



MEMBER COUNTRY PROFILE

Country name	Falkland Islands
Organisation:	Department of Mineral Resources (DMR)
Country Representative(s):	James Wilson, Director of Mineral Resources
Primary Contact:	info@mineralresources.gov.fk
Regime scope:	DMR is responsible for regulation of the offshore petroleum and onshore minerals industries, covering licensing, environment, health and safety and all other relevant matters. This regulation covers the full lifecycle of a field from exploration, through production to decommissioning.
Governance arrangements:	DMR is a department within the Falkland Islands Government which works collaboratively and in an advisory capacity with other government department for any interfacing approvals or considerations.
Legislation type:	The Falkland Islands offshore regulatory regime is set out in the Offshore Minerals Ordinance 1994 ('OMO') and subsidiary legislation. This is supported by guidance issued by DMR. Environmental considerations are based on the Hydrocarbons Policy Principles, the Environmental Strategy 2021-2040, as well as cross departmental legislation such as the Maritime Ordinance 2017. As a self-governing British Overseas Territory, Falkland Islands laws resemble UK legislation in several areas.
Links to relevant legislation:	Offshore Minerals Ordinance 1994
Extent of government approval:	All drilling of wells (exploratory or production) requires the carrying out of an environmental impact assessment and production of an environmental impact statement before an application can be approved. Oil Pollution Emergency Plans must be submitted and approved before any offshore activities may commence. The management of major accident hazards and Safety and Environmental Critical Elements are approved through the safety case, with emergency response plans, waste management reviewed as part of a field development plan approval. A dangerous goods licensing (including radiation risk items) regime is in place with management plans and compliance monitored alongside facilities management plans.
Nature of duties imposed:	Operators must comply with the model clauses and conditions of their licences, relevant laws, additional conditions placed upon any approvals or consents and Petroleum Operations Notices issued by DMR. The



	Environment unit within DMR is responsible for monitoring and assessing compliance and investigating any identified non-compliant activities.
Physical objects in the regime:	Currently no installations. First MODU expected to arrive January 2027 and FPSO March 2028
Compliance assurance mechanisms:	Section 64C of the Offshore Minerals Ordinance 1994 allows the government to impose legally-binding conditions on approved projects. It is also planned that compliance will be monitored and assessed by a framework of audit, reporting and verification where appropriate. This will be supported by undertaking a regular schedule of on-shore and offshore inspections of facilities, installations, process management and audit.
Financial basis:	Regulations set out cost recovery for reviewing project and environment-related submissions and approvals through fees charged to operators.
Environmental regulation responsibilities:	DMR is responsible for regulatory oversight based on the Hydrocarbons Policy Principles and Environment Strategy 2021-2040 to ensure the protection and conservation of the environment and biodiversity of the Falkland Islands. DMR reviews environmental impact statements of offshore activities to ensure they meet the environmental requirements set out in the OMO. DMR is also responsible for: • Developing the policy, legislation and guidance for the environmental regulatory regime of the offshore petroleum industry. • Monitoring and assessing compliance with the regulatory regime. • Co-ordinating investigations into any offshore concerns or reporting.
Oil spill response:	DMR is the government department responsible for the regulatory oversight of installation Oil Pollution Emergency Plans and compliance with the requirements for providing adequate financial provision and resources for any oil spill events. DMR interfaces and escalates as appropriate with the national response agencies for emergency planning and implementation of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan to ensure a co-ordinated and robust response to any incidents.
Transparency:	The DMR website (https://www.falklands.gov.fk/mineralresources/) provides a wide range of information about the regulatory regime for the offshore petroleum industry.
Research:	DMR does not undertake or commission research at present.
Profile date:	August 2026