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## **Experienced skipper - Oil could stop depopulation**

If oil or gas is discovered in Faroe territory, this could be of immense importance for all the Faroe society. The Faroes cannot just exist by fishing alone and therefore it is quite natural we expend some energy on trying to establish some other resource like oil and gas. These are the words of our experienced fishing skipper, Mr Ingolf Rasmussen who is 74 years old. He has just gone off again to sea as captain of the Thor shipping company operated supply vessel the Sermilik 2, which has just embarked on a mission to eastern Greenland, where it will conduct seabed/floor surveys for some oil companies. Mr Rasmussen is one of the many here in the Faroes, who fears the growing depopulation of the Faroes. Although the figures are quite frightening, he believes it is possible to turn this around. In this respect he believes a future oil discovery could contribute towards stopping and turning this unfortunate trend around. Personally, he is of the opinion that we will discover this new resource sooner or later, which will transform the Faroes into an oil province. Very little is required to make a difference in such a small country like the Faroes he says. While this whole debate is ongoing, Statoil is for the second consecutive month drilling in Faroe waters, and all while this very experienced and excellent skipper is standing on the bridge of Sermilik 2 in eastern Greenland. His task this time is to ensure the French, Japanese and all the other involved scientists onboard are able to conduct their very important subsea tasks, which hopefully in turn will pave the way for future well drillings in a few years time.