

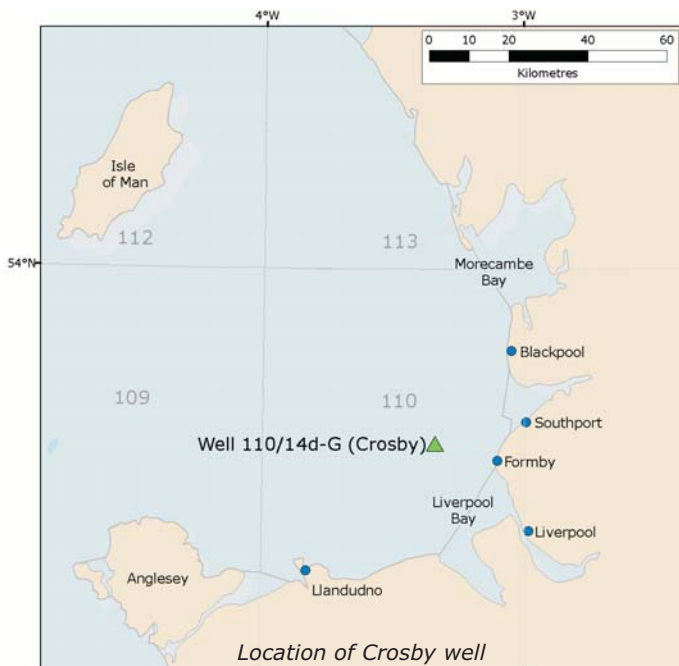


# Summer Newsletter 2009

ERT has had a busy start to the year and have been involved in a wide variety of projects. Thus far in 2009, we have completed three environmental statements (ESs) for drilling operations in the UK, two of these for operations to the west of Shetland and the other in the eastern Irish Sea. ERT has also continued to provide environmental support to Amerada Hess in Libya, and a second environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) for offshore drilling is close to completion. We have been working on oil field decommissioning in the North Sea for Hess Services UK and have provided support for the development of an Environmental Management System (EMS) for DONG Energy. Our chemistry and biology laboratories have been busy with a number of projects including benthic survey and analysis for Haskoning UK Ltd and the identification of marine polychaetes from Malaysia. In addition, we have continued to provide permitting support for exploration and appraisal wells in the UK and have proceeded with the third year of environmental monitoring work in Peru. Some of these projects are covered in more detail below.

## Crosby Environmental Statement

ERT were contracted by Challenger Minerals North Sea (CMNS) Ltd to prepare an environmental statement (ES) to drill a gas exploration well (Crosby) in Liverpool Bay, in the eastern Irish Sea. The Crosby well was located only 16 km from the shore, within a region of considerable environmental, social and industrial interest.



The scoping process included an environmental issues identification (ENVID) workshop and an informal consultation with over 30 parties. The consultation process was of particular importance to this project and a wide range of organisations and stakeholders from both England and Wales were given the opportunity to raise concerns or provide their recommendations.

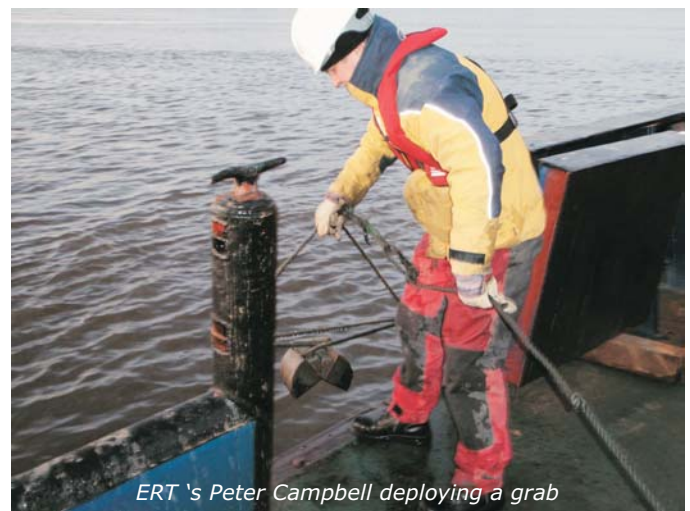
A number of environmental concerns were raised, most notably, the potential impact of an oil spill. This was particularly important given the relatively close proximity of the well location to the coast and a number of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). The Crosby well was located within an area recognised as important for birds, including the vulnerable common scoter, and was situated close to the boundary of a proposed marine SPA.

The proximity to the coast raised social concerns including the potential impacts on leisure activities and the

perceptible visibility and noise of the operation from the shore. There was a need to consider the potential interactions with the many industrial activities in the region, including busy shipping lanes, commercial fisheries, oil and gas developments, dredge spoil dumping and the aggregate industry. The possible impacts to archaeological sites required an independent specialist study of the seabed to be carried out. Following assessment, no significant long term environmental impacts were identified and consent to proceed with the drilling was granted earlier this year.

## Monitoring Dredge Spoil Channel

ERT were contracted by Haskoning UK Ltd to assist with carrying out an environmental survey, and the subsequent analysis of sediments, from a major port prior to dredging. The biological component of the survey included the acquisition of samples using a hybrid ponar grab which were then sieved (0.5 mm) for identification of the retained macrobenthic fauna. Samples for chemical/physical analyses were taken at the dredge site with a vibrocorer and 3 m cores recovered. Each core was sectioned to account for contaminant stratification over the depth of dredging.



With the dredged material to be disposed of at sea the analyses were carried out in accordance with the OSPAR guidelines on the management of dredge spoil and the requirements of CEFAS. The contaminants tested for included persistent organic pollutants such as PAHs, PCBs and PBDEs in addition to selected organometallics and heavy metals.





# Summer Newsletter 2009

## ERT Oil Pollution Knowledge Applied at International Forums

Having successfully worked on domestic and international oil pollution incidents since the 1970s ERT's experience in the field continues to enjoy wide ranging respect, a point reinforced by the request for us to provide input into two key international events thus far in 2009.

### *Introduction to Marine Pollution and Oil Spill Combating Procedures (High Skill) - Bahrain 22-25 February 2009*

Following a request from Seacor Environmental Services International and the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (MEMAC) ERT delivered seven presentations to an assembled group of delegates, including representatives of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPCF) and interested parties within the gulf member states. The topics of the presentations included identifying different oil types and their properties, the problems oil can cause in the environment and how to design and implement monitoring studies following spill incidents.



Assembled delegates in Bahrain

### *Oil Spill Identification Network of Experts within the Bonn Agreement (OSINET) - Tallinn, Estonia 28-30 April 2009*

As in previous years, ERT attended the Bonn Agreement (BA) OSINET meeting of experts as the United Kingdom's

representative. This year's meeting was held in the beautiful Eastern European city of Tallinn in Estonia and was well attended by representatives from the countries involved in the Bonn Agreement.

Like previous meetings there were also participants from countries not associated with the BA in attendance, travelling from throughout the EU and from as far afield as China! Discussions continued around the development of harmonised oil identification procedures for inclusion into the BA counter pollution manual while reviewing case studies and the successes/shortcomings of current laboratory techniques.

While the Bonn Agreement only includes countries bordering the North Sea there is hope amongst the group that by involving external international participation, techniques and methodologies developed at these meetings may become common practice throughout the international community.



Tour of OSINET host laboratory (EERC)

## DONG E&P (UK) Ltd Environment Management System

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) require all operators of offshore installations to have in place an environmental management system (EMS) that meets the internationally recognised standard.

In order to achieve this, DONG E&P (UK) Ltd, contacted ERT to help develop and implement their EMS. Following the recent completion of the second audit stage, we are pleased to announce that the EMS has successfully achieved full ISO 14001 accreditation. ERT provided extensive support in preparation for the first and second audit stages and were heavily involved in all areas of the EMS development. Key areas of this work included the development of the environmental aspects register, EMS objectives and emergency response procedures.

One of our consultants, Ruth Scott is on secondment to DONG in a QHSE role and part of this role has been to provide environmental awareness training to DONG personnel in both London and Aberdeen.

## ERT Quality Standards

Following on from our successful assessments of Investors in People and ISO/IEC 17025:2005 in 2008, in April this year we underwent our assessment audit for our Quality Management System. This involved an annual re-assessment under the provisions of ISO 14001:2000 and a triennial assessment which included our compliance to the upgraded standard ISO 9001:2008. We are pleased to report that the assessment feedback was very positive - "The system continues to be very well managed".

We have recently increased the number of our trained internal auditors for both ISO 9001 and 14001 quality standards. Our newly trained auditors include Helen Nichols, Janice Ellis, Ella Cheng, Rachel Jacobsen, Martin Black, Tracy Small, Andrew Matheson, Sandy Sheng, Ruth Scott and John Spence.