
Shipboard processing and interpretation

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In the fall of 1990, Texaco completed an innovative 4300 km seismic acquisition program which included processing, interpretation, and preliminary structural mapping by using an onboard portable processing system, two processing geophysicists and an interpreter. A firm reconnaissance program was laid out with the option of shooting infill during the same survey if promising lead areas were uncovered during the shipboard interpretation of stacked and even some migrated-stacked sections of key lines. One of the new lead areas of complex block faulting was identified, infilled and, after final office-based interpretation of the entire data set, matured into a drillable prospect scheduled to spud this fall.

By using this unconventional technology, Texaco saved the time and expense of mobilizing a second survey to mature new leads and furthermore, it allowed the explorationist a chance to begin the block evaluation process months ahead of schedule as good quality (albeit not final quality) record sections were made available during the shooting phase, not well after its completion as tapes are transported and processed onshore.

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