

Insights Into Hydrocarbon Source Systems Offshore Mauritania

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Exploration drilling off NW Africa since 2000 has confirmed the existence, in addition to the presence of biogenic gas, of two working thermogenic hydrocarbon source systems and the existence of other potential source intervals developed at a number of stratigraphic levels. This paper presents evidence from recent Dana Petroleum wells offshore Mauritania that demonstrates the presence of the two thermogenic source systems. However, there is insufficient data at present to allow an understanding of the spatial distribution of even these proven source rock intervals. Predicting their thermal maturity also presents a number of challenges, particularly in light of fluid inclusion data that indicates that the history of basin evolution is far from straightforward.