

Esso Bass No. 1 Well was drilled in the central portion of Bass Strait at latitude $39^{\circ}46'18''S$ and longitude $145^{\circ}44'03''E$ with a water depth of 262 feet M. L. T. As the well was drilled within Tasmanian waters, this investigation was carried out on behalf of the Tasmanian Mines Department, as well as on behalf of Esso Exploration Australia (the Operator) and Haematite Explorations (the Permit Holders). The close co-operation of all three bodies is acknowledged.

Sample Detail: Rotary cutting samples were submitted from the "first return" at 860 feet to the total depth at 7,717 feet. Rotary cutting contamination was minimal to the 13-3/8" casing shoe at 2,263 feet, but below this contamination was heavy. Comparison between the "Core Lab Grapholog" and the "Schlumberger E-logs" demonstrates heavy lithological contamination, which implies faunal contamination.

Fifteen cores were cut and recovered. These were slabbed on site so that a complete section of each core was received. The positions of cores 1 to 12 are shown on Fig. 1.

The datum for all samples was from the rotary table, given as +31 feet M. S. L. All depths discussed here are those shown on the submitted samples and no adjustment has been made on E-log interpretations etc.

Except for Core 4, all cores were sampled and cutting samples were examined every 50 feet with reduction in sampling interval where necessary. Prepared samples were hand-picked for foraminifera and other microfauna. Where good fauna were present, sorting on to grid slides was conducted. A comprehensive distribution chart was assembled and this was then abridged to the form shown on Fig. 1. The same system of specific identity was used, as has been used for the Esso Gippsland Shelf wells (Taylor, 1965a). Where possible specific names are applied, but where identification is dubious or new species suspected, species numbers are used.