

Tectonic Evolution of the Bering Shelf—Chukchi Sea—Arctic Margin and Adjacent Landmasses



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Preface

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The slightly submerged Bering Shelf–Chukchi Sea–Arctic margin region comprises more than 50% of the total United States continental shelf and forms a broad isthmus of continental crust connecting the North American and Asian continents (Fig. 1). The crustal structure of the region has been shaped by Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic accretion related to Pacific plate margin tectonics and by Cretaceous plate motions in the Arctic that displaced crustal fragments of northwestern North America southward to form what is now the northern part of this shelf system. The many sedimentary basins across this shelf region evolved at disparate times and in various tectonic settings with respect to Pacific and Arctic plate margin tectonics. The region is currently undergoing slow localized deformation due to its position within the broad junction of the Asian and North American plates. A harsh climate and remote setting make this region and its adjacent landmasses difficult to work in; thus the overall geologic and tectonic evolution of the crust beneath this region, the continuity of geologic structures between North America and Russia, the tectonic setting of the region's basins, the plate tectonic origin of the Arctic Ocean, and the region's neotectonic history remain poorly known. This volume brings together a number of data-intensive papers that take our knowledge of this remote region a giant leap forward. This preface describes the general geologic setting of the Bering Shelf–Chukchi Sea–Arctic margin, and provides a short summary of the contributions to this volume and their relevance to the geotectonic history of this broad shelf region and surrounding landmasses.

The geologic structure of the upper crust beneath the Bering and Chukchi shelves, and the Aleutian basin of the Bering Sea, is portrayed in Plate 1. This compilation is based on seismic reflection data, exploratory drilling and stratigraphic test wells from the Bering and Chukchi shelves, and on dredge samples from the continental slope (the Beringian margin) of the Bering Shelf. Plate 1 provides the context for the chapters in this volume that discuss data acquired along the Bering–Chukchi Deep Seismic Transect and the ties of the seismic data to geologic features in adjacent parts of Alaska and northeastern Russia (Klemperer et al., this volume, Chapter 1). The tectonic setting of the

Bering–Chukchi Shelf and its sedimentary basins is shown by displaying these data in the context of the tectonostratigraphic terranes and major structural features in the adjacent landmasses (Plate 1 and Klemperer et al., this volume, Chapter 19). The Bering and Chukchi shelves may be economically significant because they constitute by far the largest area of outer continental shelf in the United States, and they represent a significant portion of the Russian outer continental shelf as well. Although several exploratory wells drilled into the Alaska sectors of the Bering and Chukchi shelves have failed to encounter economic quantities of oil or gas, the petroleum potential of extensive parts of these shelves, underlain by significant thicknesses of sedimentary rocks, has not yet been fully evaluated (Grantz et al., 1987; Thurston and Theiss, 1987; Marlow et al., 1987; Craig et al., 1985; Sherwood et al., this volume).

In most areas, the offshore structural data shown for the sedimentary basins (Plate 1) were adapted from published sources cited in the plate explanation, but those from the Chukchi Shelf were interpreted by the authors from sources identified in Grantz et al. (1987, 1990). The tectonostratigraphic terranes of adjacent portions of Alaska and northeastern Russia were generalized from Silberling et al. (1994), Nokleberg et al. (1998), and other sources cited in Plate 1, including the geographic information system (GIS) database that is part of this volume (Klemperer et al., Chapter 19). Data for the stratigraphy of the offshore basins and exploratory and stratigraphic test wells of the Bering and Chukchi shelves, and of the dredge samples collected from the Beringian margin, are also summarized from sources cited in Plate 1.

The display of geologic features across an area as large and geologically diverse as the Bering and Chukchi shelves, in a manner that accurately conveys its rock units and upper-crustal structure, requires selectivity in the features displayed. Only faults and folds of significance are shown, and structural contours to basement are generalized. In particular, the disparity in age between the various sedimentary basins of the Bering and Chukchi shelves prevented a choice of a single chronostratigraphic or lithostratigraphic horizon as the structural contour

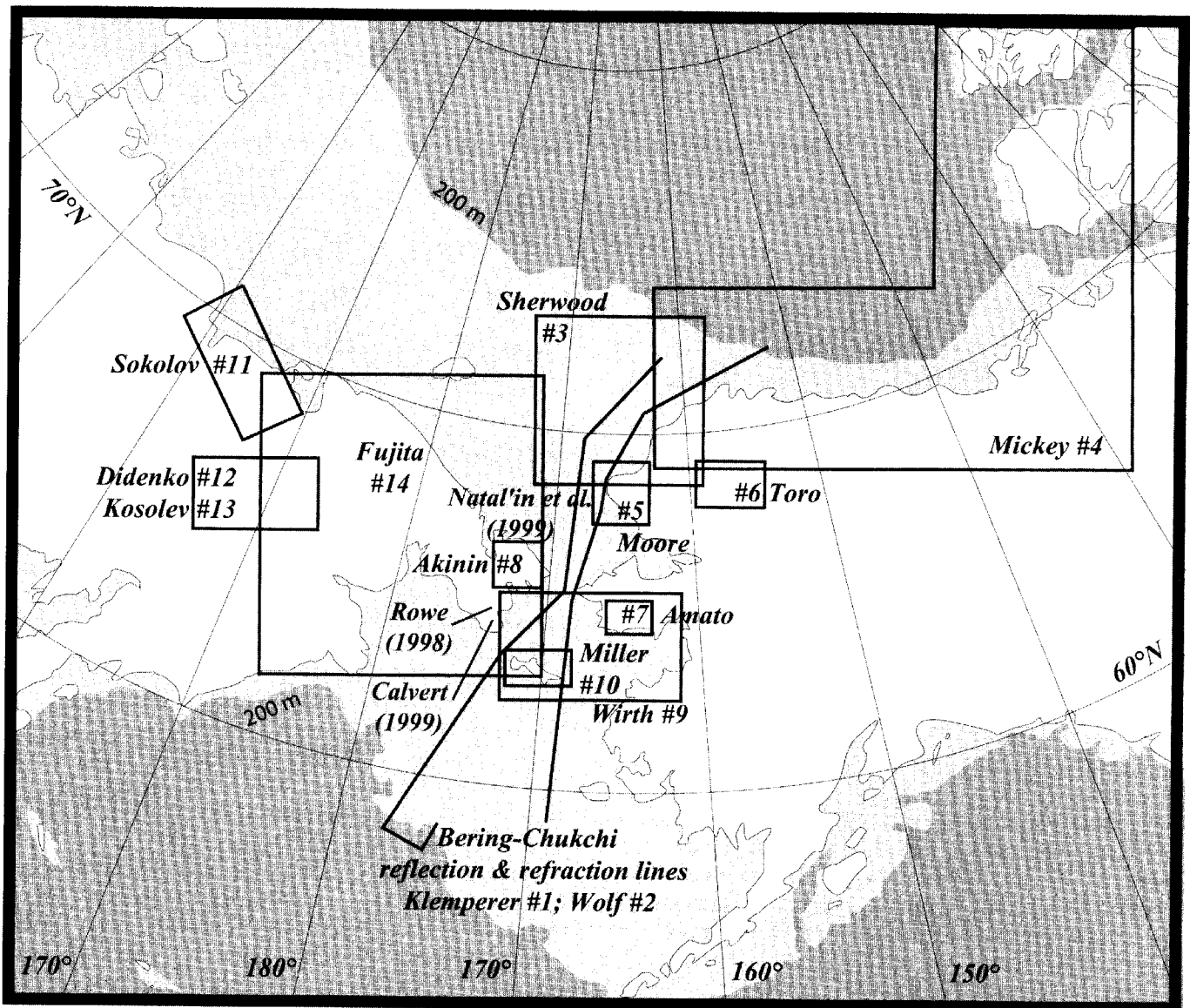


Figure 1. Index diagram for Alaska; northeastern Russia; and Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort shelves showing approximate location of studies discussed in various chapters of this volume. Names are first authors and numbers are individual chapters. Regional studies by Blodgett et al. (Chapter 15), Dumoulin et al. (Chapter 16), Miller et al. (Chapter 17), Lawver et al. (Chapter 18), and Klemperer et al. (Chapter 19) are not shown because they cover entire region of map. The location of three additional field-based studies carried out as part of the larger seismic transect project include Rowe (1998), Calvert (1999), and Natal'in et al. (1999).

datum for the entire map area. The location and a synopsis of the stratigraphy of these basins are shown in Plate 1.

Structural contours in the Canada and Aleutian basins are drawn on the top of oceanic layer 2, which is overlain by Lower Cretaceous marine sedimentary strata in the Canada basin and by strata of unspecified Mesozoic age in the Aleutian basin. In the Hope and Norton basins of the Inner Chukchi and Bering shelves, and in the Navarin, Saint George, and Bristol Bay basins of the Outer Bering Shelf, the structural contours are also

drawn on acoustic basement, but acoustic basement there is continental crust composed of several tectonostratigraphic terranes, which are overlain by marine and nonmarine sedimentary strata that are Paleocene to middle Eocene age at their base (Plate 1). In the Arctic Alaska basin of the North Slope and eastern Chukchi Shelf, acoustic basement is not a useful structural contour horizon because it is variable in its structural and stratigraphic position, and is commonly structurally complex. For this basin we chose to highlight the depth to the lowest strati-

graphic horizon that displays only moderate structural complexity and that can be followed across the entire basin using public-domain seismic reflection data (cited in Grantz et al., 1987, 1990).

On the Chukchi Shelf, this horizon is the base of the Lisburne Group (Upper Mississippian) in the lower part of the Lower Mississippian to Lower Cretaceous Ellesmerian sequence of the Arctic Alaska basin (Grantz et al., 1987, 1990; Sherwood et al., Chapter 3).

The first chapter of this volume presents the main results of the Bering-Chukchi Deep Seismic Transect, the result of a multidisciplinary, multi-institutional, international collaborative effort with Russian scientists carried out with the goal of better understanding the evolution of the continental crust beneath the Bering-Chukchi-Arctic region. The project, funded by the Continental Dynamics Program of the National Science Foundation, involved the collection of two seismic reflection profiles (Fig. 1). The transect imaged the full thickness of the crust across the entire width of the continental shelf that connects North America and Asia (Klemperer et al., Chapter 1) (Plates 1 and 2). These deep seismic data provide a unique new perspective on the structure, thickness, age, and history of the entire crust beneath this broad continental shelf. The northern part of the line images intact, almost flat-lying sequences possibly as old as Precambrian and their underlying Precambrian continental crust beneath the northern Chukchi Sea. This continental crust and its sedimentary cover are part of the Arctic Alaska microplate, a fragment of rifted crust that was displaced southward from northwestern Canada during formation of the Canada Basin (Plates 1 and 2). The central part of the seismic line, from the vicinity of the Kotzebue Arch north of the Bering Strait to the Matthew Arch (Plate 1), images continental crust that exhibits prominent sub-horizontal reflectivity throughout the lower crust and a sharp, well-defined Moho. This crust is believed to have been thickened during the Jurassic and Early Cretaceous Brookian orogeny and subsequently extended during Cretaceous to early Tertiary magmatic activity. The southern end of the transect images only sporadically reflective crust that thins beneath the large Cenozoic basins that developed beneath the Outer Bering Shelf. There is little or no evidence for the offshore continuation of the prominent right-lateral strike-slip faults of Alaska. The displacement on two of these faults, the Kaltag and Kobuk, appears to have dissipated in transtensional offshore fault systems that created the Norton and Hope basins (e.g., Worrall, 1991).

Collection of the seismic reflection data along the transect represented an opportunity for additional geophysical experiments, including simultaneous collection of refraction data from shore-based stations to determine the crustal structure and velocity distribution beneath the Bering Shelf and Chukchi Sea (Wolf et al., Chapter 2). An important conclusion of this work, in conjunction with reflection data along the transect and gravity modeling, is that the crustal root that underlies the Brooks Range in eastern Alaska is absent along the projection of the range into the southern Chukchi Sea.

Sherwood et al. (Chapter 3) comprehensively synthesize data for the thick sedimentary cover that underlies the northern part of the transect in the Hanna Trough beneath the northern Chukchi Sea (Fig. 1; Plates 1 and 3–5). Mickey et al. (Chapter 4) summarize biostratigraphic data that support a rotational opening model for the Canada Basin, an event that created the Arctic continental margin of Alaska. This margin was imaged at the very northern end of the seismic transect (Plates 1 and 2).

The seismic reflection and refraction studies were augmented by geologic field work involving 10 separate field parties to points in northeastern Russia and westernmost Alaska (Fig. 1); these results are partially described in this volume. Moore et al. (Chapter 5) investigated the structural and thermal history of the Lisburne Hills thrust belt, which continues into the Chukchi Sea as the Herald Arch. Although post-Cenomanian thrust displacement is manifest in the Herald Arch and its foreland folds to the northeast based on offshore seismic reflection data, apatite fission-track data from onland exposures indicate that late Early Cretaceous uplift of thrust-faulted rocks on the Lisburne Peninsula is coeval with Brookian structures in the main Brooks Range to the east. This correlation is of interest because the Brooks Range is almost orthogonal in trend to the Lisburne Hills. Toro et al. (Chapter 6) detail the tectonic history of the west-central Brooks Range based on three seasons of geologic mapping and sampling. Here, the core of the Brooks Range is an elongate dome with significant structural relief that plunges westward, toward the Chukchi Sea. Early shortening (pre-112 Ma) is overprinted by tectonic exhumation ca. 90 Ma, related to the gravitational collapse of previously thickened continental crust. Late-stage north- to northwest-trending normal faults cut the Brooks Range structures and are similar in age and orientation to the Paleogene transtensional faults that created the Hope Basin, which underlies the southern Chukchi Sea. Chapters 7 and 8 describe structural and metamorphic aspects of the evolution of gneiss domes that occur on both sides of the Bering Strait. The Kigluaik dome of the Seward Peninsula, described by Amato et al. in Chapter 7, is a well-documented case of coeval but orthogonal structures formed by high-temperature flow in the crust. Data from the Kigluaik Mountains clearly indicate that the crust beneath this region was at elevated temperatures (granulite conditions in the mid-crust) and capable of flow during the Cretaceous. Geobarometry and geothermometry together with thermochronology for the Koolen dome in northeastern Russia document temperatures and pressures as high as $>700^{\circ}\text{C}$ and 4–5 kbar; uplift to shallow levels of the crust is bracketed between 104 and 94–88 Ma. These metamorphic culminations were created by the rise of mid-crustal rocks during Cretaceous magmatism and regional, mostly north-south oriented extension. Wirth et al. (Chapter 9) describe new data on Neogene basalt fields that straddle the seismic transect across a broad region of the Bering Shelf. These lavas carried mantle and crustal xenoliths from depth to the surface, thus providing hand samples of the crust and mantle imaged by the seismic profile. The abundance of gabbroic xenoliths attests that mafic intrusions are common in

the middle to lower crust in the region of the transect. Miller et al. (Chapter 10) present preliminary U-Pb SHRIMP ages on individual zircons from gneissic plagioclase-pyroxene xenoliths collected by Wirth et al. (Chapter 9). These data suggest that the crust beneath the transect near Saint Lawrence Island was metamorphosed and mobilized under granulite facies conditions in the Late Cretaceous–Paleocene and that Cretaceous igneous rocks (ca. 90 Ma) are involved in this deformation and metamorphism.

Several chapters in the volume consist of regional biostratigraphic and tectonic studies that address broader aspects of the evolution of northeastern Russia and Alaska. Sokolov et al. (Chapter 11) synthesize geologic relationships along the South Anyui suture in northeastern Arctic Russia. This major suture zone is widely believed to represent part of the collision zone between the Arctic Alaska–Chukotka plate and Eurasia. The timing of events within the suture zone thus bears directly on the age of opening of the Canada Basin. Stratigraphic relations in the suture zone indicate that convergence that may be related to opening of the Canada Basin was completed by Early to middle Cretaceous time and may have been followed by post-Albian strike-slip faulting. This timing is compatible with evidence from the Canada Basin that seafloor spreading there ended by the beginning of Aptian time (e.g., Lawver et al., Chapter 18). Didenko et al. (Chapter 12) present paleomagnetic data bearing on the Jurassic–Cretaceous history of the Omolon massif, a large continental fragment involved in the greater Kolyma–Verkhoyansk deformational belt. The data are interpreted to indicate that the Omolon massif underwent translation from $60^\circ \pm 10^\circ$ in the Western Hemisphere via the polar region to $76^\circ \pm 8^\circ$ in the Eastern Hemisphere between Middle Jurassic and Early Cretaceous time, with a 30° – 40° counterclockwise rotation relative to Siberia. Since the Early Cretaceous the Omolon massif has been a permanent part of Eurasia. Kolesov and Stone (Chapter 13) describe paleomagnetic data for Devonian strata of the Omolon massif that alternatively indicate that it could have been close to its present position during the Devonian, but rotated 90° with respect to the Siberian craton. Fujita et al. (Chapter 14) provide a summary of seismicity for the Chukotka Peninsula of northeastern Russia and surrounding regions. This seismicity defines modern plate boundaries and zones of deformation through this region and indicates that the Bering Shelf represents a fairly rigid subblock that is rotating clockwise with respect to North America about a pole in western Chukotka.

Blodgett et al. and Dumoulin et al. (Chapters 15 and 16) analyze megafossil and conodont data from Alaska, Russia, and North America. Their analyses show that during the early and middle Paleozoic, Alaska was more closely related biogeographically (and therefore probably paleogeographically) to Eurasia than to North America.

Miller et al. (Chapter 17) summarize the age of northern circum-Pacific magmatism and its tectonic setting through the Mesozoic, contrasting the tectonic history of the continental margins of northeastern Russia, Alaska, and the Cordillera. Al-

though the boundaries and time spans of tectonic and magmatic events in the Cordillera and northeastern Russia appear to be coeval, the nature of magmatism and its tectonic setting often differ. For example, during general tectonic and magmatic quiescence in the U.S. and Canadian Cordillera between 150 Ma and 120 Ma, orogenesis, crustal shortening, and magmatism substantially modified the shelf margin of Siberia. Lawver et al. (Chapter 18) provide a summary of the plate kinematic evolution of all the individual terranes that form the present Arctic region, from the late Paleozoic to the present day. Their global reconstructions provide the framework for all the other regional and subregional studies. The final paper (Chapter 19) by Klemperer et al. is a description of the contents of the CD-ROM accompanying this volume. The CD-ROM contains a GIS-based compilation of geological and geophysical data for the Bering Shelf–Chukchi Sea and adjacent landmasses. Also included on the CD-ROM are an animation of the terrane motions on a globe at 3 m.y. intervals, and supplementary data and digital versions of figures from several other chapters.

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TECTONOSTRATIGRAPHIC TERRANES AND POST-BASEMENT ASSEMBLY ROCKS AND SEQUENCES

(Data from Silberting et al., 1994 and Nabelek et al., 2001, supplemented by other sources as cited. St. Lawrence Island after Till and Damoulin, 1994; Brooks Range as part of Moore et al., 1994)

OCEANIC SEDIMENTARY BASINS

Alutian and Bowers Basins—Remnant of the Alutian Basin in oceanic crust of either Late Jurassic to Early Cretaceous or Late Cretaceous to earliest Tertiary age. It is overlain by a thick, virtually undeformed sequence of fine-grained terrigenous and pelagic, mainly diatomaceous, sedimentary rocks. Beneath the central basin the sedimentary sequence is 2–3 km thick, but thins to less than 10–15 km at the base of the Bering shelf continental slope and at the foot of the Bowers Ridge. The section is topped by about 10 km of gray to tan turbidite and fan deposits of mid- to lower Tertiary age. Bowers Basin, south and west of Bowers Ridge, is underlain by oceanic crust of mid- to lower Tertiary age. Bowers Basin, south and west of Bowers Ridge, is underlain by oceanic crust of mid- to lower Tertiary age. The overlying sedimentary sequence is 2–4 km thick and includes diatomaceous units, but is presumed to include abundant terrigenous material derived from nearby Alutian and Bowers Ridges as well as distal Alaskan and Siberian drainages (Cooper et al., 1987).

Canada Basin—Lower Tertiary oceanic crust overlain by proximal to distal turbidite and pelagic deposits, mostly in the Mackenzie Delta. Sedimentary successions range from ~14 km in thickness because the delta is a fan beneath the shelf edge to the western part of the basin (Grout et al., 1996a, 1999b and unpublished).

Far North Pacific Basin—Thinly bedded to Upper Cretaceous igneous oceanic crust extending from south to north the map area and overlain by an oceanic sedimentary sequence of turbidite, pelagic, and hemipelagic beds. In the Gulf of Alaska, turbidite fans of Eocene to late Cenozoic age are thick in 2500 m over the pelagic diatomaceous units 250–300 m thick. In the northeastern corner of the Pacific Basin igneous oceanic crust is overlain by Late Cretaceous to Holocene pelagic and hemipelagic beds as thick as 1800 m in the Aleutian Trench. These beds are based beneath a 1 to 3 km-thick wedge of fine-grained terrigenous turbidite deposits that thin seaward (Aronson, 1989; Aronson and Severson, 1989; Lomdahl, 1988; Schell et al., 1977; Severson and Embury, 1990).

CONTINENTAL SHELF SEDIMENTARY BASINS

Arctic Basin—Non-marine to shelf-edge facies and synorogenic deposits in an intra-plate basin, but similar to the nearby shelf-edge Nainian Basin. Analytically unconformably overlies mildly deformed strata of the Cenozoic sequence of Russell (1959) from Upper Cretaceous to Paleocene to middle Eocene continental deposits and earliest Tertiary volcanic rocks and lava (Marlow et al., 1983).

Arctic Alaska Basin (including Hanna Trough)—Kil-related Lower Mississippian turbidite deposits. Mississippian to lower Tertiary turbidite and shale, with thin beds of Paleocene to middle Eocene non-marine to shelf-edge facies and synorogenic deposits of upper Upper Cretaceous and Cenozoic age (Shaw and Silberting, 1994). The turbidite sequence is overlain by a thick sequence of Paleocene to middle Eocene continental deposits and earliest Tertiary volcanic rocks and lava (Marlow et al., 1983; Kirschner and Reynolds, 1988; Severson et al., this volume).

Bering Basin—The north Alaskan shelf edge on the south side of the basin penetrated 3.2 km of late Eocene and younger fluvial, nonmarine and deltaic deposits equivalent to the Plio-Pleistocene Minto River. Upper Miocene to Eocene turbidite and shale, with thin beds of Paleocene to middle Eocene non-marine to shelf-edge facies and synorogenic deposits of upper Upper Cretaceous and Cenozoic age (Shaw and Silberting, 1994). The turbidite sequence is overlain by a thick sequence of Paleocene to middle Eocene continental deposits and earliest Tertiary volcanic rocks and lava (Marlow et al., 1983). Extrapolation from outcrops in the Chukchi Peninsula suggest that turbidite strata are Upper Cretaceous, lowermost Cretaceous and Upper Jurassic marine and turbidite rocks of the Peninsular terrane.

Hope Basin—Eocene to Oligocene shelf with middle Eocene olive-brown turbidite overlain by Oligocene (?) to Holocene non-marine to shelf-edge facies and synorogenic deposits of upper Upper Cretaceous and Cenozoic age (Shaw and Silberting, 1994). The turbidite sequence is overlain by a thick sequence of Paleocene to middle Eocene continental deposits and earliest Tertiary volcanic rocks and lava (Marlow et al., 1983).

Norton Basin—Eocene to Oligocene shelf with middle Eocene olive-brown turbidite overlain by Oligocene (?) to Holocene non-marine to shelf-edge facies and synorogenic deposits of upper Upper Cretaceous and Cenozoic age (Shaw and Silberting, 1994). The turbidite sequence is overlain by a thick sequence of Paleocene to middle Eocene continental deposits and earliest Tertiary volcanic rocks and lava (Marlow et al., 1983).

Navarin Basin—Eocene to Oligocene shelf with middle Eocene olive-brown turbidite overlain by Oligocene (?) to Holocene non-marine to shelf-edge facies and synorogenic deposits of upper Upper Cretaceous and Cenozoic age (Shaw and Silberting, 1994). The turbidite sequence is overlain by a thick sequence of Paleocene to middle Eocene continental deposits and earliest Tertiary volcanic rocks and lava (Marlow et al., 1983).

North Slope Basin—Eocene to Oligocene shelf with middle Eocene olive-brown turbidite overlain by Oligocene (?) to Holocene non-marine to shelf-edge facies and synorogenic deposits of upper Upper Cretaceous and Cenozoic age (Shaw and Silberting, 1994). The turbidite sequence is overlain by a thick sequence of Paleocene to middle Eocene continental deposits and earliest Tertiary volcanic rocks and lava (Marlow et al., 1983).

St. George Basin—Eocene to Oligocene shelf with middle Eocene olive-brown turbidite overlain by Oligocene (?) to Holocene non-marine to shelf-edge facies and synorogenic deposits of upper Upper Cretaceous and Cenozoic age (Shaw and Silberting, 1994). The turbidite sequence is overlain by a thick sequence of Paleocene to middle Eocene continental deposits and earliest Tertiary volcanic rocks and lava (Marlow et al., 1983).

St. Lawrence Island Basin—Eocene to Oligocene shelf with middle Eocene olive-brown turbidite overlain by Oligocene (?) to Holocene non-marine to shelf-edge facies and synorogenic deposits of upper Upper Cretaceous and Cenozoic age (Shaw and Silberting, 1994). The turbidite sequence is overlain by a thick sequence of Paleocene to middle Eocene continental deposits and earliest Tertiary volcanic rocks and lava (Marlow et al., 1983).

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(SUBSURFACE DATA CONTINUED)

WELL STRATIGRAPHY, HOPE BASIN

CAPE ESPENBERG NO. 1 WELL [CHEVRON USA]
 Lat. 66.041°N, Long. 153.03°W
 Elev. KB = 122 m
 Total well depth = 2,532 m
 Data source: Tolson (1987)

MEASUREMENT	DEPTH (METERS)	ROCK TYPE	AGE
18-63	18-63	Plio-Pleistocene sediments, mainly marine (?)	
400-1082	18-63 to 400-1082	Middle and upper Miocene fine-grained sandstone and shale, marine (?)	
1,082-1,524	400-1082 to 1,082-1,524	Lower Miocene sandstone, siltstone and coal; non-marine with marine (?) interbeds	
1,524-1,550	1,082-1,524 to 1,524-1,550	Oligocene (?) non-marine sandstone, conglomerate and coal	
2,450-2,532	1,524-1,550 to 2,450-2,532	Oligocene (?) sandstone, conglomerate and coal. Contains about 50% of volcanic conglomerate or tuff	

POINT NIHUK NO. 1 WELL [CHEVRON USA]
 Lat. 66.767°N, Long. 162.114°W
 Elev. KB = 41 m
 Total well depth = 1,924 m
 Data source: Tolson (1987)

MEASUREMENT	DEPTH (METERS)	ROCK TYPE	AGE
18-63	18-63	Plio-Pleistocene sediments, mainly marine (?)	
800-107	18-63 to 800-107	Middle Miocene non-marine sandstone, shale and coal	
267-800	800-107 to 267-800	Pliocene (?) and upper Miocene non-marine sandstone, shale and coal	
1,067-1,803	267-800 to 1,067-1,803	Lower Miocene non-marine sandstone and conglomerate	
1,803-2,107	1,067-1,803 to 1,803-2,107	Oligocene (?) sandstone and conglomerate	
1,817-2,024	1,803-2,107 to 1,817-2,024	Oligocene (?) sandstone and conglomerate	

WELL STRATIGRAPHY, BERING SHELF

NORTON SOUND COST NO. 1 WELL [ARCO]
 Lat. 63.697°N, Long. 164.184°W
 Sea floor depth = 27 m
 Total well depth = 4,443 m below sea level
 Data source: Turner et al. (1983a)

MEASUREMENT	DEPTH (METERS)	ROCK TYPE	AGE
6-27	6-27	Water column	
27-72	6-27 to 27-72	Pliocene sandstone; inner neritic	
72-149	27-72 to 72-149	Middle and upper Miocene diatomaceous sandy mudstone; inner neritic	
149-107	72-149 to 149-107	Middle Pliocene to lower Miocene muddy diatomite and diatomaceous mudstone; inner to middle neritic	
1,071-1,403	149-107 to 1,071-1,403	Lower Miocene to upper Oligocene mudstone; inner to middle neritic	
1,403-1,949	1,071-1,403 to 1,403-1,949	Oligocene (?) shale, sandstone, and coal; parautochthonous	
1,949-2,023	1,403-1,949 to 1,949-2,023	Oligocene (?) sandstone, shale and sandstone; middle neritic to upper bathyal	
2,023-2,110	1,949-2,023 to 2,023-2,110	Oligocene (?) or older shale, mudstone and sandstone; probably marine	
2,110-2,370	2,023-2,110 to 2,110-2,370	Oligocene (?) or older turbidite, sandstone and mudstone; probably marine	
2,370-2,794	2,110-2,370 to 2,370-2,794	Eocene (?) or older fluvial or deltaic sandstone, siltstone, coal and conglomerate; continental	
2,794-4,443	2,370-2,794 to 2,794-4,443	Continuously deformed sedimentary rocks similar to Paleocene or Presenonian York Strait of Sewall Peninsula	

NORTON SOUND COST NO. 2 WELL [ARCO]
 Lat. 63.697°N, Long. 164.184°W
 Sea floor depth = 15 m
 Total well depth = 4,350 m below sea level
 Data source: Turner et al. (1983b)

MEASUREMENT	DEPTH (METERS)	ROCK TYPE	AGE
6-15	6-15	Water column	
15-135	6-15 to 15-135	No recovery	
135-170	15-135 to 135-170	Pliocene shallow mudstone and siltstone; inner neritic	
170-245	135-170 to 170-245	Pliocene and upper Miocene diatomaceous mudstone and muddy sandstone; inner to middle neritic	
245-261	170-245 to 245-261	Pliocene sandstone with minor siltstone and sandstone; outer neritic	
261-313	245-261 to 261-313	Oligocene (?) sandstone, siltstone, sandstone and coal; parautochthonous	
313-424	261-313 to 313-424	Oligocene (?) or older shale, mudstone and sandstone; probably marine	
424-1,061	313-424 to 424-1,061	Oligocene (?) or older turbidite, sandstone and mudstone; probably marine	
1,061-1,151	424-1,061 to 1,061-1,151	Upper Miocene (?) or older fluvial or deltaic sandstone, siltstone, coal and conglomerate; continental	
1,151-1,501	1,061-1,151 to 1,151-1,501	Continuously deformed sedimentary rocks similar to Paleocene or Presenonian York Strait of Sewall Peninsula	

NAVARIN BASIN COST NO. 1 WELL [ARCO]
 Lat. 65.027°N, Long. 160.995°W
 Sea floor depth = 132 m
 Total well depth = 973 m below sea level
 Data source: Turner et al. (1984c)

MEASUREMENT	DEPTH (METERS)	ROCK TYPE	AGE
6-132	6-132	Water column	
132-442	6-132 to 132-442	No recovery	
442-1,061	132-442 to 442-1,061	Upper and lower Miocene (?) or older sandy mudstone and diatomaceous mudstone; inner to middle neritic	
1,061-1,151	442-1,061 to 1,061-1,151	Oligocene (?) or older turbidite, sandstone and mudstone; inner neritic	
1,151-1,501	1,061-1,151 to 1,151-1,501	Middle and middle Miocene bioturbated sandstone and sandy mudstone; middle neritic	
1,501-1,608	1,151-1,501 to 1,501-1,608	Middle and lower Miocene fine-grained sandstone and siltstone; middle neritic	
1,608-1,427	1,501-1,608 to 1,608-1,427	Upper Oligocene to lower Miocene muddy sandstone, claystone and mudstone; middle to outer neritic	
1,427-3,266	1,608-1,427 to 1,427-3,266	Upper Oligocene sandy mudstone, muddy sandstone and siltstone; neritic to middle bathyal	
3,266-3,717	1,427-3,266 to 3,266-3,717	Lower Oligocene mudstone, claystone and silty claystone; middle bathyal to upper bathyal	
3,717-3,669	3,266-3,717 to 3,717-3,669	Upper Middle Eocene calcareous, organic-rich claystone; outer neritic to upper bathyal	
3,669-4,037	3,717-3,669 to 3,669-4,037	Upper Upper Cretaceous (Campanian and Maastrichtian) turbidite, sandstone, mudstone, and shale; outer neritic to upper bathyal	
4,037-4,973	3,669-4,037 to 4,037-4,973	Upper Cretaceous (Campanian and Maastrichtian) turbidite, sandstone, mudstone, and shale; outer neritic to upper bathyal	

ST. GEORGE BASIN COST NO. 1 WELL [ARCO]
 Lat. 65.027°N, Long. 160.995°W
 Sea floor depth = 114 m
 Total well depth = 1,438 m below sea level
 Data source: Turner et al. (1984d)

MEASUREMENT	DEPTH (METERS)	ROCK TYPE	AGE
6-114	6-114	Water column	
114-422	6-114 to 114-422	No recovery	
422-1,271	114-422 to 422-1,271	Upper and lower Pliocene sandstone, siltstone and mudstone; middle neritic to outer neritic	
1,271-1,607	422-1,271 to 1,271-1,607	Upper, middle and lower Miocene mudstone, siltstone, sandstone; inner to upper bathyal	
1,607-2,533	1,271-1,607 to 1,607-2,533	Upper and lower Oligocene sandstone, siltstone and mudstone; inner neritic to middle and conglomerate; bathyal	
2,533-3,134	1,607-2,533 to 2,533-3,134	Upper and lower middle Eocene sandstone, siltstone, mudstone, inner neritic to middle bathyal	
3,134-4,167	2,533-3,134 to 3,134-4,167	Middle Eocene (?) or older turbidite, sandstone, siltstone, mudstone, inner neritic to middle bathyal	

ST. GEORGE BASIN COST NO. 2 WELL [ARCO]
 Lat. 65.027°N, Long. 160.995°W
 Sea floor depth = 114 m
 Total well depth = 1,438 m below sea level
 Data source: Turner et al. (1984e)

MEASUREMENT	DEPTH (METERS)	ROCK TYPE	AGE
6-114	6-114	Water column	
114-422	6-114 to 114-422	No recovery	
422-1,271	114-422 to 422-1,271	Upper and lower Pliocene diatomaceous mudstone, siltstone, muddy sandstone, and inner neritic	
1,271-1,607	422-1,271 to 1,271-1,607	Upper, middle and lower Miocene mudstone, siltstone, sandstone and siltstone; outer neritic to upper bathyal	
1,607-2,533	1,271-1,607 to 1,607-2,533	Upper and lower Oligocene sandstone, siltstone, mudstone; outer bathyal transitioning downward to inner neritic	
2,533-3,134	1,607-2,533 to 2,533-3,134	Lower Oligocene or Eocene (?) marine shelf and non-marine turbidite and siltstone; parautochthonous	
3,134-4,167	2,533-3,134 to 3,134-4,167	Upper and middle Eocene sandstone, conglomerate, siltstone and minor shale; fluvial or deltaic, and possibly marine shelf environment; parautochthonous	

NORTH ALUTIAN SHELF COST NO. 1 WELL [ARCO]
 Lat. 66.219°N, Long. 161.970°W
 Sea floor depth = 26 m
 Total well depth = 503 m below sea level
 Data source: Turner et al. (1988)

MEASUREMENT	DEPTH (METERS)	ROCK TYPE	AGE
6-503	6-503	Water column	
503-266	6-503 to 503-266	No recovery	