

OIL AND GAS PERSPECTIVES OF THE PRE-CAUCASUS

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In spite of the century-long history of oil production, the Fore-Caucasus has significant reserves of hydrocarbons. The most part of the proven oil and gas resources is established in Cretaceous (in fore - deeps) and Triassic (on the Scythian Plate) deposits. The main volume of possible and probable resources of hydrocarbons is related to the subsalt Jurassic and Palaeozoic deposits. Within the belt of the Fore-Caucasian Ore - deeps, the Upper Jurassic subsalt complex is thought to be the most perspective for further oil and gas searching activity. In recent years, with a sharp rise in the cost of deep drilling and limited investment means, the restoration of exploring works for shallow - lying Cenozoic (the Middle Miocene and Oligocene — Lower Miocene) deposits becomes vital. The search for hydrocarbon accumulations in the Middle Miocene terrigenous deposits and the Upper Cretaceous limestones is of the primary interest also for the Russian shelf of the Middle Caspian Sea. On the Scythian Plate, the perspectives of discovery of new oil and gas pools are related to Permian and older deposits. The results of geochemical study of organic matter in Palaeozoic rocks of the basement, testifying to a relatively low grade of their katagenetic alteration, are fundamentally new and of high importance. This suggests an enlargement of the stratigraphic range of possible oil content in the region under consideration.