

SERPENT SCENE

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

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Mauritania Missions Kicks Off

The first African SERPENT mission was conducted in partnership with [Woodside Petroleum Ltd](#) onboard the [M.V. Boa Deep C](#). This was a very exciting opportunity for SERPENT to explore the deep waters offshore Mauritania, and evaluate with an ROV for the first time the seabed animals that live there. The study site offshore Mauritania, is in a very interesting area on the continental slope which has steep sediment banks formed from past sliding of the seabed. SERPENT researcher [Daniel Jones](#) in conjunction with [RPS-BBG](#) carried out an extensive ROV survey in the area and found a huge range of interesting deep-sea creatures. The survey was carried using the high specification ROVs that are built into the Boa Deep C and an additional high resolution [Kongsberg](#) digital stills camera.



Phormiosoma urchin



Benthothurla - Sea cucumber



Boa Deep C

Strange creatures offshore India



Working offshore India with ONGC Subsea 7 ROV crews have discovered a strange creature swimming around 1500m below the surface. This polychaete worm, as yet of unknown species, has been sent to some of the worlds experts at the Natural History Museums of London, Wales and Paris and to experts at the Smithsonian and Monterey Bay Research Institute in the USA. The bizzare protrusions make this animal very interesting indeed. This is the first of many hoped observations from India, a developing area ! With [Transocean Discoverer Seven Seas](#) positioned offshore future projects are planned to further Indian deepwater.

Southern Ocean SERPENT

We kicked off a land mark project at the end of October in Australia on board SERPENT regular [Jack Bates](#). The [Transocean](#) rig working on a short contract for [Santos](#) before a long-term spell with [Woodside](#), was drilling a 2 well programme in the Oway Basin area off South Australia from **150-1500m**. For the 1st time in SERPENT history 2 researchers were resident on the rig for 2 weeks. Dr Adele Pile, our lead collaborator at the University of Sydney was accompanied by researcher [Garth Andrews](#). A detailed report is on the website !!



Adele and Gareth



A visiting seal

Brazil: 1st Images !!

The past few months has seen SERPENT really take off in new areas around the world. This is thanks to the fireless work of our partners to spread the good word. This week we received our first shots from deepwater Brazil. These images were sent by the OIM and ROV crew from the [Transocean Sedco Express](#) drilling in 1500m of water. The shots are of a deep dwelling octopus species, likely to be [Graneledone](#) sp.

Image Competition – 2005 !!!!

We are still on the look out for submissions to the **image competition** we launched in the summer. We are offering a range of prizes, with the top prize a high-spec digital camera. We hope people will take the chance to send in their images, contribute to the project and maybe win a prize.



Shark Spotting around the UK

We need help. We are looking for ROV observations of sharks living around the UK to help a new shark programme at SOC. Any image grabs, footage or observations would be welcomed. Check out the website for more information.



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

Contribute to the newsletter by e-mailing your stories, ideas, observations and general chat to the SERPENT Project