

# SERPENT science

www.serpentproject.com  
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## ➔ New frontiers!



Following the success at the Stavanger IADC event last year, we are forging a partnership with Statoil, Norway's largest oil company. The project will centre around activities in the Barents and Norwegian Sea, focusing on five well sites and four rigs over the course of the first year. Studies on sedimentation, oxygen levels and resettlement are planned along with a census of the benthic fauna in this area - much of which is likely to be important to science and used for new educational outreach projects in Norway.



## ➔ Educational Outreach

The last few months have seen a leap forward in the progress of our educational outreach programme. We have been working closely with the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth, UK, to create an innovative SERPENT exhibit in the new wing of the building. An interactive 'ROV control room' allows visitors to fly an ROV, zooming in on animals in three regions around the globe and find out more about species featured from scientists on film. Opening in March this year, the exhibit will be a useful outreach tool for the project - the aquarium boasts up to 500,000 visitors a year!



Charleston School,  
Aberdeen, UK

We are also in the process of setting up a school:rig link programme. The pilot event in March links a school in Aberdeen with the Paul B Loyd Jr rig west of the Shetland Islands. Lis Maclaren, our Outreach Coordinator, will be linking with the school daily from the rig via a live video web link, carrying out experiments designed by the school children using an ROV. If successful, the programme will be rolled out to other schools and rigs globally.

## ➔ In the spotlight...



SERPENT has been publicised through a variety of media over the last quarter. Nature Magazine, the world's most highly-cited weekly multidisciplinary journal, recently featured SERPENT's journey from its beginnings to the current day. Additionally, articles in NERC's 'Planet Earth', IADC's 'Drilling Contractor', and Transocean's 'Offshore Frontiers' have ensured coverage across a wide audience.

We have also been involved in a couple of TV projects: the BBC's new flagship series 'Planet Earth', to be shown this year and in 2007, and 'Oceans', from the creators of Walking with Dinosaurs, to be shown on BBC1 and Discovery.

## ➔ Angola links

SERPENT's links in Angola go from strength to strength! The second workshop to discuss possible linkages with the UK took place in January along with our first offshore mission on the Sedco Express in BP's block 18 - where we spotted a potential new fish species! New links were also made with a rig that is due to stay in Angola for the next 5 years. Local alliances with the INIP, Natural History Museum, NBSAP, BCLME and the University are set to grow if SERPENT is successful in its bid for Darwin funding. During this trip we saw the largest attendance at an offshore presentation on the rig of 100 staff - boding well for future missions offshore!



## ➔ New faces, new directions

The recent growth of the project has allowed the creation of two new posts within the project. We welcome Janne Kaariainen, who joined us in February in a research post based around our new link with Statoil. Daniel Jones will start later in the year in a role designed to stimulate new approaches to deep-water ecological research aligned to environmental management issues and questions.

We are also in the process of setting up a searchable database of all our footage and images, accessible by everyone through the web. This will make our project more transparent and will enable easier knowledge sharing within the scientific and public arena.

## ➔ Pics win prizes!

The competition aims to recognise the value of images in the development and understanding of science, and offers cash prizes up to £500 in several categories. To find out more, visit our web pages.



Brisingid sea star  
West of Shetland, UK

Send us more...!

Do you have any questions,  
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ideas or observations?  
Share them with us! Email  
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Send your images  
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