

CONCLUSIONS

During the period 11th to 21st November 1985, echo sounding, side-scan sonar, drop coring, analog seismic (boomer) and digital seismic (super-sparker) surveys were carried out over a 4 km. by 4 km. area centred on the proposed PELICAN-5 drilling location.

The bathymetry showed the seabed to be almost horizontal, with an average gradient of only 1 in 5,000 towards the north-east. No localised steep gradients were found.

The sonar and bottom sampling showed the seafloor material to be composed of quite cohesive sandy clay which should give better anchor-holding conditions than the previous drilling sites (YOLLA-1, TILANA-1 and KOORKAH-1). No obstructions were discerned on the side-scan records.

The boomer obtained excellent depth penetration (over 100 m.) indicating the basically unconsolidated and uncemented nature of the sediment. A flat-lying (dips of less than 0.1°) series of reflectors was revealed, presumably representing an interbedded sequence of clays, silts and sands. No shallow gas or faulting was detected on the analogue records.

The digital "super-sparker" data is variable, and often very good, down to approximately 3100 metres below sea level.

Down to approximately 700 metres the section is composed mainly of what are interpreted as fine grained offshore sediments such as shales, marls and limestones well consolidated below 250 metres below sea level. These sediments dip very gently and thicken very gradually to the northeast.