

Focus on...

Port Development

The Falkland Islands Government (FIG) is looking to develop its port facilities to become a significant port in the South Atlantic. In the long term it is likely that the Falklands Interim Port and Storage System (FIPASS) in Stanley Harbour, completed in 1984, will be replaced.

The Opportunities

Independent studies have found that additional maritime port facilities could generate considerable economic benefits for the Islands. Port development would allow the Falklands to provide a range of important maritime services to vessels operating in the South Atlantic including:

- *The provisioning of cruise ships and trawlers*
- *The services of an emergency and support centre for repairs and medical cases*
- *Crew change*

It would also enable the Islands to become part of the regional and worldwide container services network, thus helping to raise its profile as a significant fisheries port.

Establishing a Port Authority

The creation of a Port Authority as a legal entity in 2006 is being examined. It will facilitate and manage the development of commercial port infrastructure and will be responsible for:

- *Maintaining port facilities*
- *Investing in and developing new facilities*
- *Diversifying its investments and sources of income to support and strengthen core facilities*
- *Attracting new business*
- *Maximising quality and value for money in all its services*

In the interim the FIG will carry out essential maintenance and repairs to FIPASS which will lead to its phased replacement and the extension of current port services. The management contract for FIPASS is also currently being retendered.



FIG Fisheries Department



Russell Evans



FIG Fisheries Department

Director of Port Operations

As a precursor to the establishment of a Port Authority, the FIG is considering the appointment of a Director of Port Operations (DPO). The Director will produce a three year business plan for port development. The position will be funded by money from the European Commission.

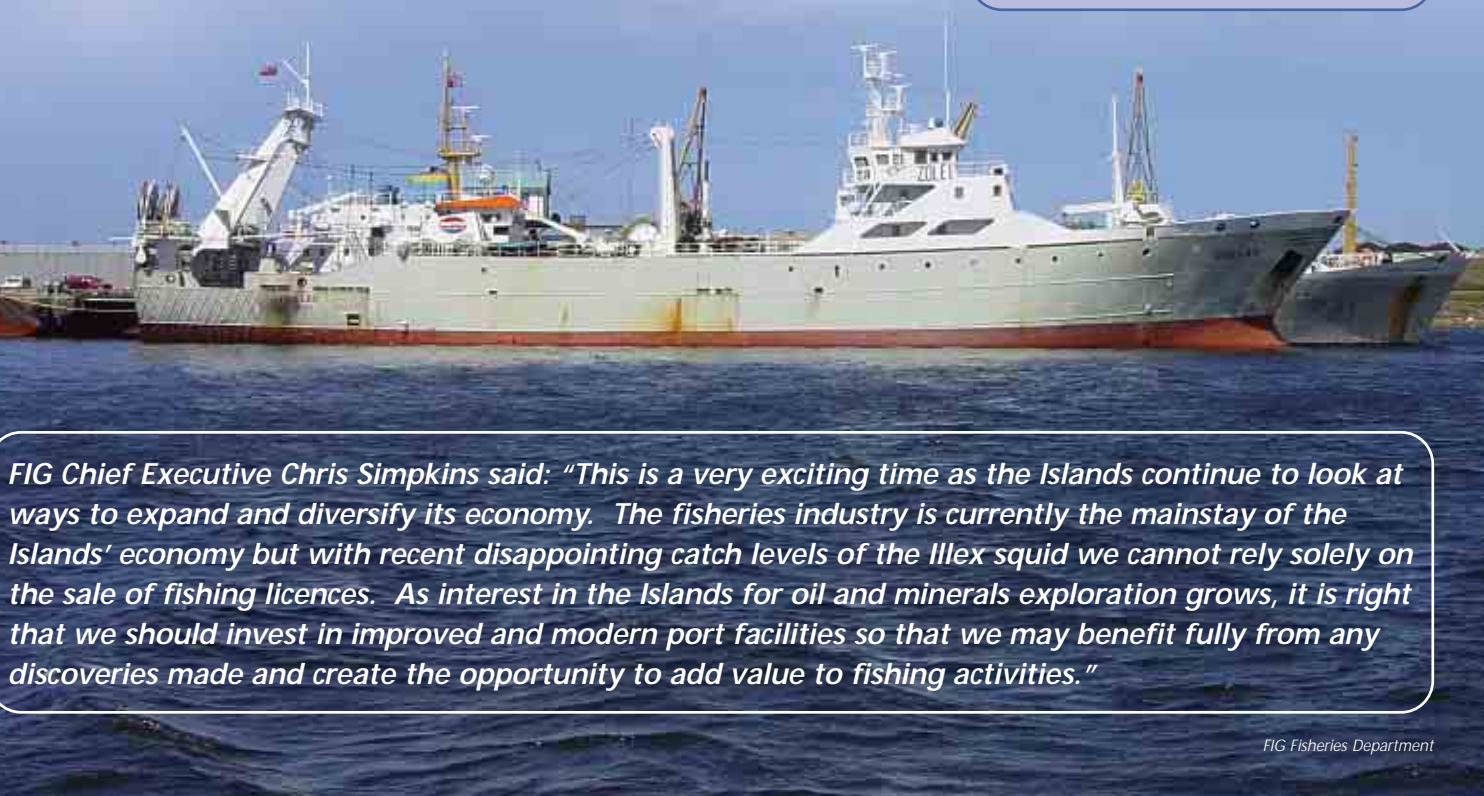


FIG Chief Executive Chris Simpkins said: "This is a very exciting time as the Islands continue to look at ways to expand and diversify its economy. The fisheries industry is currently the mainstay of the Islands' economy but with recent disappointing catch levels of the Illex squid we cannot rely solely on the sale of fishing licences. As interest in the Islands for oil and minerals exploration grows, it is right that we should invest in improved and modern port facilities so that we may benefit fully from any discoveries made and create the opportunity to add value to fishing activities."