rig with many different types of echinoderm (starfish and crinoids) living on the sea floor and a number of different types of fish including large shoals of Coalfish observed feeding on planktonic crustaceans that were attracted to the lights of the ROV. Many dogfish (small sharks) were observed investigating the sea floor.



On the second visit Andrew used the ROV to set up a series of experimental chambers to study how the most common animal, the starfish *Porania pulvillus*, was affected by the physical disturbance caused by the drilling. This involved use of the five and seven

function manipulator arms to do detailed work which would not be possible for scientists without access to the deep sea through ROV technology and the expertise of the operators. Andrew will be spending time in the laboratory over the summer to study the samples taken at Cashel.

SERPENT would like to thank StatoilHydro for funding the visits and Oceaneering for their dedicated assistance and

suggestions that enabled the completion of a complex and novel set of experiments in deep water.

You can read more detailed reports and look at the images and videos from the series of missions to Cashel on the SERPENT website at http://www.serpentproject.com/cashel_mission.php and view all the biological observations on the archive data base at <http://archive.serpentproject.com/view/sites/cashel.html>

See overleaf for more pictures from the Cashel mission



collaboration



innovation



research



education

Eire (continued)



This octopus, hiding behind a rock, was the only example seen at Cashel.



Echinoderms, particularly asteroids, were common at Cashel. This one, probably *Luidia* sp. was one of the larger examples.

➔ Other outreach event news

Thomas Hardey School Science Fair

On 26 June SERPENT outreach coordinator Rob Curry visited the Thomas Hardey School in Dorchester to participate in their annual Science Fair.

About 2000 visitors attended and on this the second day of the Fair, the exhibitors were presenting to a wide range of children from several middle schools in the area.

Rob set up the SERPENT display in the cavernous interior of the Science Fair marquee. The presentation consisted of an introduction to the SERPENT project and some activities for the children to enjoy.

For each of the 4 "Science Fair" programmes throughout the day there were up to 15 children for three 10 minute sessions followed by a 20 minute "free-for-all" session where the children could choose to examine one of the stands in more detail. Despite the obvious attractions of a trio of fluffy barn owl chicks, many of the children came back to the SERPENT stand to do the activities which included a quiz and a make-your-own ROV kit. The Deep Sea trump cards were such a hit that we are looking at ways in which we could distribute them on the site.

The children were particularly fascinated by the images from the serpent project and had some very interesting questions about how the SERPENT project does its work.

Many of the schools sixth-formers were there to help set up and support the stalls, and the event proved to be a great success.

SERPENT would like to thank Judith Wardlaw for inviting us to the event and giving us the opportunity to show the work of the SERPENT project.

➔ SERPENT nominated for award

The SERPENT Project has been nominated as one of only a handful of finalists at this year's prestigious EU European Business Awards for the Environment (EBAE) from a selection of 86 UK entries.

This nomination was principally for the Knowledge Transfer initiatives between the deep-water science community and the hydrocarbon industry implemented by SERPENT through the NERC sponsored Knowledge Transfer project DIEPS (Deep-water Industry Environment Policy and Science).

SERPENT is continuing this work in 2008 with a busy research programme in collaboration with the UK, Irish and Norwegian hydrocarbon industry.



Look out for our next Newsletter which will be out in September 2008 Bye for now!