

# Press Release



56/2017

## **Oil and gas wells as a strong source of greenhouse gases New study proves methane leaks around North Sea boreholes**

**28 August 2017 / Kiel.** Boreholes in the North Sea could constitute a significantly more important source of methane, a strong greenhouse gas, than previously thought. This is shown by a new study of the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel recently published in the international peer-reviewed journal *Environmental Science & Technology*. As the authors state large amounts of methane are released from the sediments surrounding boreholes, probably over long periods of time.

The pictures went around the world. In April 2010, huge amounts of methane gas escaped from a



leaking from the seabed can reach the atmosphere, where it is acting as a potent greenhouse gas – much more efficient than carbon dioxide.

"Natural gas, thus methane, is often praised as the fossil fuel that is most suitable for the transition from coal burning