

Oil and gas exploration's situation and problems on the Azerbaijan sector of the South Caspian

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On major area of Azerbaijan sector of the South Caspian 280 structural searching wells, which opened 290000meters, 1322 exploration wells which opened 3.7 mln meters were drilled to study the geological structure of the region using geological and geophysical investigation, the oil-and-gas content of 40 areas were defined and 28 oil-gas condensate fields were discovered.

All the area of sea basin which refer to Azerbaijan was studied by some or the other exploration geophysics methods of research. The area which was researched by reflected wave method till 1970, then was completely covered with general depth point method. Since last years there were carried out 3D seismic works in the area under investigation and some of 4D seismic exploration with foreign partners. Density of the seismic works is characterized as 0.97km per km² on the region.

At the present Azerbaijan sector of the Caspian Sea is divided into 4 oil and gas regions. Though, the area of Absheron archipelago was thoroughly covered with deep exploration drilling (accordingly 0.05 well per km², 0.04 well per km²), but on Guba seaside and abyssal sea zones individual wells were drilled. Deep well drilling works generally characterized with coefficient 0/017 well per km².

Up to now 1131.5 mln tones of oil and gas were extracted in the region, industrial residual recoverable reserves of hydrocarbons are evaluated as 2222 mln tones and residual recoverable resources together with predictive reserves of hydrocarbons are estimated as 8 bln tones.

Exploitation of legendary Neft Dashlari oil and gas field, which was worked out on sea-way in the world for the first time, is proceeding. At the same time, having unique reserves Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli oil and gas fields (1 bln tones of oil) and Shahdeniz gas condensate field (1200 bln m³) are being exploited in partnership with foreign investors.

The survey's termination of existing fields on region (new blokes and more deep-seated horizons), at the same time the carrying out large-scale seismic works for prospective and predictive resources of hydrocarbons in deep-water and shallow water coast zone, the study deep-seated oil-and-gas content rated as positive prospective layers, the covering with deep drilling quite sufficiently reasonable objects are actual problems.