

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Estimated Oil and Gas Reserves,
Southern California Outer Continental Shelf,
January 1, 1979

By

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Open-File Report 80-477

1980

This report has not been edited for conformity
with U.S. Geological Survey editorial standards or
stratigraphic nomenclature

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ABSTRACT

As of January 1, 1979, approximately 1,575 billion cubic feet of gas and 695 million barrels of oil* are estimated as remaining recoverable reserves in 14 fields in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) off Southern California. Of the 14 recognized fields, only two are producing and none is completely developed. Limits of many of the fields will be further defined by anticipated additional exploratory drilling. Original recoverable reserves in 14 fields are estimated to have been approximately 1,665 billion cubic feet of gas and about 875 million barrels of oil. (These estimates for remaining recoverable reserves and for original recoverable reserves are both larger than the corresponding January 1, 1978, estimates, which were for the 13 then-known fields.)

Reserve estimates for 12 fields were based on individual volumetric reservoir studies. Decline curve and volumetric analyses were used to estimate reserves in two fields. The estimates of original and remaining reserves are reported as one total for oil and one total for gas within the Southern California OCS.

INTRODUCTION

This report, which supersedes USGS Open-File Report 79-345 (Bird, 1979), presents estimates of original recoverable oil and gas reserves, cumulative production through 1978, and estimates of remaining recoverable reserves as of January 1, 1979, on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) off Southern California. These estimates were completed in November 1979.

*The term "oil" as used in this report includes crude oil, condensate and gas-plant liquids.

The annual update of this report is part of a USGS continuing program aimed at providing and maintaining a current inventory of oil and gas reserves on the Federal OCS. Similar reports on the oil and gas reserves of the Gulf of Mexico have been written by Bryan and others (1978, 1979).

Acknowledgments.--The estimates presented here represent the combined efforts of geologists, geophysicists, petroleum engineers and other technical personnel within the U.S. Geological Survey's Los Angeles, California, office.

DEFINITION OF RESERVE AND RESOURCE TERMS

The reserve and resource terminology in this report conforms with that published by Miller and others (1975, p. 8-9). The quoted definitions of terms applicable to this report are:

"Resources.--Concentrations of naturally occurring solid, liquid, or gaseous materials in or on the Earth's crust in such form that economic extraction of a commodity is currently or potentially feasible."

"Reserves.--That portion of the identified resource which can be economically extracted."

"Measured reserves.--That part of the identified resource which can be economically extracted using existing technology, and whose amount is estimated from geologic evidence supported directly by engineering measurements.***"

"Indicated reserves.--Reserves that include additional recoveries in known reservoirs (in excess of the measured reserves) which engineering knowledge and judgment indicate will be economically available by application of fluid injection, whether or not such a program is currently installed (API, 1974). In this study indicated reserves are equivalent to API indicated additional reserves."

"Demonstrated reserves.--A collective term for the sum of measured and indicated reserves."

APPLICATION OF TERMS IN PRESENT REPORT

"Measured reserves" as used in this report comprises recoverable hydrocarbons within boundaries defined by the use of both seismic interpretation and well control in fields where well control was sparse.

Two producing oil fields in the Southern California Outer Continental Shelf--Dos Cuadras Offshore and Carpinteria Offshore--are undergoing fluid injection, and therefore recovery beyond primary production is in progress or can be anticipated. For some remaining fields, where it was determined that "indicated reserves" could be anticipated by comparison with similar producing fields, "indicated reserves" were included with the "measured reserves" for a total estimate of "demonstrated reserves."

Pacific Area OCS Order No. 4, "Suspensions and determination of well producibility," provides criteria for determining, through evaluation of borehole testing, whether a well is capable of producing in paying quantities (U.S. Geological Survey, 1976). The quality and quantity of the data vary from field to field. In some instances these "paying quantities" as defined in the OCS Order may not prove to be "economically extractable" reserves, and these accumulations are generally omitted from reserve calculations. The accumulations are included here, however, because they may be necessary for effective planning and lease management.

METHODS USED FOR RESERVES ESTIMATION

Volumetric calculation.--The amount of original oil and gas in place is estimated from the bulk volume of the reservoir as mapped, using data from drill holes and seismic profiles. Net oil and gas sand thickness maps are made and planimetered, and the results are converted to bulk volume by use of pyramidal formulae. Porosity of the rock and the amount of water, oil, and gas in the pore space are interpreted from borehole logs and analyses of cores. The total amount of oil and gas in place is converted to standard conditions by analysis of pressure, volume, and temperature relationships and the use of standard correlation charts.

The amount of the original oil and gas in place that can be recovered is estimated from knowledge of the reservoir-drive mechanism, spacing of the wells, and American Petroleum Institute (API) recovery-factor equations (Arps and others, 1967, p. 19-20).

Decline-curves.--In the decline-curve method, future production is estimated by extrapolating plots of production rates and fluid percents against time. The original reserves are determined by adding past production to predicted future production.

FIELDS REPORTED

As of January 1, 1979, 14 fields in the federally controlled part of the Southern California OCS were recognized as producing or capable of producing based on the "producible in paying quantities" criterion (fig. 1). Seven of the fields are oil fields, five are combination oil and gas fields, and two are gas fields. Two fields were discovered since the preparation of the previous report. One in the northwest portion of OCS lease P-0296 and the other on OCS lease P-0232. Fields previously designated as Unnamed leases OCS P-0215, P-0216 and Unnamed leases OCS P-0216, P-0217 have been combined into one field (fig. 1, field 9). Reserve estimates were made on all 14 fields. Previous reports have identified the original discovery on lease OCS P-0234 as lacking sufficient testing to make a reasonable reserve estimate. Until this potential hydrocarbon accumulation has been adequately tested and identified the original discovery on this lease will be excluded from this report; estimates for this field were made for later discoveries only. Reserves are estimated for only the Federal portion of fields lying partly in State waters and partly in Federal waters.

Estimates of the combined totals for 14 fields within the Southern California OCS are reported in table 1. Separate totals are given for oil and gas. The totals are reported as composite numbers to protect the proprietary nature of the data used to make the estimates.

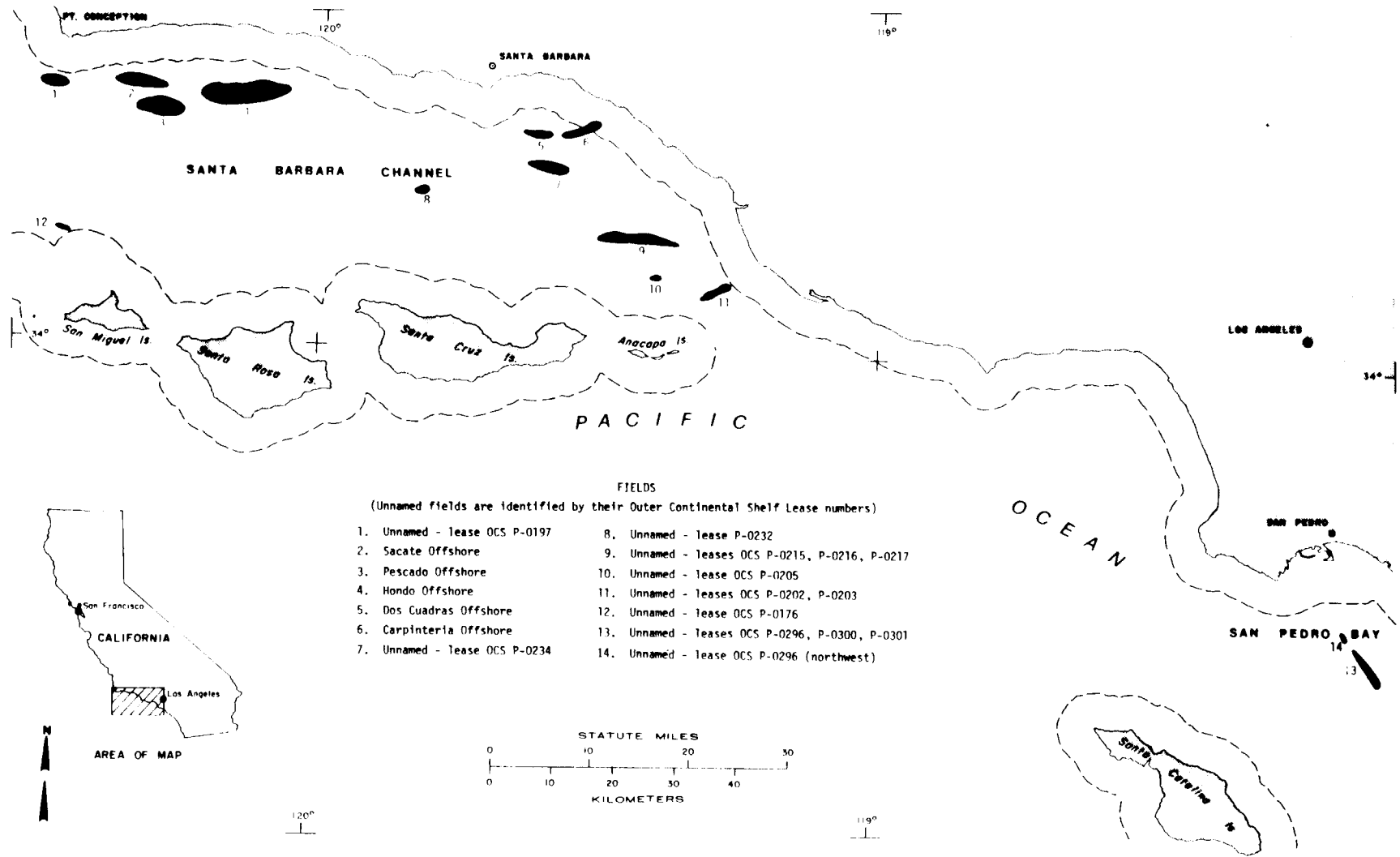


Figure 1. Recognized discoveries of federally controlled oil and gas fields in the Southern California Outer Continental Shelf. Dashed lines indicate 3-nautical-mile boundary between State and Federal waters.

STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT

As of January 1, 1979, none of the fields in the Southern California OCS was fully developed. Of the 14 recognized fields, only two--Dos Cuadras Offshore and Carpinteria Offshore--have platforms installed and are now producing. A platform is set on a third field, Hondo Offshore, and development drilling began in 1977. Additional exploratory drilling is anticipated in many of the remaining 11 fields to further define productive limits and aid in effective development.

TABLE 1.--Estimated recoverable (demonstrated) oil and gas reserves for 14 fields, Southern California Outer Continental Shelf, January 1, 1979

["Demonstrated reserves" is the sum of measured and indicated reserves. "Oil" includes crude oil, condensate, and gas-plant products sold; "gas" includes both associated and nonassociated dry gas. 1/1/78 estimates were for 13 fields]

	Oil (million bbl)	Gas (billion ft ³)
Original recoverable reserves:		
Estimated as of 1/1/79 (this report)..	875	1,665
Estimated as of 1/1/78 (OF-79-345)....	843	1,546
Change.....	+32	+119
Cumulative production:		
Through 1978.....	180	90
Through 1977.....	168	85
Remaining recoverable reserves:		
Estimated as of 1/1/79 (this report)..	695	1,575
Estimated as of 1/1/78 (OF-79-345)....	675	1,461
Change.....	+20	+114

STUDIES CONDUCTED

Estimates of the two producing fields (fig. 1, fields 5 and 6) were made on the basis of volumetric and decline curve analyses. Individual reservoirs in each field were grouped for volumetric calculations and decline curve analyses were made on a lease-by-lease basis. The remaining 12 fields were studied on a reservoir-by-reservoir basis and the reserve estimates were made by the volumetric method. As of November 1979, a total of 106 reservoirs had been analyzed in this continuing study, as compared with 96 reservoirs for the previous report.

FIELD-SIZE DISTRIBUTION

Figure 2 shows the field-size distribution of the original recoverable reserves of seven oil fields, five oil and gas fields, and two gas fields. For convenience of comparison, gas reserves are expressed in terms of oil based on equivalent heating values (6,000 cubic feet of gas is equivalent to 1 barrel of oil). This histogram exhibits a lognormal distribution, with a majority of the fields in the 0-100 million barrel category. More than 80 percent of the combined reserves, however, are in the larger fields.

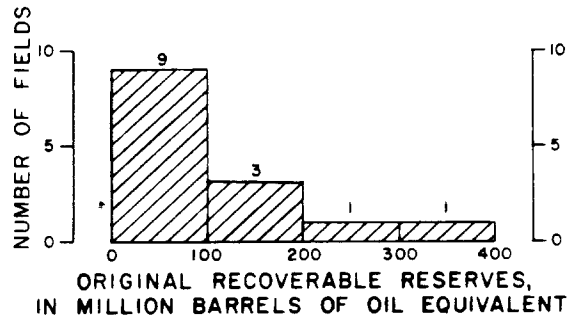


Figure 2. HISTOGRAM SHOWING FIELD-SIZE DISTRIBUTION OF OIL FIELDS, OIL AND GAS FIELDS, AND GAS FIELDS

CONCLUSIONS

Original reserves estimated at 875 million barrels of oil and 1,665 billion cubic feet of gas were contained in 14 fields in the federally controlled part of the Southern California Outer Continental Shelf. As of January 1, 1979, remaining recoverable reserves were estimated to be 695 million barrels of oil and 1,575 billion cubic feet of gas.

These figures represent an increase of 114 billion cubic feet of gas and 20 million barrels of oil in remaining recoverable reserves from the January 1, 1978, estimates. These increases reflect the addition of two new field discoveries (the unnamed fields on lease P-0232, and the northwest portion of lease P-0296) and several new pool discoveries, along with modified estimates of previous discoveries based on additional data and studies.

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