

Turbidite Petroleum Geology in the Deepwater/Subsalt Gulf of Mexico

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

It has been over 10 years since discovery of large Gulf of Mexico deepwater/subsalt discoveries such as Mars-Ursa, Thunder Horse, Tahiti, Mad Dog, and Cascade. Exploration and drilling activity have now returned to pre-Macondo tragedy (2010) levels—under more stringent regulations—and new discoveries are being made at regular time intervals. Giant, Middle-Lower Miocene fields such as Tahiti, Mad Dog, and Thunder Horse are entering their peak plateau production. Large and older Upper Miocene and Pliocene fields such as Auger, Conger, and Mars-Ursa are being rejuvenated by secondary and enhanced recovery. Paleogene fields such as Jack and Cascade-Chinook are in their early stages of development. Appraisal activities for deeper targets in existing big fields are also common, adding tremendous upside potential for current big fields (e.g., Cardamom Deep, Mad Dog Deep, Mars-Ursa discoveries). Technologies are keeping pace with exploration and drilling to deeper depths and further offshore. These submarine fan reservoirs have many features in common, but usually with some differences.

... (Note: The full version of this extended abstract, including complete text, illustrations, and references, will be made available at a later date on both the 2014 GCAGS convention website [www.gcags2014.com] and AAPG Search and Discovery website [www.searchanddiscovery.com]).