

Original Research Article

ESTIMATION OF PETROPHYSICAL PARAMETERS USING 3-D SEISMIC DATA FROM A FIELD IN NIGER DELTA, NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

Estimation of petrophysical parameters have been carried out using seismic data in an Onshore Niger Delta field to assess the reservoir characteristics of the field. A pre stack seismic volume and a suite of well logs from two wells were used in the analysis. The petrophysical parameters evaluated include acoustic impedance, porosity, water saturation, hydrocarbon saturation, permeability, volume of shale, Poisson ratio and Vp/Vs ratio. An interval with low gamma ray, low volume of shale, high resistivity, low water saturation and low acoustic impedance was identified and mapped as a potential hydrocarbon reservoir with a thickness of 70ft. The extracted wavelet from the seismic data showed a zero phase, which implies that energy is concentrated at the peak. The well to seismic correlation result yielded a maximum zero lag coefficient and a high correlation coefficient of 0.815 which gives confidence that the results of this work are reliable. Seismic inversion was then performed with the seismic and log data as input using an initial model and the inversion volume showed a low acoustic impedance which confirms that the delineated interval is a hydrocarbon saturated sand. The results obtained also revealed that the reservoir sand has low volume of shale (13.88%), high porosity (31%), high permeability (67.5mD), low Vp/Vs ratio (1.35) and low Poisson ratio (0.19) which are characteristics of a typical hydrocarbon reservoir with high prospectivity and production potential. The analysis also revealed that water saturation is low in the reservoir with an average value of 0.1 and hydrocarbon saturation is high with an average value of 0.9. This results in general suggest that the reservoir sand of the study field contains huge accumulations of hydrocarbon with a significant economic value.

Keywords: *well logs, seismic data, seismic inversion, petrophysical parameters.*

INTRODUCTION

The Niger Delta is one of the world's largest tertiary delta systems and extremely prolific hydrocarbon province. It is situated at the north-eastern margin of the Gulf of Guinea on the west coast of Africa and it covers an area of about 75000km² forming a triple junction during the continental breakup in the cretaceous with at least 11km deep in its deepest parts. (Omoja and Obiekezie, 2019).

The basin has preserved thick sedimentary deposits and prominent geological features favourable for petroleum generation, migration and entrapment from the onshore through the continental shelf and to the deep-water terrains. It is the largest basin in the West African continental margin and is noted among the major prolific deltaic oil and gas accumulation (Ofurum, 2015).

Hydrocarbons are largely trapped in sandstones and unconsolidated sands in the paraliclastic agbada formation which consists of multiple vertically stacked reservoir sequences (Udo et'al., 2017). However, the traps and structures pose great challenges in mapping because of their complexities largely in structural deformations. The identification and delineation of reservoir characteristics also form part of the major challenges faced by exploration geoscientists during field planning, appraisal and development, owing to the heterogeneous nature of the sub-surface. The characterization of these reservoirs therefore involves the integration of different datasets for accurate building of reservoir models which can used to identify, delineate reservoirs for hydrocarbon accumulations and estimate petrophysical parameters of the reservoirs using seismic data for field development. This dataset is used to evaluate well properties using log data, evaluate well properties using seismic data, investigate the link between seismic and petrophysical parameters through theory and application.

LOCATION OF STUDY AREA

The Niger delta basin is a major geological feature of significant petroleum exploration and production in Nigeria and it is Africa's leading oil province (Whiteman, 1982; Reijers, 1996). The Niger Delta Basin accounts for the entire hydrocarbon production at present day Nigeria (Obiekezie, 2014) and is situated on the continental margin of the Gulf of Guinea in equatorial West Africa between latitude 3°N and 6°N and longitude 5°E and 8°E (Reijers, 1996).

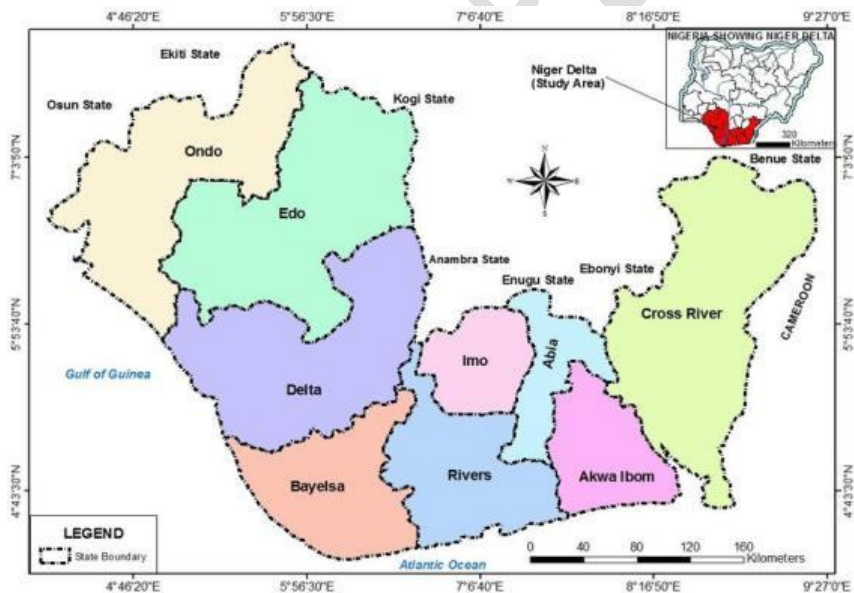


Figure 1: Location of Study Area (after Endoro Oweikeye, 2017)

GEOLOGY OF STUDY AREA

The Niger Delta is a low-lying region in the southwestern part of Nigeria that is densely populated and rich in oil and natural gas resources. The geology of the area is characterized by a complex layer of sedimentary rocks and soils that have been deposited over millions of years by the Niger River and its tributaries (Madu, 2017). The sedimentary rocks in the Niger Delta include sandstones, shales, and limestones, which have been formed by the accumulation and compression of sediment.

The delta is formed primarily of recent sediments, including fluvial sands, silts and clays laid down in the last 30 million years. The subsurface geology is complex and includes deep coastal plain, estuarine and deltaic sands, clays and shales. The sediments are mostly of marine origin and were deposited in a series of deltaic cycles (Bassey, 2007).

Oil and natural gas are found in the Niger Delta primarily in the sandstone and shale layers that make up the delta's subsurface geology. These hydrocarbons are trapped in the rock formations by overlying layers of clay and shale, which act as seals (Olorunfemi, 2015).

One of the most important geologic features of the Niger Delta is the presence of large salt dome which is subsurface features formed as a result of the movement of salt layers beneath the surface of the Earth. These salt domes have been known to trap hydrocarbons and are significant exploration targets (Olorunfemi, 2015).

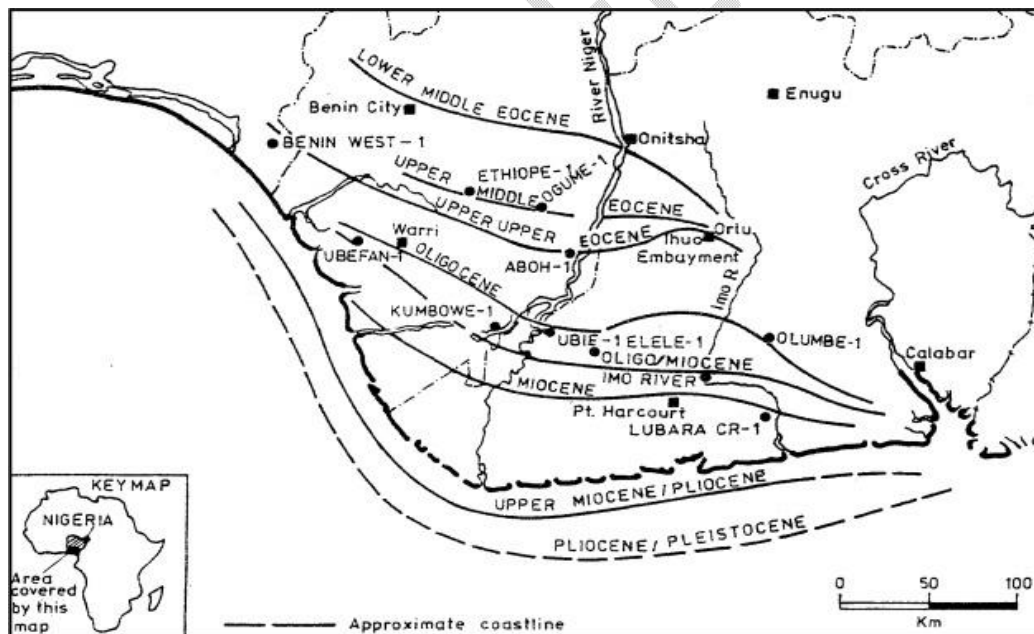


Figure 2: Geology of the Study Area (after Reijers, 2011)

METHODOLOGY

Two datasets were used, namely; 3D Pre-stack seismic data for analysis including attribute generation using a model-based inversion approach and well logs editing/modelling. The log suite includes caliper log, Resistivity log, Gamma ray log, and porosity logs, Sonic, and Density logs. The workflow chart below shows the methods adopted to achieve desired objectives.

The data (seismic and well logs) were imported and conditioned into the tool used for the analysis. Efforts were thus, made to carefully check for quality and completeness prior to its use in this petrophysical analysis

The gamma ray (GR) log is particularly useful for defining shale beds, thus, used to indicate reservoir sands. The interval with low gamma ray, high resistivity, and low acoustic impedance was mapped as sand lithologies containing hydrocarbon.

The wavelet extraction method applied is model supported, using seismic and well information. Two wavelet extraction methods have been applied in this work; they are statistical wavelet extraction and wavelet extraction using the full log.

The well -to- seismic tie is a process manually stretches or squeezes the log in order to improve the time correlation between the target log and the seismic attributes (White and Hu, 1998).

A model-based deconvolution was used to invert the stacked sections to pseudo-velocity sections. The model-based inversion derives the impedance profile which best fits the modelled trace and the seismic trace in a least squares sense using an initial guess impedance.

From the seismic data, initial models were built for the acoustic impedance, porosity, water saturation, volume of shale, Vp/Vs ratio and Poisson ratio as shown in figures below.

Equations used for the analyses:

$$\text{Permeability, } K^{1/2} = 250 \times \phi^3 / S_{wirr} \text{ ----- (1)}$$

$$\text{Thickness of Reservoir (h = H - h) -----(2)}$$

$$\text{Net/Gross} = h/H \text{ -----(2.1)}$$

$$\text{Hydrocarbon Saturation, } S_{hc} = 1 - S_w \text{ -----(3)}$$

$$\text{Volume of Shale, } V_{sh} = 0.083 (2^{3.7IGR} - 1) \text{ -----(4)}$$

$$\text{Acoustic Impedance, } I_p = v_p \rho \text{ -----(5)}$$

$$\text{Poisson Ratio (Anderson Method) } v = 0.125 \times V_{sh} + 0.27 \text{ -----(6)}$$

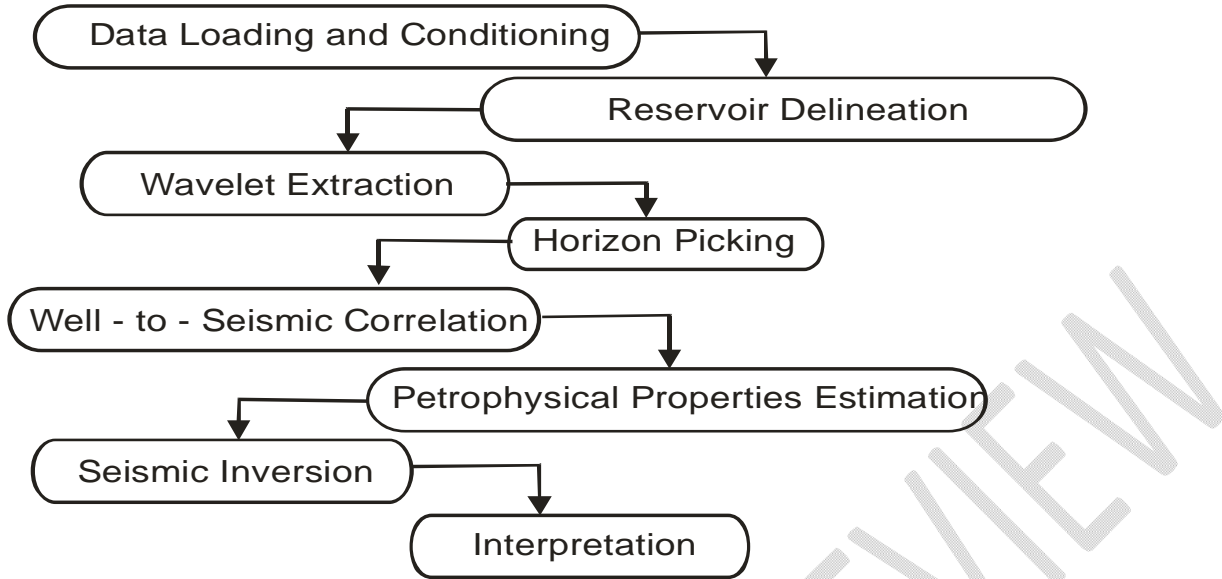


Figure 3: Research Workflow

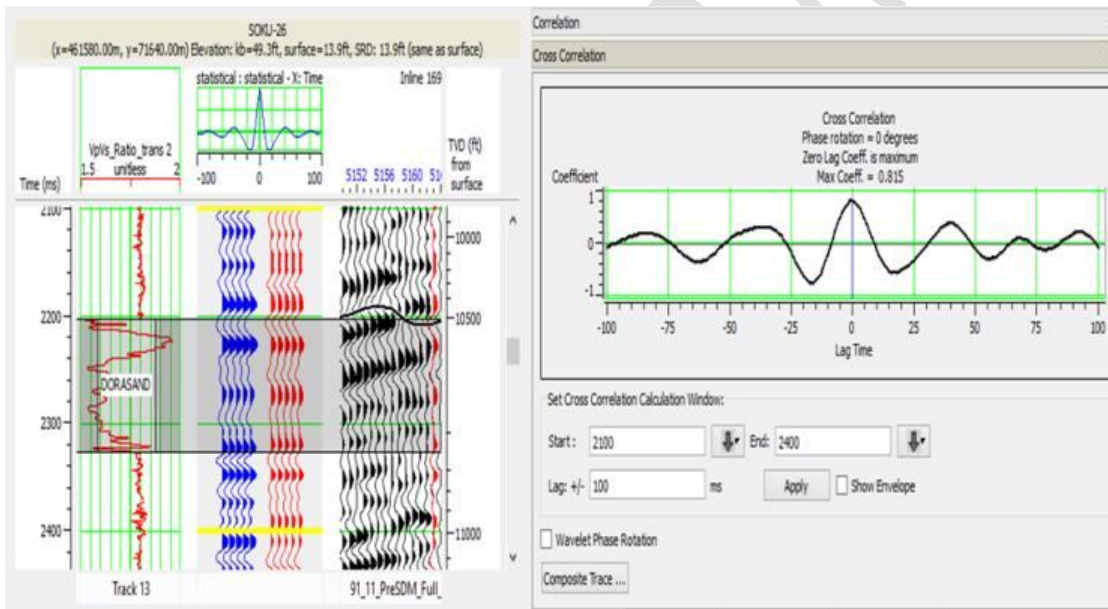


Figure 4: Well -to- Seismic Correlation

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows the summary of the average estimated petrophysical parameters obtained from which the reservoir was characterized as a hydrocarbon-bearing zone.

The wavelet extracted from the seismic data showed a zero phase, which implies that the data quality is good and that energy is concentrated at the peak. The well to seismic correlation result yielded a maximum zero lag coefficient and a high correlation coefficient of 0.815 which gives confidence that the results of this work are reliable. Table 1 show the thickness of the delineated reservoir at 70ft, which falls within the range of reservoirs that have economic value (Opara, 2010), as obtained using equations 2 and 2.1. The inversion volume which is derived from seismic and well data using an initial model showed low acoustic impedance, a characteristic of hydrocarbon saturated sand.

Figure 6 show the acoustic impedance gotten from seismic inversion and the acoustic impedance slice obtained. Acoustic impedance was obtained using equation 5 and was found to be low with an average value of 17519.15 (ft/ss) * (g/cc), an indication that the reservoir is rich in hydrocarbon. Figure 7 show the inverted porosity with the well curve and the porosity slice respectively. The reservoir average porosity was 31% indicating an excellent reservoir quality and reflecting probably well sorted coarse grained sandstone reservoirs with minimal cementation. Rider (1986) stated that a reservoir with porosity value between the range 20% to 30% is of very good quality while reservoirs with porosity value greater than 30% has an excellent quality.

The permeability of the reservoir units' range was 67.5mD which falls within the category of good reservoir quality according to Rider (1986). Permeability was determined using equation 1. Figure 8 shows the inverted V_p/V_s ratio and V_p/V_s slice. From the figures, the V_p/V_s for the reservoir is low with an average value of 1.35 as shown in table 1. Low V_p/V_s ratio is a characteristic of typical hydrocarbon reservoir as espoused by Castagna et'al, (1983).

Table 1 show the average value of water saturation of the reservoir to be 0.1 as obtained using equation 3, meaning that hydrocarbon saturation of the reservoir is 0.9. This is indicating that the proportion of void spaces occupied by water is low with high hydrocarbon saturation as seen in figure 9. The volume of shale in the delineated reservoir is 13.88% as shown in table 1. Niger Delta formation is known to consist of a sand/shale sequence. Figure 10 show the volume of shale from inverted seismic and slice respectively. As shown in the figure, volume of shale values near the well

location are low which is good for a reservoir as espoused by Dresser-Atlas (1982) using equation 4. Poisson ratio in the location is low with an average value of 0.19 as shown in table 1, which is as expected of a hydrocarbon reservoir. Hydrocarbon reservoirs are characterized by low Poisson ratios which ranges from 0 to 0.5 obtained using Anderson’s method seen in equation 4.

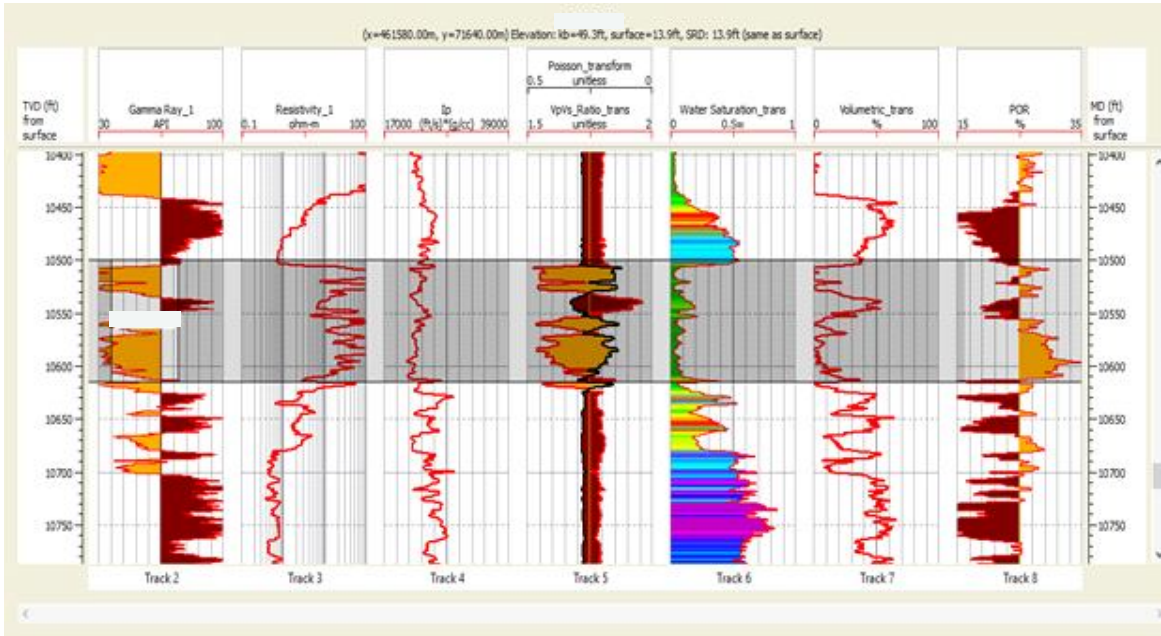


Figure 5: Well log suite of the petrophysical parameters

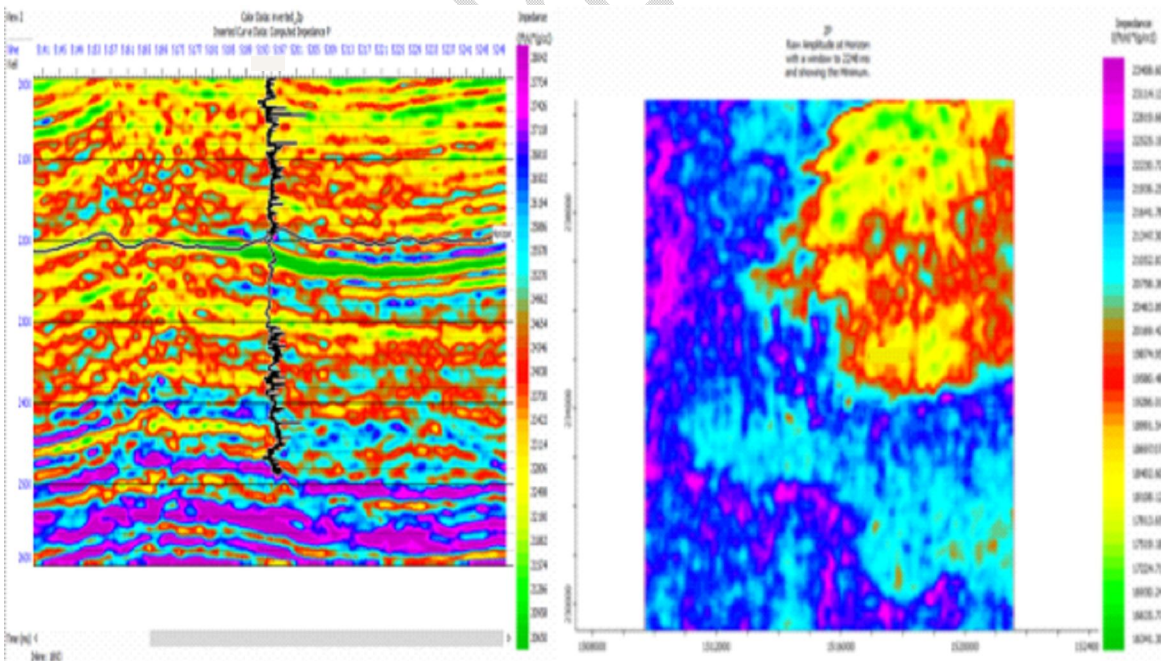


Figure 6: Inverted Acoustic Impedance (I_p) and slice

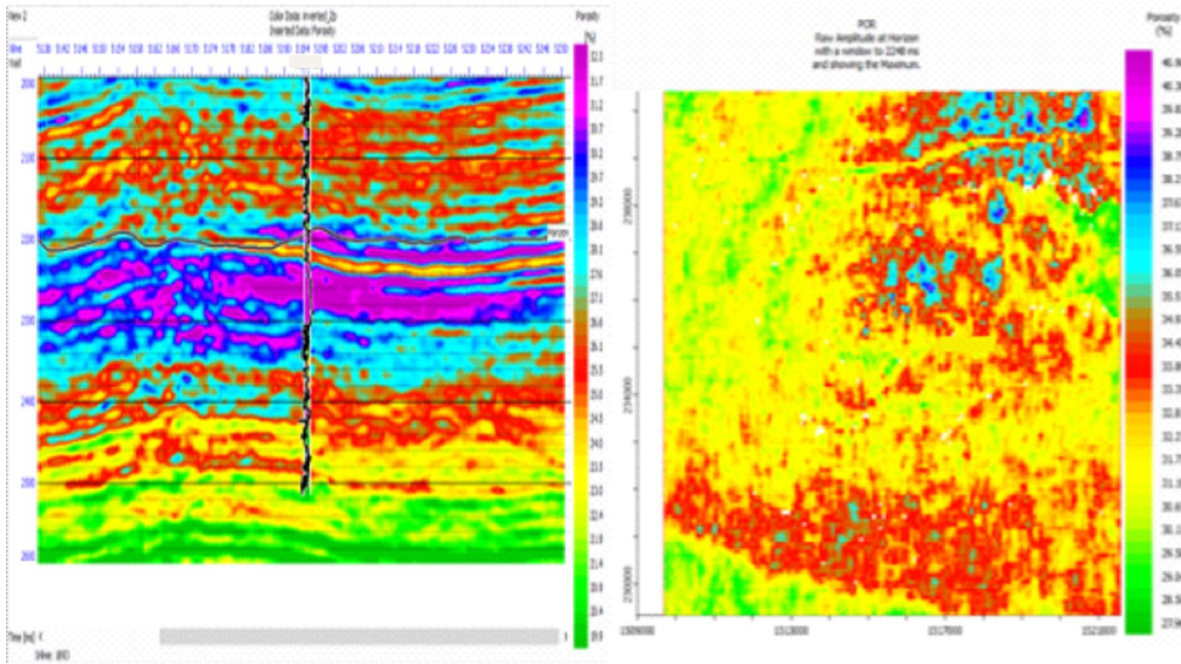


Figure 7: Inverted Porosity and slice

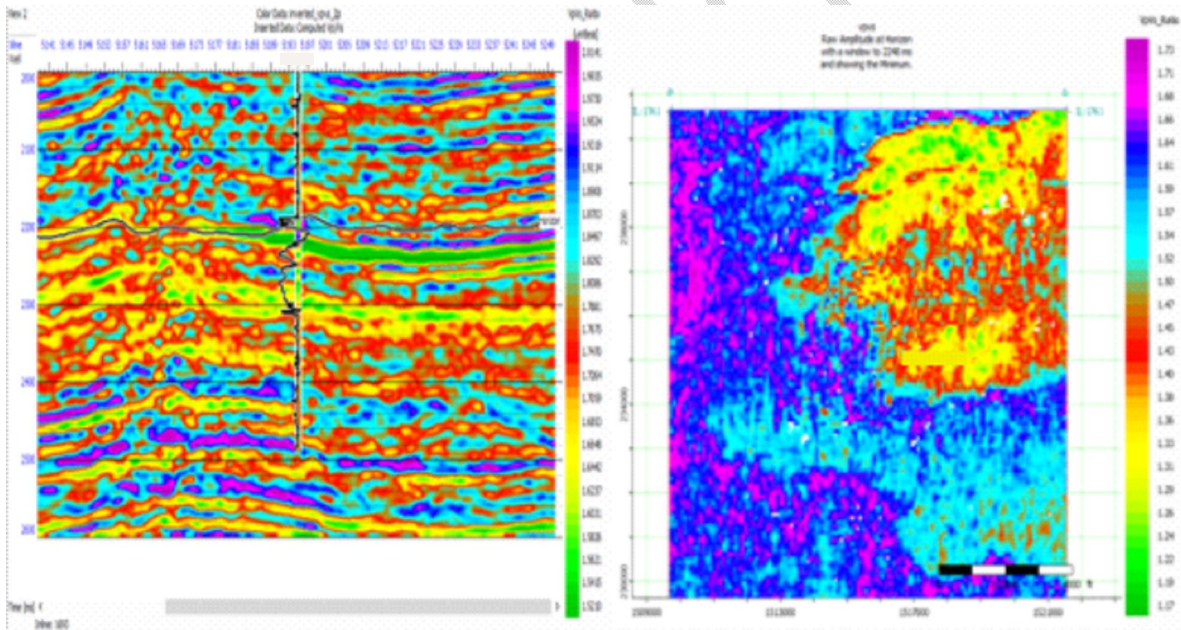


Figure 8: Inverted Vp/Vs Ratio and slice

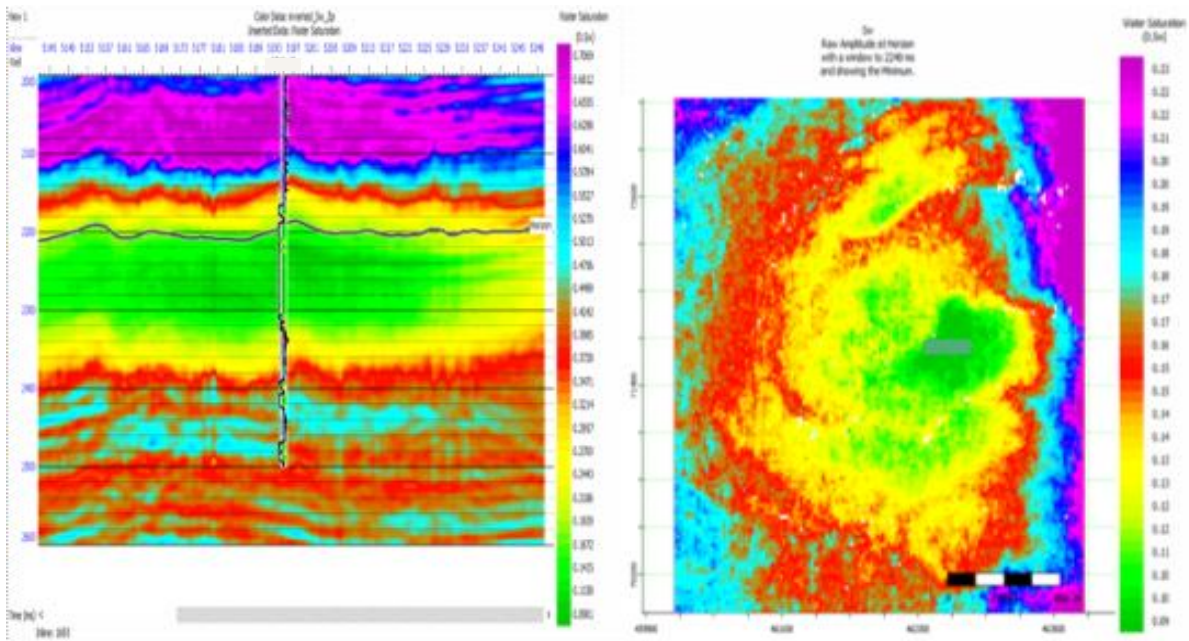


Figure 9: Inverted Water saturation model and slice

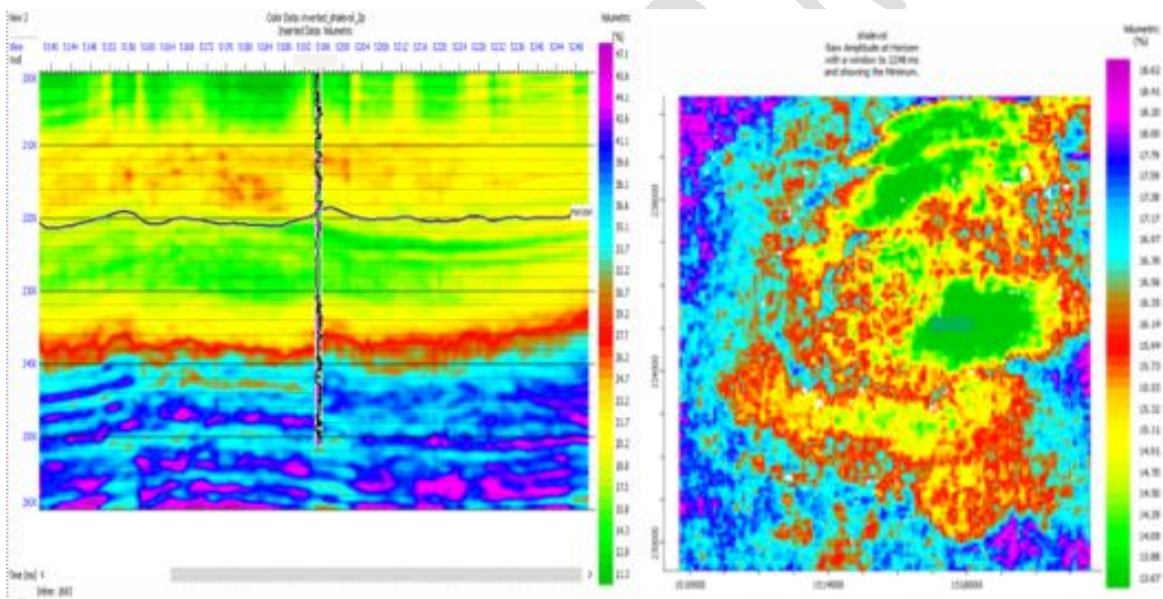


Figure 10: Inverted shale volume and slice

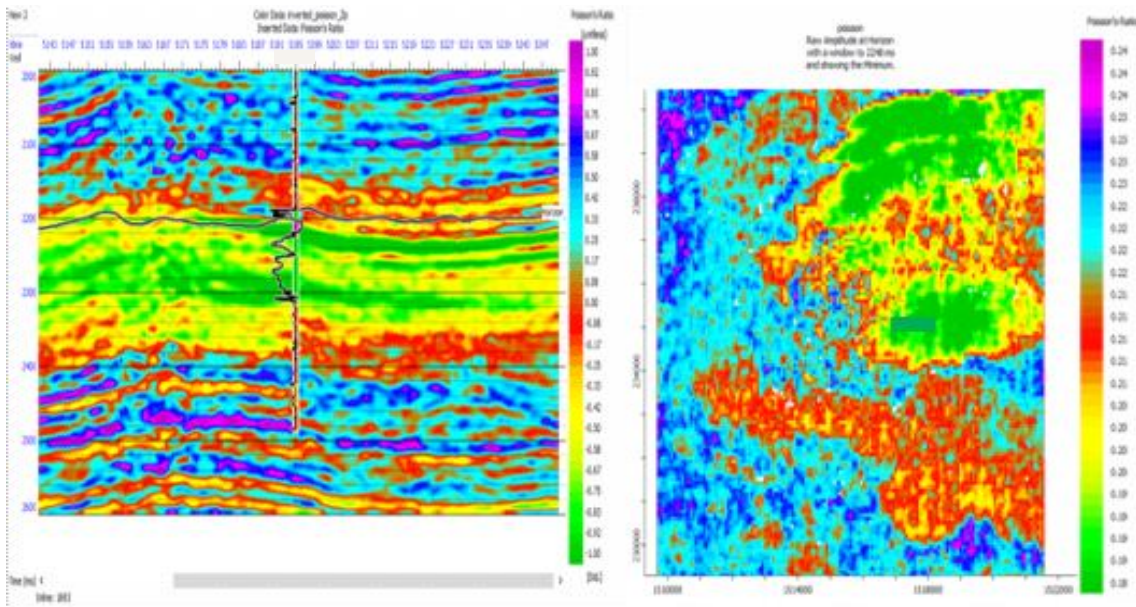


Figure 11: Inverted Poisson ratio and slice

Table 1 showing the estimated petrophysical parameters

Petrophysical Parameters	Value	Remarks
Reservoir thickness (ft)	70	Adequate
Volume of Shale (%)	13.88	Low
Porosity (%)	31	High
Water Saturation, S_w (frac)	0.1	Low
Hydrocarbon Saturation S_h (frac)	0.9	High
Permeability K (mD)	67.5	Adequate
Poisson Ratio	0.19	Low
Vp/Vs Ratio	1.35	Low
Acoustic Impedance (ft/s)*(g/cc)	17519.15	Low

CONCLUSION

An interval with low gamma ray, low volume of shale, high resistivity, low water saturation and low acoustic impedance was identified and mapped as potential hydrocarbon reservoir. The petrophysical parameters calculated include acoustic impedance, porosity, water saturation, hydrocarbon saturation, permeability, volume of shale, Poisson ratio and Vp/Vs ratio. The inversion volume derived from seismic and well data using an initial model shows low acoustic impedance as hydrocarbon saturated sand. The results obtained also reveal that the reservoir sand has low volume of shale, high porosity, low water saturation, high permeability, high hydrocarbon saturation, low Vp/Vs ratio and low Poisson ratio which are characteristics of a typical hydrocarbon reservoir with high prospectivity and production.

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