

Seismo-stratigraphic analysis of Upper Miocene (Messinian) deposits of the South Adriatic Basin, Croatia

Authors: Nagl, Barbara (1), Marić-Đureković, Željka, (1) Cota, Lilit (1), Matej, Srebrenka (1), Takač, Damir (1)

INA, Industry of oil Plc., Av. V. Holjevca 10, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

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Table of contents





Introduction (Location, Regional Tectonic Setting, Stratigraphy)
 Well correlation and seismic interpretation
 Distribution of Messinian deposits in South Adriatic Basin (SAB)
 Possible petroleum system potential
 Conclusion

Location, area, database

- South Adriatic Basin (SAB) is placed between Apenninic and Dinaric-Hellenic orogenic systems
- It encompasses approximately 50000 square kilometers
- SAB is Dinaric/Albanic foreland basin



- The SAB is relatively unexplored; available Croatian and Italian wells were used for analysis of the Messinian deposits (25 wells)
- Analyzed wells were positioned in the shallow marine, land and marginal marine setting
- In the basinal area, interpretation is based on the seismic data exclusively; 2D & 3D



Regional Tectonic Setting with key Geotectonic Units

Adriatic Halokinetic Structures (AHS)predominance of halokinetic structures: diapirs and salt-cored anticlines

Dinarides Fold-Thrust Belt (DTB)- formed along the eastern margin of the Adriatic plate during Middle Eocene - Miocene as a result of SW-propagation of thrusting from the Internal Dinarides



Apulian Carbonate Platform (ApCP) - part of the stable and relatively undeformed foreland of the Appenine thrust belt

Mesozoic and Paleogene-Miocene times, respectively

Stratigraphy and Tectonics



- Plio-Pleistocene transgressiveregressive clastic sequence
- As result of compression, foredeep Dinaride / Albanide basin formed from Paleocene – Miocene; shallow water platform carbonates and deep water basin carbonate-clastite deposit
- Middle Jurassic tectonic activity led to basin differentiation (shallow platform and basin part)
- During Triassic and L. Jurassic prevails clastic-carbonates shelf sedimentation with evaporite sequence as result of rifting

Messinian evaporite present in many wells in SAB (anhidrite and gypsum)
 SAB is marginal part of Mediterranean Messinian

Well correlation

South Adriatic Basin well correlation NorthWest-SouthEast

- Messinian stage Colombaco fm.- continental and hypersaline lagoon deposit, Gessoso sollifera fm. -deep water basin laminated marls and gypsum of shallow water and sabkha-like environments
- Pre-Messinian stage (Cretaceous Miocene) shallow water Cretaceous and Eocene carbonates and Eocene-Miocene clastic deposit

Eccene - Oligocene - Miccene

Cretaceous

- - Thickness : from 40m (Maja-1) to 120m towards basin (seismic)
 Erosional channels
 - Depocentar was not changed during Oligo-Miocene to Pleistocene
 - Dinaric thrust strong influence on Messinian level
 - Permo-Triassic halocinetic disturbed younger deposits, Mess. also!

Northwest area (AHS and DTB)

NNE

Mirjana-1

Balic et all (2036)

- Absence of Messinian deposits on Mirjana-1 well (Middle Miocene)
- □ Thickness increases southwards ~ 250m (seismic data)
- Lithology: limestone, marl, evaporite
- Permo-Triassic halocinetic influence weaker

Central part (DTB, AdCP and SAB)

Thickness: from 100m to 400m
 Lithology: marl, sandy levels, evaporite

□ Halocinetic in basin area bit different

9

Central area (SAR and SAB)

- □ Become thicker toward South (350m), much thicker in SAB
- □ Lithology: marl, sandy beds, evaporite
- Halocinetic strongly present in SAR
- Absence of Messinian deposits toward west

South part (ApCP and SAB)

Bally at all (2019)

No Permo-Triassic halocinetic

9

Thickness map of Messinian deposits

Facies distribution of Messinian sediments

Marginal Basin

- Carbonate-evaporite succession, interbedded limestone, gypsum and mudstones were deposited
- Fossil assemblage (benthic foraminifers *Rectuvigerina/Bolivina*, gastropods, moluscs, ostracods) indicate deposition in a shallow lagoon complex with hypersaline conditions

Deep Basin

- Clastic- evaporite sedimentation, clastic deposit (marls, sandy and silty layers) with anhydrites
- Deep water fossil assemblage (planktons forms prevail, Globorotalia humerosa zone)

With sea level drops, lagoon environments grading into continental setting characterized by erosional channel forms. In deeper part of SAB the clastic-evaporite deposition prevails

Top of Messinaian map

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- From the margin of the Adriatic carbonate platform there are remarkable erosional canyons forming fans of chaotic sediments
- The thickness of these mass-transport deposits is several hundred meters, wedging-out at the base of tectonic slopes

Top of Messinaian in 3D view

"Lightscape" seismic attribute

The width of these mass-transport deposits reaches several hundred meters, even ten kilmetres at the wedging-out at the base of the slopes

Possible Petroleum System Potential

- Source rock: laminated deep water Miocene marls, Messinian unit without source rock potential
- Reservoir rock: deep water clastic deposits
- □ Seal: Pliocene marls
- □ HC shows: without HC shows in the available wells
- Proven play types: Biogenic gas accumulations in the Messinian post-evaporitic sequence (Falco-1 and A4-1X)

Possible Petroleum System Potential

Evidences for effective gas system in SAB; A4-1X well case

Conclusions

First attempt of more detailed Messinian deposition analysis in the SAB

Analyzed Messinian deposits in SAB generally fit into the picture of marginal part of Mediterranean Area during MSC

Messinian content reconstruction for deep part of SAB derived from seismic

Messinian depositional unit is characterized by both marginal and basinal facies

In margin part, carbonate-evaporite succession (interbedded limestone, gypsum and mudstones) were deposited. Fossil assemblage (benthic foraminifers predominates, microgastropods, moluscs, ostracods) indicate deposition in a shallow lagoon complex with hypersaline conditions

In basin part, clastic-evaporite sedimentation (marls, sandy and silty layers, gypsum) predominates. It is characterized by deep water fossil fauna (plancton f., *Globorotalia humerosa* zone)

Seismic facies of Messinian deposits is chaotic, reflex is rugous, thickness vary from 0-40 m in marginal part and 100m (NW) to 650m (SE) in basinal area

Weak evidences for potent petroleum system, possible only in deeper basin portion, evidence on SE where exist HC fields in the Messinain turbiditic level

Thank you!

- (1) barbara.nagl@ina.hr
- (2) zeljka.maric-durekovic@ina.hr
- (3) lilit.cota@ina.hr
- (4) srebrenka.matej@ina.hr
- (5) damir.takac@ina.hr