

## **Exploration in the Parry Islands and Cornwallis Fold Belts: Canadian Arctic**

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### **Abstract**

Huge, highly visible folds in the Arctic Fold Belt (Figure 1) attracted interest from explorers from the earliest stages of Arctic oil exploration. The Parry Islands and Cornwallis fold belts on Melville and Bathurst Islands offer prospects for large hydrocarbon accumulations, but exploration to date has proven to be remarkably unsuccessful. What has gone wrong? Has the drilling all been in the wrong places or is there some overriding factor that has destroyed hydrocarbon accumulations. The oil discovery at Bent Horn is on a structure distinctly different from the structures in the fold belts.