

**AAPG Annual Meeting
March 10-13, 2002
Houston, Texas**

Deep Ocean Access

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This was a comprehensive study of the means by which the U.S. accesses the deep ocean areas of the world. A search for what common technology developments would revolutionize that access in the way of economics and performance for all communities. Five major communities were considered; Military, Scientific, Telecom, Energy, and Others (i.e., Fishing, Tourism, etc.). Based on the premise that a common deep ocean infrastructure could enhance U.S. economic and military performance. Included is discussion of the character and extent of this system and the driving factors, along with the high costs of the infrastructure and the potentially very high commercial returns. Of the existing users of the deep ocean, only the energy sector is making investments of the magnitude required for a new ocean access infrastructure. However, the Department of Defense may benefit significantly from such a system and originally DoD's benefits were not sufficiently clear to DoD, to warrant a primary investment role. However, the needs for "Homeland Defense" being realized since 11SEP2001 and the point being made that DoD does stand to gain immense benefits from such advances. DoD should therefore play a central role, including funding, in developing the technology that enables that infrastructure.