

Note: The delineation of sedimentary basins favorable for petroleum involves interpretations on which informed petroleum geologists often disagree. Because of the paucity of geologic data, the delineation of favorable areas offshore is highly speculative and that shown here should be taken merely as a rough indication of the areas that seem most likely to contain petroleum accumulations. No commercial value should be attributed to any of these areas on the basis of these projections.

Onshore
Offshore

Petroleum producing areas
Includes abandoned and shut-in fields of both oil and gas

Onshore
Offshore

Sedimentary basins locally favorable for petroleum
Underlain in most areas by more than 2000 meters of unmetamorphosed marine sediments. Judgment of favorability offshore is influenced by proximity to producing areas, known or presumed presence of thick accumulations of sediments, organic source material, reservoir rocks, evaporites, structural trends and features, and sea-floor petroleum seeps, and precommercial oil reconstruction of regional geology. As may be seen from the distribution of petroleum accumulations in well-explored areas on land, only a small part of the area favorable for petroleum actually contains producible accumulations.

Offshore area in which wildcat drilling was in progress in 1969

Not shown in vicinity of producing areas

200-meter isobaths
Approximates in many places the edge of the continental shelf

2500-meter isobaths
Approximates in many places the toe of the continental slope

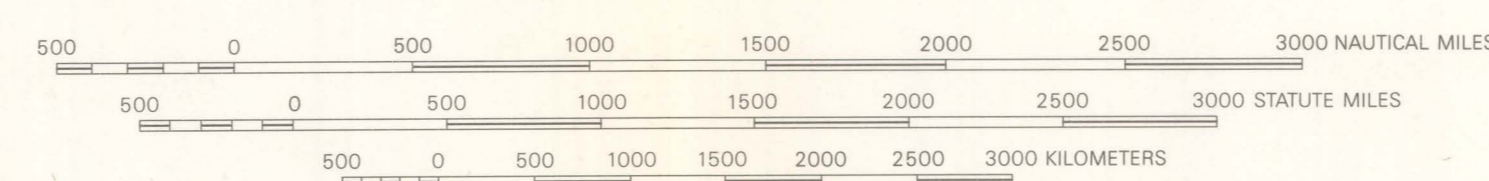
Source: Location of areas where petroleum is being produced or drilling is underway compiled primarily from recent Bulletins of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, international outlook issues of World Oil, and maps from the International Petroleum Encyclopedia, 1968.

Information on the total thickness of sediment offshore (used as one of the criteria to indicate areas favorable for petroleum) in the southwestern Atlantic and the Indian Ocean from manuscript maps kindly supplied by John I. Ewing of the Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory, in letters bordering the United States from unpublished compilation by the U.S. Geological Survey, off Eastern North America from K. O. Emery and others, 1969 (in press), and elsewhere from the Physical Geographic Atlas of the World, Moscow, 1964, and E. C. Heezen and Marie Thary, 1965. In addition, interpretation and delineation of sedimentary basins on land and of offshore areas favorable for petroleum were derived in part from the following sources: UNESCO, 1968; Tectonic Map of the World in Physical Geographic Atlas of the World, Moscow, 1964; International Tectonic Map of Europe, Moscow, 1962; Tectonic Map of Eurasia, Moscow, 1966; Averson and others, 1967; Australia Bureau of Mineral Resources, 1966; United Nations ECAFE, 1959; Weeks, 1963 and 1966; Sarocchi, 1965; King, 1968; Donovan, 1968; Emery, 1968; Ford, 1964; Meyerhoff, 1967; other geologic and tectonic maps, and articles in Bulletins of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Journal of Geophysical Research, World Oil, and Gas Journal, and vol. 2 of the Proceedings of the Seventh World Petroleum Congress, Elsevier Pub. Co., 1967.

Based after National Geographic Society's Map of the World, 1963, with modifications by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Political boundaries are approximate and should not be regarded as having official significance.

Second printing, slightly revised.



Preliminary Map
Potential petroleum resources
WORLD SUBSEA MINERAL RESOURCES
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