

# Ban on Falklands shipping raises British ire

Britain has reacted angrily to the decision by Mercosur – South America's customs union – to ban boats flying the Falkland Islands' flag from docking at their ports. Argentina claims "Las Malvinas" as its own and UK officials fear recent oil finds in the area could trigger renewed hostilities

**MERCOSUR NATIONS** (*Associate members*)

**Falklands flag:** Flown by 25 boats, mostly fishing vessels



**Area designated British Overseas Territory**

Boats flying UK flag may continue to dock

**Dec 13:** Rockhopper Exploration announces increased oil reserves and two new discoveries

**FALKLAND ISLANDS**

Port Stanley

West Falkland

East Falkland

Oil exploration zones

**Argentina**

Only full members will impose blockade

Uruguay will also ban Royal Navy ships bound for Falklands from docking.  
Other vessels sailing to Falklands not affected