



www.oljan.fo

Jan Müller

05 - 09 - 2012

Norwegian captain satisfied with Faroe services

As one supply vessel after the other comes to the Faroes for bunkers, provisions and repairs, it is probably fitting to ask the captain of one of these vessels how he evaluates the services provided. Oljan.fo asked the captain of the seismic vessel the Nordic Explorer, Mr Albert Bergvoll. Recently, the public Norwegian Petroleum administration took the decision to conduct seismic surveys around Jan Mayen. In this connection and through cooperation with the Faroe shipping company Thor, it was decided to use Tórshavn as their supply base and hub. These surveys have now been completed and all has gone according to plan. One of the Thor vessels involved was the Thor Assister and it functioned as the supply and guard vessel for the Nordic Explorer, which conducted these surveys. Thor is also the agent for TGS, who were the seismic company responsible for the seismic part of the survey for the Norwegian State. Judging by all accords it was a very satisfied Norwegian captain, who departed the Faroes in June, after having taken onboard supplies for this large seismic task by Jan Mayen. Almost everything went according to plan, but the skipper has some grievances, which he hopes the Faroes will take note off and respond to, if they intend to continue as a first rate supplier of services to the international offshore industry in the future. Faroes score highly When we docked in Tórshavn to refurbish our vessel for the seismic task in Jan Mayen, we received almost only first class services. The people involved with this task were fantastic and delivered a first-class service, says Mr Bergvoll and adds - We never received a no or a negative answer from anyone, when we presented out wishes. All the time the people tried to meet our demands and delivered a first rate service. I also know that all the supplies have to be imported and this demands good planning in order to be on time. We were

given ample proof that all this is the case in the Faroes. He does have some grievances however. He is of the opinion that the eastern quayside in Tórshavn is not the most ideal suited for offshore tasks - The quayside is too short, if you intend to attract larger vessels here. If a larger vessel than ours, with a substantial larger amount of equipment onboard came in, the quayside would not satisfy the requirements. On the quayside there is a lot of fishing gear present and this is not ideal in relation to the offshore industry. When repairs and maintenance work has to be carried out, this imposes very high demands for good facilities. The captain was also not very satisfied with the hotel accommodation. They were to have a full crew change and this demands a large number of hotel rooms - -Not all the hotels were prepared or capable of housing all the crew. In some instances three crew members had to share a room and this is certainly not ideal, bearing in mind they have been underway for several days. It also occurred that there was no linen, towels or soap in the rooms. Mr Bergvoll says he is very pleased with their Faroe representative THOR. In general I can say the services and help we got from people in town were more than perfect. The conditions provided for some of our crew in the hotels were under average and this is something you ought to do something about, if Tórshavn intends to accommodate offshore activities in the future. The Norwegian Petroleum administration says it is very satisfied with the handling of the project and the initial trial to use the Faroes as a supply base for the project. Photo - Nordic Explorer in Tórshavn