
Falkland Islands Government
Department of Mineral Resources



Petroleum Operations Notice 3
Notification of Geophysical Surveys – Guidance Notes

Revised April 2016

The following guidance is issued on behalf of the Falkland Islands Government, Department of Mineral Resources. Other government departments also need to be notified, including the Department of Fisheries, and in certain cases, other departments or interested parties may need to be consulted prior to geophysical surveys, including seafloor surveys for platform or rig sites, being undertaken.

The Department of Mineral Resources, as the Department responsible for issuing offshore Exploration and Production Licences which are required for related petroleum and survey work, has the duty to ensure as far as possible that all the departments and bodies concerned are given at least 30 days written notice of intended surveys. Advance notice is important:

- To allow the navigation warning system to function efficiently
- To allow sufficient time to avoid interference between fishing and survey activities
- To allow time to arrange inspections by Fisheries Observers, where these are appropriate

It is the responsibility to the Operator's Fisheries Liaison Officer to ensure that the Department of Natural Resources (previously Fisheries Department) is fully informed of all planned seismic activities, that the marine/ shipping reporting requirements are fulfilled and that seismic acquisition restrictions imposed by the Director of Natural Resources are observed.

Where it is proposed to extend a survey into blocks licensed to another Operator or group the survey Operator must seek consent of those licensees to acquire such data. It is the responsibility of these licensees to ensure that any permission granted fully concurs with any licence conditions imposed on the block(s) prior to granting the permission. Note that proof of such permission must also be provided along with the form advising of the intention to conduct a survey in Petroleum Operations Notice No. 3.

Licensees and Operators are required to carry out survey operations under a valid Exploration or Production Licence (which covers specified blocks). Production Licence holders require an Exploration Licence to conduct work outside the geographical limits covered by any of their Production Licences, but do not require an Exploration Licence to conduct work themselves within the Production Licence's geographical limits. Should the Production Licence holder appoint a third party to acquire exploration data on their behalf, within the area covered by the Production Licence, the contractor must hold an Exploration Licence in his own right.

If it is necessary, for any reason, to alter the arrangements for a survey at short notice, revised details should be sent by Email or Fax to the Director of Mineral Resources in Stanley (contact details below).

The Falkland Islands Continental Shelf Operations Notice No. 1, Record and Sample Requirements for Surveys and Wells, October 1995 (1997) is now renumbered as Petroleum Operations Notice No. 1. This Notice provides information on the statutory provisions pertaining to record and sample requirements including all remote surveys. It lists the nature of all seismic, gravity and magnetic data which should be provided to the Director of Mineral Resources on behalf of the Governor.

All data should be addressed to:

Attn: Dr. D. McCarthy
Petroleum Geology
British Geological survey
Murchison House
West Mains Road
Edinburgh
EH9 3LA
Scotland

Tel: # 131 667 1000
Fax: # 131 668 4930
Email: davemcc@bgs.ac.uk

The submission of Petroleum Operations Notice No. 3 does not supersede any special conditions.

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