

**PS Spain – Offshore Canary Islands – Tarfaya Basin:
Implications of Sandia-1X Well Results in the
Hydrocarbon Exploration Offshore Morocco***

L. Garcia Del Olmo¹

Search and Discovery Article #30593 (2018)**

Posted December 17, 2018

*Adapted from poster presentation given at 2018 AAPG Europe Regional Conference, Global Analogues of the Atlantic Margin, Lisbon, Portugal, May 2-3, 2018

**Datapages © 2018. Serial rights given by author. For all other rights contact author directly. DOI:10.1306/30593delolmo2018

¹Repsol Exploración, Madrid, España (lgarciado@repsol.com)

Abstract

There has been a reactivation of hydrocarbon exploration activity in the Morocco offshore in recent years, mainly targeting Jurassic and Cretaceous objectives. Most of these wells have been unsuccessful due either to lack of reservoir (target: clastic reservoir), or to the presence of biodegraded oil (target: carbonate reservoir). Well Sandia-1X (2015), is located 60km east of Fuerteventura, between the Canary Islands and the Moroccan coast in a water depth of 880m. It reached total depth of 3093m MD in the Paleocene-Lower Eocene. It is the only well drilled in Spanish territorial waters of the Tarfaya Basin to date. Sandia-1X well is situated in a special structural position within the Tarfaya Basin, to the South of the Essaouira Basin and the Agadir Canyon. The presence of the Canary Islands may play a key role retaining the sand prone turbidite deposits. Sandia-1X well penetrated the entire Tertiary section with good Miocene-Eocene sand packages that no other well had found so far; hence, increasing the chance of reservoir presence in the Morocco offshore.

References Cited

Acosta, J., E. Uchupi, A. Muñoz, P. Herranz, C. Palomo and M. Ballesteros, 2003, Geologic evolution of the Canarian Islands of Lanzarote, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria and La Gomera and comparison of landslides at these islands with those at Tenerife, La Palma and El Hierro: in P. Clift and J. Acosta J. (eds), Geophysics of the Canary Islands, Springer, Dordrecht.

Canarias Technical Evaluation Report. Repsol, Woodside & DEA, 2005.

Canarias Mesozoic Evaluation Report. Repsol 2015.

El Jorfi, L., M.P. Suss, T. Aigner, and N. Mhammdi, 2015, Triassic – Quaternary sequence stratigraphy of the Tarfaya basin (Moroccan Atlantic): structural evolution, eustasy and sedimentation: Journal of Petroleum Geology, v. 38/1, p. 77-98.

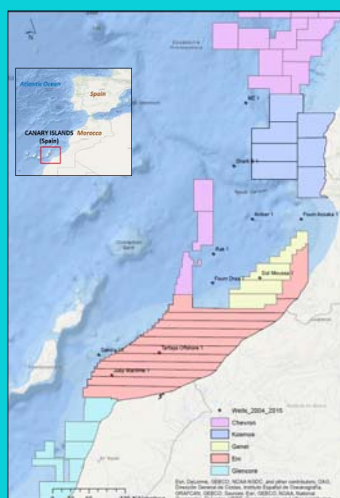
Nemcok, M., C. Stuart, M.P. Segall, R.B. Allen, C. Christensen, and S.A. Hermeston, 2005, Structural development of South Morocco: interaction of tectonics and deposition: in , Petroleum Systems of Divergent Continental Margin Basins: 25th Annual GCSSEPM Foundation Bob F. Perkins Research Conference, Session I, Crustal Architecture of Divergent Margins, GCSSEPM, Houston, TX, p. 151–202.

Ranke, U., U. Von Rad, and G. Wissman, 1982, Stratigraphy, Facies and Tectonic Development of the On- and Offshore Aaiun - Tarfaya Basin - A Review: Geology of the Northwest African Continental Margin, DOI: 10.1007/978-3-642-68409-8_6.

Wenke, A., 2014, Sequence stratigraphy and basin analysis of the Meso- to Cenozoic Tarfaya- Laâyoune Basins, on-and offshore Morocco: Thesis.

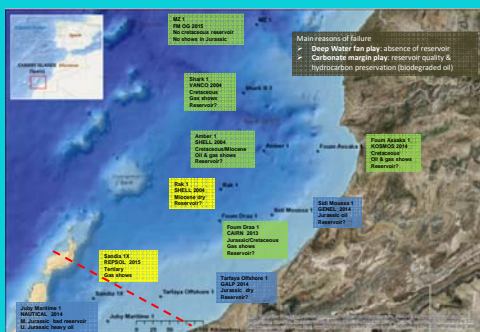
Wenke, A., R. Zuhlke, H. Jabour, O. Kluth, and T. Schumann, 2012, Quantitative Tarfaya Basin Development, Morocco: Search and Discovery Article No. 10420, Web Accessed November 18, 2108, http://www.searchanddiscovery.com/documents/2012/10420wenke/ndx_wenke.pdf

Tarfaya-Essaouira 2018 blocks

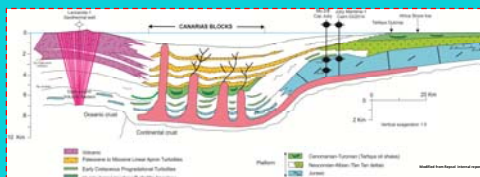


Acreage by operating companies (IHS source)

Canary-Morocco offshore plays



2004-2015 Canary-Moroccan offshore wells results (IHS source)



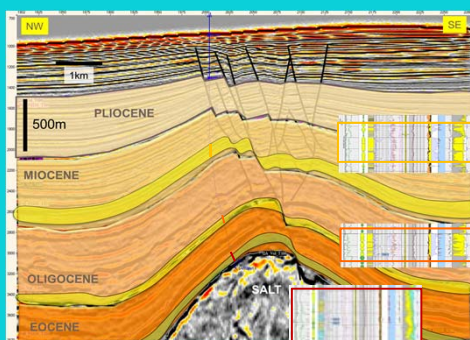
W-E schematic cross section

Sandia 1X general data

Well: Sandia-1X
Operator: Repsol
Spud: November 2014
Location: Tarfaya Basin between the Canary Islands and the Moroccan coast
WD: 880m
TD: 3093m MD
BH Age: Paleocene-Lower Eocene
BH Lithology: shale



Location of Sandia-1X well & former Canarias blocks

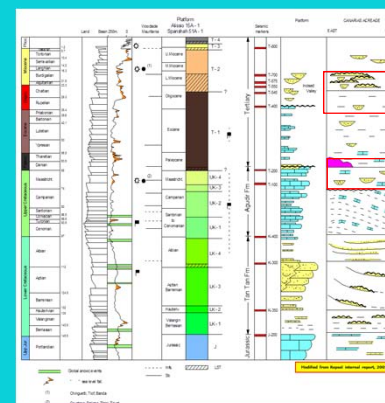


Targets & reservoirs in XL at well location

Reservoir evaluation log

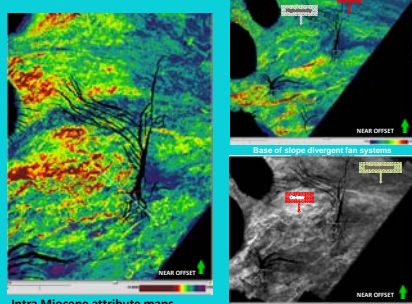
Sandia 1X well results

- Primary target Miocene-Paleocene turbidites: good reservoir water bearing gas shows
 - Miocene sand interval: gross reservoir is about 85m TVD with average porosity of 19%.
 - Base Oligocene sand interval: gross reservoir is about 25m TVD with average porosity of 18.5%
- Secondary target Paleocene turbidites: consist mainly on limestone and is of very low reservoir quality

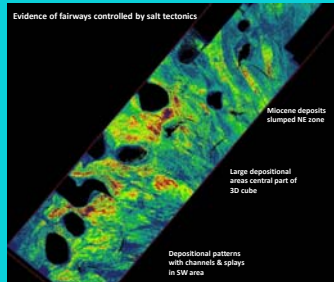


Sequence Stratigraphy of Canary 3D area

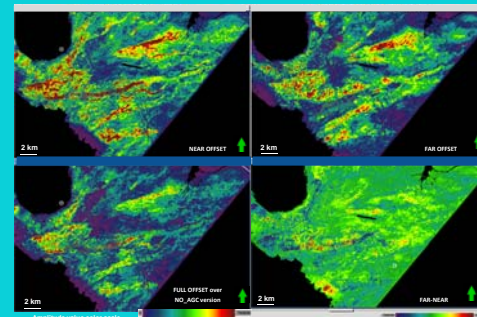
Evidence Of Large Channelized Miocene Turbiditic Systems



Intra Miocene attribute maps

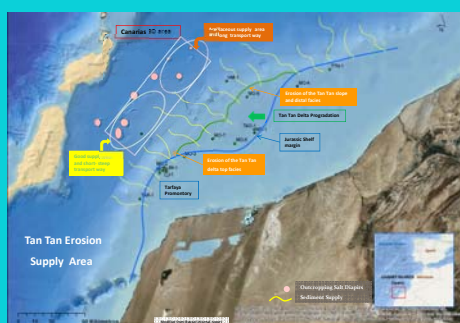


Intra Miocene attribute maps

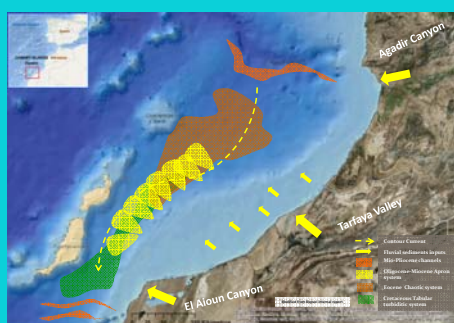


Intra Miocene attribute maps

Sand Distribution In Canary-Morocco Offshore



Tertiary reservoir possibilities in Canary 3D area



Possible sediments distribution over Tarfaya basin

Key factors controlling sand distribution in Canarias 3D area

- Canary Islands: natural barrier preventing sediments travel deeper into the basin.
- Tan Tan delta: important clastics supply area
- Salt tectonics: controlling fairways and depocentres
- Contour currents: distributing southwards sediments from Agadir Canyon

References

- L. EL JORFI, et al. (2015). Triassic – Quaternary sequence stratigraphy of the Tarfaya basin (Moroccan Atlantic): structural evolution, eustasy and sedimentation. *Journal of Petroleum Geology*, Vol. 38(1)
- A. WENKE, 2014. Sequence stratigraphy and basin analysis of the Meso- to Cenozoic Tarfaya-Lajoune Basins, on- and offshore Morocco. Thesis.
- A. WENKE, et al. (2012). Quantitative Tarfaya Basin Development, Morocco. Search and Discovery Article.
- M. NEMČOK, et al. (2005). Petroleum Systems of Divergent Continental Margin Basins. 25th Annual GCSSEPM Foundation Bob F. Perkins Research Conference, Session I, Crustal Architecture of Divergent Margins. GCSSEPM, Houston, TX, 151–202
- J. ACOSTA, et al. (2003). Geologic evolution of the Canarian Islands of Lanzarote, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria and La Gomera and comparison of landslides at these islands with those at Tenerife, La Palma and El Hierro. Marine Geophysical Researches. Geophysics of the Canary Islands.
- U. VON RAD, et al. (1982). Stratigraphy, Facies and Tectonic Development of the On- and Offshore Ailun-Tarfaya Basin - A Review. *Geology of the Northwest African Continental Margin*.
- Canarias Technical Evaluation Report. Repsol, Woodside & DEA, 2005.
- Canarias Mesozoic Evaluation Report. Repsol 2015.

Acknowledgments

- Repsol Exploración:
- Consuelo García Mojonero
 - Nuria Antich Cortés
 - Alan F. Chambers
 - Ylva Malmcrona Diaz-Ambrona

- Oil & Gas Capital
- Wenceslao Martinez del Olmo