

Forensic Petroleum System Analysis of Drilling Results and Hydrocarbon Potential of Georges Bank Basin

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The Georges Bank basin (GBB), offshore Massachusetts, USA, experienced a brief period of exploratory drilling during 1981 and 1982. During this time, eight new field wildcat (NFW) wells were drilled to evaluate the hydrocarbon potential of interpreted prospective structural, structural-stratigraphic stratigraphic traps, and reefs.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) staff utilized recently reprocessed seismic data, which more clearly images and provides a better interpretation of the prospects drilled, industry NFW well data and modern exploration concepts in their forensic petroleum system analysis of this single phase of GBB exploration.

Final well results showed pre-drill interpretations to be inaccurate. Although interpreted structures, structural-stratigraphic, and stratigraphic traps were still mappable, lack of hydrocarbon charge and reservoirs resulted in dry holes for all 8 exploration wells. Interpreted reefs were either "tite" micritic limestone, dolomite overlying salt and anhydrite, or volcanics. Results from this project will be available as a well folio providing pre- and post-drilling analysis of each well.