# Salt Tectonics Evaluation & Structural Restoration as an exploration tool in the Dutch northern offshore

- Salt tectonics impact many petroleum play elements
- A salt structure inventory was created and regional conclusions on salt tectonics were drawn
- 2D restoration relevant to relate salt tectonics to structural context
- 3D restoration relevant to show differences in paleo-structures through time, which impact HC migration paths
- Shallow input parameters for restoration do matter, in particular for evaluations of Chalk and younger strata
- Model developed for exploration studies matches well results fairly well (given uncertainties) and supports prospect evaluation
- MSc at EBN / TNO Matthijs van Winden ('14-'15) report / presentation (EAGE, PGK) available. project co-supervised by Dr. Renaud Bouroullec (TNO)
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### **Salt structure inventory** 30 salt structures, 35 characteristics



## 30 salt structures identified and described in detail according to 35 characteristics:

- Orientations and dimensions
- Associated faults
- Associated stratigraphic relationships
- Data and Locations



## Salt structure inventory

### regional summary compiled

History varies throughout the study area. Salt movement is closely linked to tectonics, deposition and position within structural elements

- Triassic:
  - Intitiation of salt movement formation of elongated pillows, depocenters
  - Thin-skinned tectonics, soft-linked faulting
- Jurassic:
  - Salt tectonic climax in the DCG, SG formation of salt walls and diapirs
  - Depo-centers focus where salt withdraws
- Cretaceous and Tertiary
  - Renewed salt movement phases of vertical growth in diapirs, walls and pillows
  - Pulses of inversion



#### Structural restoration of regional section (100 km) from ESP to SGP with complex salt structures Tertiary Seismic interpretation: 12 stratigraphic intervals, 9 major basement faults interpreted TCK 100.6 km Cretaceous **Elbow Spit Platform** Step Graben Dutch Central Graben CK1 0 ms TKN 1000.00ms NU TSL NS CK1 SL1 Jurassi CK0 2000.00ms TAT RN1 **RNO** KN SL1 RB SL0 AT TRN 3000.00ms RN1 assic ZE 4000.00ms TZE BZE 5000.00ms Base 6000.00ms 10.6 km 0 km Seismic data courtesy Spectrum SA

Analysis of salt tectonics and development of individual structures within a structural context

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## Many play elements are affected by salt movement

#### for all Mesozoic and Cenozoic petroleum plays in DEFAB

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	Shallow gas plays	Chalk play	Lower Cretaceous play	Upper Jurassic plays	Main Buntsandstein Play	Fat Sand play	Zechstein caprock play
Source and charge	Controls location of charge, source rock burial/ Accelerates biogenic gas generation	Controls source rock burial and affects HC migration path	Controls source rock burial/ Charge through salt windows	Controls source rock burial/ Charge through salt windows	Charge occurs through salt windows	Charge through salt windows	Controls source rock burial/ Charge through salt windows
Trap and seal	Structural traps commonly above salt structures	Forms structural traps, affects intra- reservoir traps. Risk of breaking seal by vertical movement.	Forms structural trap	Forms structural trap	Forms structural traps, seals reservoirs (side, top seal, salt plugging)	Potential top/side- seals, potentially 3-way dip closure traps against salt structure	Forms structural trap
Reservoir	-	Controls reservoir facies, intra- reservoir boundaries, and reservoir fracturing	Possibly controls sand (re-) distribution	Controls reservoir sand facies distributions	-	Triassic 'fat sand' deposition is accommod ated by salt withdrawal	Controls timing of reservoir rock formation;

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## **Structural restoration in 3D**

#### to understand post-Cretaceous deformation and explain HC migration



- 3D restoration blocks F5, F6, F8, F9
- Restoration till E-Cretaceous,
- analyse many input parameters
- Results tested against wells & leads



## **Top Danian at various time steps**

changes in dip may change HC migration path



input parameters assessed:

- thickness and timing of ice sheets
- (de-)compaction of overburden strata\*
- paleo-topography and water depth
- Eridanos delta\*\*



## Modeling results tested against wells & EBN leads at Chalk level

- EBN Chalk leads based on structural closure shown on map (green polygons), see poster 15 as well.
- Well results explained fairly well (10 out of 13 wells)
- Support prospect evaluation
- Leads and released wells will be discussed in the report



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