
Conclusions

The Maldives carbonate system tells a fascinating story of the establishment, growth, and development of this giant isolated carbonate platform through intervals of partial demise and recovery. Superb and dense seismic grids tied to information from several wells reveal spectacular seismic facies and stratal geometries based on which a full picture of its platform development and 50-m.y. history have been determined. Moreover, the role of different regional factors and global processes such as tectonics, subsidence, and eustatic sea level that influenced its overall architecture can be extracted. In short, the Maldives stand as a unique and superb analog in our understanding of fossil and modern carbonate systems.

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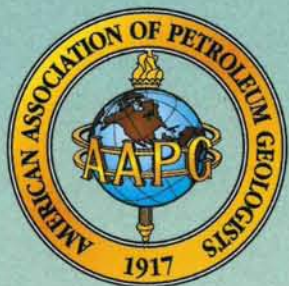
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Seismic Expressions and Interpretation of Carbonate Sequences: The Maldives Platform, Equatorial Indian Ocean

By Andrei V. Belopolsky and André W. Droxler

Under the veneer of coral atolls that dot the equatorial Indian Ocean lies a 3-km-thick Tertiary carbonate system. The Maldives tell a fascinating story of the birth, growth, and development of this giant carbonate system through partial demise and recovery. This story is documented by a superb seismic data set tied to information from several wells. Spectacular seismic lines provide some of the best-known examples of seismic facies and stratal geometries of carbonate sequences, on which a full picture of the 50-m.y. platform history has been determined.

AAPG Studies in Geology No. 49, *Seismic Expressions and Interpretation of Carbonate Sequences: The Maldives Platform, Equatorial Indian Ocean*, by Andrei V. Belopolsky and André W. Droxler, is an atlas for all geoscientists who work with carbonate rocks. Because of the unique setting of the Maldives Platform, different perspectives are offered on potential carbonate reservoir rocks. A summary of carbonate sequence-stratigraphy principles and seismic imaging of carbonates precedes the discussion. Seismic sections are presented in uninterpreted and interpreted formats, which allows readers to make their own observations and comparisons. The atlas consists of a four-color printed book and a CD which contains additional seismic lines and well and map information, accessible in an interactive format. This atlas may be used as a teaching tool and as a valuable reference for anyone concerned with carbonate sequences in prediction and simulation of hydrocarbon reservoirs.



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