

Important Details on Depositional Fine-Grained Deposits. Center for Shale Studies: Plans

A. H. Bouma

Present studies and experiments on passive margin sediment transport provide a few unknown discoveries that will be of interest to those working on outer fan deposits. The head at the front of currents rotates counter clockwise while the major part of the current is not too organized, except that it still moves fine grained sediment upward. Gradually the very fine sediment forms a second fluid layer that thickens downdip during transport, while the sand-rich current thins and disappears at the end of sand deposition. Both currents transport silica-rich sediment. Seismically there may be very little to no difference between the deposits of both types of fluid with sediment transport: sand-rich and very fine-grained sediments.

The development of a Center for Shale Studies will become important to most companies. At the present several research groups conduct detailed studies without keeping the complete system under control. That results in massive bypassing. The Center for Shale Studies will have a broad set of specialists from the USA and Canada for starting and soon thereafter world wide. Industry will support the research groups. We hope that we can start late in 2008. One Center is required to avoid irregularities while they have to take care that all involved companies receive all information timely and well organized.