
Current Status on Exploration Activities in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cuba in the Gulf of Mexico

Manuel Marrero Faz

Centro de Investigaciones del Petróleo, Cuba

ABSTRACT

Since 2000, the Cuban Government is preparing technical, organizational, and contractual conditions, in order to increase the geological and geophysical knowledge and explore the deep- and ultradeep-water sector of the Cuban Exclusive Economic Zone in the Gulf of Mexico. Until the present, 22 blocks with a total area of around 40,000 km² were contracted by foreign oil companies, who have done more than 30,000 km of 2D marine seismic lines, 11,000 km² of 3D seismic and aeromagnetic, marine electric, gravimetric, and magnetic surveys, as well as specialized oceanographic campaigns. At the same time, the national oil company Cubapetroleo has developed several scientific projects in tectonics, stratigraphy, geochemistry, petroleum systems, and evaluation of petroleum potential of the studied zone. As a result, more than 20 prospects of variable types, sizes, and reserves were revealed. By the middle of 2011, it will start a drilling campaign of 6–7 exploration wells in ultradeep waters, with a high level of safety and environmental protection. In this paper the author will briefly explain the work done during the last 10 years and also the future expectations of this sector of the Gulf of Mexico.