



## REVISITING URUGUAY SHALLOW OFFSHORE

Interest in exploration offshore Uruguay has been focused recently on the shelfal & slope region, taking into account the offers presented by Kosmos Energy for the blocks OFF- 2 and OFF-3 <sup>1</sup> and by Bahamas Petroleum Company plc (BPC) for the block OFF-1 <sup>2</sup>. These blocks are located in water depths of 50 to ~1000 meters within the Punta del Este and Pelotas basins.

This increasing activity incentivizes revisiting the geological and geophysical data acquired since the 70's to present day, in order to redefine geological models and the hydrocarbon potential of these depositional provinces. Figure 1 shows a recent interpretation of the 2D regional seismic line UR07-06, performed under a collaborative work initiative between ANCAP and BPC. Typical mega sequences for the tectonic and stratigraphic evolution of the Atlantic margin basins can be observed: pre-rift (Paleozoic, drilled at the end of Gaviotín well), syn-rift (Early Cretaceous, showing a distinct development of half grabens), transition (Aptian-Albian), and post-rift (Cretaceous and Cenozoic, comprised by a series of regressive and transgressive events).

The speculative petroleum systems for this region are associated with potential source rocks from the Permian and Devonian pre-rift (analogy with the Norte basin), lacustrine shales in the syn-rift fill (analogy with the Santa Lucía basin), and the marine shales deposited during the oceanic anoxic events in the Aptian-Albian, Cenomanian-Turonian and the Paleocene (analogy with basins offshore Guyana-Suriname, Brazil, conjugate Namibia and South Africa). Based on these models, ANCAP is carrying out a prospective resources assessment, having identified a number of prospects in the shallow offshore region.

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<sup>1</sup> Promising results of the Uruguay Round Open:

[https://exploracionyproduccion.ancap.com.uy/innovaportal/file/8397/1/prometedores-resultados-ronda-uruguay-abierta\\_eng.pdf](https://exploracionyproduccion.ancap.com.uy/innovaportal/file/8397/1/prometedores-resultados-ronda-uruguay-abierta_eng.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Open Uruguay Round Results for the First Instance 2020:

<https://exploracionyproduccion.ancap.com.uy/innovaportal/file/8959/1/2020-05-rua-first-instance-2020-vfinal-rev-bpc.pdf>

Lobo and Gaviotín wells drilled by Chevron in 1976 provided well ties and correlation with 2D seismic. However their location on the structural highs of the syn-rift grabens of the Punta del Este basin, do not provide sufficient information about the nature of the pre-rift, the syn-rift fill at the depocenter, or other sequences on more distal upper & middle slope at the paleo shelf margins. At the same time, the extensive 3D seismic acquired more recently did not reach the proximal region, what may be of help to define with more certainty and precision the depositional environments, petroleum systems and prospects in the slope-shelf region. Therefore, Uruguay offshore embraces an intriguing and challenging geology, with a high remaining exploration potential.

You can find more information at: *OFFSHORE URUGUAY: Geology and Prospectivity*

<https://exploracionyproduccion.ancap.com.uy/innovaportal/file/8496/1/offshore-geology-rua-2020.pdf>

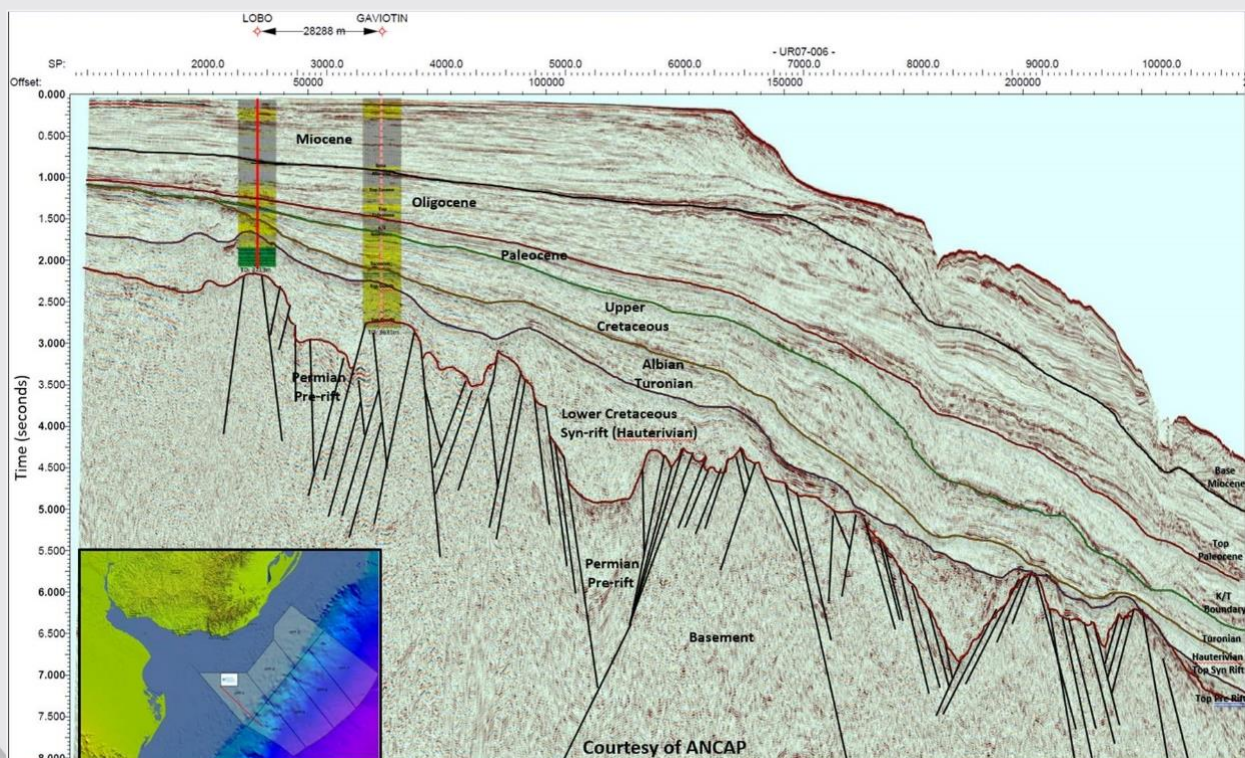


Figure 1: UR07-06 seismic line, collaborative interpretation between ANCAP and BPC