Tectonics and hydrocarbon prospects of the Russian offshore periphery

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Marine Russian periphery is framed by 17 petroliferous and potentially petroliferous provinces. About 1 000 000 km of 2D seismic lines with 0.15 km/km^2 average density are worked there, regional gravimetric and magnetometric surveys are fulfilled, and 149 deep wells of more than 350 000 m total are drilled. Total hydrocarbon potential of these marine provinces is estimated to be 133x10^9 t of conditional fuel, including 100x10^9 t of recoverable resources.

Proved resources of A+B+C category account less than 20% of total potential. They are mainly concentrated in the Timan-Pechora, East-Barents and South-Kara provinces; less – on the south of the Okhotsk province and insignificantly – in the Azov Sea (the North Caucasus - Mangyshlak provionce) and in the Baltic petroliferous region belonging to the group of actually petroliferous provinces. Only two offshore fields in the Okhotsk and Azov seas are under development now.

All other provinces form the group of potentially petroliferous ones. Provinces comprising the Caspian Sea and the north of the Black Sea (the Pricaspian, North Caucasus – Mangyshlak and the Middle Caspian ones), the Aleut province of the Bering Sea and the Novosibirsk-Chukchian ones are of top-priority interest among them.

Tectonics and hydrocarbon prospects of the Russian offshore periphery map on 1:5 000 000 scale is being demonstrated.