



### Busy Summer of Surveying

Falklands Oil and Gas Ltd (FOGL), along with partner BHPBilliton, have ensured that it will be a busy summer having commissioned a number of geotechnical and geophysical surveys over their licensed acreage. The surveys will help to better understanding of the seabed, sediments, shallow geology and meteorological and oceanographic (metocean) conditions over the companies' identified drilling prospects and will help reduce the risk of accidents or unseen developments during drilling. The results will also highlight sensitive habitats and particular seafloor species present in the area.

Fugro Survey limited, using the vessel M/V Fugro Meridian, will undertake seabed sampling commencing in mid December. A Marine Mammal Observer will be on board for the duration of the survey.



*MV Fugro Meridian*

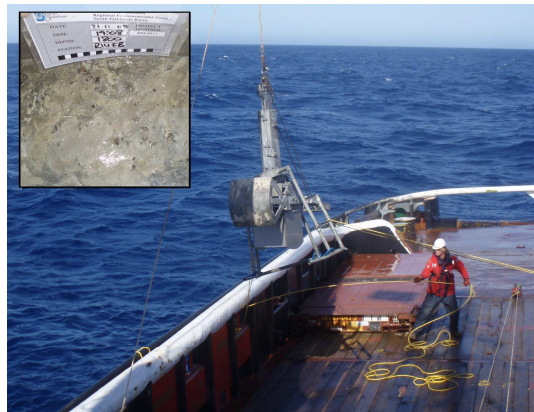
In January, Fugro-McClelland Marine Geoservices, from the vessel M/V Fugro Saltire, will take geotechnical borings of the seabed in order to examine shallow geology over the prospect areas.



*MV Fugro Saltire*

### Benthic Solutions Ltd complete survey for Borders & Southern Petroleum

A UK based company, Benthic Solutions Ltd, has completed a very successful benthic sampling programme for Borders & Southern Petroleum plc within the company's licensed acreage to the south of the Falkland Islands. The survey involved both the taking of seabed samples and water quality profiles.



*Benthic Solutions deploy a box corer  
Inset: one of the retrieved samples*

The data gathered will be used to form an Environmental Baseline Survey, which in turn forms part of the Company's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). An EIA is required in advance of exploratory drilling. There is a period of public consultation in advance of an EIA being approved.

During the Benthic Solutions survey, seabed gravity cores were also taken in order to provide a geotechnical assessment of the seabed strata.

### Joint Operators Meeting

Falkland Islands offshore operators, along with representatives of the Falkland Islands Government and BGS, are scheduled to attend a Joint Operators Meeting in Stanley on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2009.

Joint Operators Meetings provide an excellent opportunity for operators to get together to share information and discuss matters of mutual concern with FIG and BGS, and to coordinate activities.

## Core Sampling Programme

Dr Phil Stone arrived in the Islands on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November to sample the core extracted by Falkland Gold and Minerals (FGML) which is currently stored at Goose Green.



*Core stored inside the Transit Shed at Goose Green*

Phil obtained independent funding to return to the Islands and sample the core, so that the most interesting pieces can be packed up and transported back to the UK national archive at Keyworth where they can be properly stored.

The Mineral Resources Department is extremely grateful to Phil for securing funding and returning to the Islands to undertake this project. Thanks also to everyone who has donated packing materials to ensure that the core can be transported safely and to BAS who donated specimen boxes for the core and agreeing to transport the core back to the UK.



*Core extracted during FGMLs drilling programme stored at Goose Green*

## Falkland Islands Offshore Area promoted at AAPG

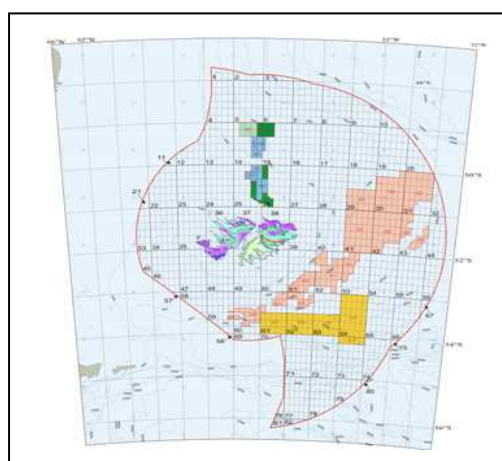
Dr Phil Richards from BGS and the Director of Minerals and Agriculture, Phyl Rendell, attended the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) Convention held from 26<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> October in Cape Town, South Africa. Falklands operators, Borders & Southern Petroleum plc, and Rockhopper Exploration plc also attended.



*L to R: Sam Moody, Rockhopper Exploration plc, Bruce Farrer and Dr Howard Obee, Borders & Southern Petroleum plc, and Dr Phil Richards, BGS, discuss some Falklands seismic data at the AAPG Convention*

Although attendance at the Convention was down due to the global financial crisis, many presentations were focused on the South Atlantic and it enabled companies to appraise themselves of potential exploration prospects in the Falkland Islands.

## Latest Map of Offshore Exploration Areas



For further information about mineral exploration in the Falkland Islands please contact the department for a free brochure, CD ROM and map on email: [KStephenson@mineralresources.gov.fk](mailto:KStephenson@mineralresources.gov.fk) Fax +500 27321 or Tel +500 27322. Details about licensing activities and conditions are available on website [www.falklandislands.com](http://www.falklandislands.com) and [www.falklands-oil.com](http://www.falklands-oil.com) or from [pchristie@mineralresources.gov.fk](mailto:pchristie@mineralresources.gov.fk) or [prendell@mineralresources.gov.fk](mailto:prendell@mineralresources.gov.fk) A list of geological brochures, maps and reports for sale is also available from the department.

