

# **Structural Restoration of the Jasmine Complex and Implications for Pleistocene Depositional Environment within the Paria Sub-Basin\***

**Xavier Moonan<sup>1</sup>, Mikhail Ramadhar<sup>1</sup>, and Tim Needham<sup>2</sup>**

Search and Discovery Article #11088 (2018)\*\*

Posted June 18, 2018

\*Adapted from oral presentation given at AAPG Latin America and Caribbean Region 20th Caribbean Geological Conference, May 17-22, 2015, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies

\*\*Datapages © 2018 Serial rights given by author. For all other rights contact author directly.

<sup>1</sup>Centrica Energy, Eleven Albion, Corner Albion and Dere Streets, Port of Spain, Trinidad ([xavier.moonan@centrica.com](mailto:xavier.moonan@centrica.com))

<sup>2</sup>Needham Geoscience Limited, Ten Ghyll Wood, Ilkley, LS29 9NR, England

## **Abstract**

The North Coast Marine Area is best known for its prolific biogenic gas fields. These producing fields, along with most discoveries in the Paria Sub-Basin, target Upper Miocene-Pliocene sandstone reservoirs, which drape over the Patao High. Some 18 km due north of Tobago's Buccoo Reef, the LL9-1 well discovered Pleistocene gas charged sandstones, currently referred to as the Iris gas discovery of NCMA-4. Similar Pleistocene gas charged sandstones were encountered in the HH6-1 well to the southwest in NCMA-3. These Pleistocene reservoirs are now formally called the UP5 sands of the NC120 sequence stratigraphic unit.

Acquisition and interpretation of 3D seismic data over NCMA-4 and Block-22 revealed a number of low impedance amplitude anomalies at this stratigraphic level. These WSW-ENE trending amplitude anomalies are aerially extensive and form what is termed as the Jasmine complex. This series of undrilled exploration prospects are stratigraphic traps that appear to be structurally related to NE-SW trending reverse faults associated with the right lateral restraining bend between the North Coast Fault Zone and the North Tobago Fault. Structural restorations of key seismic cross-sections throughout the complex were used to define the depositional relationship between the Jasmine complex and the cored basin floor fans of Iris. The integration of

regional well data, seismic impedance volumes, field analogues, present-day drainage and ocean current models established a gross depositional map for the Pleistocene NC120 UP5 sands.

# **Structural restoration of the Jasmine Complex and implications for Pleistocene depositional environment within the Paria Sub-Basin, Trinidad & Tobago**

Xavier Moonan <sup>1</sup>, Mikhail Ramadhar <sup>1</sup> and Dr. Tim Needham <sup>2</sup>

1, Centrica Energy, Trinidad & Tobago,

2, Needham Geoscience, UK

# Acknowledgements

- The Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago
- Petrotrin, partner in NCMA-4 and Block 22
- BGTT and ENI for the kind permission to allow NCMA-1 data to be included
- Structural framework by Needham Geosciences



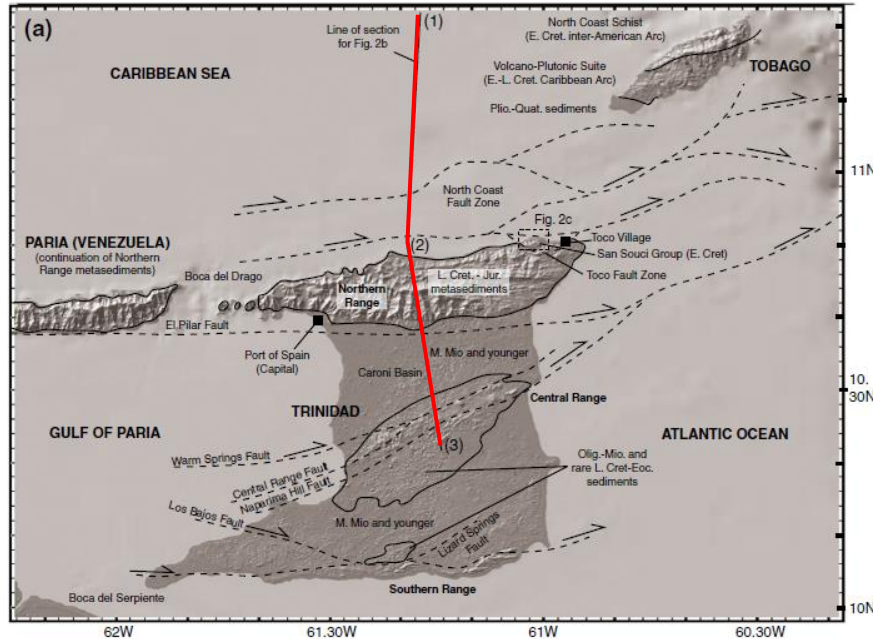
BG TRINIDAD  
& TOBAGO



# Outline

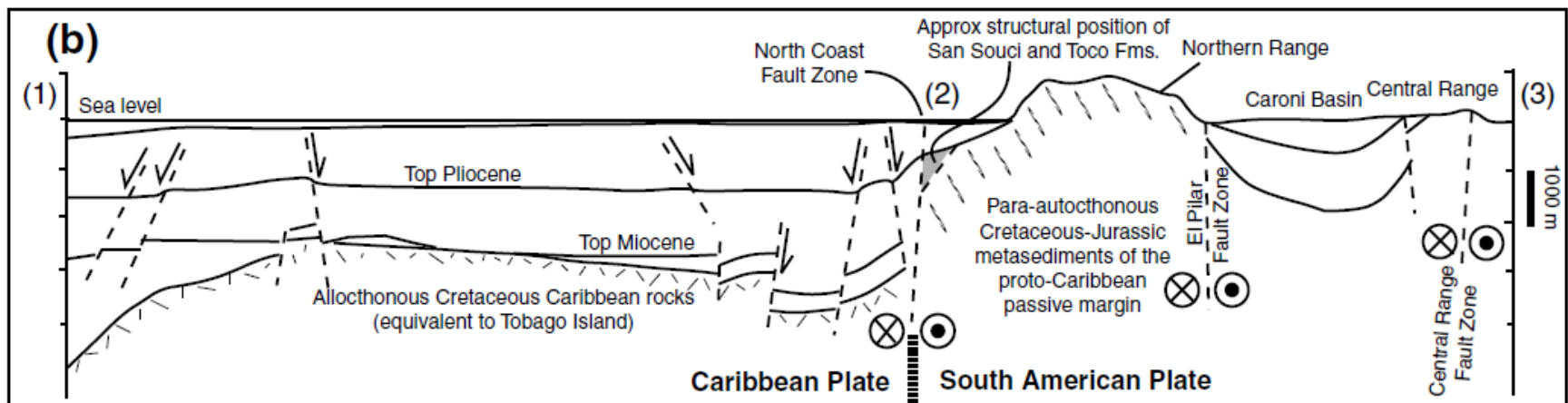
- **Introduction**
  - NCMA Regional Structural Setting
- **Pleistocene gas discoveries**
  - LL9-1 , HH6-1, IRIS-1 Core
- **Jasmine Complex**
- **Structural Restorations**
- **Proposed Pleistocene (NC120) Gross Depositional Map**
- **Key Points**

# Regional Geological Setting



## North Coast Marine Area

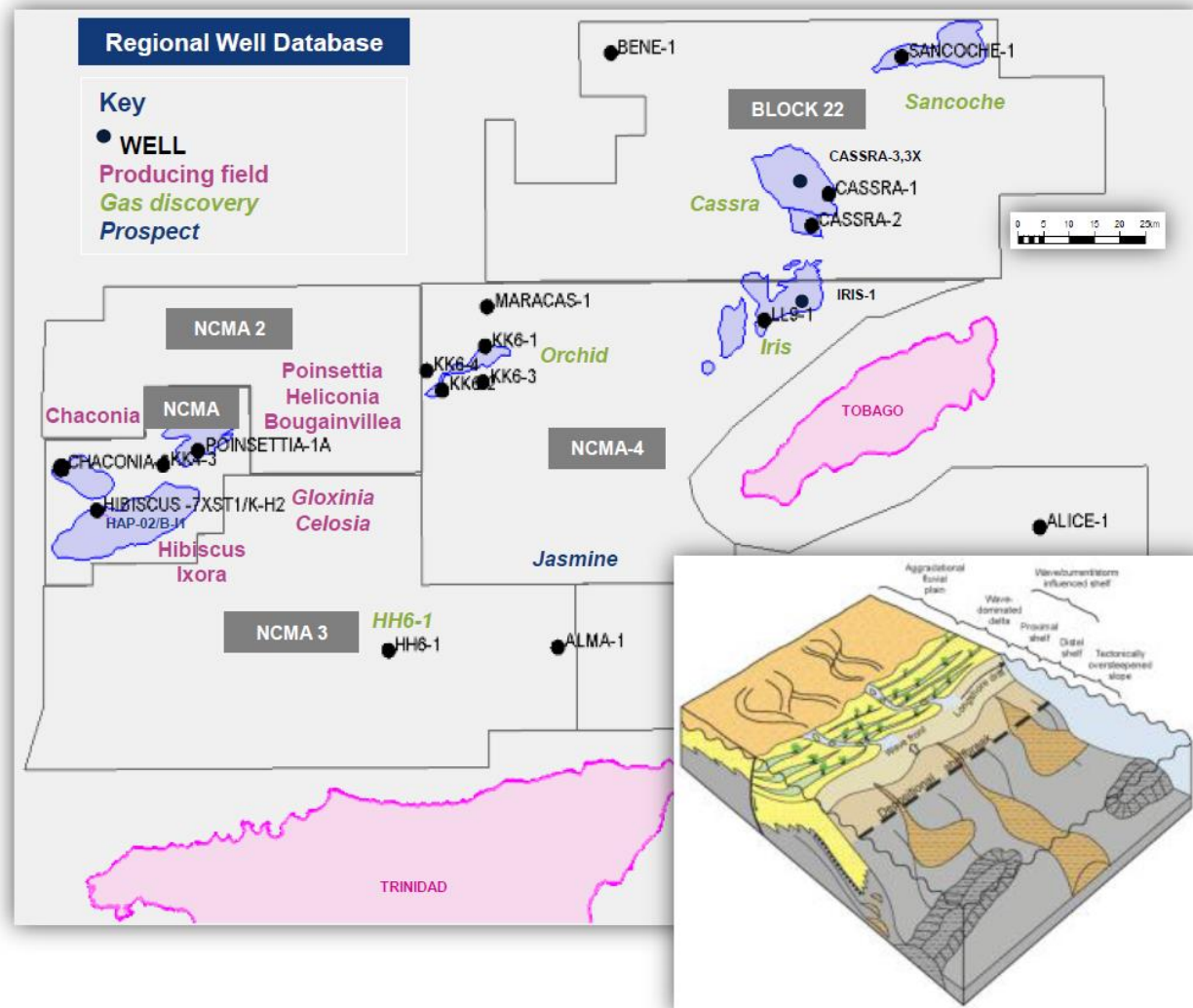
- Main producing fields - depositional clastic wedge latest Miocene to early Pliocene in age
- Thicker Miocene succession as basin deepens to north



# Regional Geological Setting

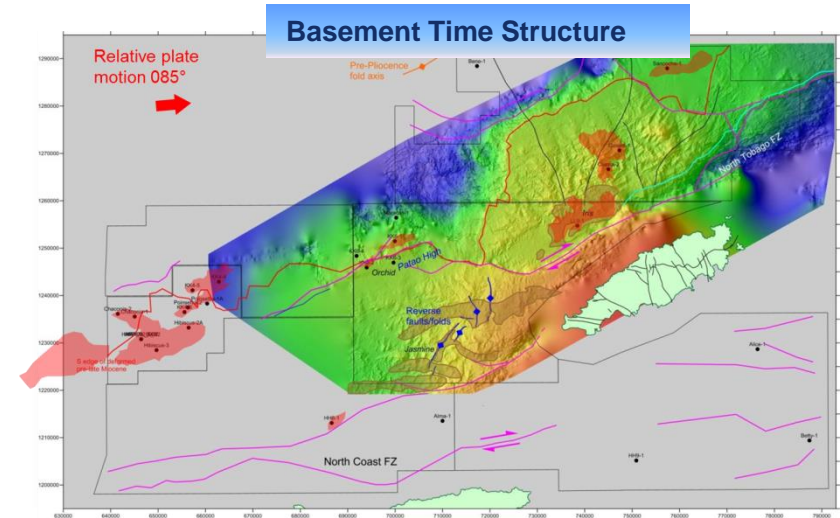
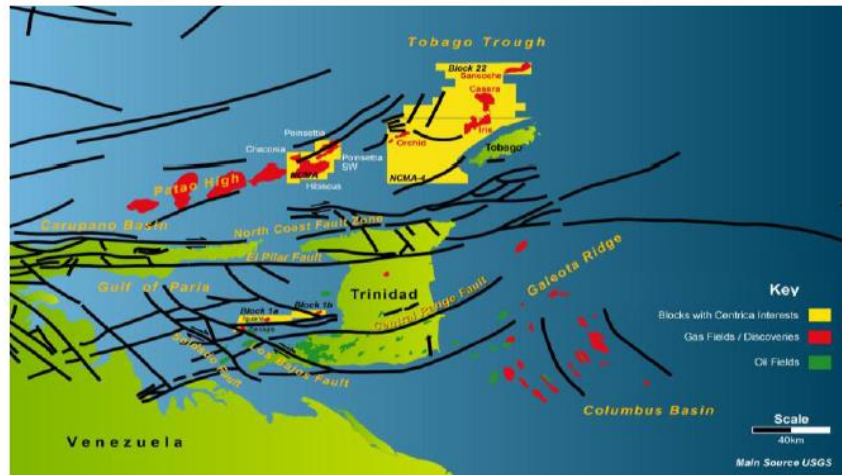
## North Coast Marine Area Stratigraphy

Age	NCMA AREA	
Holocene	Mount Irvine Group	
Pleistocene		
	UPS	
Late Pliocene	Rockly Bay Group	
Early Pliocene	MIV MV MVI MVII MVIII	
Late Miocene	Miocene Sand	
Middle Miocene	NOT ASSIGNED Uplift	
Early Miocene		
	Conglomerate	





# Regional Geological Setting



NCMA-1

NCMA-2

NCMA-4

Block 22

Chaconia

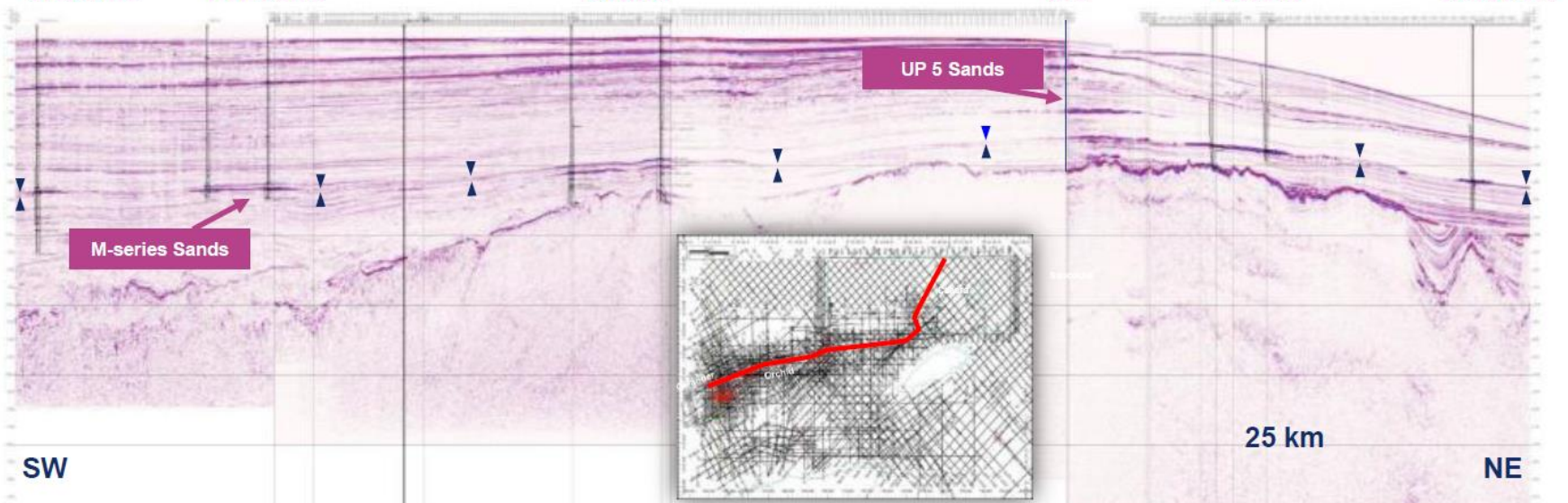
Poinsettia

Orchid

Iris

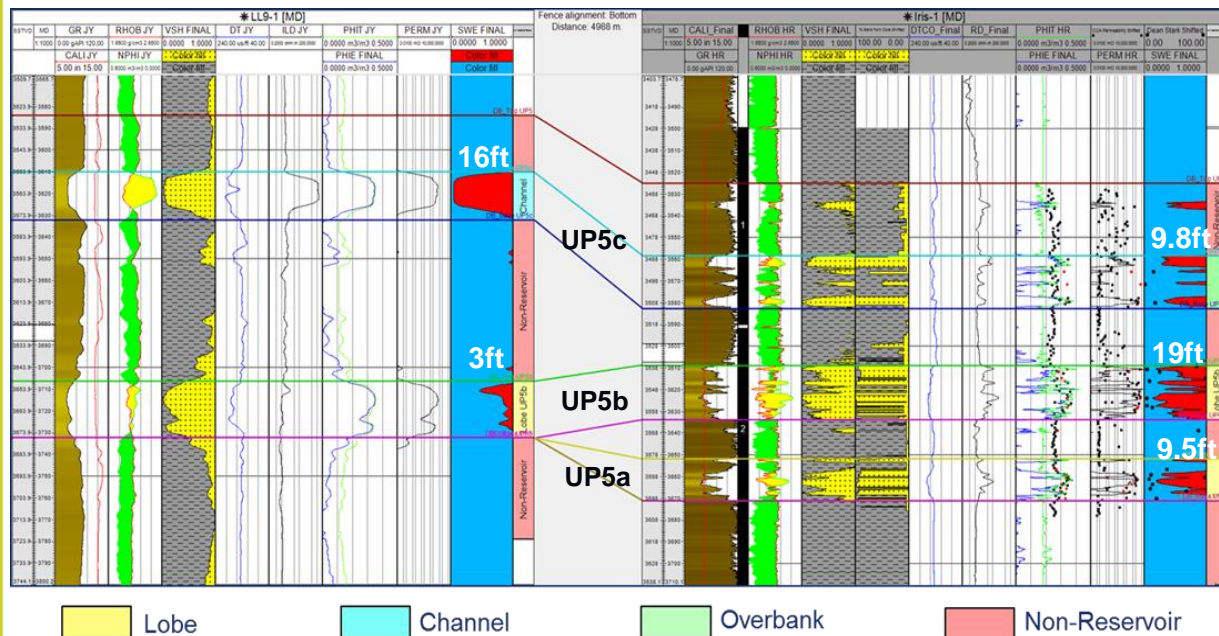
Cassra

Sancoche





# Well Data : LL9-1 & Iris-1 UP5 Gas Discovery



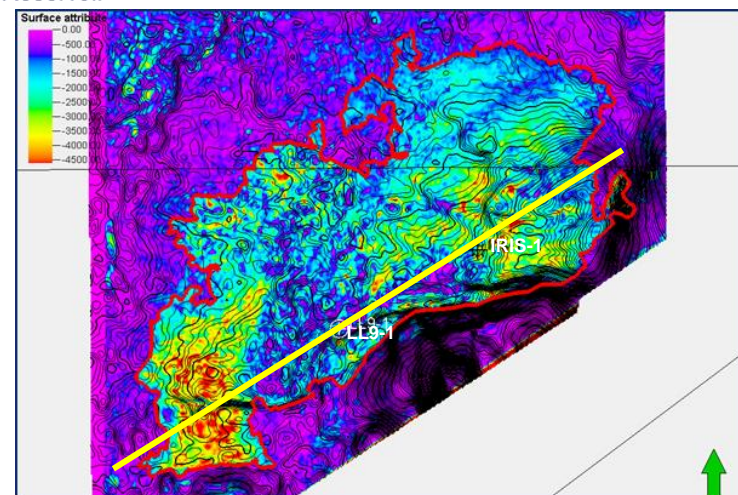
**LL9-1** Net reservoir – 40.5ft, Net Pay - 19ft, Avg porosity – 31%,  
**IRIS-1** Net reservoir – 68ft, Net Pay – 38.3ft, N:G 34%, Avg porosity – 29%,

## LL9-1

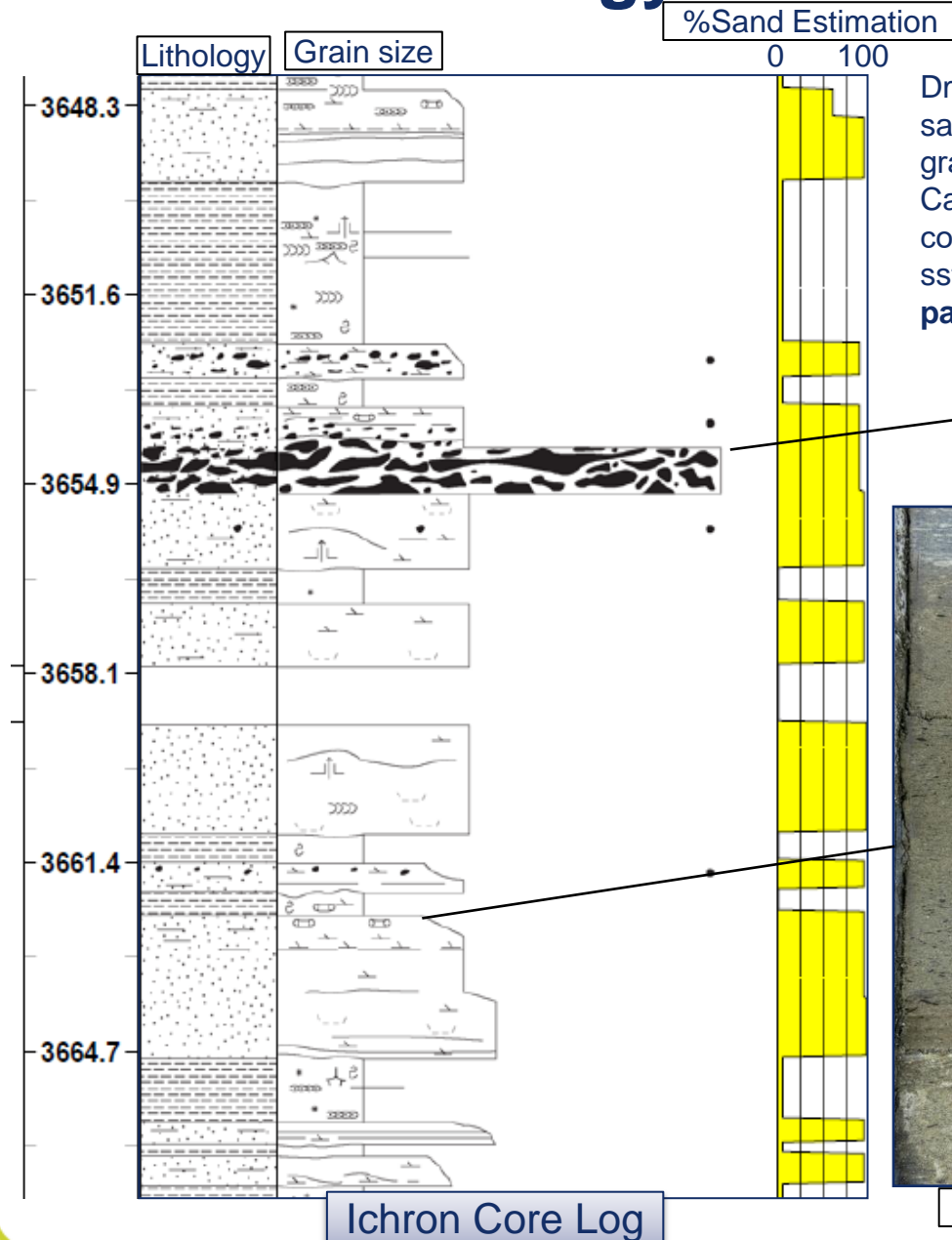
- Drilled by Deminex, 1975
- Water Depth: 524 ft      TD: 7050' MD (Basement – Quartz Diorite)
- Source Rock: Interbedded Pleistocene shales, biogenic gas
- Reservoir: Encountered UP5c and UP5b, with a possible water contact in the latter.
- Trap Type: Combination (structural & stratigraphic)
- Results: **DST (3612 – 3633 ft), 32/64" choke, 8.9 mmscf/d;**

## IRIS-1

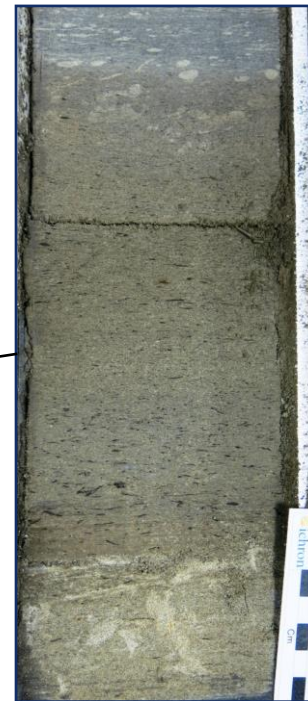
- Drilled by Centrica, 2013 penetrating three UP5 reservoirs – UP5a,b &c. No water contact was observed. All sandstones were fully cored.



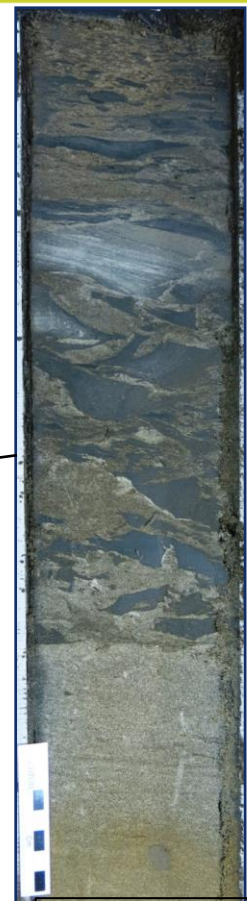
# Iris Sedimentology – UP5a



Dm-scale beds of high-concentration sandy turbidites. Well std, lower fine grained and 'clean' to slightly silty. Carb debris and small mudclasts common. 'Linked' debrites (pebbly sst). **Consistent with medial - distal part of lobe/fan.**

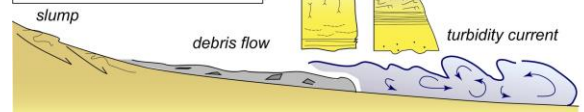


3662.9 ft DD

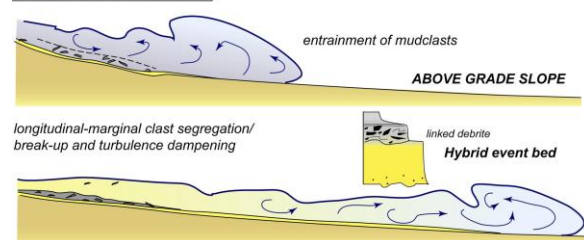


3655.1 ft DD

## FLOW TRANSFORMATION

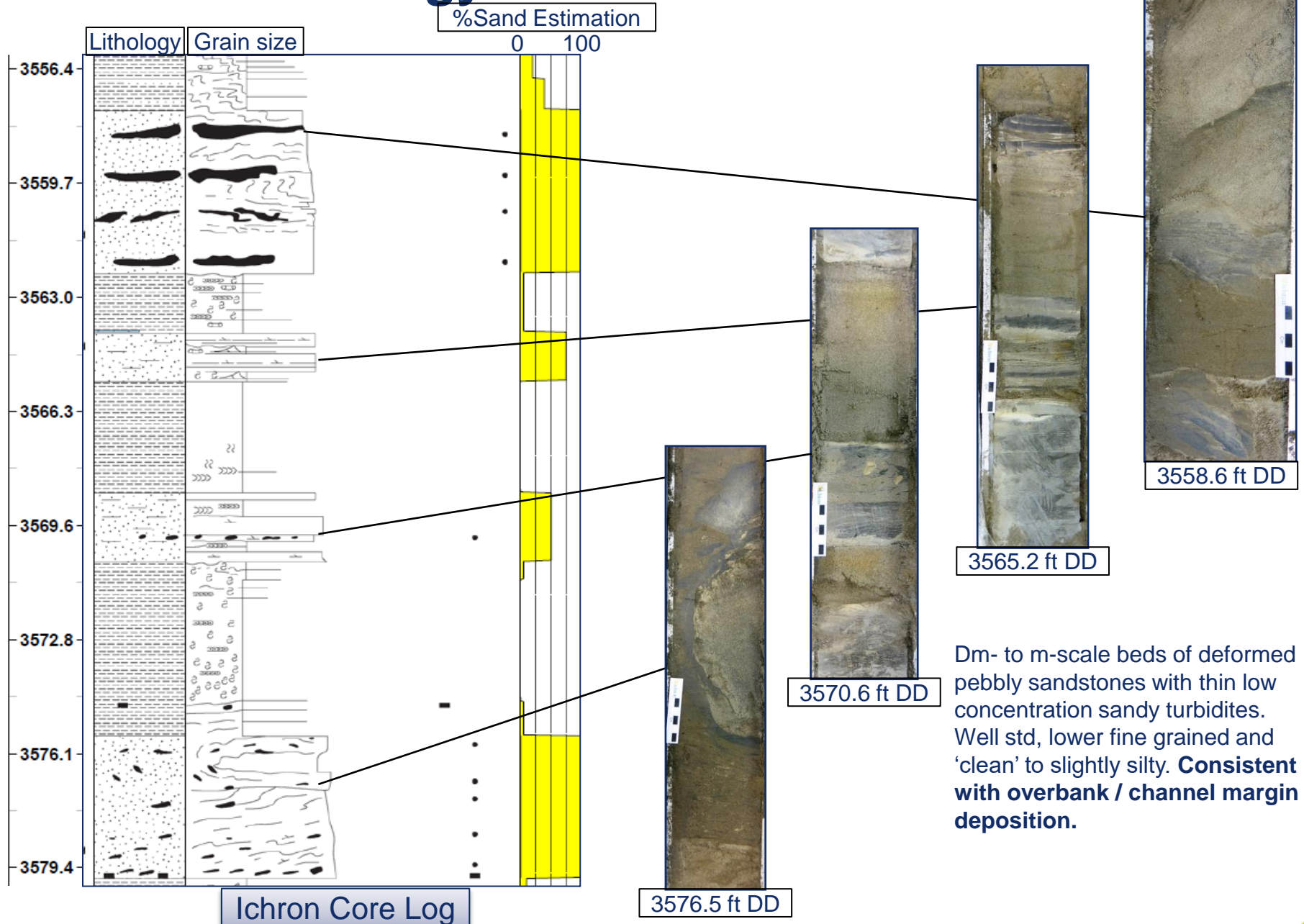


## FLOW PARTITIONING

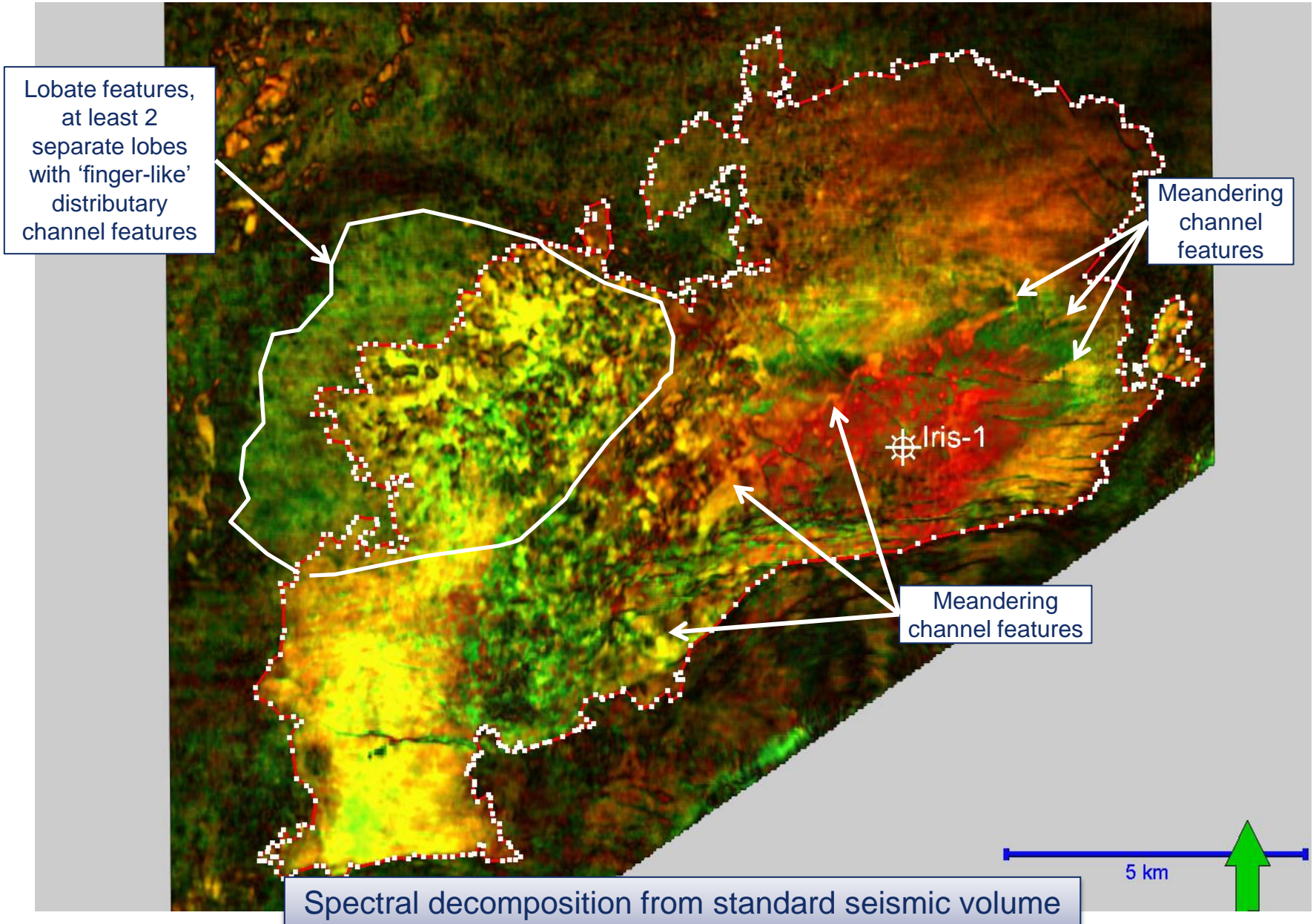




# Iris Sedimentology - UP5c

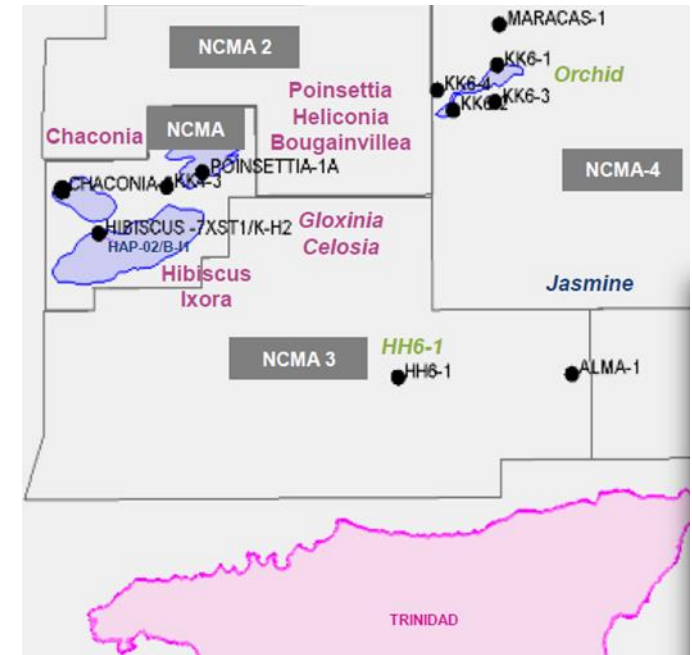
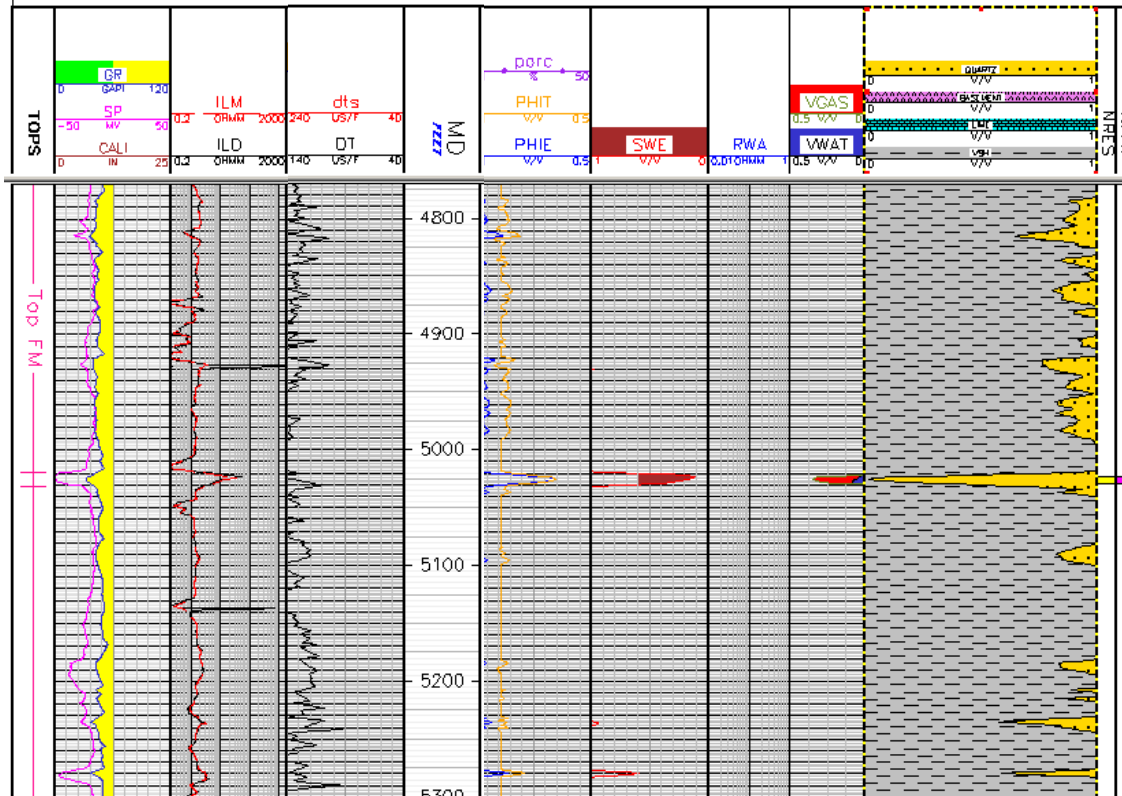


# Depositional Model – UP5c





# Well Data : HH6-1 UP5 Gas Discovery



## UP5 Properties:

- Drilled jointly by Deminex/ Agip 1971
- Water Depth: 260 ft      TD: 12351' MD (Basement – Igneous)
- Source Rock: Interbedded Pleistocene shales, biogenic gas
- **Reservoir: One signif. gas bearing sdst, 5018 - 5030ft MD (UP5 gas sand)**
- Trap Type: Combination (structural & stratigraphic)
- Results: DST 1 (9845 – 10202ft), 11bbls salt water/93mins (Basal Sand)
- **Results: DST II (5018 - 5030ft), 32/64" choke, 7.5 mmscf/d (UP5 gas sand)**

<b>Interval Thickness</b>	-12ft
<b>Net Pay</b>	-7ft
<b>N/G</b>	-60%
<b>Porosity</b>	-30%



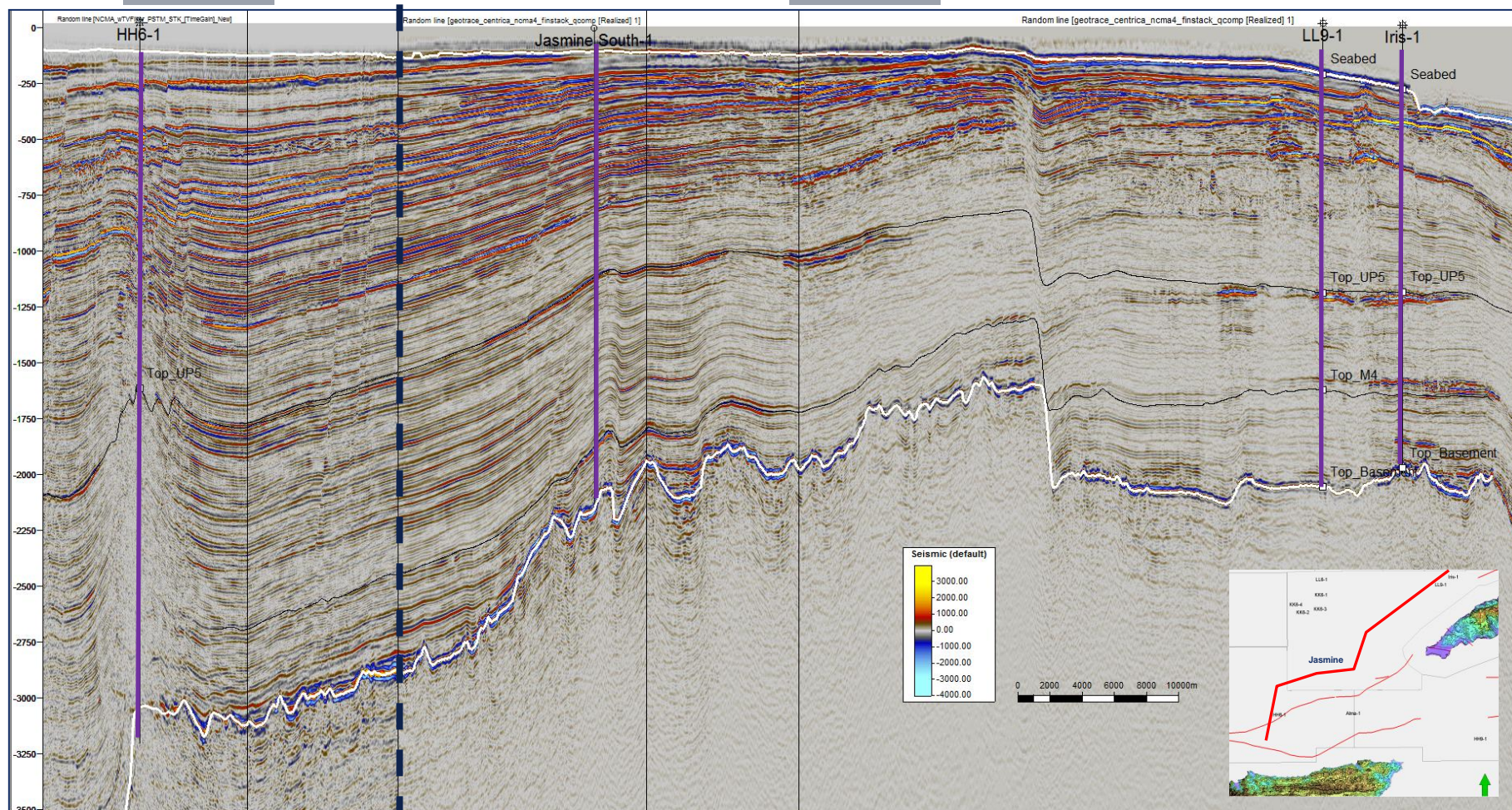
# HH6-1 Tie-in Reflectivity

S

N

NCMA3

NCMA 4

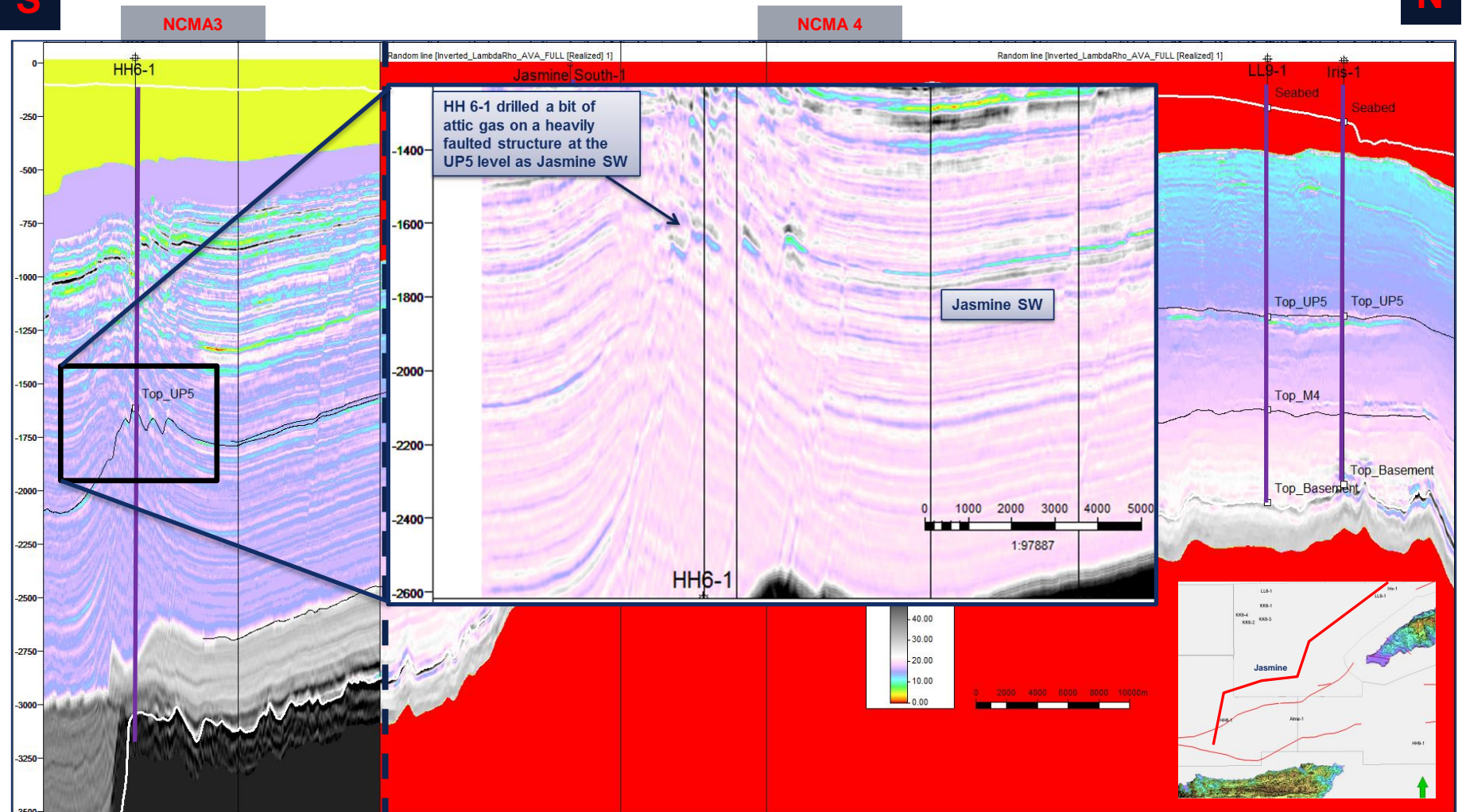




# HH6-1 Tie-in Lambda-Rho

S

N

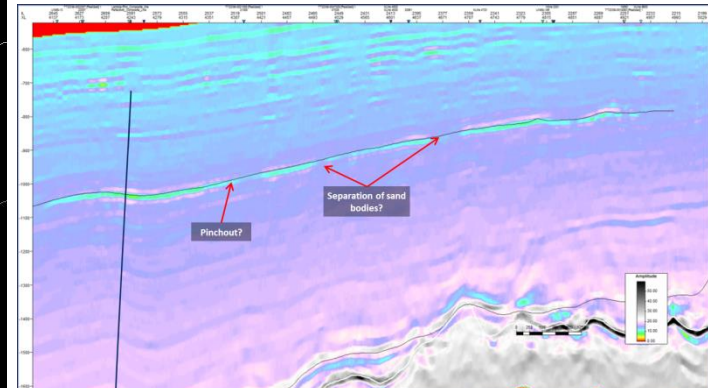
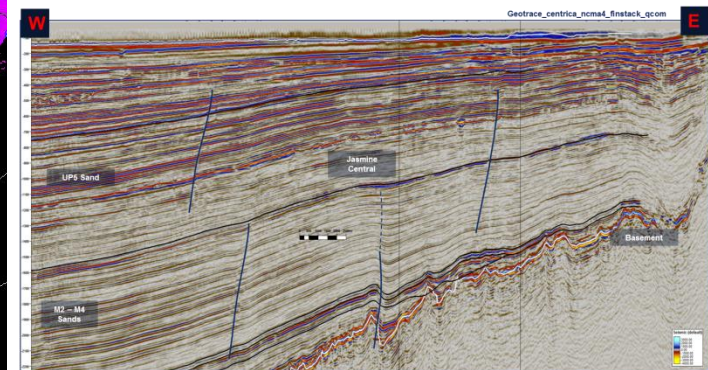
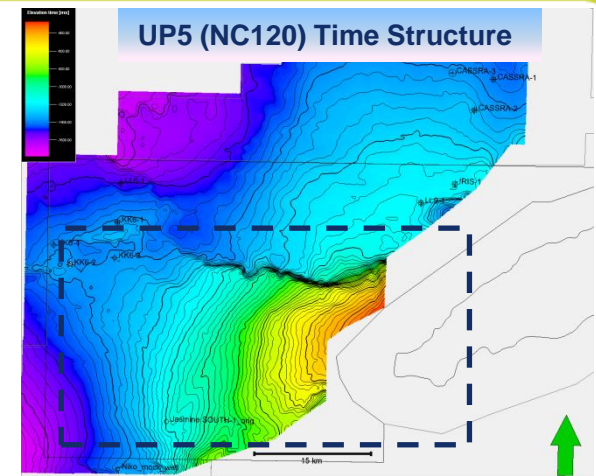
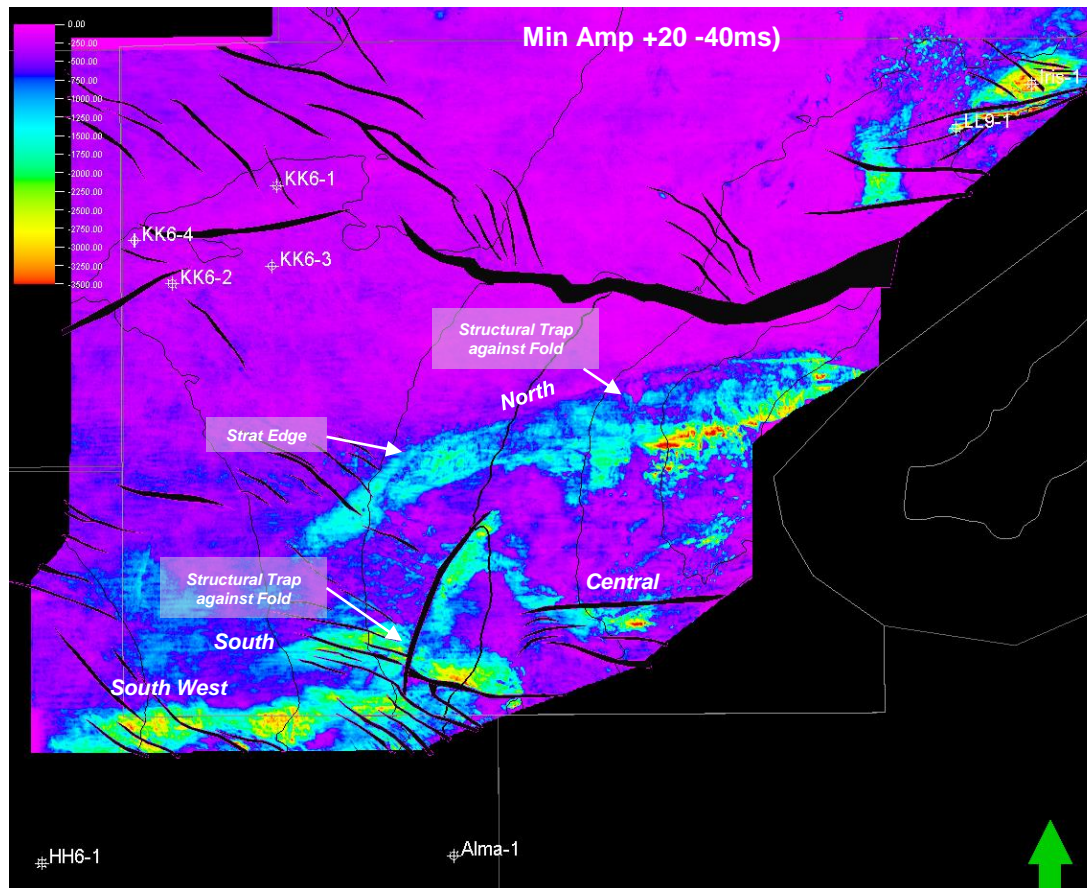




# Jasmine – UP5 (NC 120)

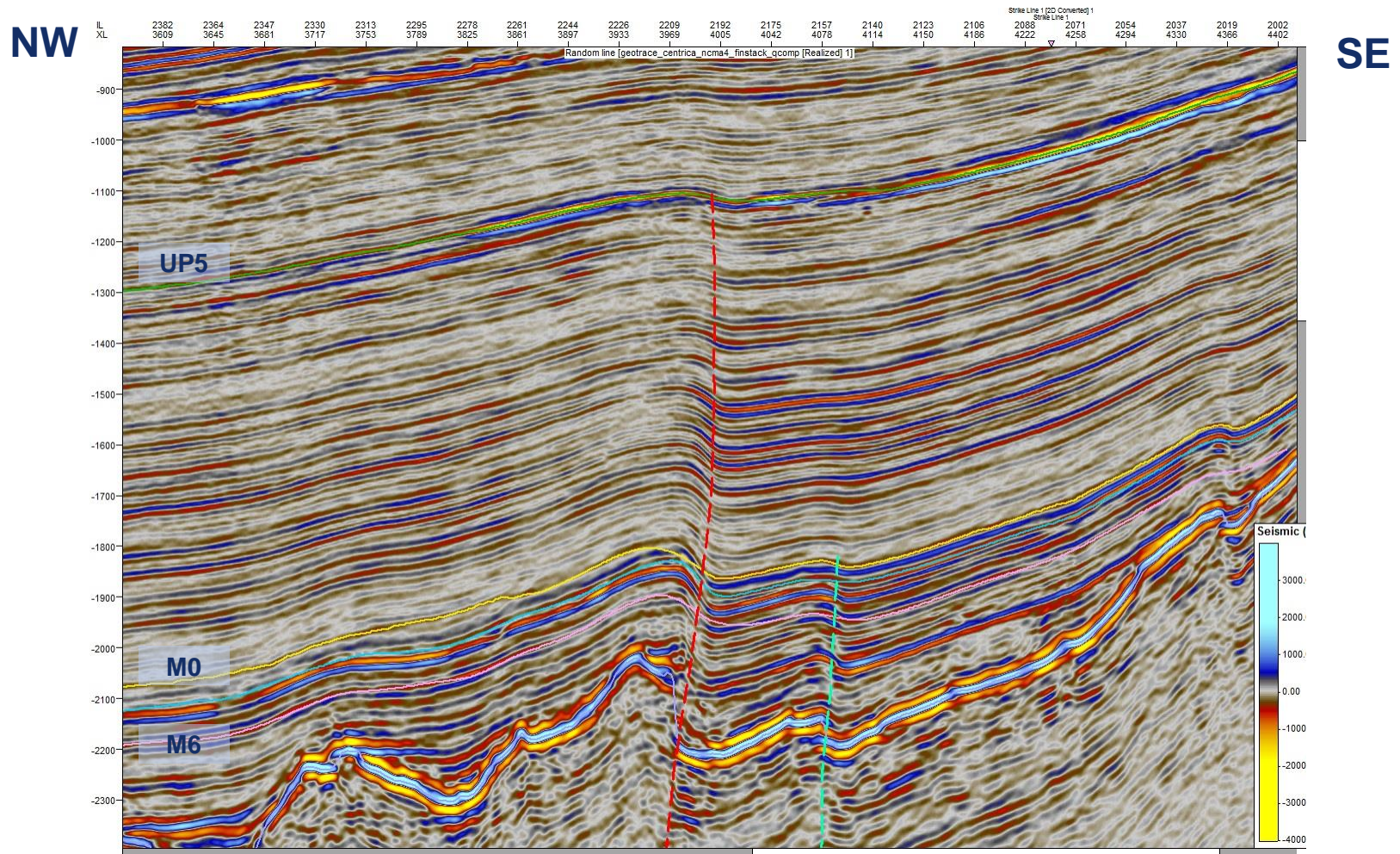
## UP5

- WSW to ENE trending bright amplitudes that closely correlate with the UP5 (NC120-Late Pliocene/Pleistocene) gas charged sandstones proven at Iris. A mere 7km south westerly, HH6-1 encountered gas at the UP5 level.
- Jasmine comprises of four primary segments: Jasmine North, Jasmine Central, Jasmine South, and Jasmine South West. Jasmine South and SW are more structurally defined by a combination of NE-SW trending reverse faults and NW-SE trending normal faults.



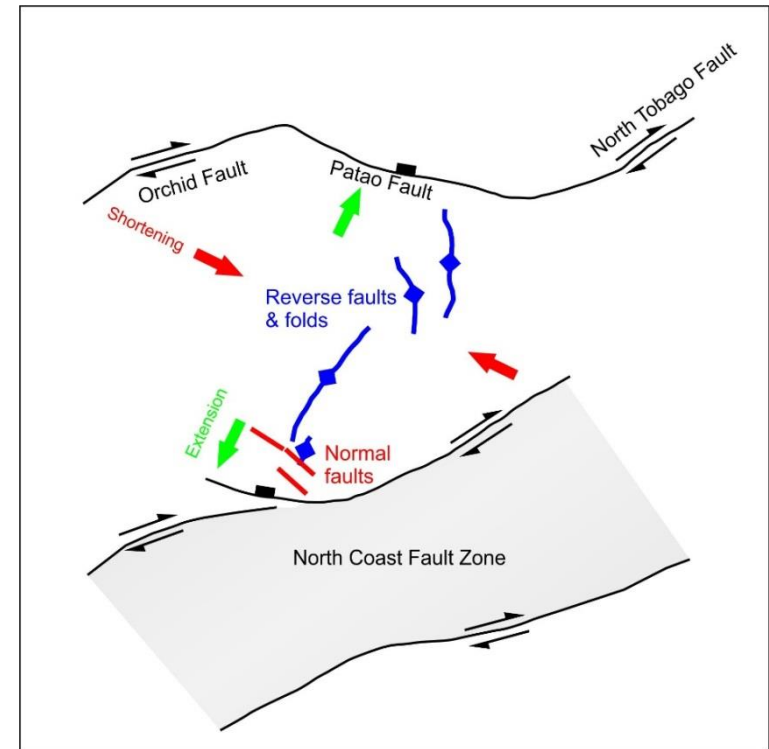
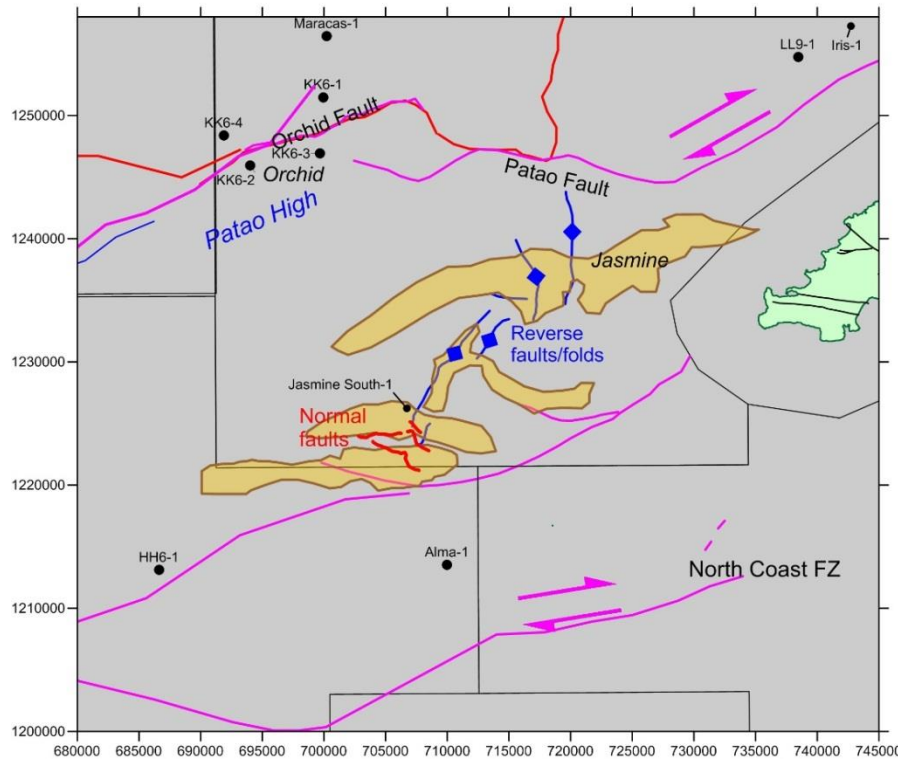


# Fold growth



Fold and bedding geometries show that reverse slip initiated during Basal Sand deposition but may have been less active from above M6  
Further movement with a vertically decreasing amount of throw occurred up to UP5 and slightly later

# Relationship of folds and faults



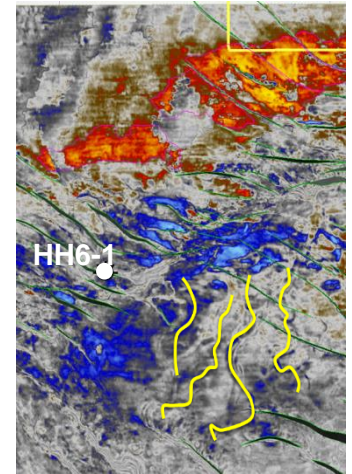
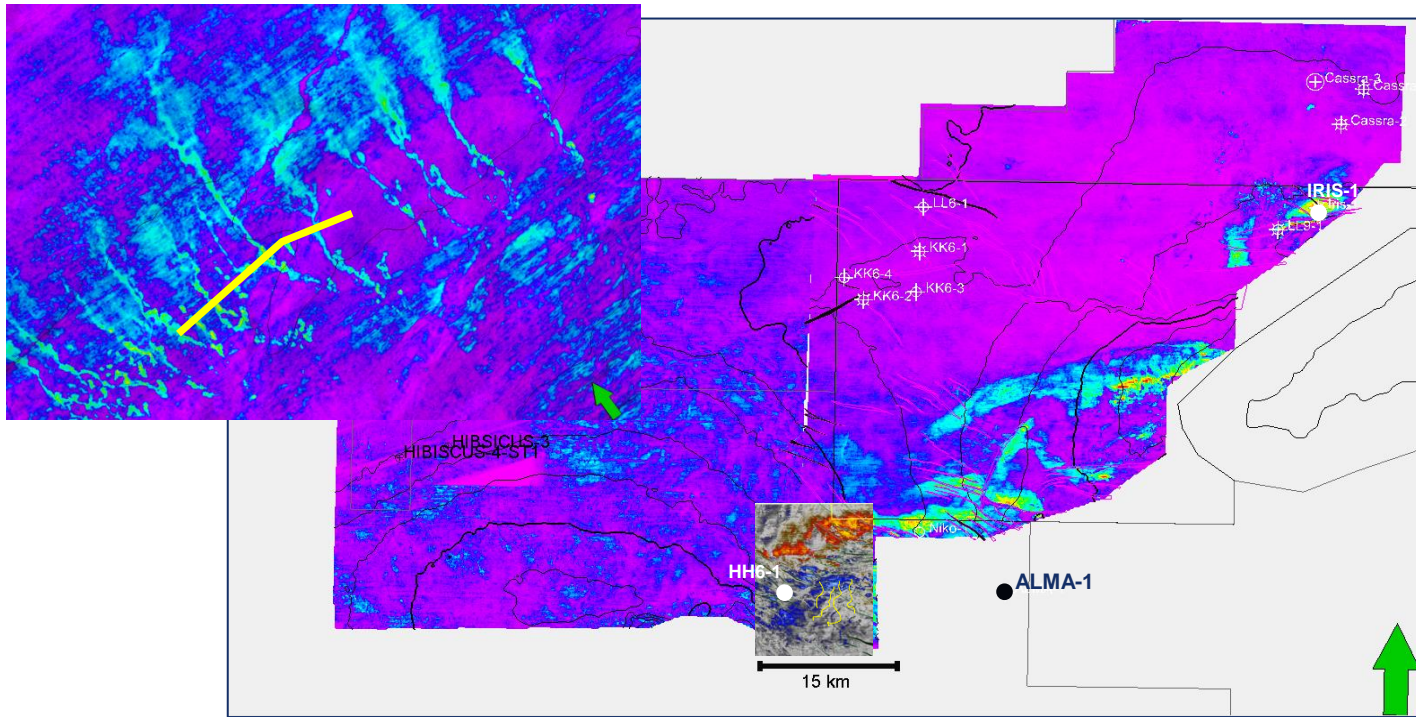
- Right lateral movement on the North Coast fault Zone and the North Tobago/Patao fault generates a restraining overlap and produces shortening in the form of reverse faults and folds
- Intermittent growth during Basal Sand to UP5 shows that displacement transfer sometimes more efficient and shortening does not occur
- Normal faults in Jasmine form perpendicular to shortening structures



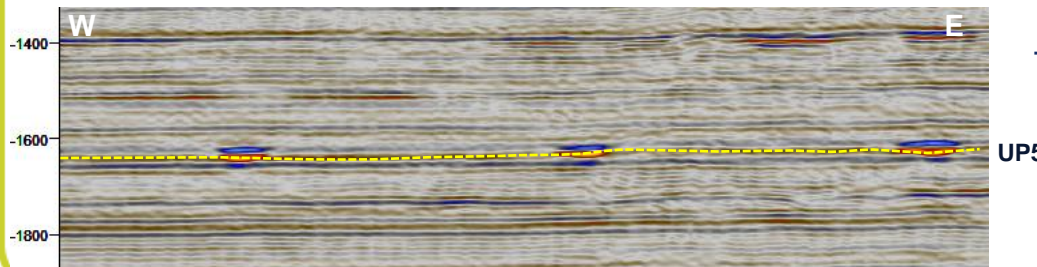
# Determining the NC120 (UP5) GDE at Jasmine

Evaluation of GDE based on:

- Extended regional seismic mapping at NC120/UP5 level revealed northerly trending 150m wide slope channels with associated 4-5km basin floor fans
- Well data at HH6-1 & ALMA-1 suggests Outer Shelf deposits with strong inner shelf influence, CU ssts. Biostrat data from NCMA-1 also suggests Outer Shelf deposition.



Data courtesy of Niko Resources: Flattened seismic volume on the 'HH6-1 Gas' pick and then took a couple of time slices. Reds and yellows are troughs, blues are peaks.

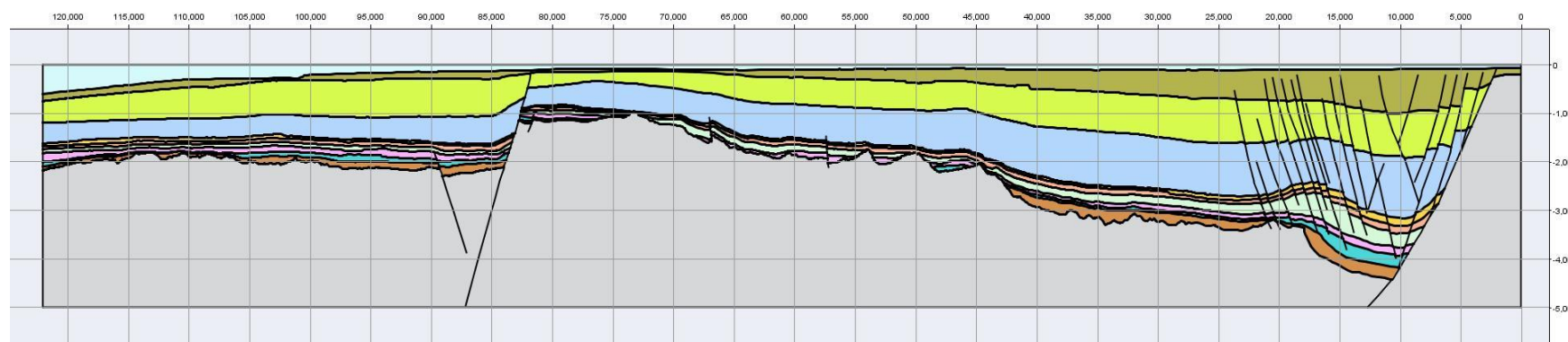


- Northerly trending channels on Niko Resources 'UP5' flattened seismic volume in vicinity of HH6-1

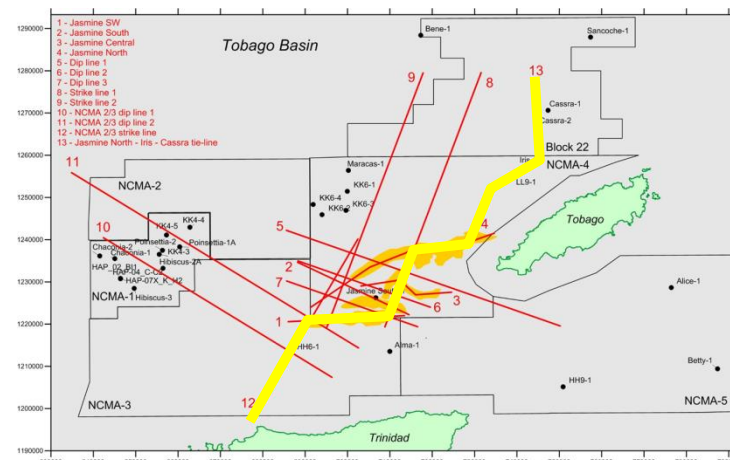
# 14. Composite line: Present

NE

SW



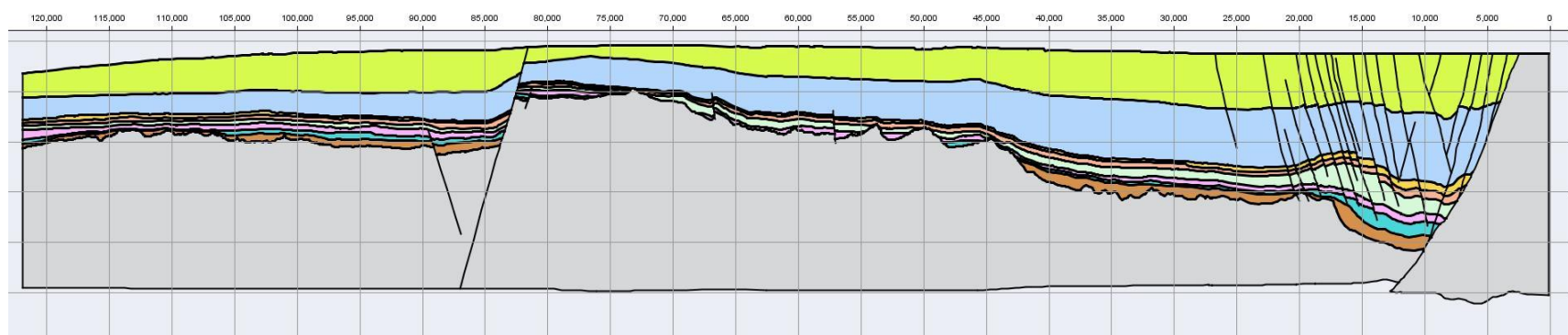
- Seabed to NC140
- NC140 to UP5
- UP5 to M0/M2
- M0/M2 to M4
- M4 to M6
- M6 to M7
- M7 to M8
- M8 to Basal Sand
- Basal Sand
- Basement



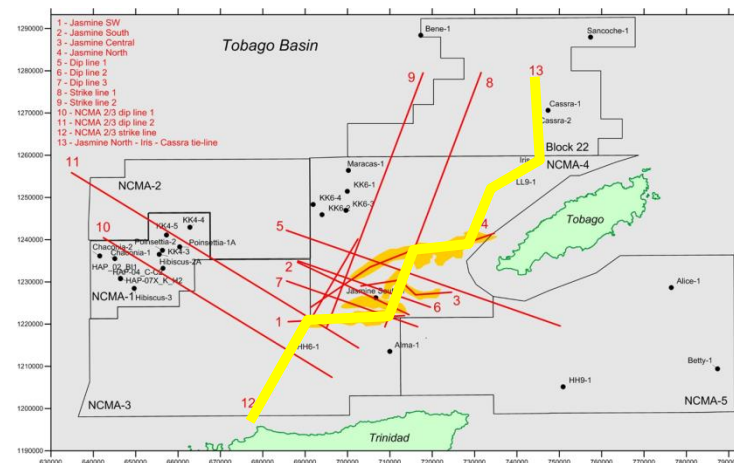
VE = 4



## NE

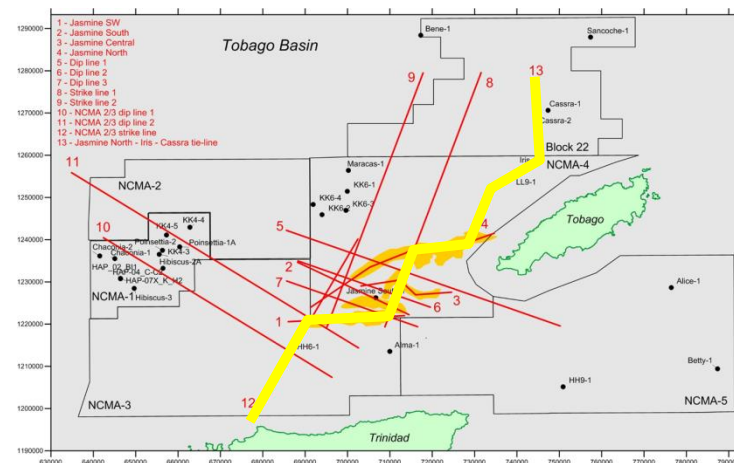


- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
|    | Seabed to NC140  |
|    | NC140 to UP5     |
|    | UP5 to M0/M2     |
|   | M0/M2 to M4      |
|  | M4 to M6         |
|  | M6 to M7         |
|  | M7 to M8         |
|  | M8 to Basal Sand |
|  | Basal Sand       |
|  | Basement         |


$$VE = 4$$

UP5 shelf edge  
controlled by the North Tobago Fault

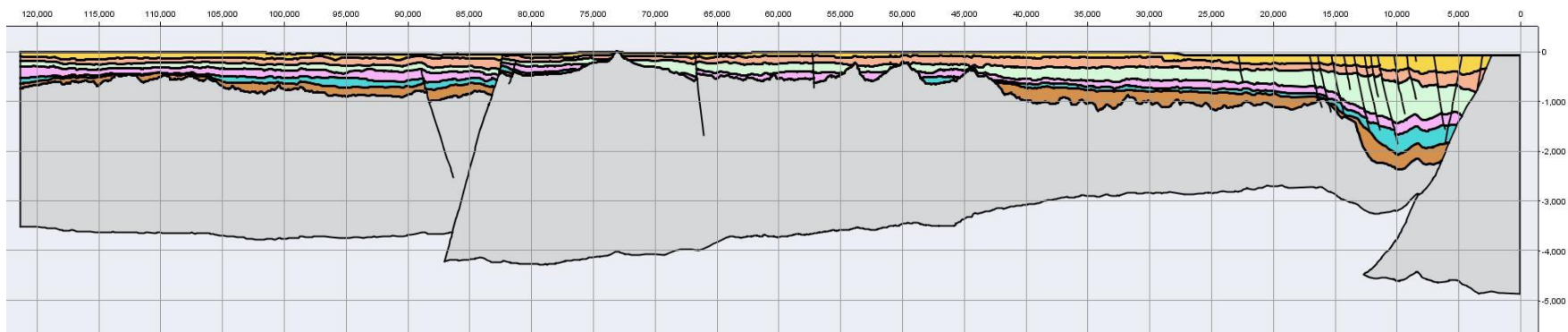
## Significant growth stratigraphy at the North Coast Fault Zone


$$VE = 4$$

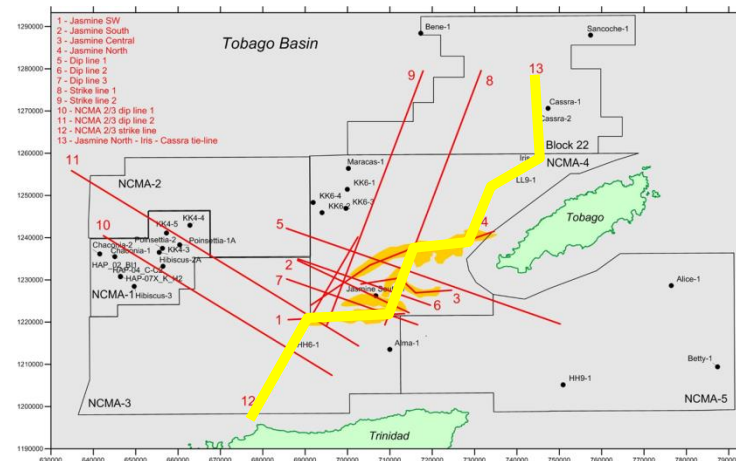
# 14. Composite line: M0/M2

NE

SW



- Seabed to NC140
- NC140 to UP5
- UP5 to M0/M2
- M0/M2 to M4
- M4 to M6
- M6 to M7
- M7 to M8
- M8 to Basal Sand
- Basal Sand
- Basement

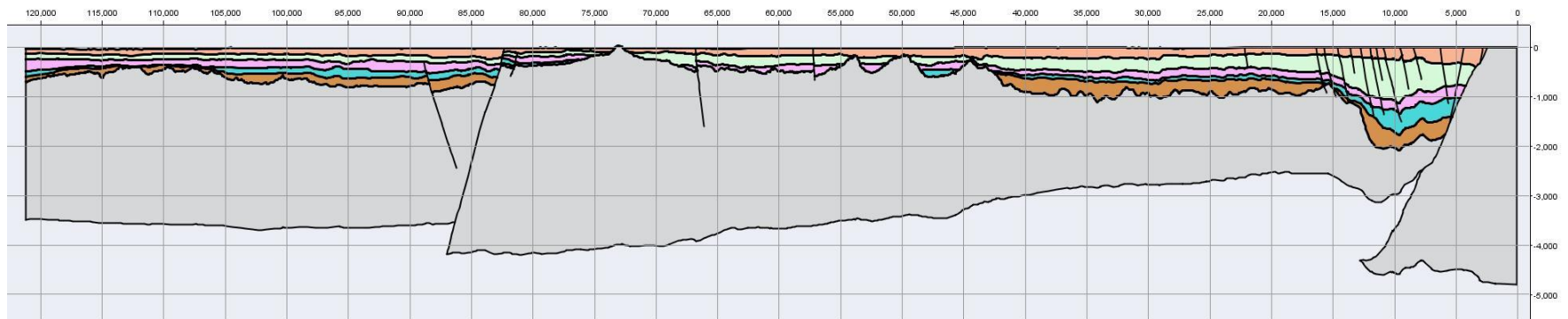


VE = 4

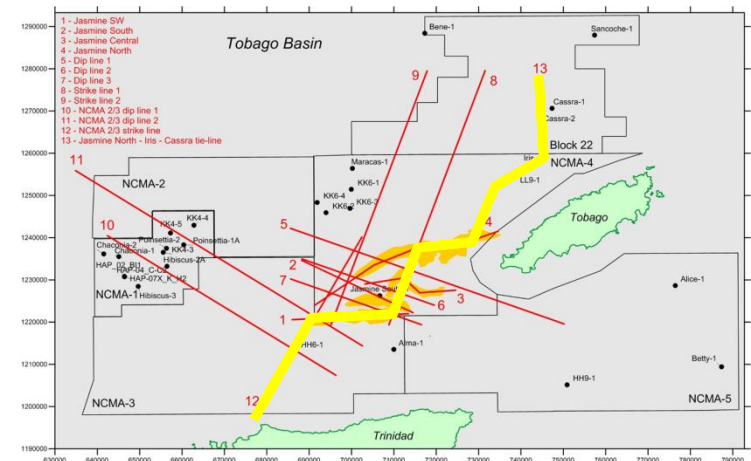
# 14. Composite line: M4

NE

SW



- Seabed to NC140
- NC140 to UP5
- UP5 to M0/M2
- M0/M2 to M4
- M4 to M6
- M6 to M7
- M7 to M8
- M8 to Basal Sand
- Basal Sand
- Basement

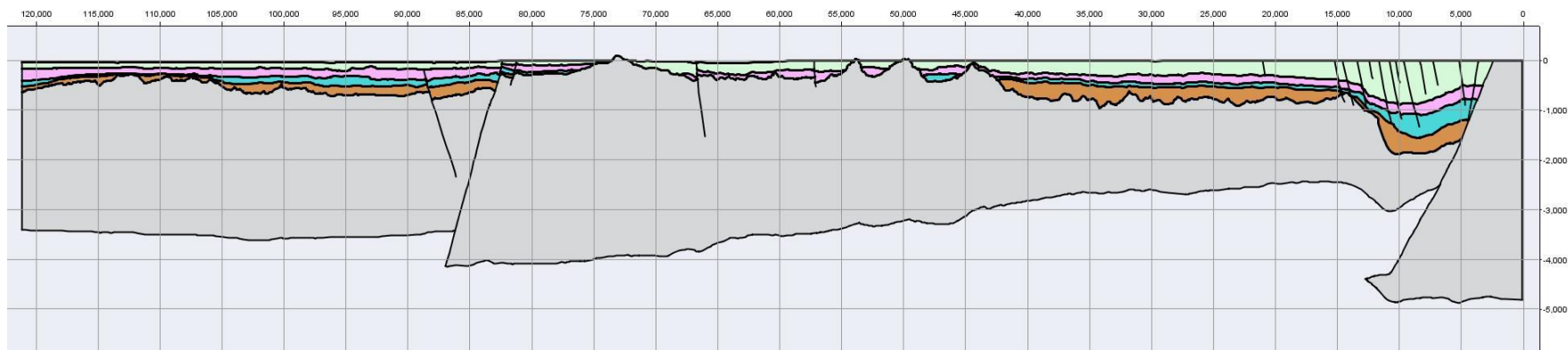


VE = 4

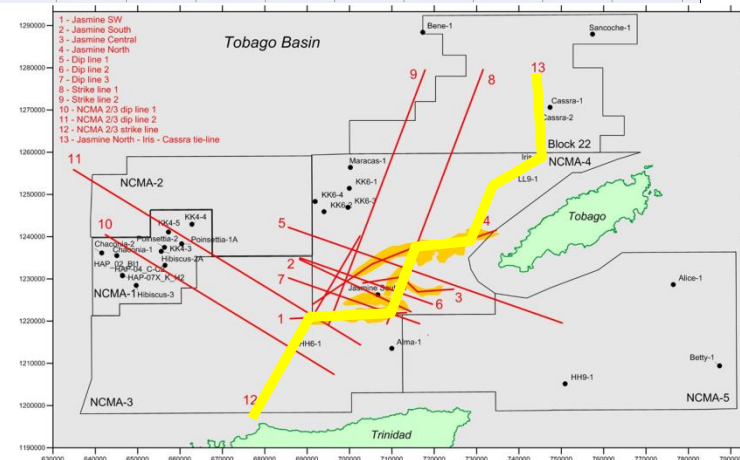
# 14. Composite line: M6

NE

SW



- Seabed to NC140
- NC140 to UP5
- UP5 to M0/M2
- M0/M2 to M4
- M4 to M6
- M6 to M7
- M7 to M8
- M8 to Basal Sand
- Basal Sand
- Basement



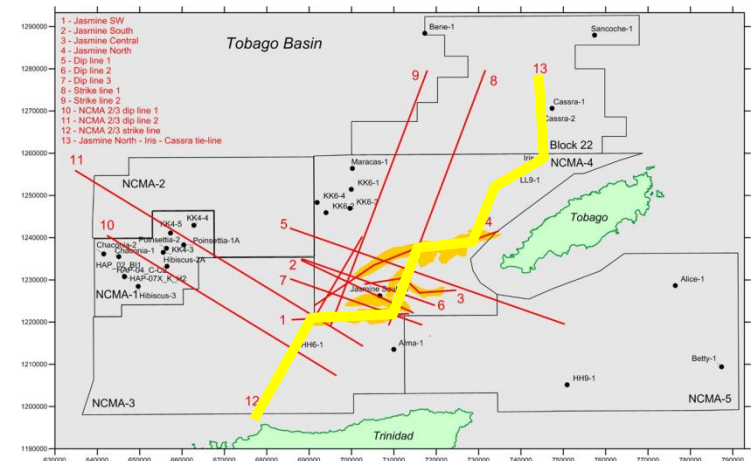
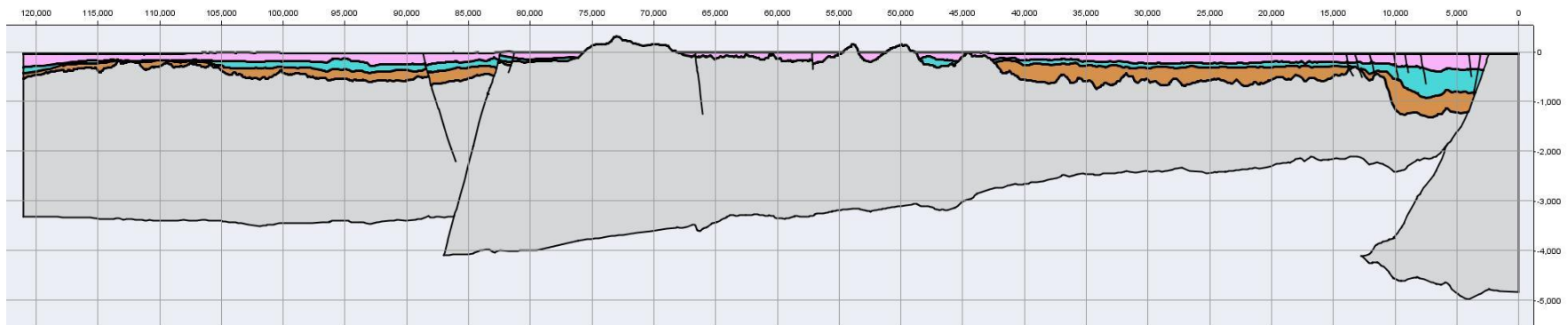
VE = 4



# 14. Composite line: M7

NE

SW



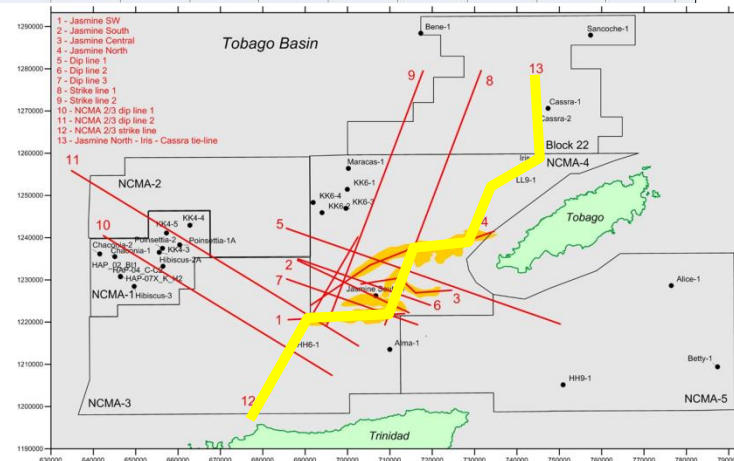
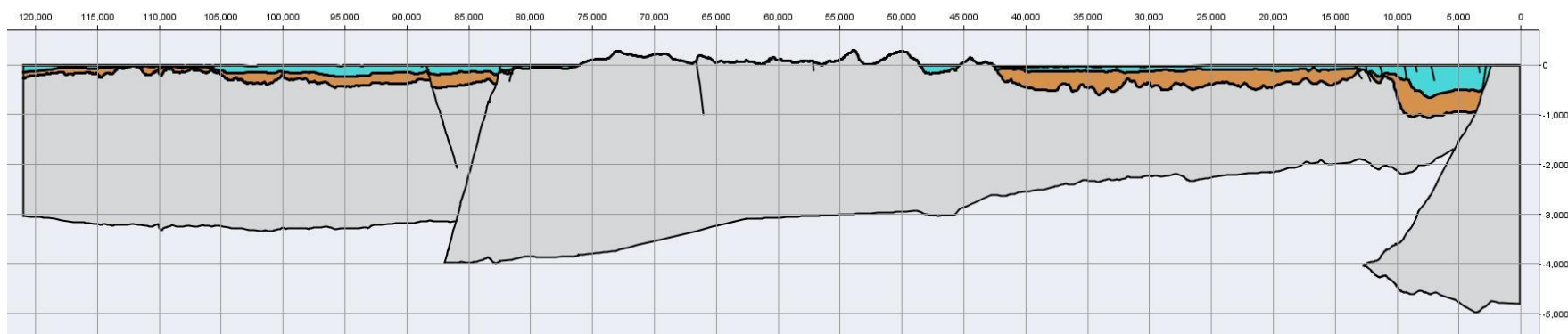
VE = 4



# 14. Composite line: M8

NE

SW



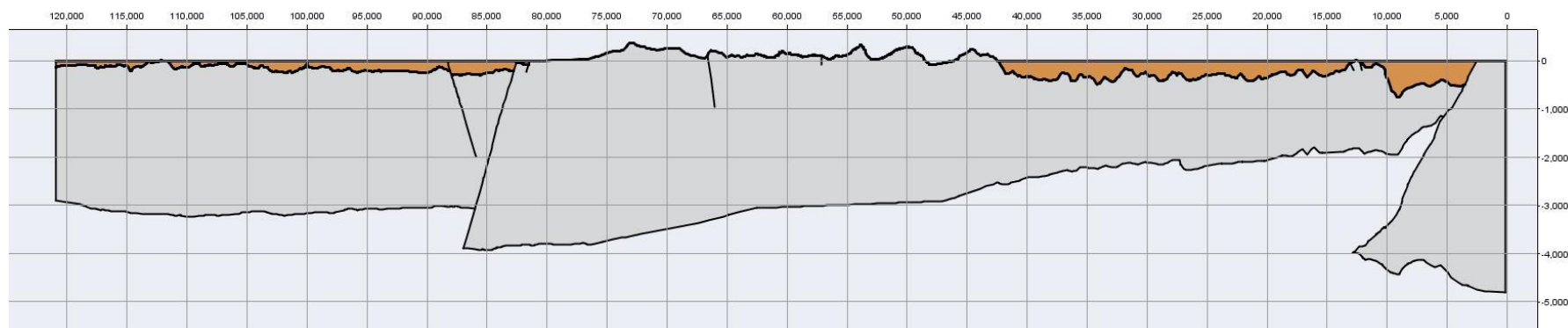
VE = 4

# 14. Composite line: Basal Sand

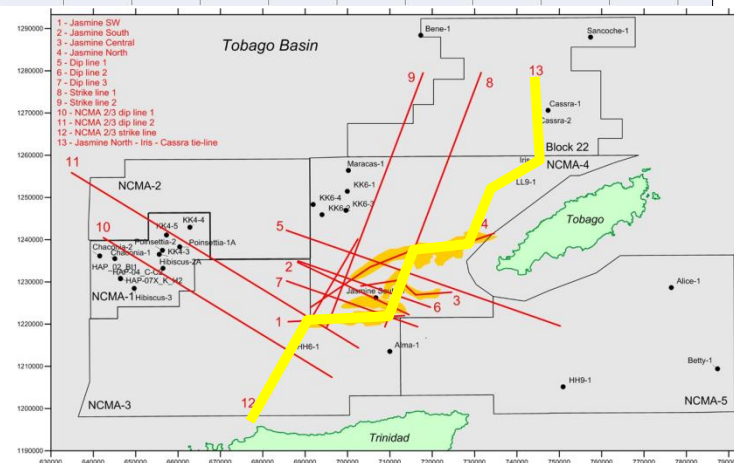
NE

SW

South Western Tobago Middle  
Miocene Basement uplift (prevalent  
dendritic drainage)



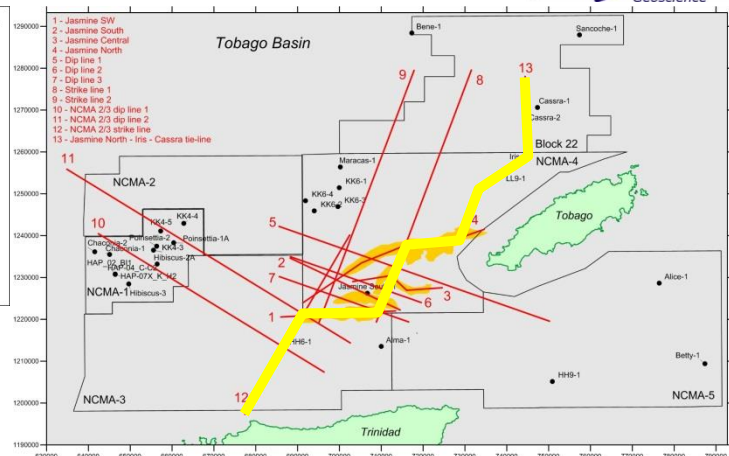
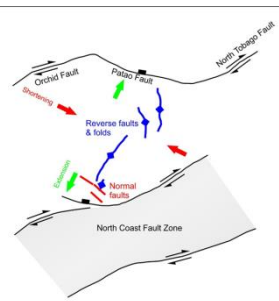
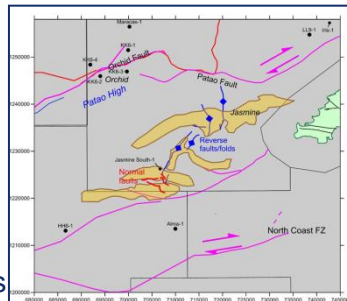
- Seabed to NC140
- NC140 to UP5
- UP5 to M0/M2
- M0/M2 to M4
- M4 to M6
- M6 to M7
- M7 to M8
- M8 to Basal Sand
- Basal Sand
- Basement



VE = 4

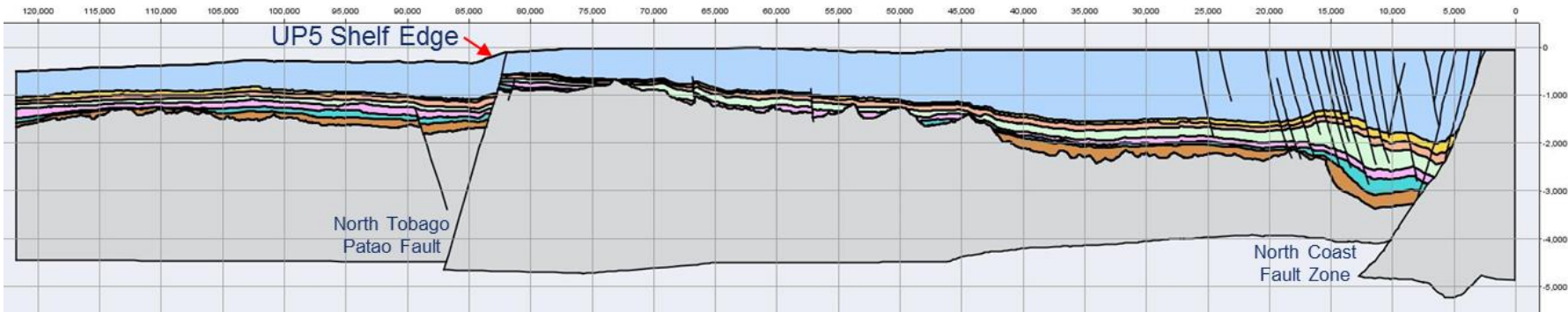
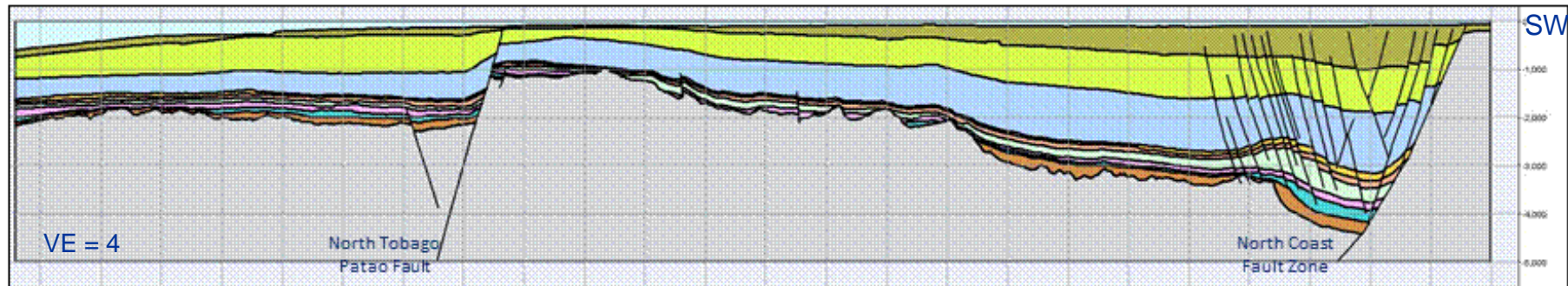
# Jasmine Structural Restoration Results

- Reverse slip initiated during the Basal Sand Deposition ~ Middle Miocene
- Right lateral movement on the North Coast Fault Zone and the North Tobago/Patao Fault generates a restraining overlap producing reverse faults and folds
- Intermittent growth during Basal Sand to UP5 shows that displacement transfer sometimes more efficient and shortening does not occur
- Pleistocene right lateral movement along North Tobago Fault generates UP5 Shelf Edge
- Reverse faulting inactive after UP5, late stage normal faulting evident orthogonal to shortening structures



Composite line: Present

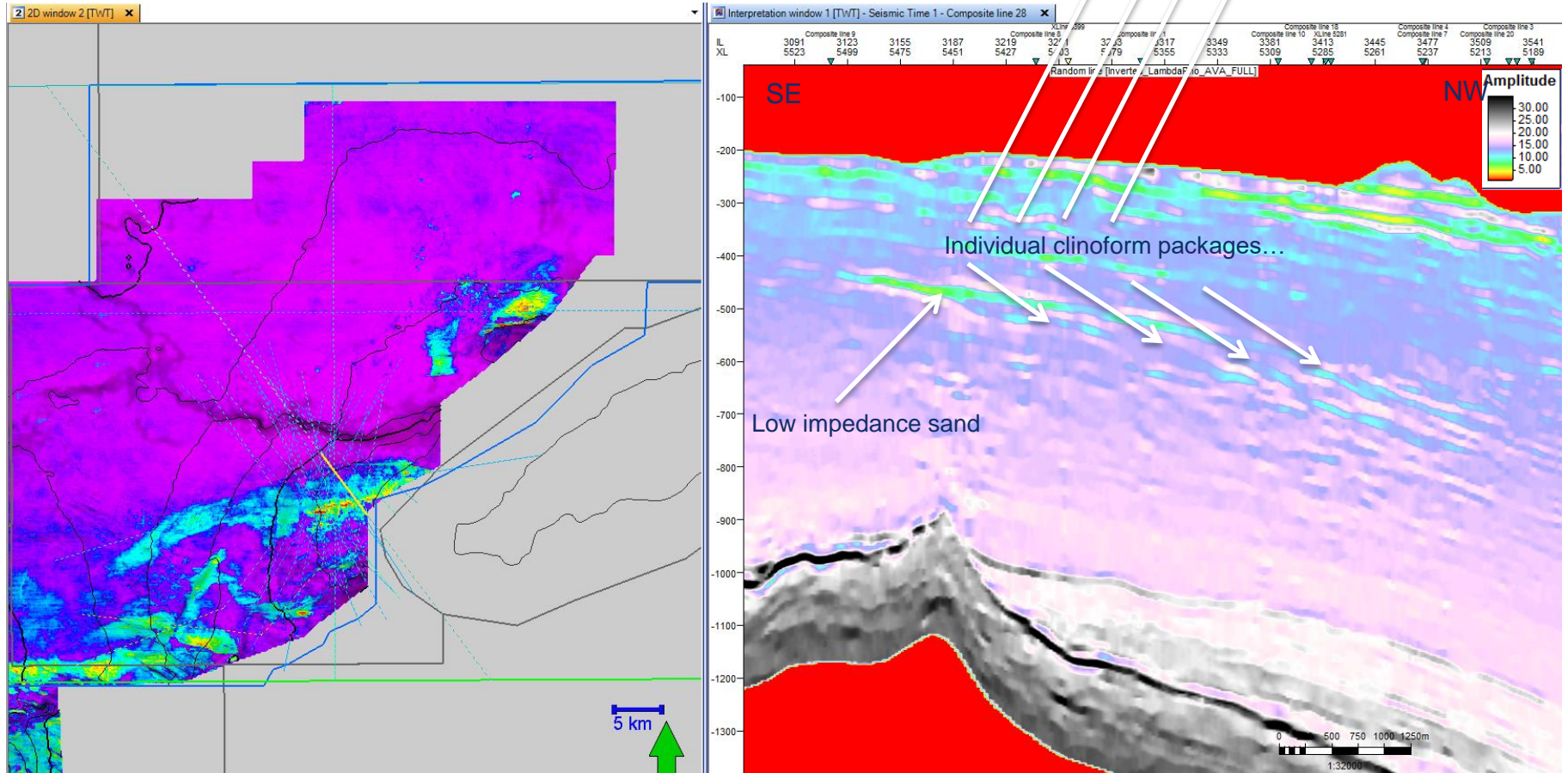
NE



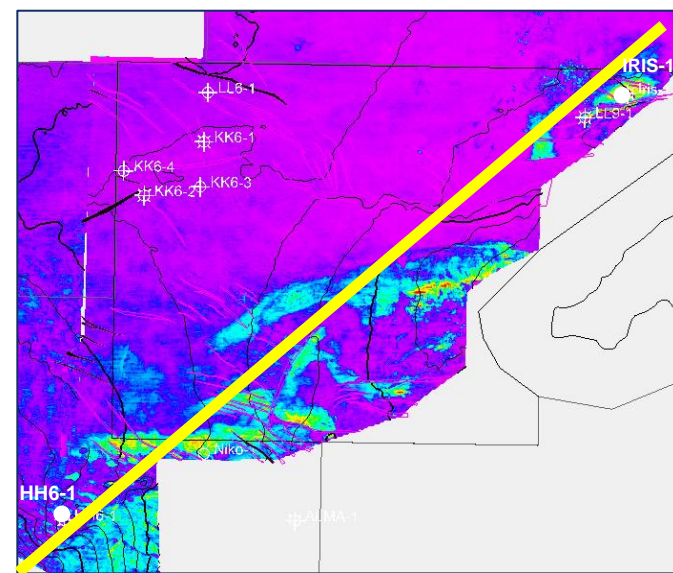
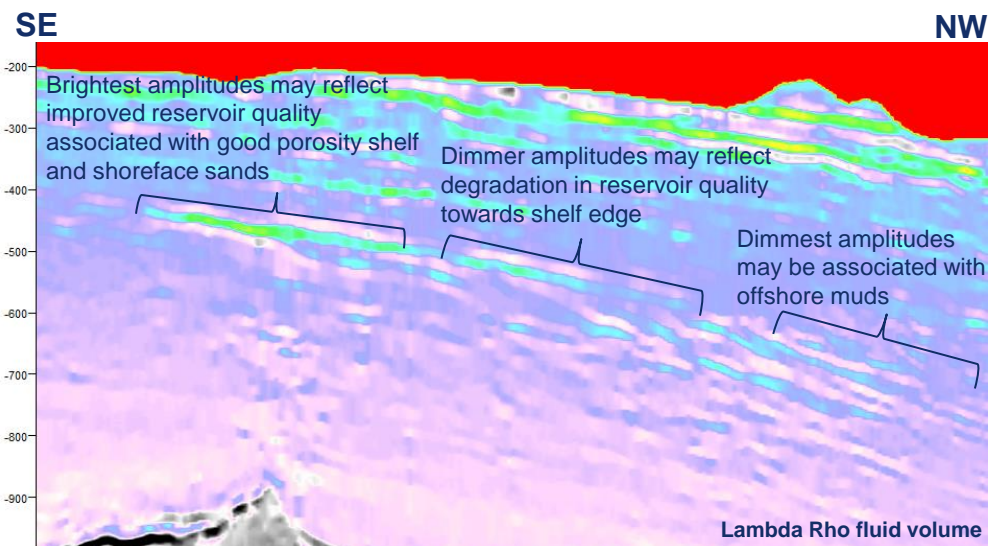
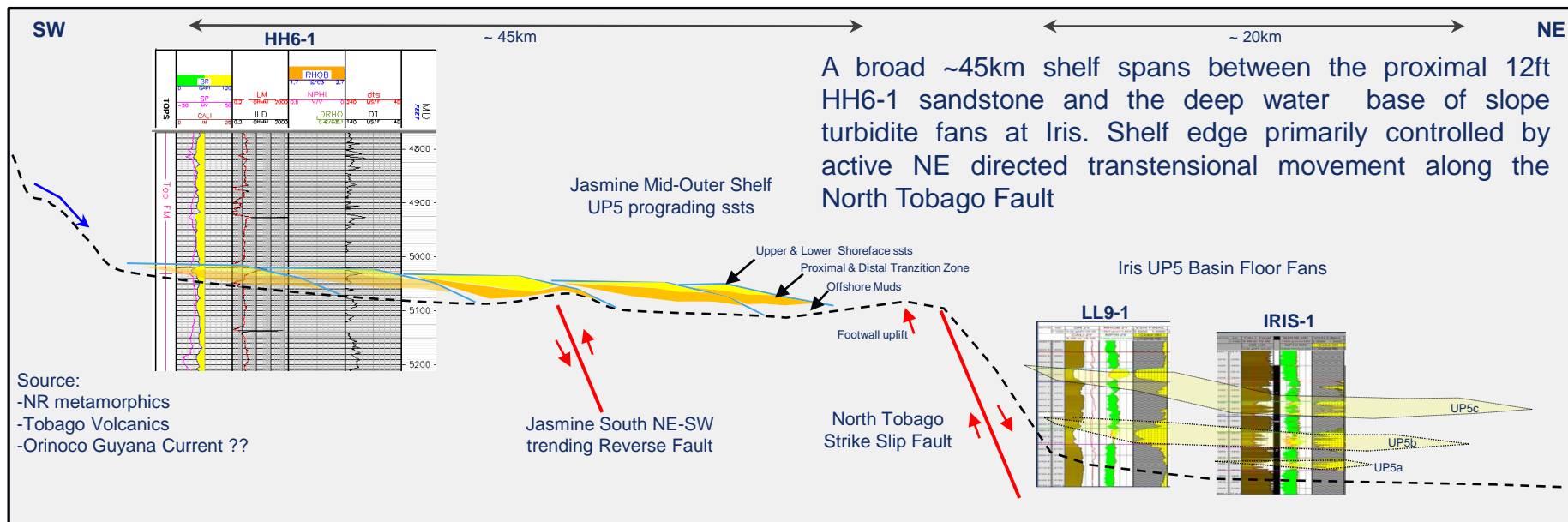


# Further Shelfal Evidence & Analogues

North westward prograding clinoformal geometries best observed on the Lambda Rho volume supports that the Jasmine UP5 Complex is shelfal. Clinoforms are generally 1-2° but up to 7° in Jasmine North East. As such the UP5 interval at Iris-1 (Basin Floor Fans) would not be an appropriate analogue. Clinoforms are observed in NCMA-1 M2-Chaconia/Poinsettia gas fields and in Block-22 Cassra M0 gas discovery

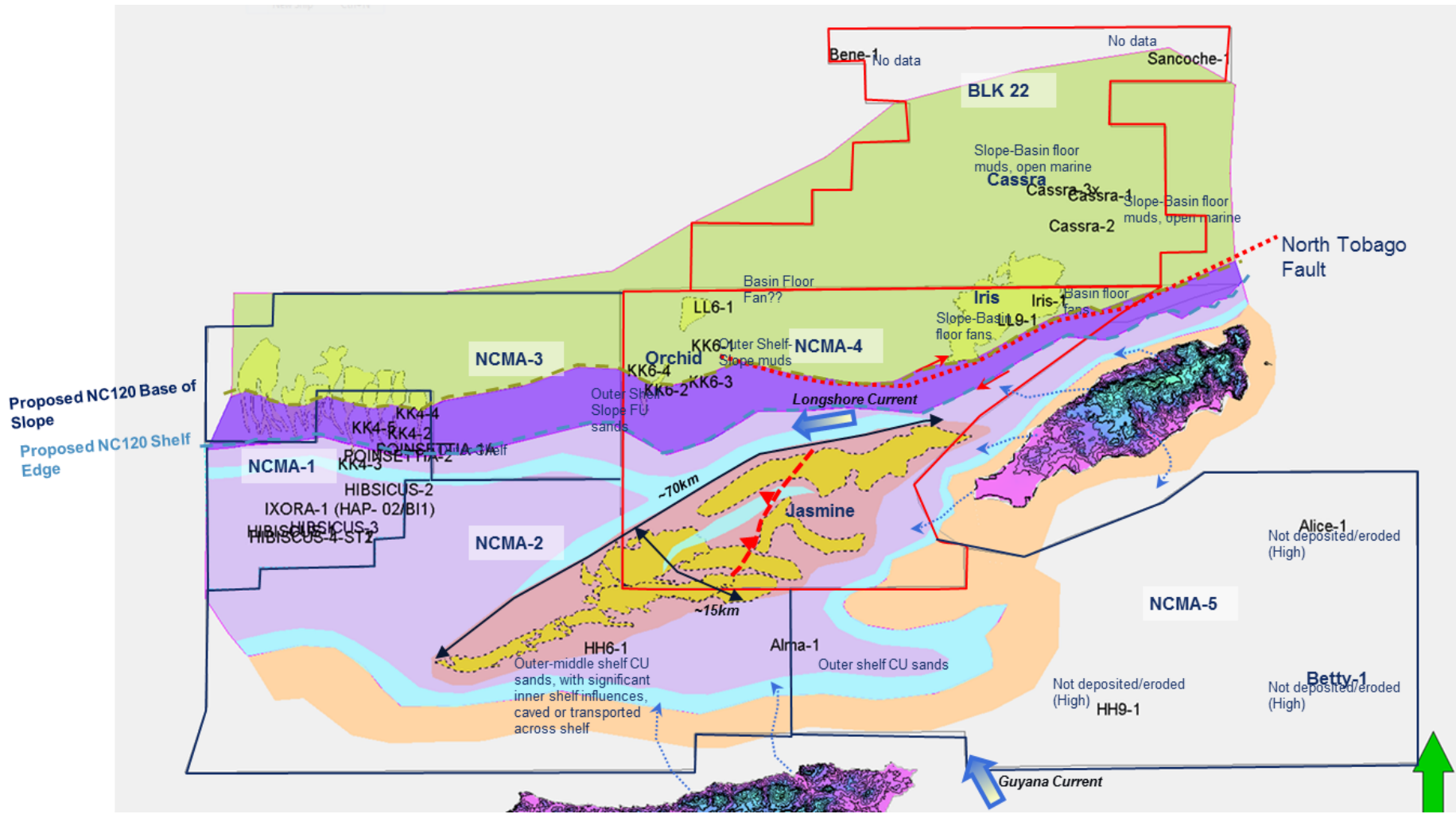


# Jasmine UP5 Depositional Model





# NC120 (UP5) GDE Revision





# Summary

- The Jasmine Complex comprises of UP5 (NC120) amplitude anomalies.
- Extended regional mapping on the reflectivity seismic dataset at the UP5 level revealed a series of northerly trending slope channels and basin floor fans at NCMA-1
- Proposed NC120 (UP5) GDE map honours biostrat in NCMA-1, ALMA-1, HH6-1 & extensive core data at IRIS-1
- Clinoformal geometries observed on the Lambda Rho seismic data at the UP5 level in the Jasmine area validates the GDE revision.
- Structural restorations suggests that the north eastern segment of the NC120 shelf edge was controlled by active tectonics along the North Tobago Fault.

***Based on geometries, analogues, and regional well data, Jasmine UP5 is interpreted to be comprised of predominantly shelfal deposits, sourced from the Central and Eastern Northern Ranges, South Western Tobago, and reworked Orinoco sediments all being redistributed and winnowed by longshore currents.***