

TRIASSIC AND JURASSIC SEQUENCES NORTHERN EXMOUTH PLATEAU/OFFSHORE CANNING BASIN

As part of Survey 95, conducted in April/May 1990, AGSO collected 1690km of conventional multichannel seismic data over the northern Exmouth Plateau and offshore Canning Basin, using the research vessel Rig Seismic. The objectives of the survey were to delineate the extent of Late Triassic carbonate build-ups, which had been cored by the Ocean Drilling Programme at site ODP 764 in 1988, to see whether Jurassic build-ups occurred, and in a more general sense to better define the geological history of the northern Exmouth Plateau and the adjacent southwest Canning Basin.

Examination of these data, together with existing data-sets, suggests a fairly widespread occurrence on the northern Exmouth Plateau of what AGSO believes are Jurassic build-ups of reefal complexes sitting on top of Triassic horst blocks. Early Jurassic carbonate build-up facies have also been sampled on the northern Exmouth Plateau during Survey 96. Late Triassic build-up facies were dredged on the slope of the outer Canning Basin during Survey 95. All results are to be published in a special volume of the AGSO Journal in early 1994.