

THE AZOV SEA: GEOLOGICAL GROUNDS FOR OIL AND GAS PROSPECTING

¹SAVCHENKO, V., ²APAREEV, V., ²GERASIMOV, M., ¹POPOVICH, S. ¹
“Yuzhmorgeologiya”, Gelendzhik, Russia; ² “Crymgeologiya”, Simpheropol, Ukraine

Drilling wells all over the Azov Sea have proved its primary gas bearing through the entire aquatic area. All hydrocarbon fields discovered are poor in reserves and they are connected with anticlines. Deposits are identified within the Neogene and Paleogene sediments at the depth down to 3000m. Oil/gas prospecting operations had no further progress due to low profitability of the gas production. Revision of the available geological data on the basis of the presented theory of tectonic plates has allowed to reveal the everywhere occurring of sub-bottom overthrust structures in the Azov Sea. Overthrusting dislocations are well shown at time sections of many seismic lines. An indirect confirmation is connection of the oil fields within the Kerch peninsula with zones of subduction that was discovered by the authors. More than 4/5 of Azov Sea aquatic area are presented by dislocations of the Indolo-Kuban depression, a part of the latter is the Central Azov uplift that was singled out earlier. The similar structure of Indolo-Kuban depression is well illustrated by the type of variation within the area of fields, in particular, of the Neogene-Quaternary sediments. Thus, the Indolo-Kuban depression structure is very much alike the structure of the Pre-Catpathian depression. This fact allows to ground quite different and more optimistic perspectives of oil/gas bearing of the Azov Sea. Here discovery of middle and large oil/gas pool can be predicted below the overthrusting zone.