

SERPENT Scene

A regular look at the marine environment under, on and around offshore installations worldwide

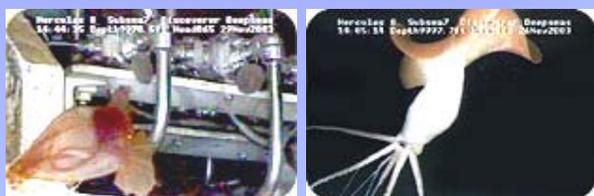
www.serpentproject.com

Laggan and the Jack Bates Deliver

The first SERPENT mission is underway in conjunction with Total E&P UK and the SERPENT Project on board the Transocean drilling rig Jack Bates. This mission is hoped to be the first of many with new project partner Total and takes place at the Laggan Development in 600m water depth in the Faeroe-Shetland Channel. Regular updates on the progress of this mission will be posted on the website. This area is of particular interest as it is in the zone where cold arctic water from the north and warmer Atlantic water mix together seeing temperature changes from -2 to +8°C. This extreme environment makes the complement of species very special. Follow the mission on the website and discover what species live in this strange place.



The Jack Bates, A Transocean Semi-Submersible rig, capable of drilling in 1500m of water to a drill depth of nearly 10,000m.



Discoverer Deep Seas Does it Again

The mighty Transocean drillship the DDS once again provides a selection of amazing footage taken from various sites in the Gulf of Mexico ranging from 3000m to 1500m in collaboration with ChevronTexaco. The footage catalogues swimming sea cucumbers, deep sea fish, methane seeps, tube worms, anemones and strange burrows on the seabed. For deep-sea biologists these images of life at abyssal depths are fascinating and very important, as relatively few *in situ* observations have been made in the deep ocean. A prime example is a large dumbo eared squid, only seen 8 times before according to experts at the Smithsonian Institute, captured recently on tape by the Subsea 7 ROV crew on board the DDS. Ian Edmonstone, S7 ROV Operations manager in Houston is impressed by the diligence and enthusiasm of his ROV team after hosting a SERPENT meeting last year. Everyone seems keen to showcase the work of the DDS as an example of the benefit of this collaboration. Learn more and see the movies on the SERPENT website, look for DDS in the missions and gallery area.



At 255m in length and 20,000t the DDS is one of the largest vessels involved in the SERPENT Project

PBLJ Whale Sighting Shows Potential for new SERPENT science

Recent activity on the Paul B Loyd Junior rig off the working off the West Of Shetland with BP DBU has shown how useful and important marine observations really are offshore. Sent in by crew members to the SERPENT website the video showed a pod of pilot whales being harassed and chased by some orca killer whales. The PBLJ has already participated in SERPENT hosting a mission in 2003, and their ROV continues to send subsea images to the project. Although SERPENT focuses on life on or around the seabed and using ROVs these observations will be passed onto marine mammal colleagues for recording, and further show the willingness of offshore personnel to contribute.



Image/Footage Competition Launched – Get your entries in !

To mark the first edition of SERPENT Scene we are launching an image/footage competition open to anyone interested in contributing to the SERPENT Project. Images and footage taken from ROVs has always been the mainstay of the project, but increasing interest and enthusiasm from other offshore personnel and interested staff on land has resulted in an increased number of stranger images/footage submitted to the SERPENT website. The potential to make important and unique observations from vessels, rigs and platforms makes SERPENT one of the most exciting projects involving industry and science working closely together. All entries will be showcased on the website and the winning entries from the Underwater and Technology Sections will be judged by our partners at the BBC and world renowned underwater photographers and awarded prizes, the best images each month will be announced as we progress.



Send your images and movie clips to:

images@serpentproject.com

Send your questions and stories to:

info@serpentproject.com

Visit the website for the latest news at:

www.serpentproject.com