

# Commercialization of Offshore CCS in Gulf of Mexico

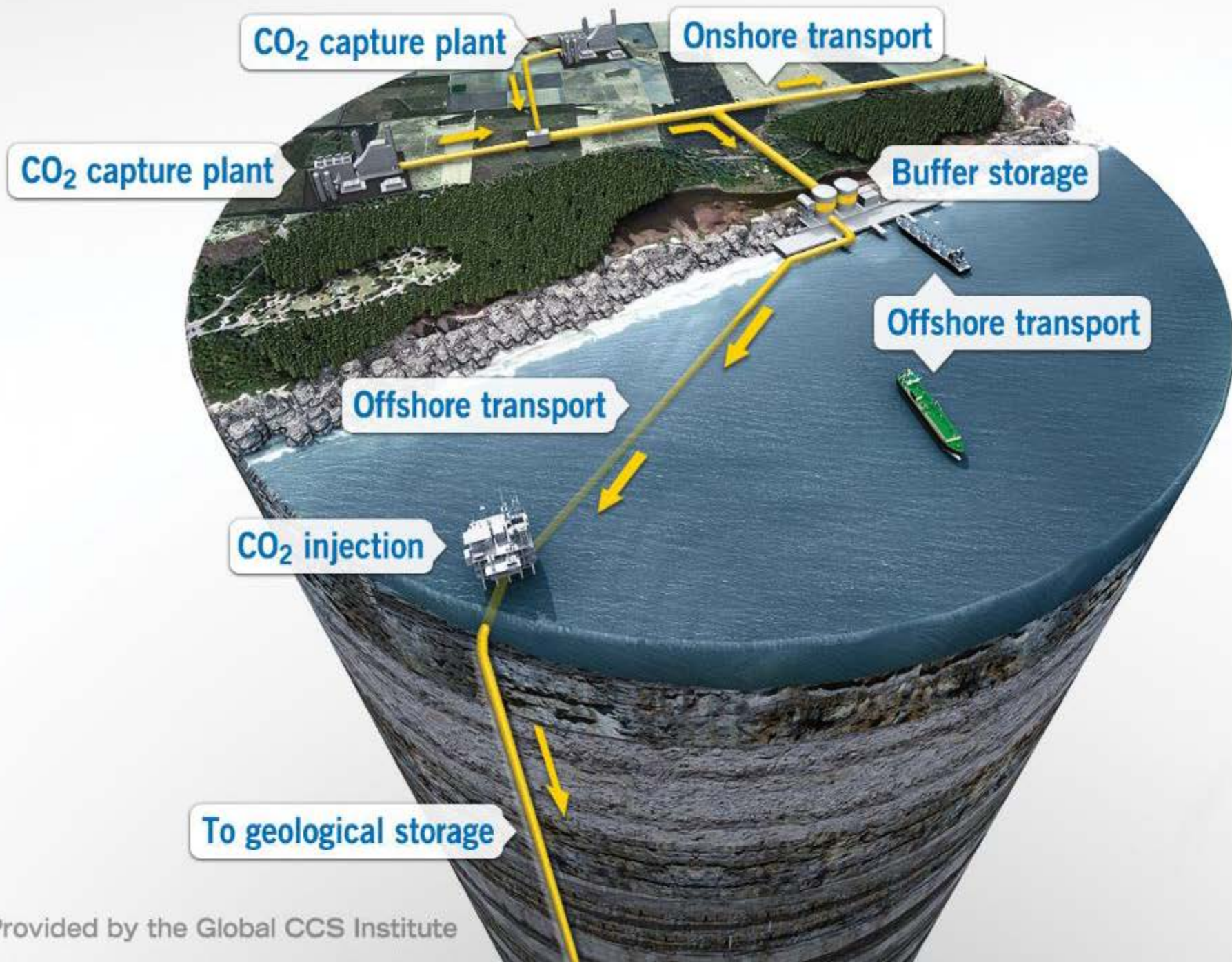
**Dr. Tip Meckel**  
**Senior Research Scientist**  
**Gulf Coast Carbon Center**  
**Bureau of Economic Geology**  
**The University of Texas at Austin**



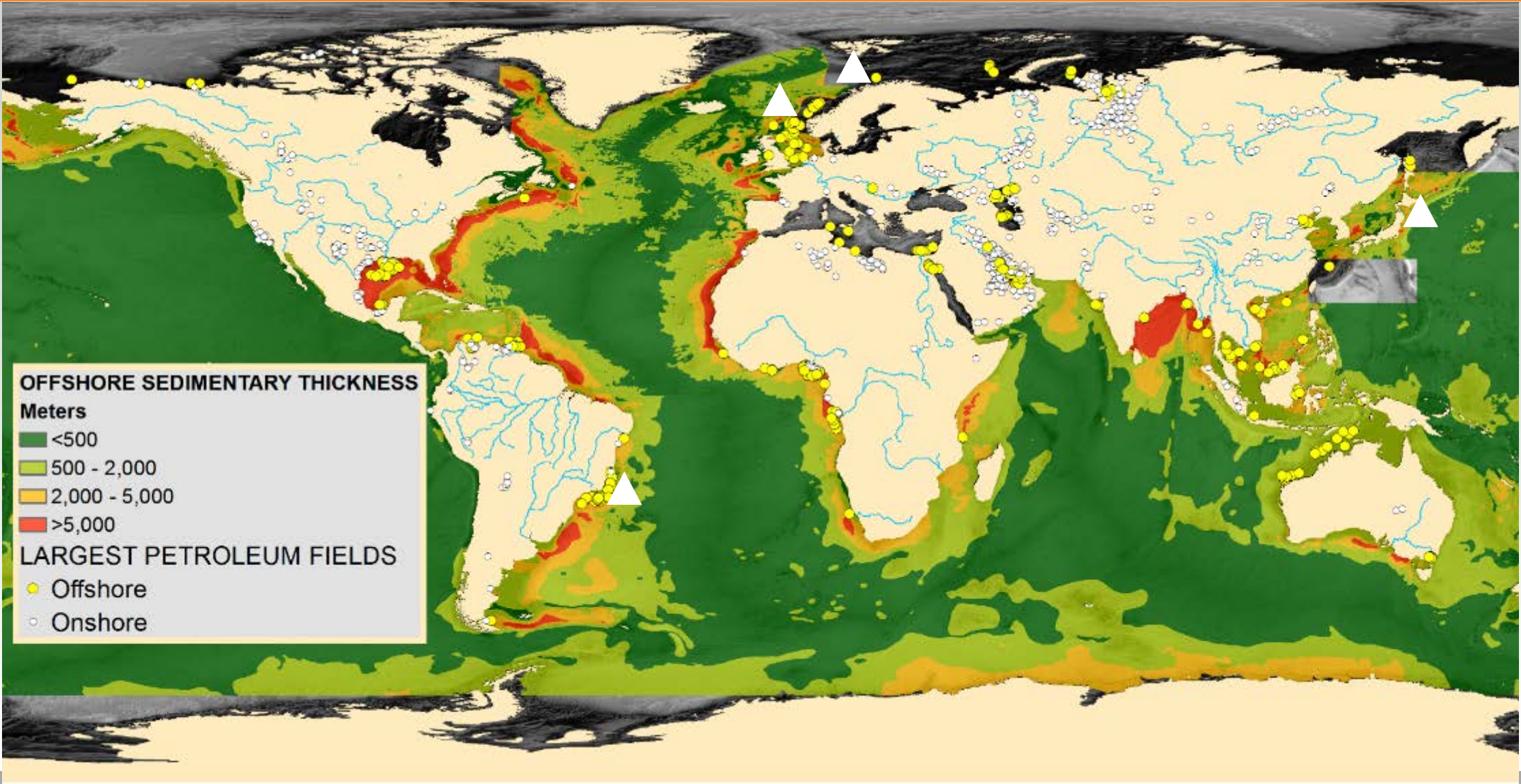
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# TOPICS

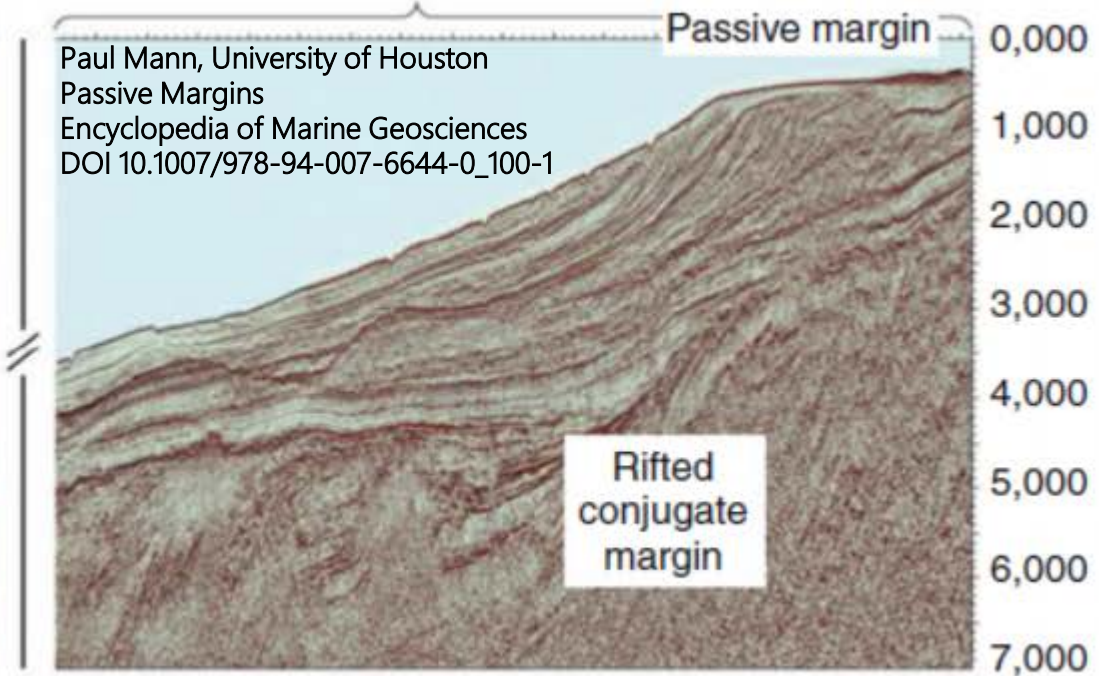
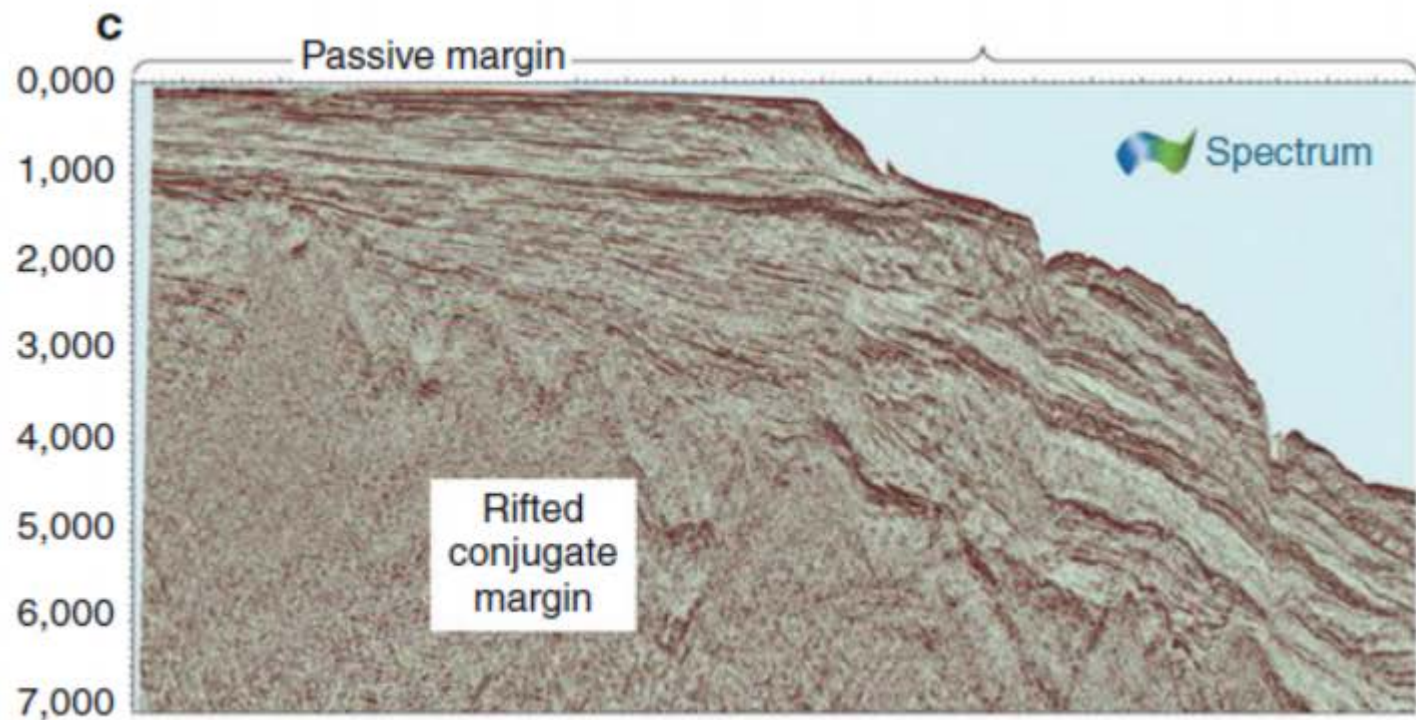
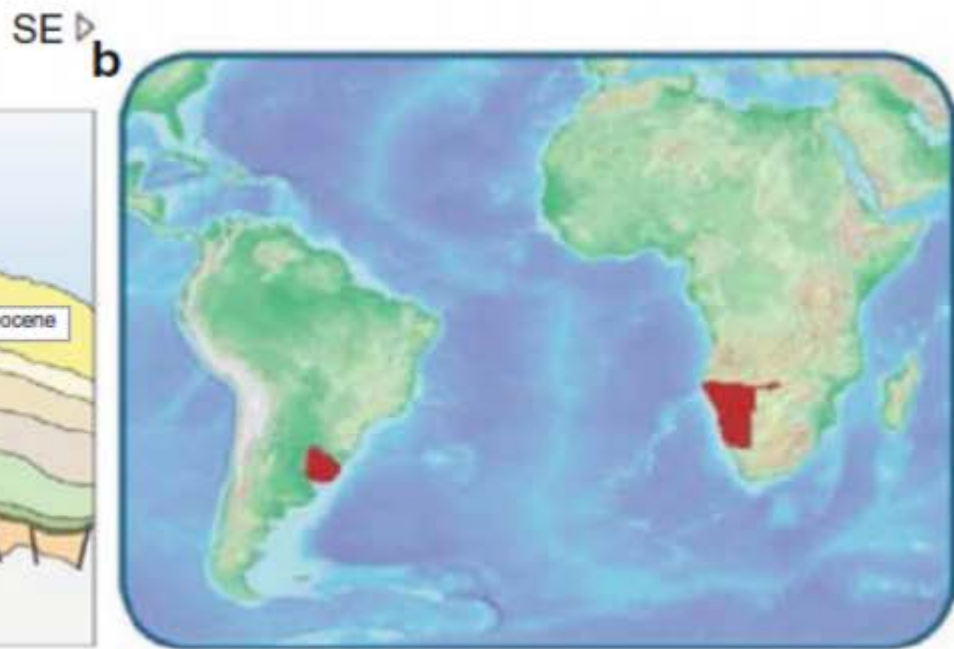
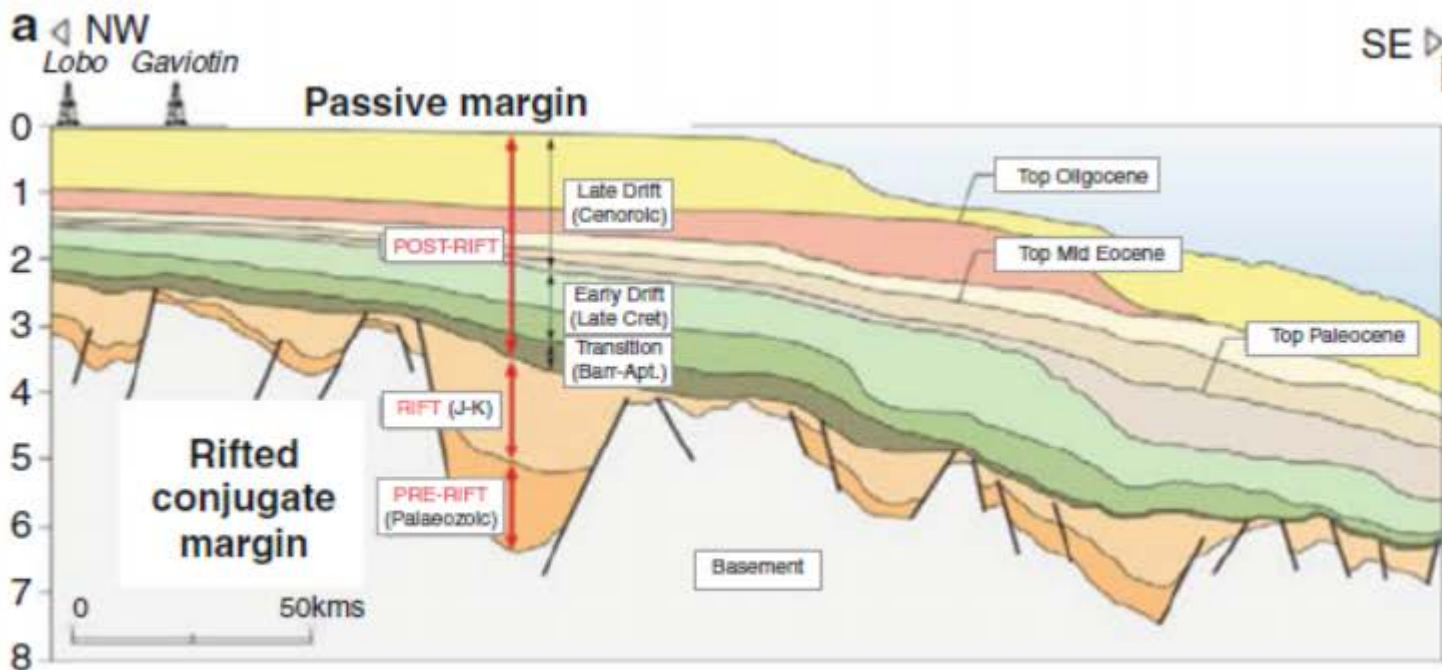
- **Global CO<sub>2</sub> Storage concepts on Continental Margins**
- **What is the maturity of CCS in the Gulf Coast region?**
  - Many prior projects (research/demo, industrial)
  - Existing capture and pipeline transport infrastructure, upper coast
- **Work that has been done to mature near offshore storage in the Miocene geology**
  - Summary of prior geologic storage assessments since 2009
  - Atlas publication
- **Status of active projects**
  - GoMCARB – currently negotiating \$14M for 5 year assessment project
- **Brief summary of 45Q tax credits for CCS in the USA**



Offshore CCS can happen in a lot of places globally, but is not required everywhere to be effective globally.



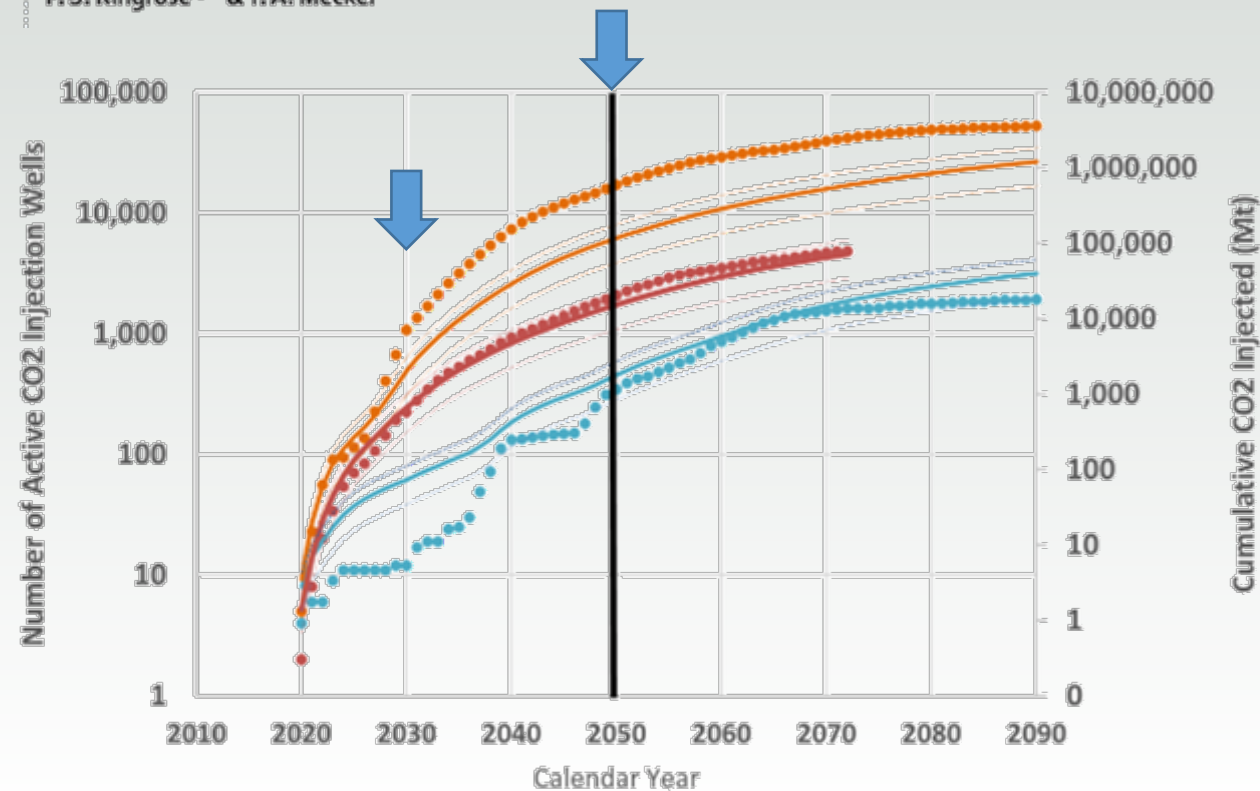
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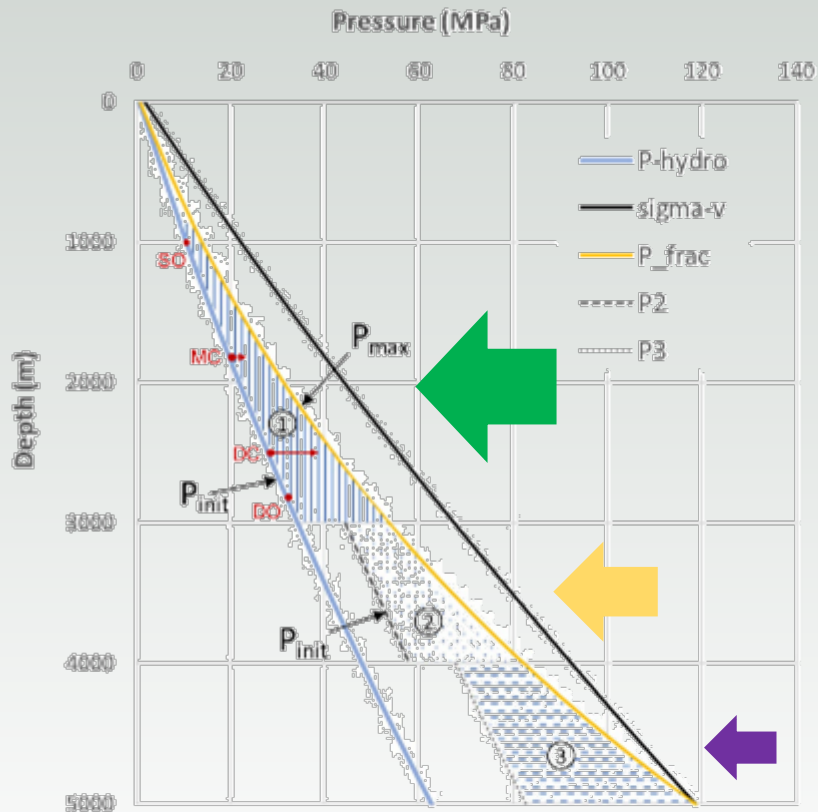
## Maturing global CO<sub>2</sub> storage resources on offshore continental margins to achieve 2DS emissions reductions

P. S. Ringrose<sup>1,2\*</sup> & T. A. Meckel<sup>3</sup>



- Texas Active
- GoM Active
- Norway Active
- Texas Cumulative CO2
- GoM Cumulative CO2
- Norway Cumulative CO2

# Typical subsurface pressure profile



## CCS Resource Implications

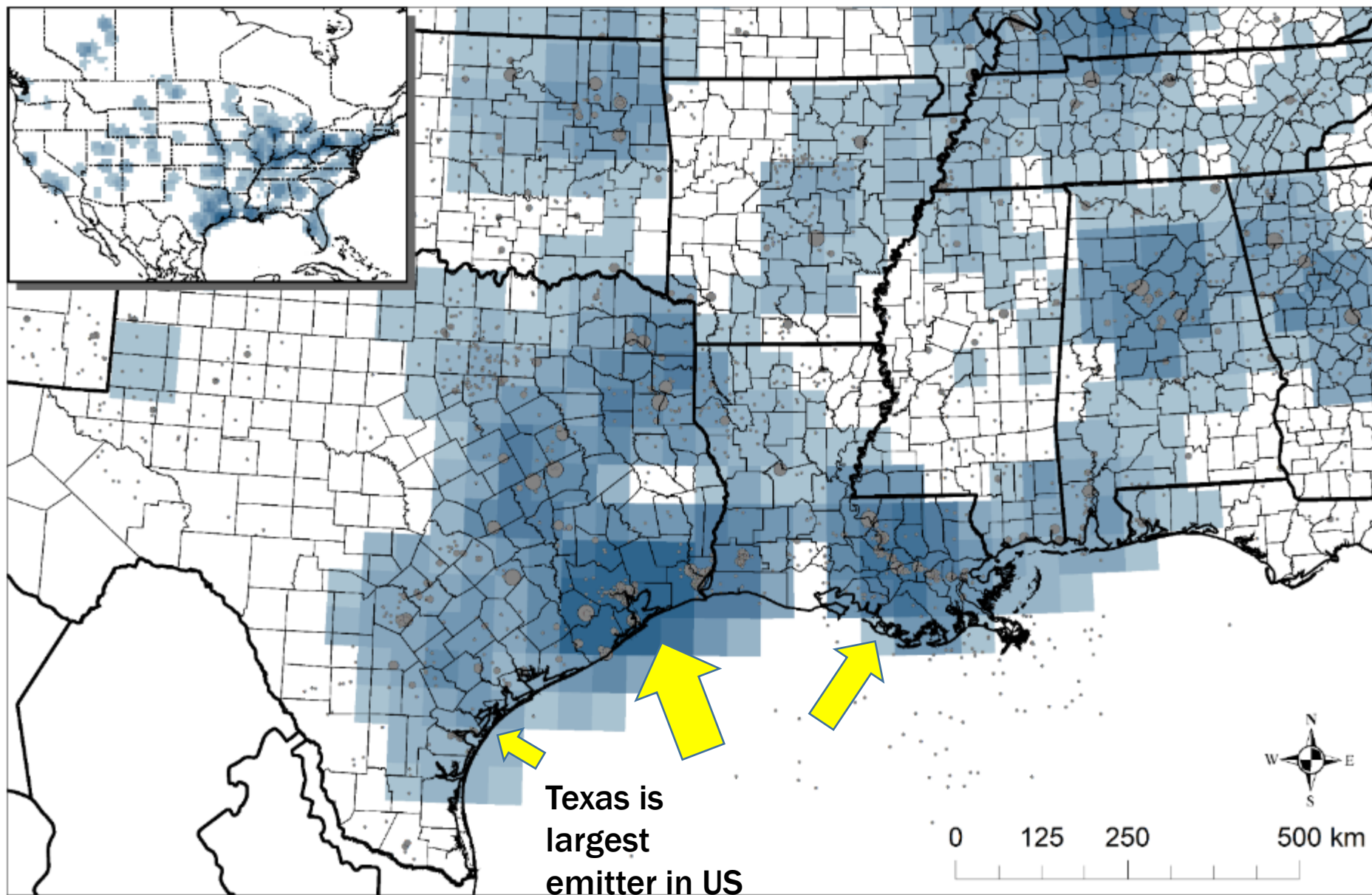
Primary: Normal pressure (CENOZOIC)

Secondary: Elevated pressure (MESOZOIC)

Tertiary: High pressure, brine extraction?

**Figure 3.** Pressure depth functions for a generalised Norwegian North Sea basin case illustrating the shallow normally pressured region (1), and the progressively deeper and more overpressured regions (with excess initial pressure P2 and P3). P-hydro is the hydrostatic gradient, sigma-V is the vertical principal stress, and the maximum reservoir pressure is described by the formation fracture pressure P\_frac (See Appendix: Methods used in supporting the main paper).

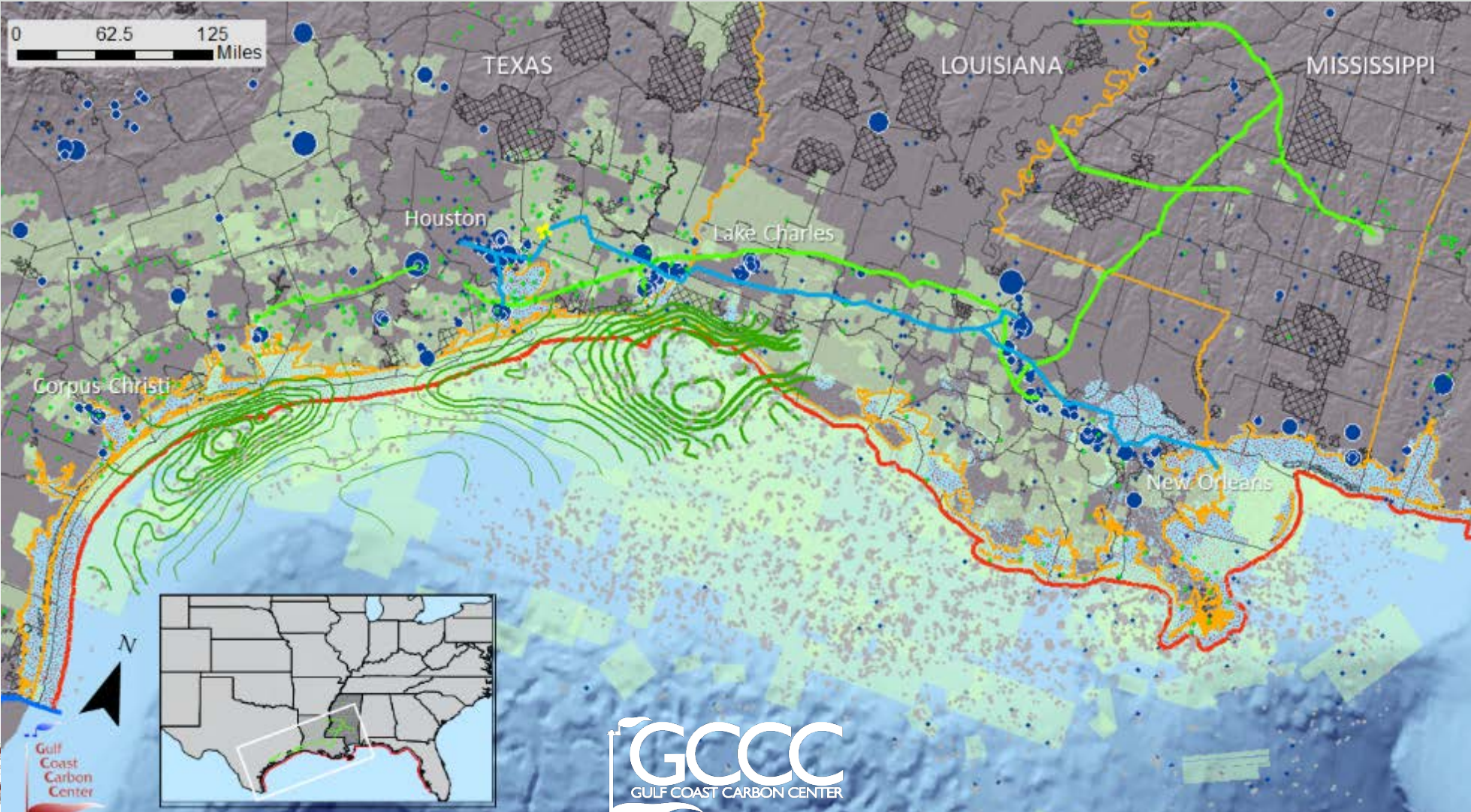
# Industrial CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions – ‘Center of Mass’ heat map





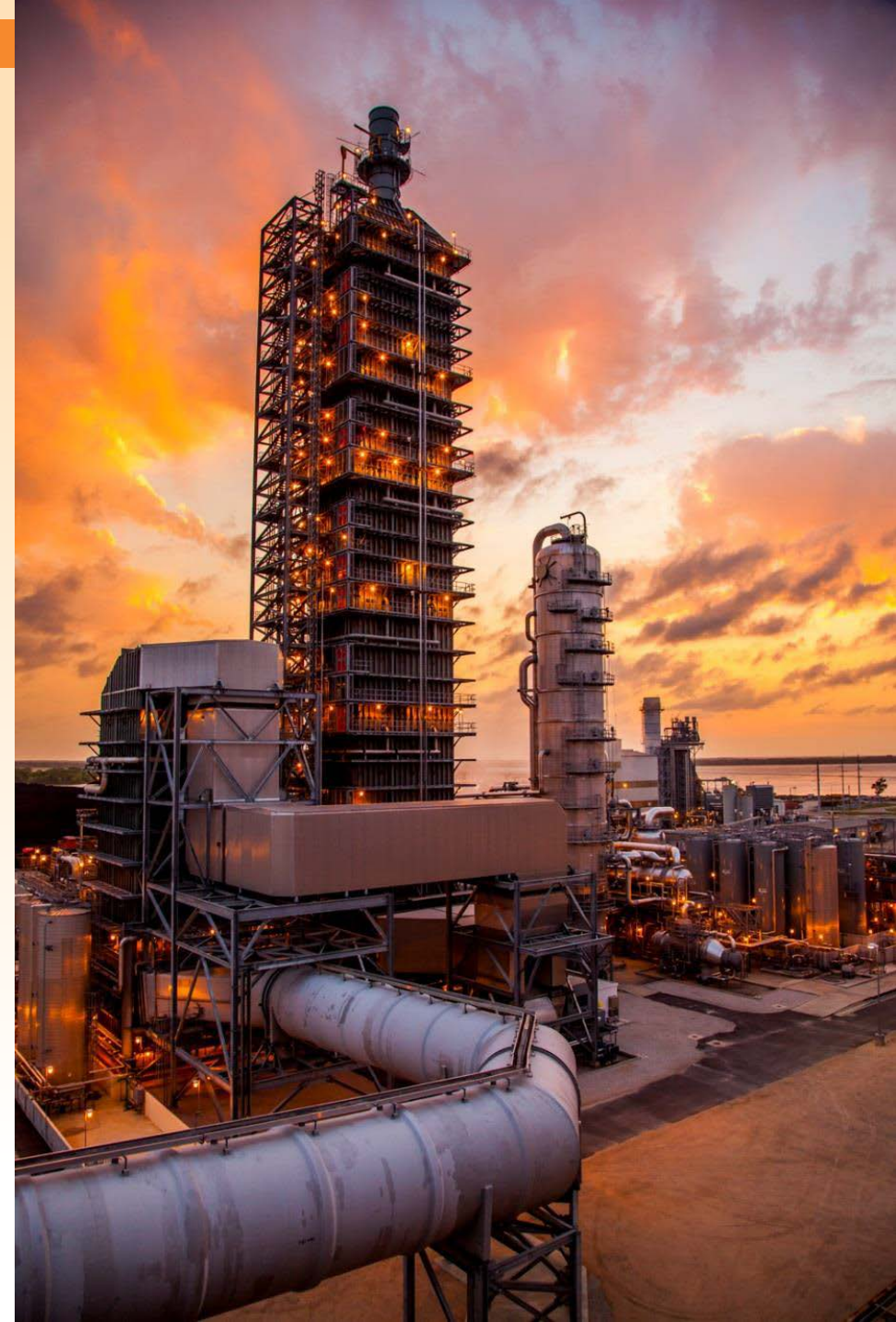
# The Gulf Coast CCUS Landscape is Evolving Rapidly!

Meckel et al., in revision, Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage Hub Development on the Gulf Coast



# Existing TX Example: Petra Nova (NRG + West Ranch) Houston

- Post-combustion capture from coal-fired electric utility.
- Utilized significant DOE funding.
- Delivered on time and within budget.
- ~1.5 Million tons per year captured and used for enhanced oil recovery.
- Increased production by 5,000 BBL per day.
- Storing ~5,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub> per day.
- Probably not going to do this again without major change in capture costs and EOR operations.



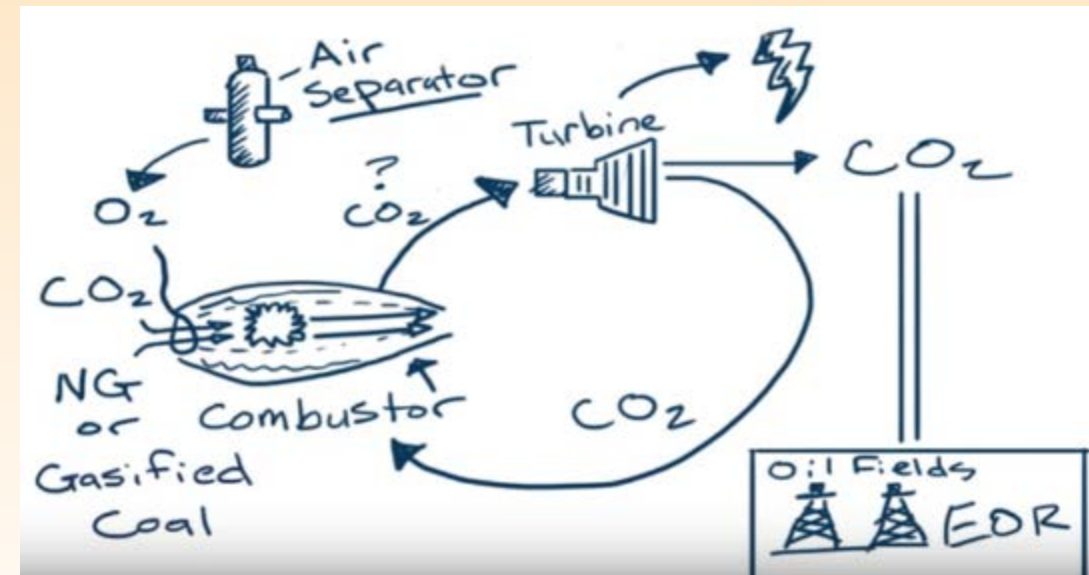
# Existing TX Example: Air Products (Port Arthur + Hastings)

- 2013: Gas separation (SMR) facility.
- Utilized significant DOE funding.
- CO<sub>2</sub> piped to southeast Houston for EOR at Hastings Field.



# Existing TX Example: Net Power (La Porte)

- Zero emission gas-fired electricity.
- Private Financing.
- Novel Allam Cycle: CO<sub>2</sub> is working fluid.
- 50 MW<sub>th</sub> Demo plant in La Porte achieved first-fire in 2018.
- High pressure, high purity CO<sub>2</sub> offtake.
- 300 MWe commercial plants under FEED development.



ClearPath

<https://www.netpower.com/news/>

# Gulf Coast CCS @ GCCC

- 1) Frio Saline tests 2004 & 2006
  - 2) Cranfield stacked storage (EOR + CCS)
  - 3) Air Products - Hastings MMV (EOR + CCS)
  - 4) NRG – West Ranch (EOR + CCS)
  - 5) BOEM BPM Offshore Storage
  - 6) Offshore GoM Storage Characterization
    1. 2009-2014 Texas Offshore Miocene
    2. 2015-2018 TXLA Project
    3. 2016-2018 CarbonSAFE Phase I
    4. 2018–2023 GoMCARB Partnership
- High-resolution 3D seismic acquisition
    - 3 GoM surveys
    - 1 Tomakomai, Japan survey



Figure ES-9. Schematic Map of CO<sub>2</sub> Pipelines in the United States

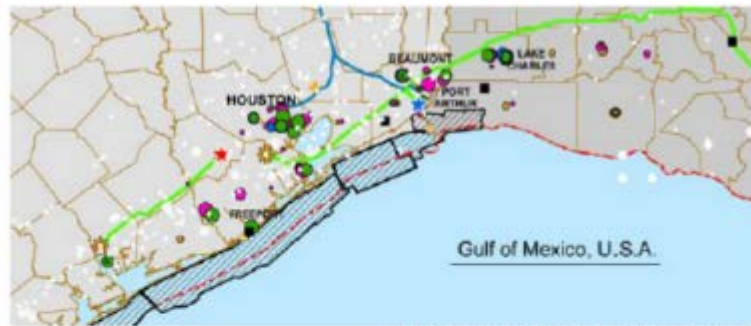
# SCALING UP ACTION

Aiming for net zero emissions



A report from the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative  
September 2019

## HUBS



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### CCUS Hubs in the Gulf of Mexico, USA

The Gulf of Mexico presents an exciting opportunity for the creation of a CCUS marketplace, potentially containing several hubs. The region has a wide range of industries that can capture carbon dioxide, many with highly concentrated streams. There is already some pipeline infrastructure for carbon dioxide transport, several capture plants, and the area has multiple options for storage. Enablers in place include the 45Q tax credit and the existence of a commercial value in enhanced oil recovery operations. Organizations active in the area include many OGCI member companies, multiple universities, foundations, NGOs and state governments.

No surprise, then, that many groups are talking about the potential for using CCUS to help decarbonize the region. The big question for KickStarter is, given the excellent conditions, why is it not happening on a large scale and what could OGCI bring to the table to help get a hub off the ground?

Under the leadership of Occidental and OGCI Climate Investments, OGCI has begun to work closely with existing stakeholders on the ground to help identify and fill the gaps, with the aim of supporting a pathway to realization. We are helping a broader range of emitters to understand the new opportunities opened by CCUS and engaging with authorities in Texas and Louisiana, identifying specific policy and regulatory issues and opportunities. This has helped to jumpstart a second phase of work to realize CCUS at scale in the Gulf of Mexico.

A key role for OGCI and other potential investors is to identify a commercialization roadmap, with viable business models and service offerings that leverage tax credits, alongside other carbon-valuation mechanisms such as enhanced oil recovery and other utilization projects. OGCI's leadership can help to reduce investment risk and drive down the cost of CCUS for other companies, so they can participate in the marketplace.



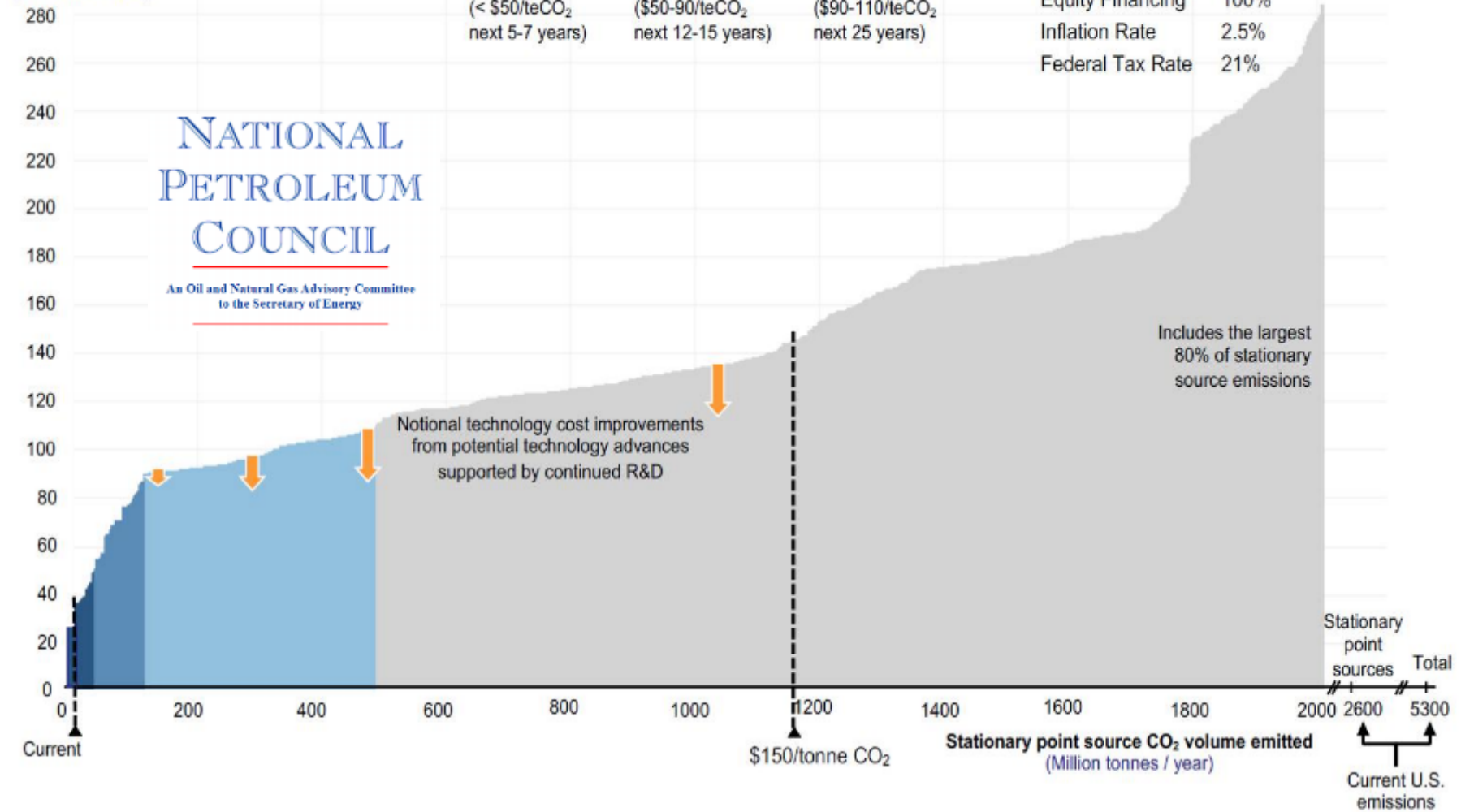
**Total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions:**  
200 mtCO<sub>2</sub>/year  
of which 35mtCO<sub>2</sub>/year  
is pure streams

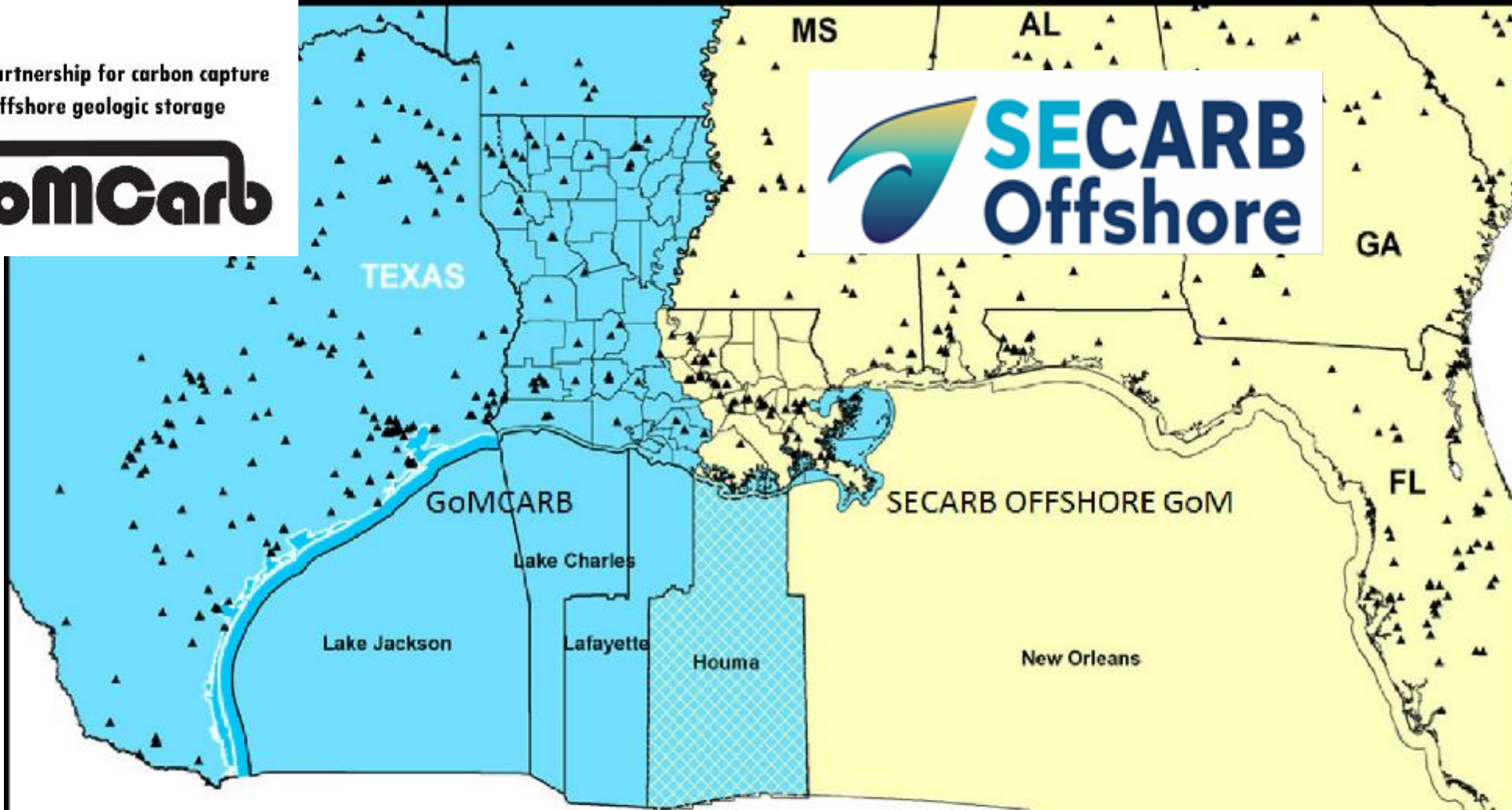
**Potential emitters:**  
power plants, refineries, chemical plants, fertilizers, hydrogen

- OGCI's role:**
- Convene and engage with stakeholders
  - Identify commercialization pathways
  - Identify investments
  - Work on policies and regulations
  - Share knowledge with other hubs

# U.S. CCUS Costs by Point Source

(\$ / tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>)

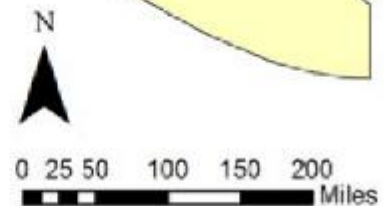




**GoMCarb & SECARB Offshore GoM Annual Joint Partnership Meeting  
April 7 – 8, 2021**

**Explanation**

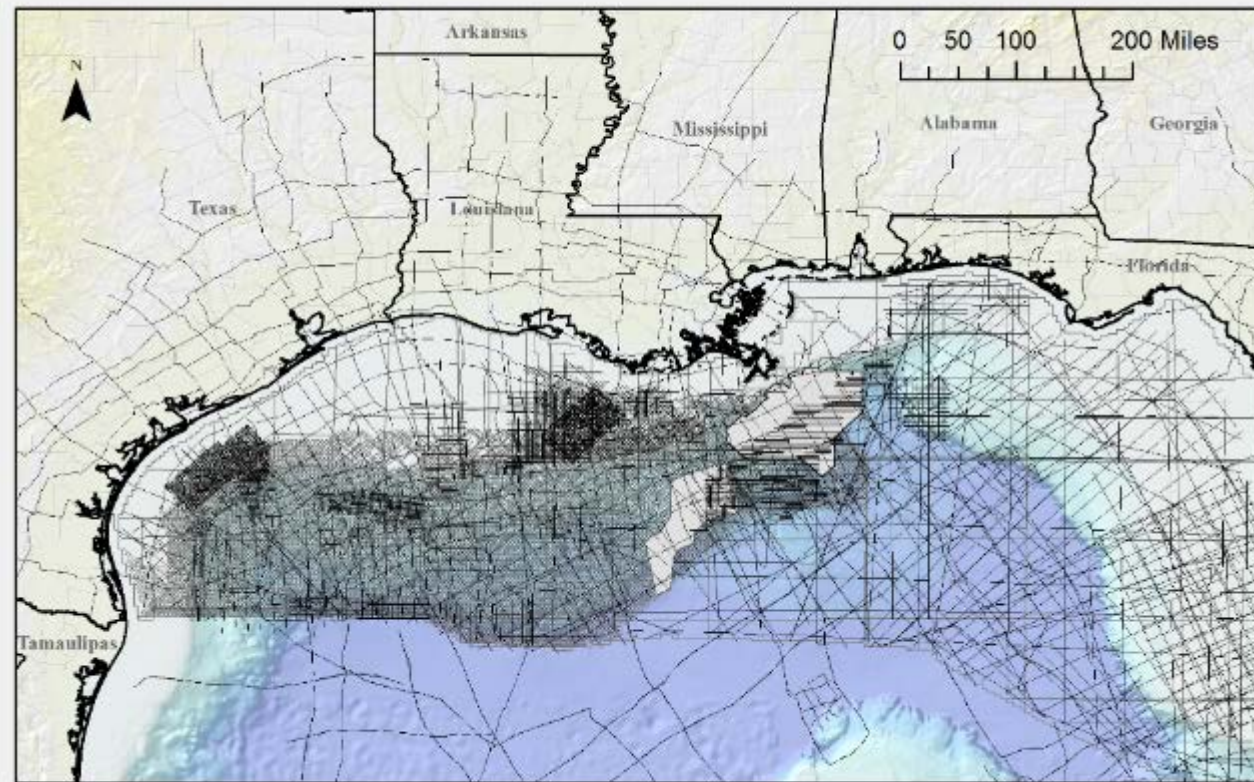
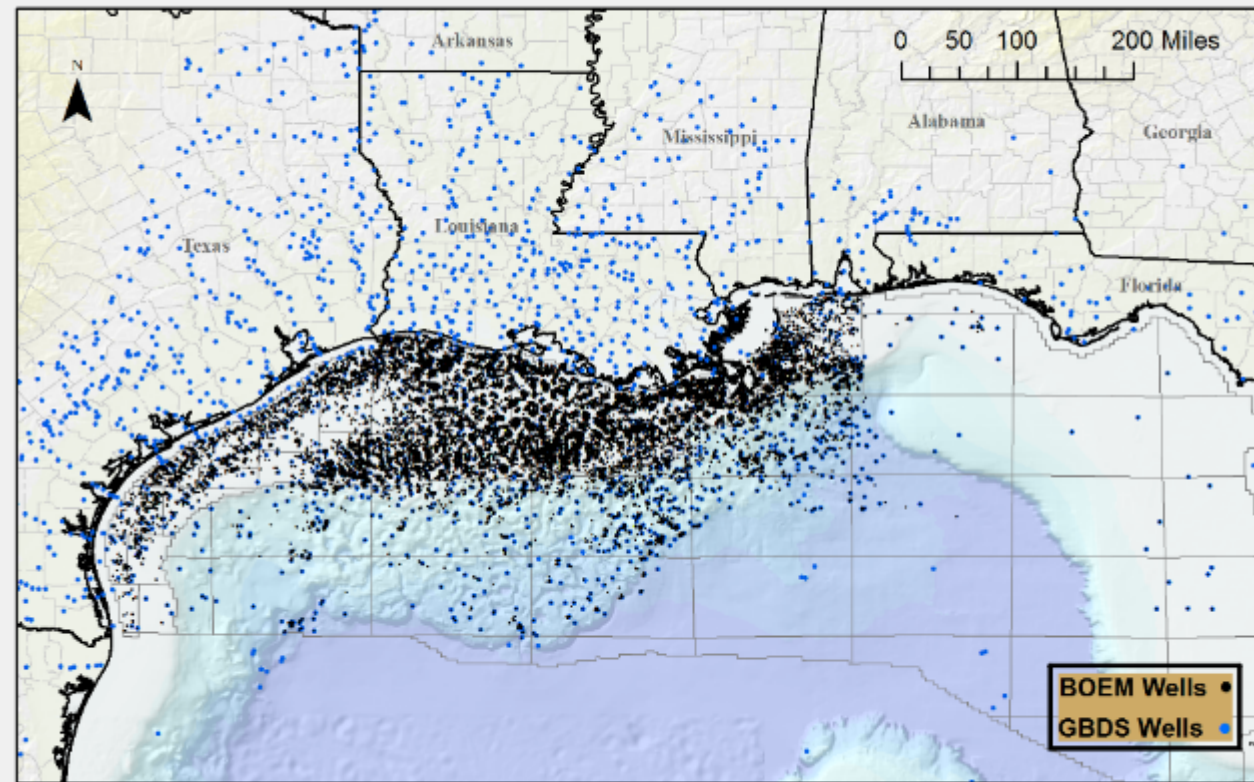
- ▲ CO2 Sources (NATCARB) Jurisdiction
- GoMCarb - BEG
- SECARB Offshore
- Texas State Waters
- Geographic Overlap - Houma





# Leveraging Gulf Data Maturity

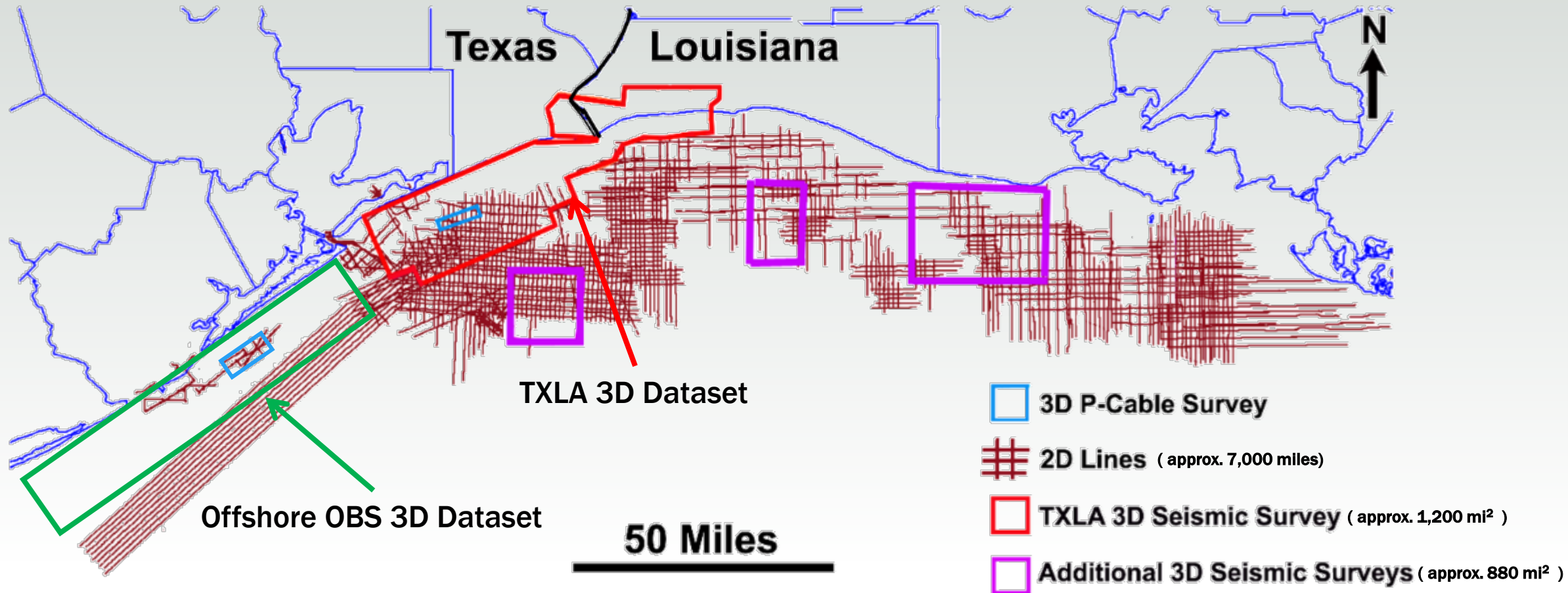
Database of the Gulf Basin Depositional Synthesis Industrial Associated Program



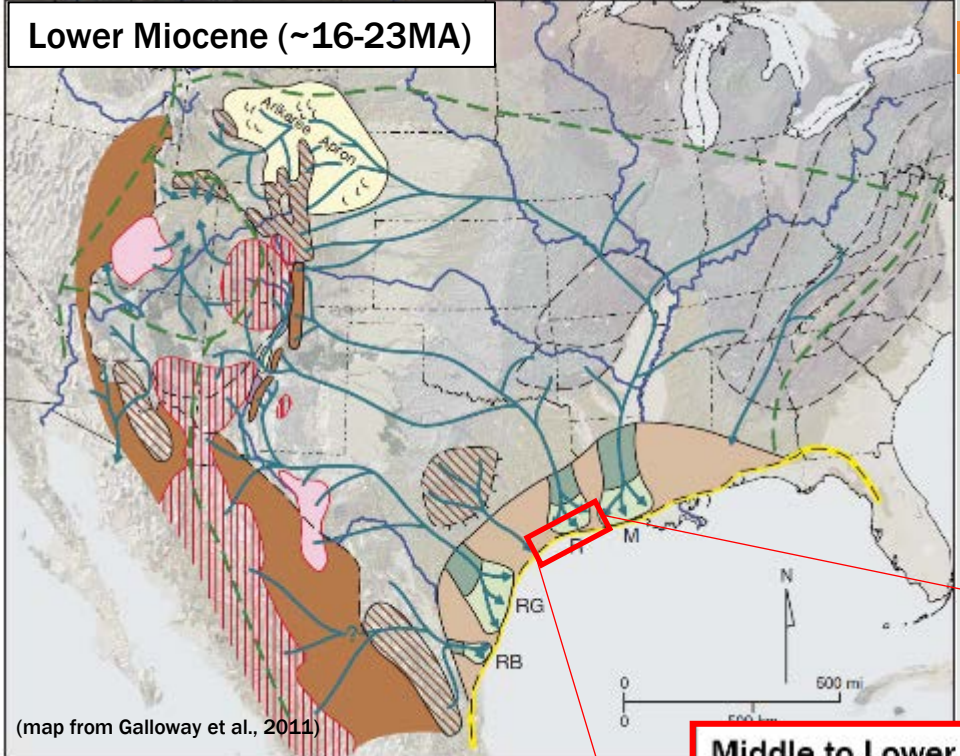
<https://ig.utexas.edu/energy/gbds/>



# Inner-shelf seismic data: east Texas – western Louisiana



Lower Miocene (~16-23MA)



(map from Galloway et al., 2011)

# GOM Paleogeography

- Dominant environment: Coastal-Deltaic, shallow marine
- Red River merging with Mississippi River

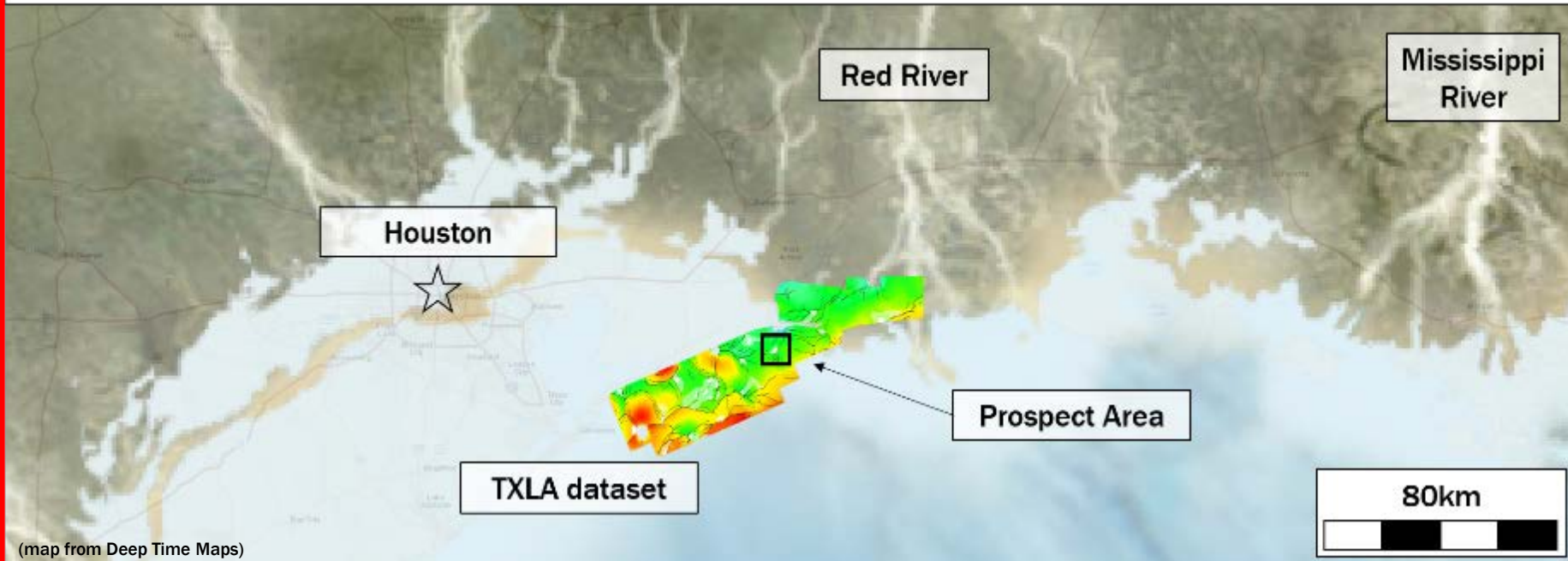
## SCHEMATIC!

### Receiving Basin Elements

- Depositional coastal plain
- Fluvial axes
- Deltaic depocenters
- Max. progradational shoreline

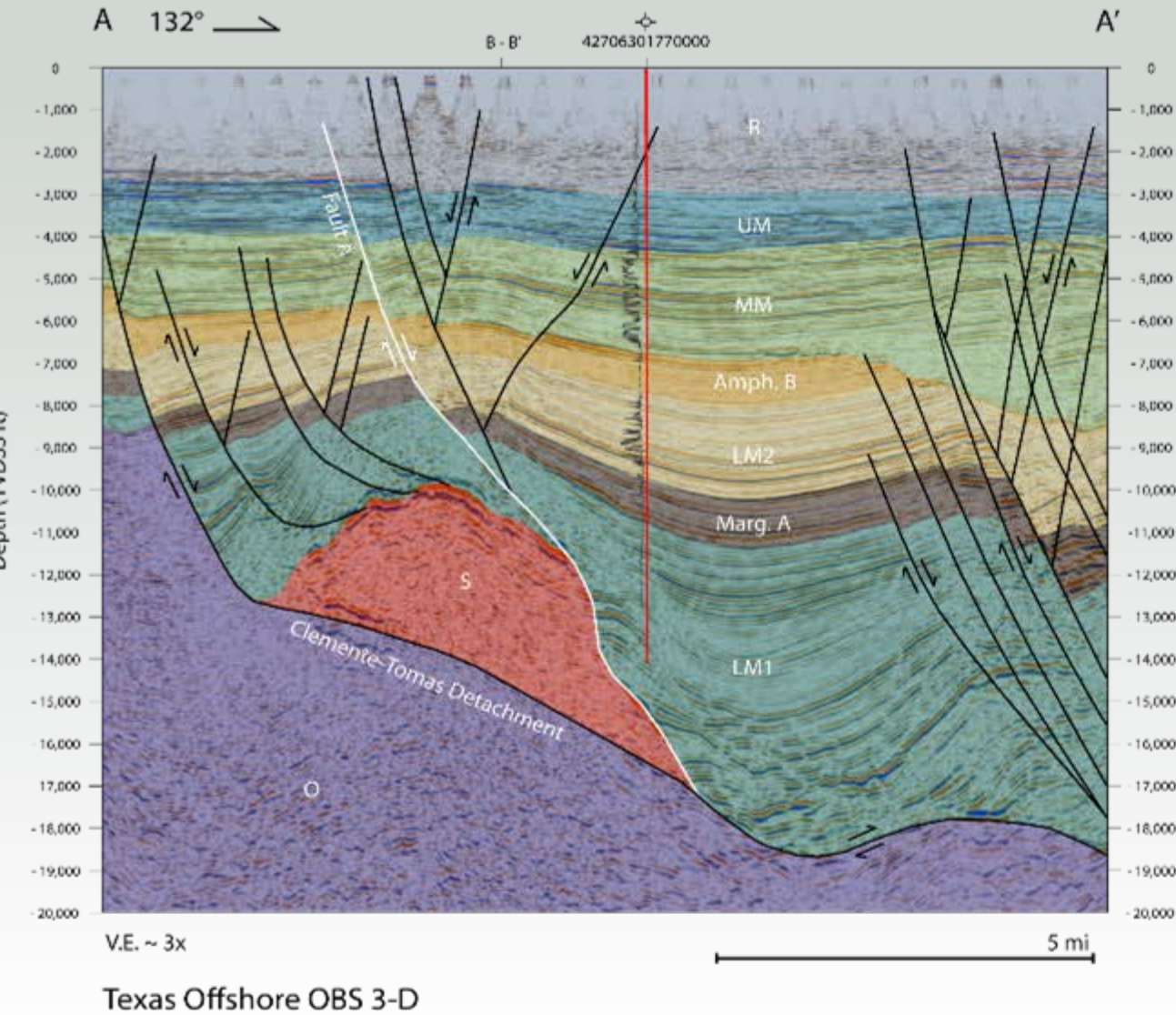


Middle to Lower Miocene: ~11-23MA



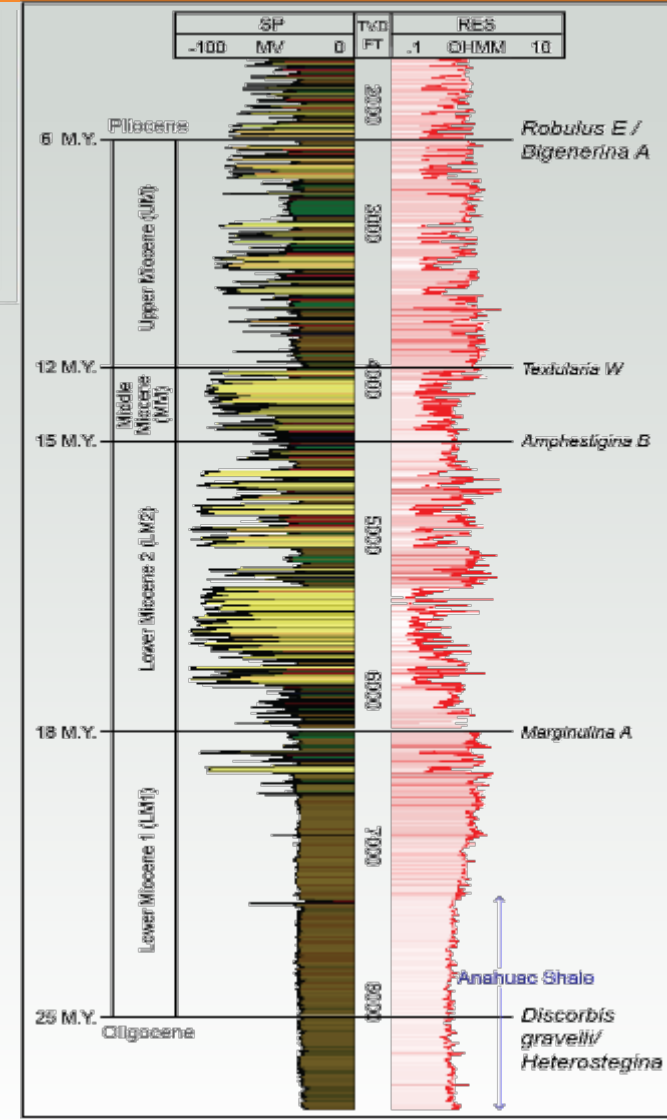
(map from Deep Time Maps)

# Typical large growth fault setting on inner shelf



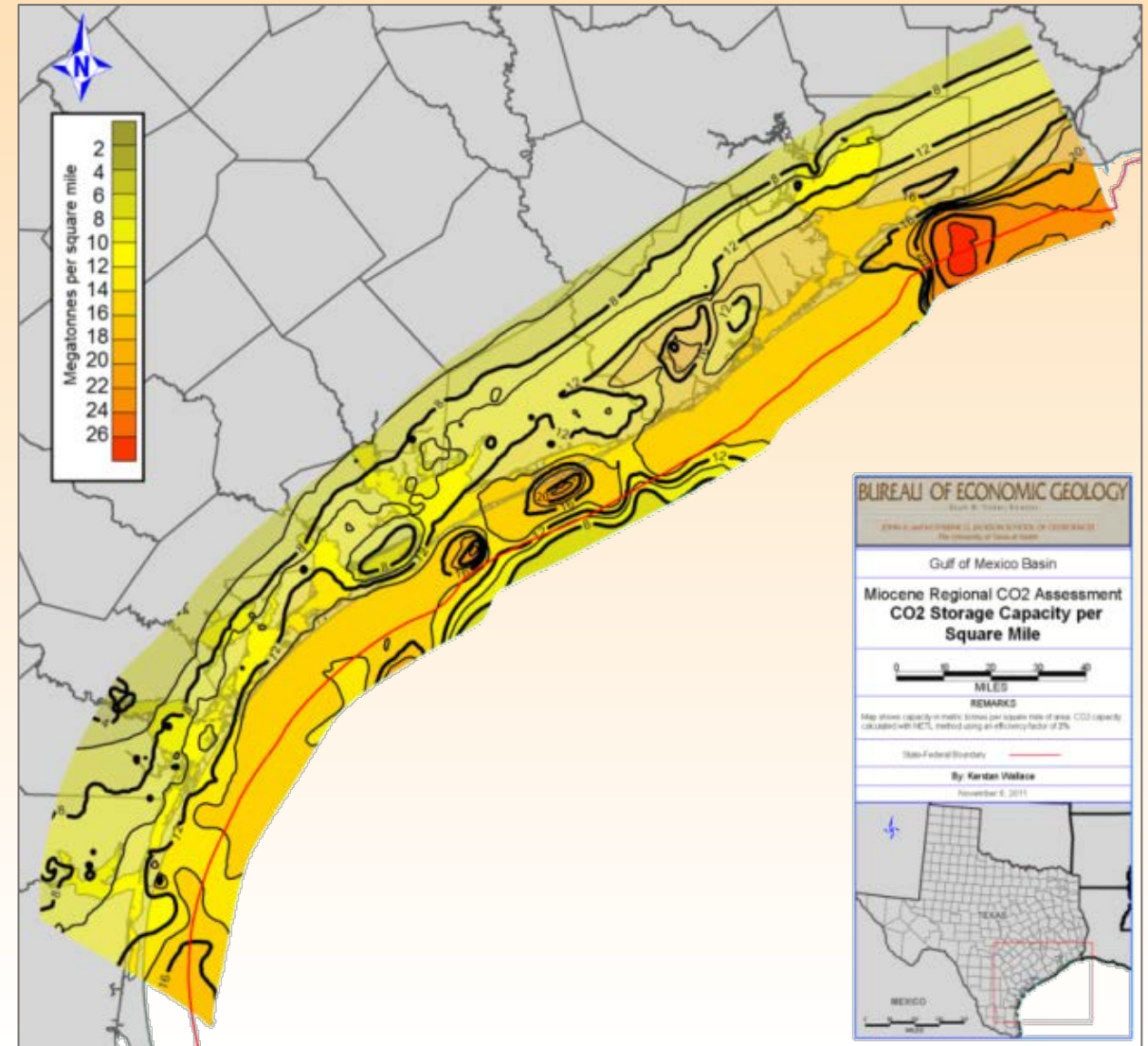
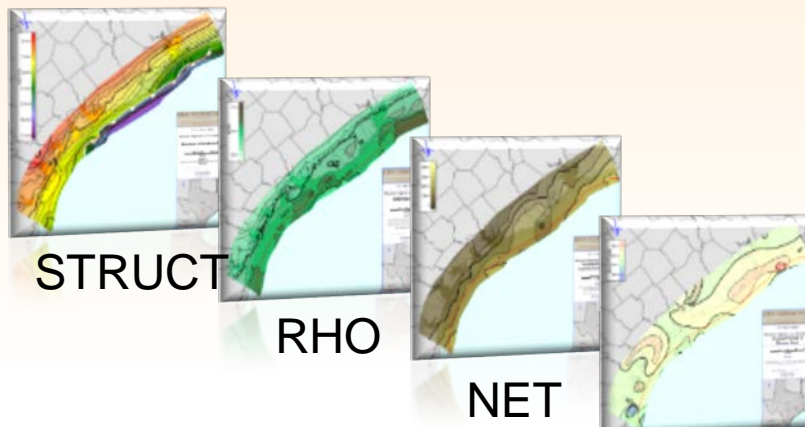
## Key to Geologic Features and Symbols

- R Recent through Pliocene Siliciclastics
- UM Upper Miocene Siliciclastics
- MM Middle Miocene Siliciclastics
- Amph. B *Amphestegina chipolensis* Shale
- LM2 Lower Miocene 2 Siliciclastics
- Marg. A *Marginulina ascensionensis* Shale
- LM1 Lower Miocene 1 Siliciclastics
- O Oligocene Anahuac Shale and Older
- S Jurassic Allochthonous Louann Salt
- Faults



# Static Regional Capacity Texas Coast & Offshore

- NETL Methodology
- 40,000 sq. km.
- 3,300 logs
  - Tops, net sand, porosity
- 172 Gt CO<sub>2</sub> storage total
  - TX State Waters

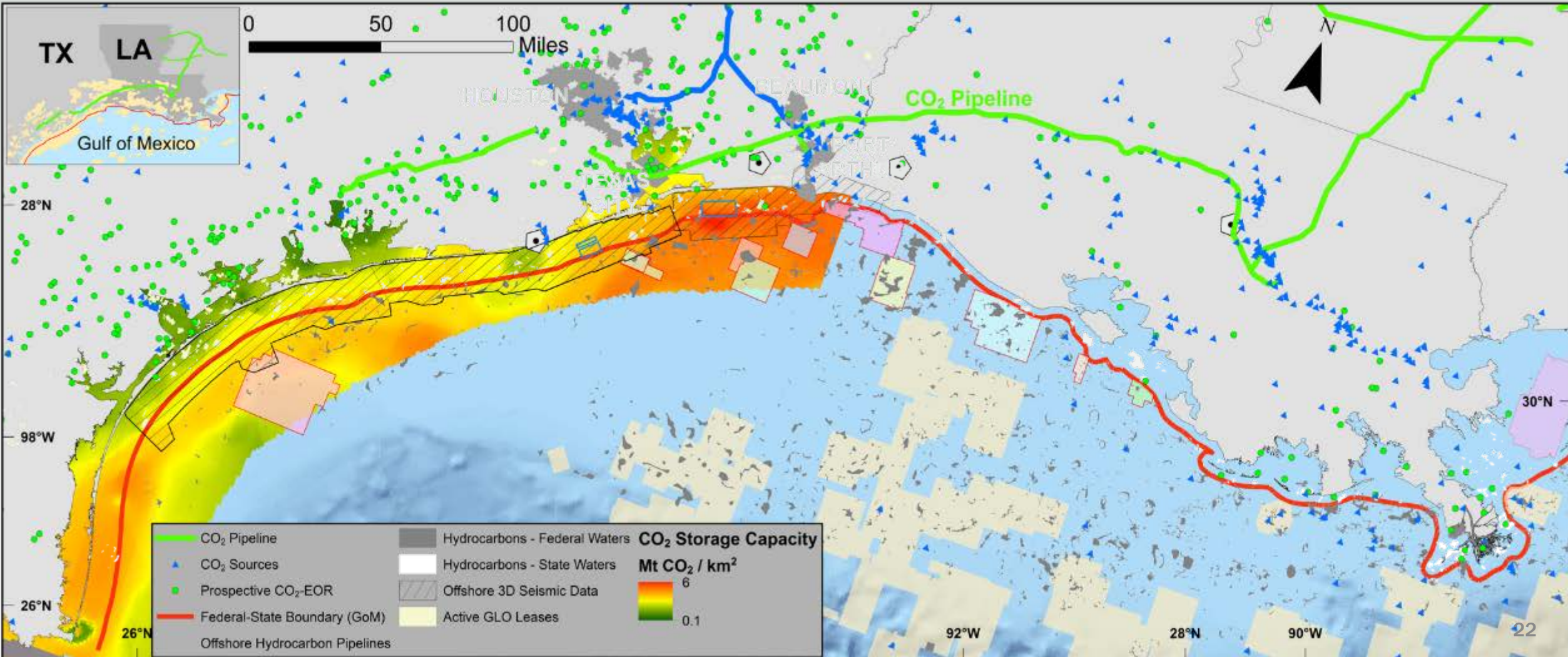


# Project Opportunities on the Gulf Coast are vast

- 148 Sources > 400k/yr
- 75 are <50 miles from coast

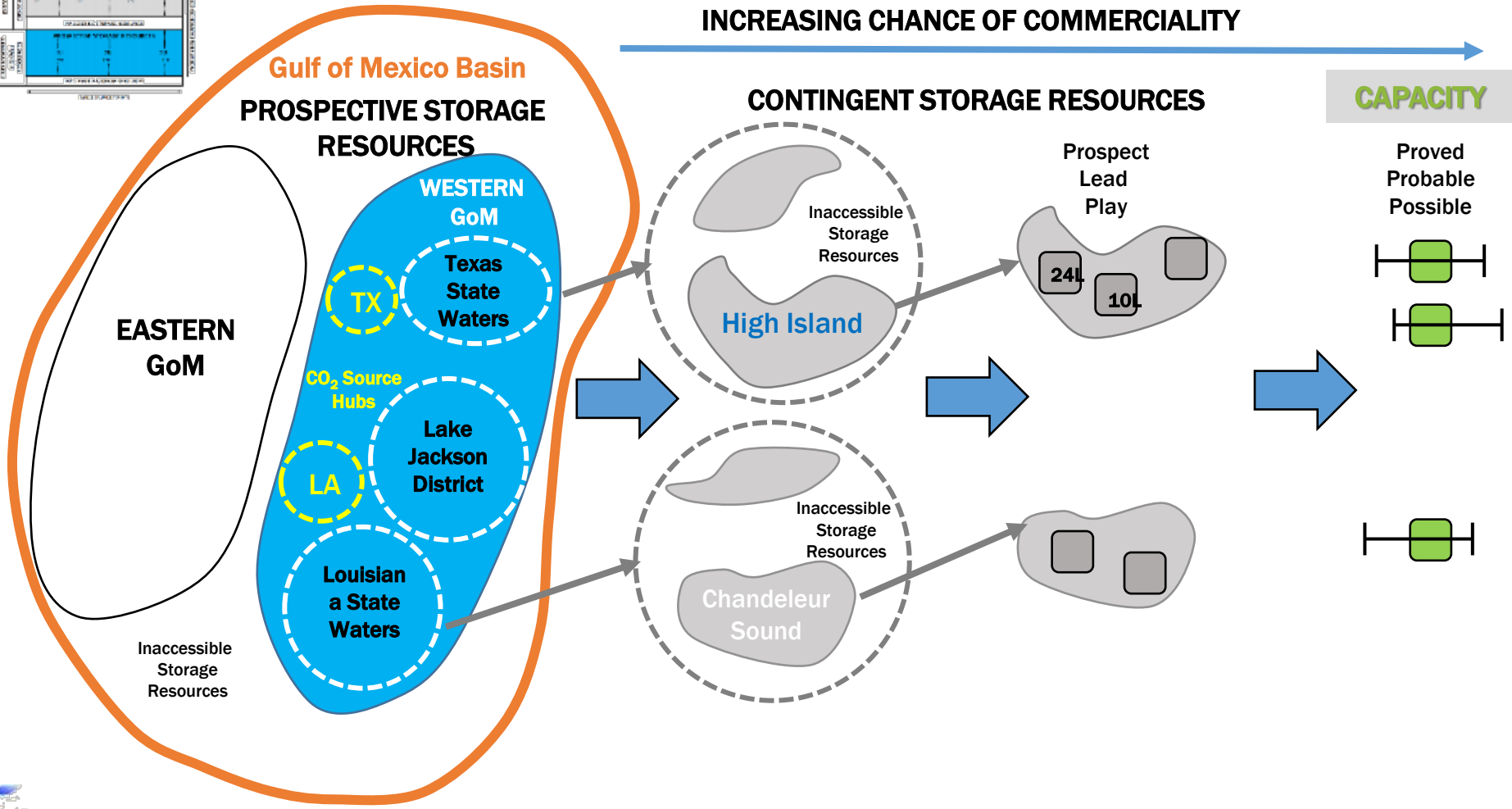
- Shortest transport optimal
- Existing CO<sub>2</sub> trunk lines
- Abundant EOR opportunities

- Hundreds of gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> storage in offshore TX State Waters



SPE SRMS Fig. 1.1

Category	Sub-category	Value
ESTIMATED STORAGE CAPACITY	CONFIRMED STORAGE CAPACITY	100
	POTENTIAL STORAGE CAPACITY	1000
	UNDEVELOPED STORAGE CAPACITY	10000
ESTIMATED STORAGE RESOURCES	CONFIRMED STORAGE RESOURCES	100
	POTENTIAL STORAGE RESOURCES	1000
	UNDEVELOPED STORAGE RESOURCES	10000



Site Characterization

Ready for Permitting

# SPE Storage Resources Management System (SRMS)

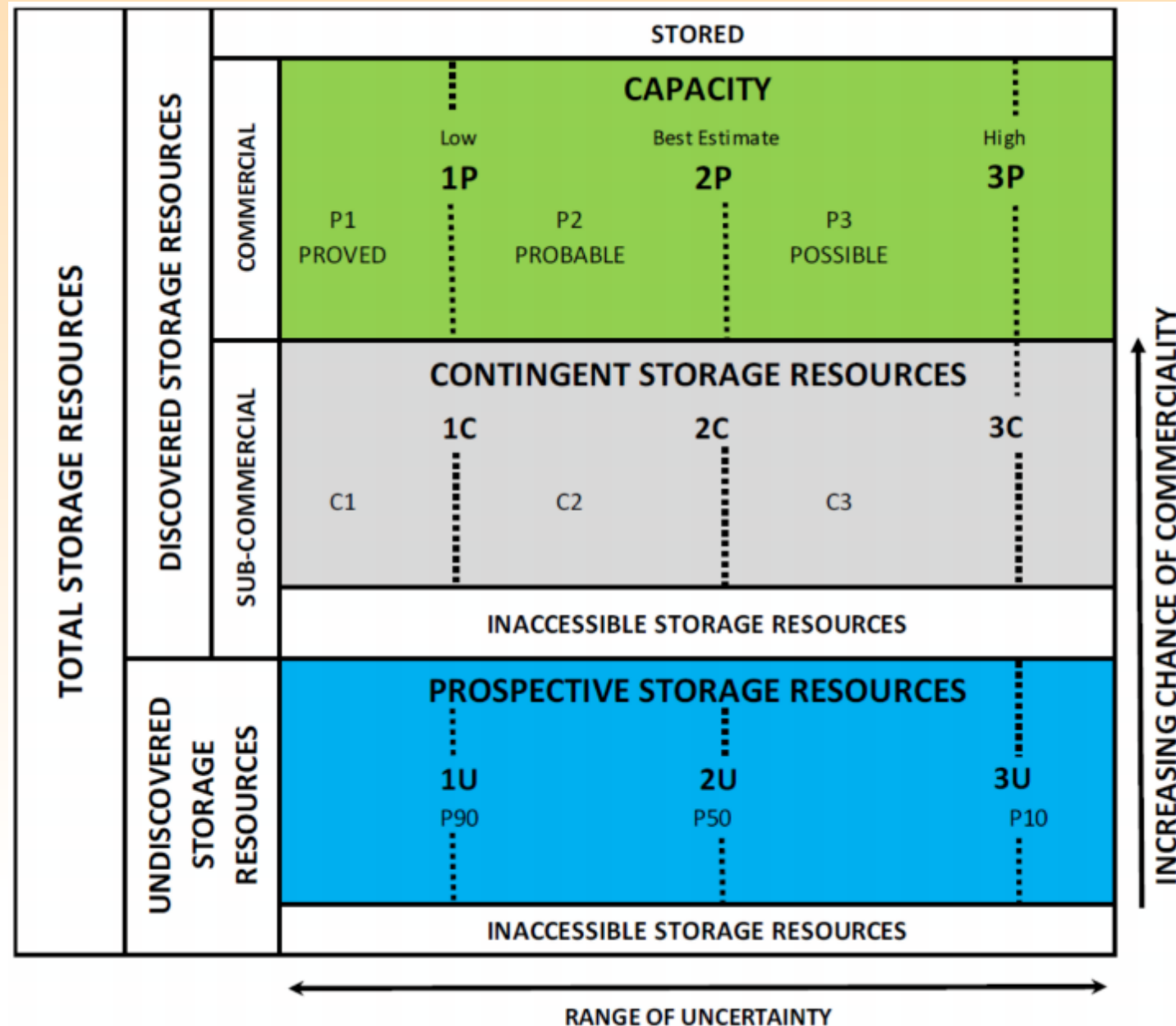
- Uniformity, clarity, familiarity
- ‘Bankable’ storage – investment financing
- Similar to PRMS

Meckel served on SRMS  
Writing and Draft  
Guidelines Committees

- SRMS exists
- <https://www.spe.org/industry/CO2-storage-resources-management-system.php>
- Guidelines currently being drafted
- Training workshops to come



# SRMS





ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

# International Journal of Greenhouse Gas Control

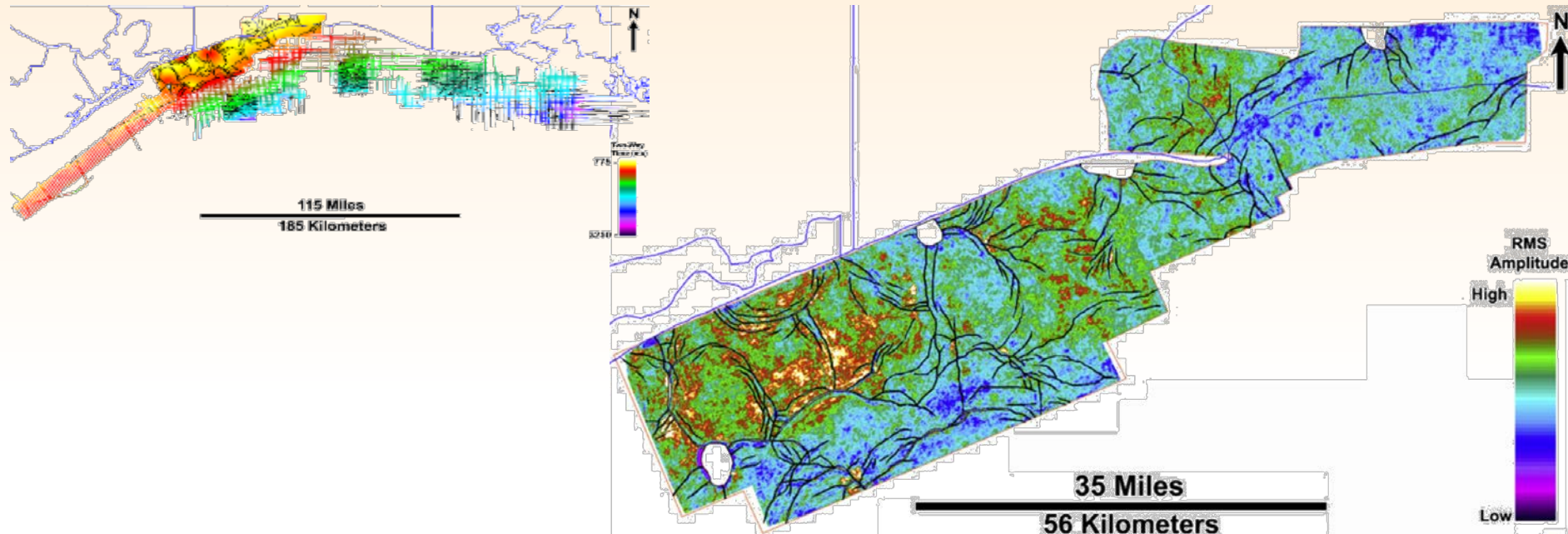
journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ijggc](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ijggc)



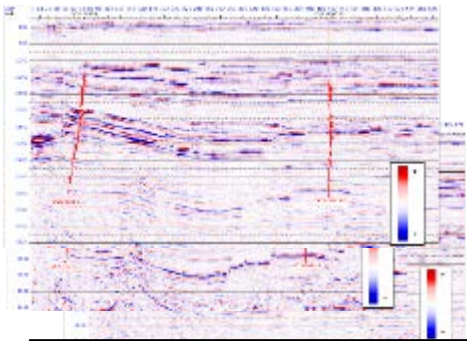
## A seismic-based CO<sub>2</sub>-sequestration regional assessment of the Miocene section, northern Gulf of Mexico, Texas and Louisiana

Michael V. DeAngelo\*, Reynaldy Fifariz, Tip Meckel, Ramon H. Treviño

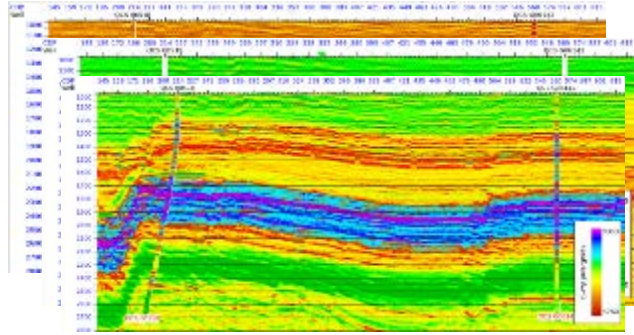
*Gulf Coast Carbon Center, Bureau of Economic Geology, Jackson School of Geosciences, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas, USA*



# Porosity Estimation: Workflow

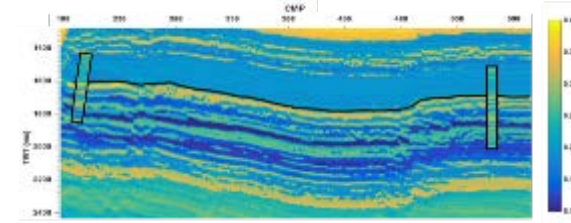


Deterministic seismic inversion

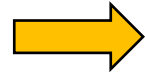


Estimate of elastic properties

Elastic to reservoir properties transform

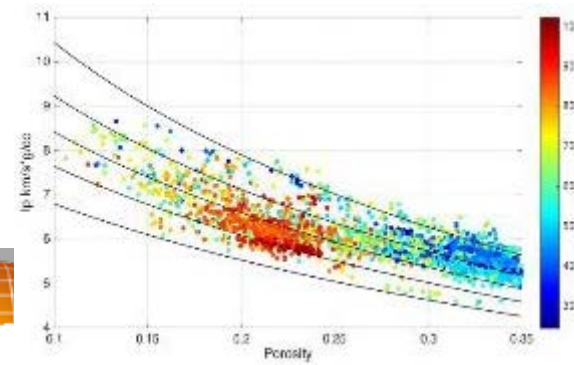


Estimate of reservoir properties

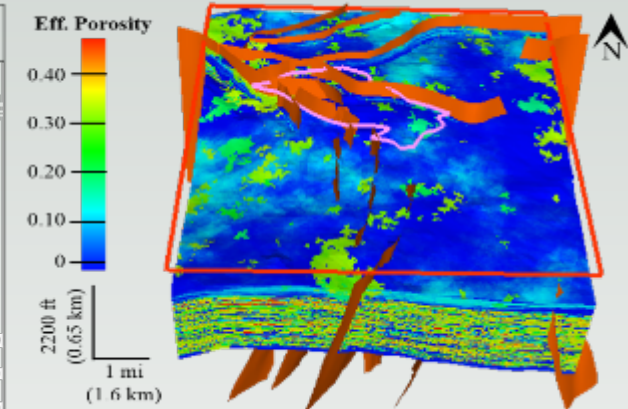
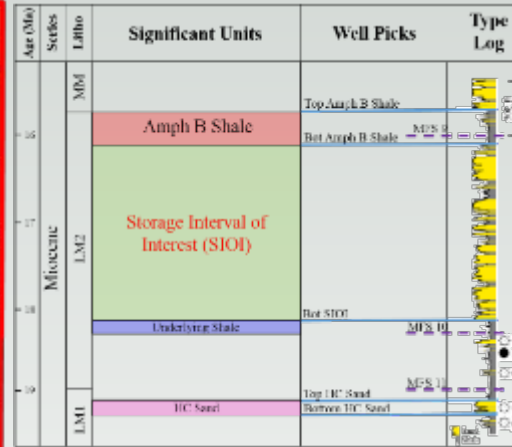
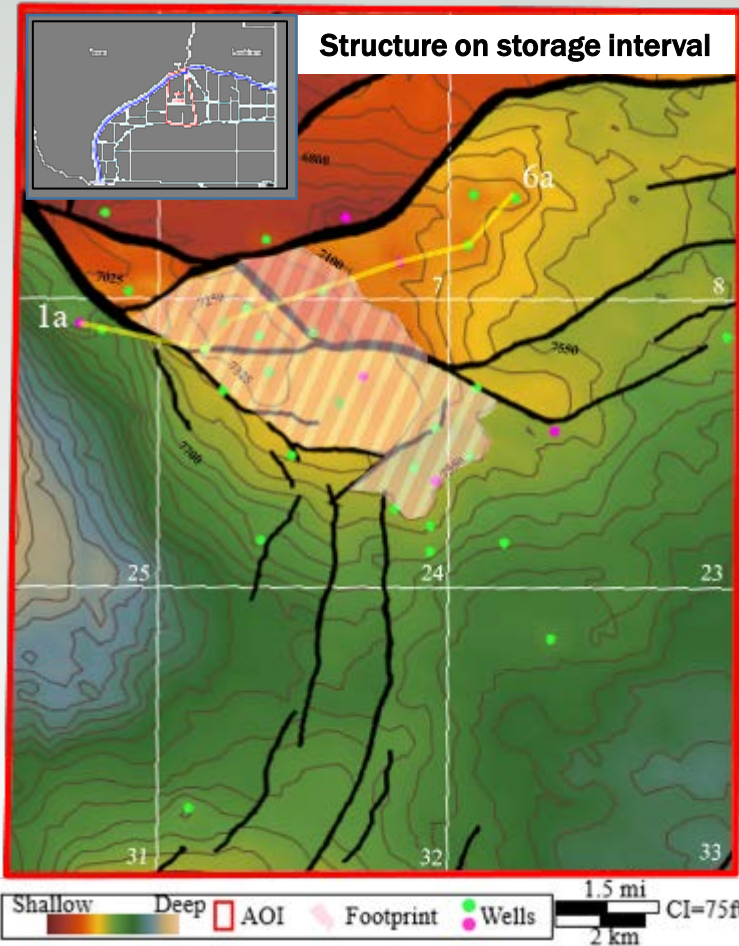


Rock physic modeling

Seismic Data



# Example prospect: High Island 24-L Field – Offshore Southeast Texas



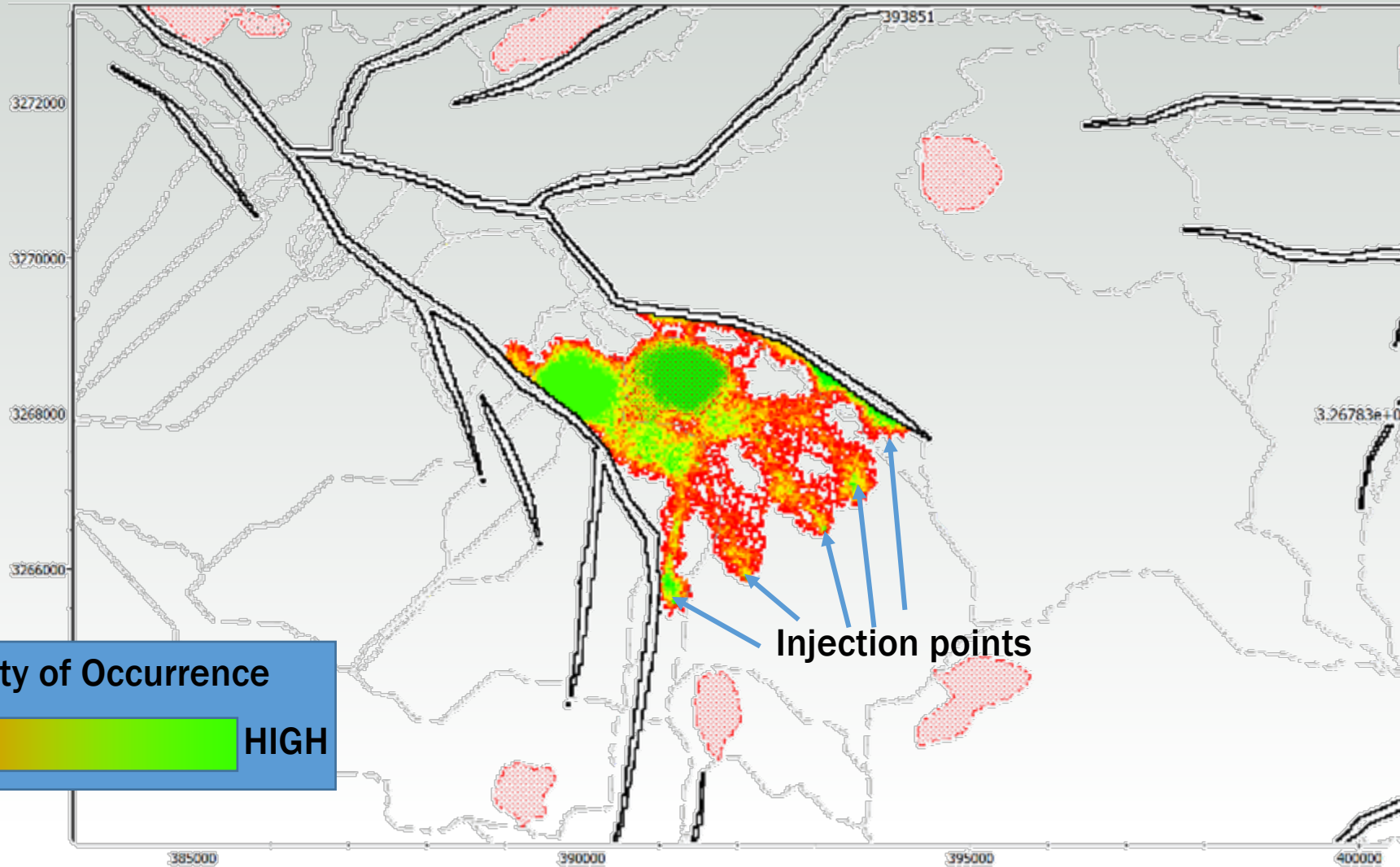
## STATIC VOLUMETRIC CALCULATIONS

	P10	P50	P90
$E_{\text{saline}} = E_v E_d$	7.4%	14%	24%
SIOI: NETL CO2 Screen (Mt)	63	120	206
SIOI: 3-D Eff. Porosity Model (Mt)	57	108	185
HC Sand: 3-D Constant Avg. Eff. Porosity Model (Mt)	6	12	20

Ruiz, 2019, MS Thesis, UT-Austin: Characterization 24L Field for CCS



# Multiple flow simulations

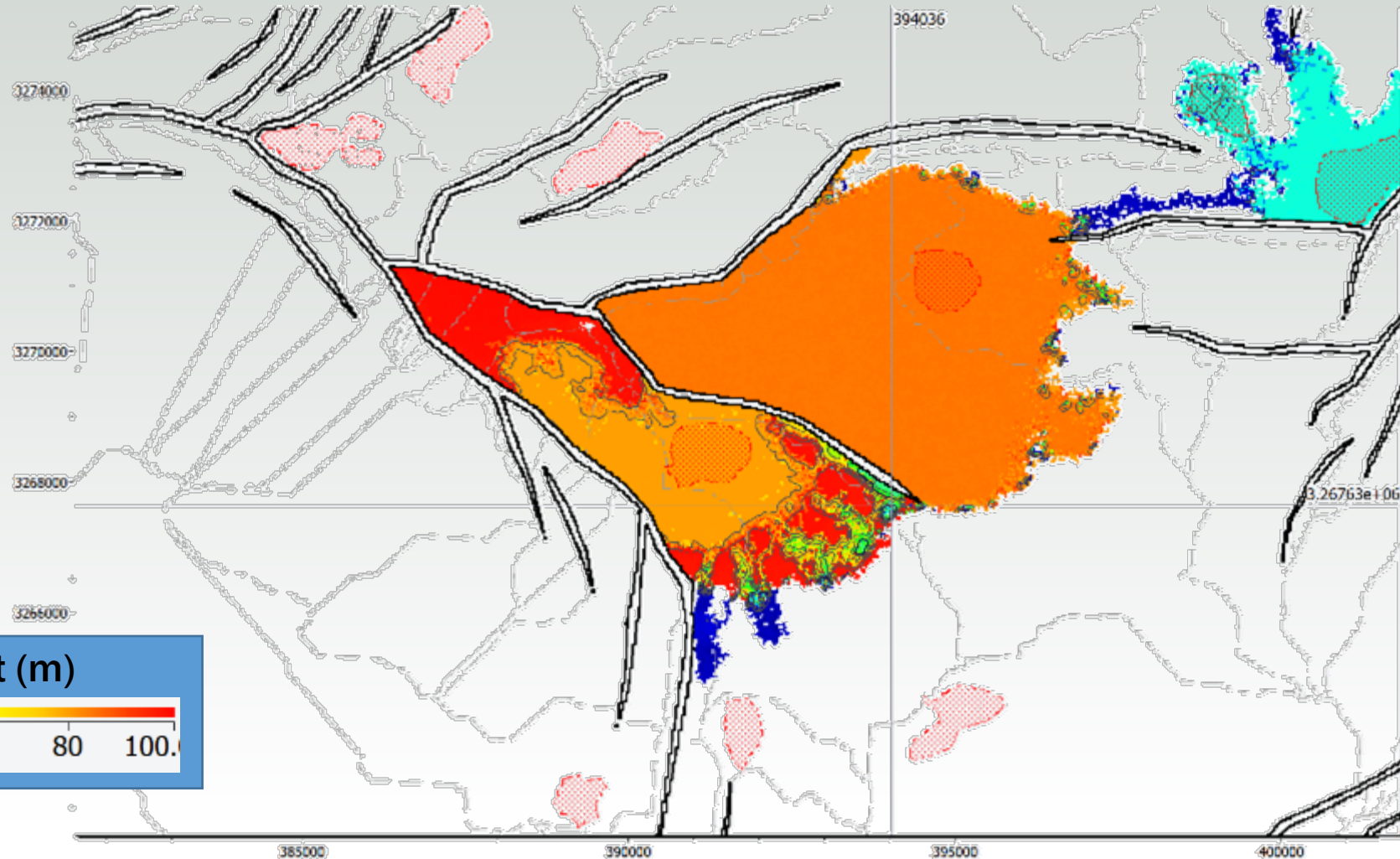


CO2 Probability of Occurrence

LOW

HIGH

# 100 m column height and structure map uncertainty



CO2 Column Height (m)

0 20 40 60 80 100

# 3 East Texas GoM CO<sub>2</sub> Hubs: La Porte, Texas City, Port Arthur



Conceptualization of CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Hub network in southeast Texas including EOR & storage

**La Porte Hub**  
~5 Mt/yr total  
SMR total = 1.75 Mta



**Port Arthur Hub**  
~20 Mt/yr total  
17 Mta, 7 sources



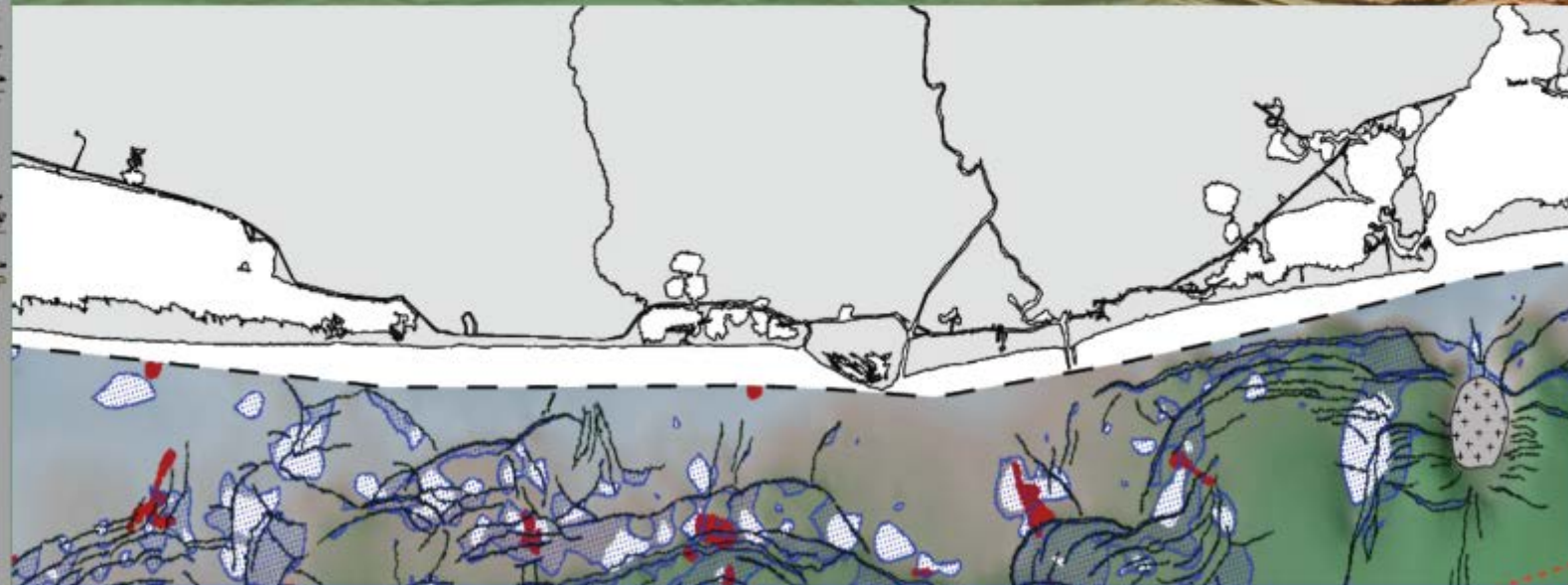
**Texas City Hub**  
~12 Mt/yr total  
10 Mta, 3 sources



20 MILES

# Geological CO<sub>2</sub> Sequestration Atlas of Miocene Strata, Offshore Texas State Waters

Edited by R. H. Treviño and T. A. Meckel



2017

Bureau of Economic Geology  
Scott W. Tinker, Director  
The University of Texas at Austin



1. Regional Geology of the Gulf of Mexico and the Miocene Section of the Texas Near-offshore Waters
2. Implications of Miocene Petroleum Systems for Geologic CO<sub>2</sub> Storage beneath Texas Offshore Lands
3. Evaluation of Lower Miocene Confining Units for CO<sub>2</sub> Storage, Offshore Texas State Waters, Northern Gulf of Mexico, USA
4. Capillary Aspects of Fault-Seal Capacity for CO<sub>2</sub> Storage, Lower Miocene, Gulf of Mexico
5. Regional CO<sub>2</sub> Static Capacity Estimate, Offshore Saline Aquifers, Texas State Waters
6. Field-scale Example of Potential CO<sub>2</sub> Sequestration Site in Miocene Sandstone Reservoirs, Brazos Block 440-L Field
7. Estimating CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Capacity in Saline Aquifer Using 3D Flow Models, Lower Miocene, Texas Gulf of Mexico
8. Appendix A: Regional Cross Sections, Miocene Strata of Offshore Texas State Waters



# Tax Credit Value Available for Different Sources and Uses of CO<sub>2</sub>

Minimum Size of Eligible Carbon Capture Plant by Type (ktCO <sub>2</sub> /yr)				Relevant Level of Tax Credit in a Given Operational Year (\$USD/tCO <sub>2</sub> )									
Type of CO <sub>2</sub> Storage/Use	Power Plant	Other Industrial Facility	Direct Air Capture	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Beyond 2026
Dedicated Geological Storage	500	100	100	28	31	34	36	39	42	45	47	50	Indexed to Inflation
Storage via EOR	500	100	100	17	19	22	24	26	28	31	33	35	
Other Utilization Processes <sup>1</sup>	25	25	25	17 <sup>2</sup>	19	22	24	26	28	31	33	35	

<sup>1</sup> Each CO<sub>2</sub> source cannot be greater than 500 ktCO<sub>2</sub>/yr

<sup>2</sup> Any credit will only apply to the portion of the converted CO<sub>2</sub> that can be shown to reduce overall emissions

# THANK YOU

GCCC Sponsors  
US Department of Energy  
Seismic Exchange, Inc.  
Fairfield Geotechnologies



# Meckel Bio

- Dr. Tip Meckel is a senior research scientist investigating geologic carbon storage for the Bureau of Economic Geology at The University of Texas at Austin. During his 15 years with the Gulf Coast Carbon Center at the Bureau he has led research focusing on geologic characterization, structural geology, monitoring design, and pressure evolution for CO<sub>2</sub> injections. He has been directly involved with many large-scale field demonstration projects funded through the DOE-NETL Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnerships. After early exposure during the FRIO tests east of Houston in 2006, he co-directed the research program for the SECARB CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR demonstration project in Cranfield Mississippi, and currently leads the research initiative to identify offshore sequestration potential in the Gulf of Mexico with focus on capacity assessment and high-resolution 3D marine seismic monitoring technologies. Dr. Meckel works closely with offshore CCS developments in Japan and the North Sea. He was a contributor to the 2019 *National Petroleum Council* study on CCUS, and participated in the formation of the Society of Petroleum Engineer's *Storage Resource Management System (SRMS)*. Since 2008 he has been PI or Co-PI on 16 CCS grants totaling over \$70 million dollars. PhD - UT Austin, MS - Univ. MT.