

# SERPENT Scene

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

[www.serpentproject.com](http://www.serpentproject.com)

## Strange Creatures from Cold Water

The **Transocean Jack Bates** mission to the **Total Laggan** area in the Faeroe-Shetland Channel reported in the last edition has provided some outstanding photographs of life existing at water temperatures below 0°C. Some of the strangest species are the giant sea spiders that live in this area, sometimes up to 30cm across, they have a slow pace of life and no one really knows anything about their lifestyle. Some of the fish species, like the Lycodes, are common in this area. However, what is less well known is that there may be over 20 new species of Lycodes within this area. To find out more check out the FSC gallery on the SERPENT website, or the Laggan missions pages, for movie clips and still images of the fascinating area.



*Colossendeis* sp, Sea Spider



Lycodes – Eel pout

New SERPENT partner **Kongsberg Maritime** provided their OE14-208 5 mega pixel stills camera to take these amazing images of the cold water species.

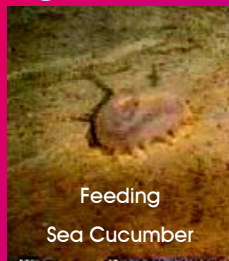
## Angola Reveals Interesting Life



Swimming Sea Cucumber



Deep Fish and Eel from 2000m

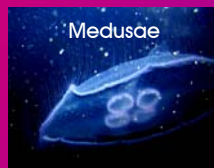


Feeding Sea Cucumber

One of the founder project partners, **BP**, has launched SERPENT in its Angola region operations. The areas off the continental shelf have been described as some of the most un-explored areas of the deep sea, holding many new species and discoveries. This first glimpse shows the potential of this region to provide some of the most amazing and important science discoveries for SERPENT to date. **BP Angola Unit** are pleased to open up this resource and look forward to many more missions in the future. See the footage on our Website Gallery.

## Mid-water Collaboration

SERPENT has always sought to explore the unknown realms of the seafloor, but between the surface and the seabed there lies the pelagic zone. This huge expanse of water is home to the most tiny plankton and the largest whales. Now through a new collaboration with **Louisiana State University** and Dr Mark Benfield, ROV footage gathered during the descent and ascent of operational ROV dives is to be analysed for geographical and species diversity of a range of mid-water species from plankton, to zooplankton and more.



Medusae



Colonial Salps



## Deepwater Australia Discoveries



Shrimp attracted to bait at 600m



Bat Fish, Coral and Ophiuroid at 600m



Cat Shark at 700m

Deepwater discoveries off Australia have been shared with SERPENT by new collaborators **Australian Institute of Marine Sciences**. New images from the **Woodside Enfield** site show that deep-sea species common at other SERPENT locations are also found as far south as Australia.

## BBC Blue Planet Team to take to the Deep Blue

The famous **BBC Blue Planet** series and their production team are about to embark on a landmark mission with SERPENT in the first industry/BBC collaboration for their new series Planet Earth. Working initially with project partners **BP (DBU)** and **Subsea 7**, the team along with SERPENT Project Coordinator Dr Ian Hudson will embark on a 2 week mission to the West of Shetland to film the creatures made so famous by the first SERPENT mission on Regalia. Using new high definition camera systems, it is hoped new footage of unique animals will be seen and screened for the first time. This is a major step for SERPENT, and we see this partnership expanding over the coming years.....



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