

# CHALLENGES IN THE DESIGN OF OIL & GAS FACILITIES IN COASTAL WATERS

**Robert M. Zone, Jr., Ph.D.**

**Petronyx Consulting Engineers**

**New Orleans, LA**

# GULF OF MEXICO PRODUCTION

## Domestic Consumption, Est'd

**Gas: 20%**

**Oil: 30%**

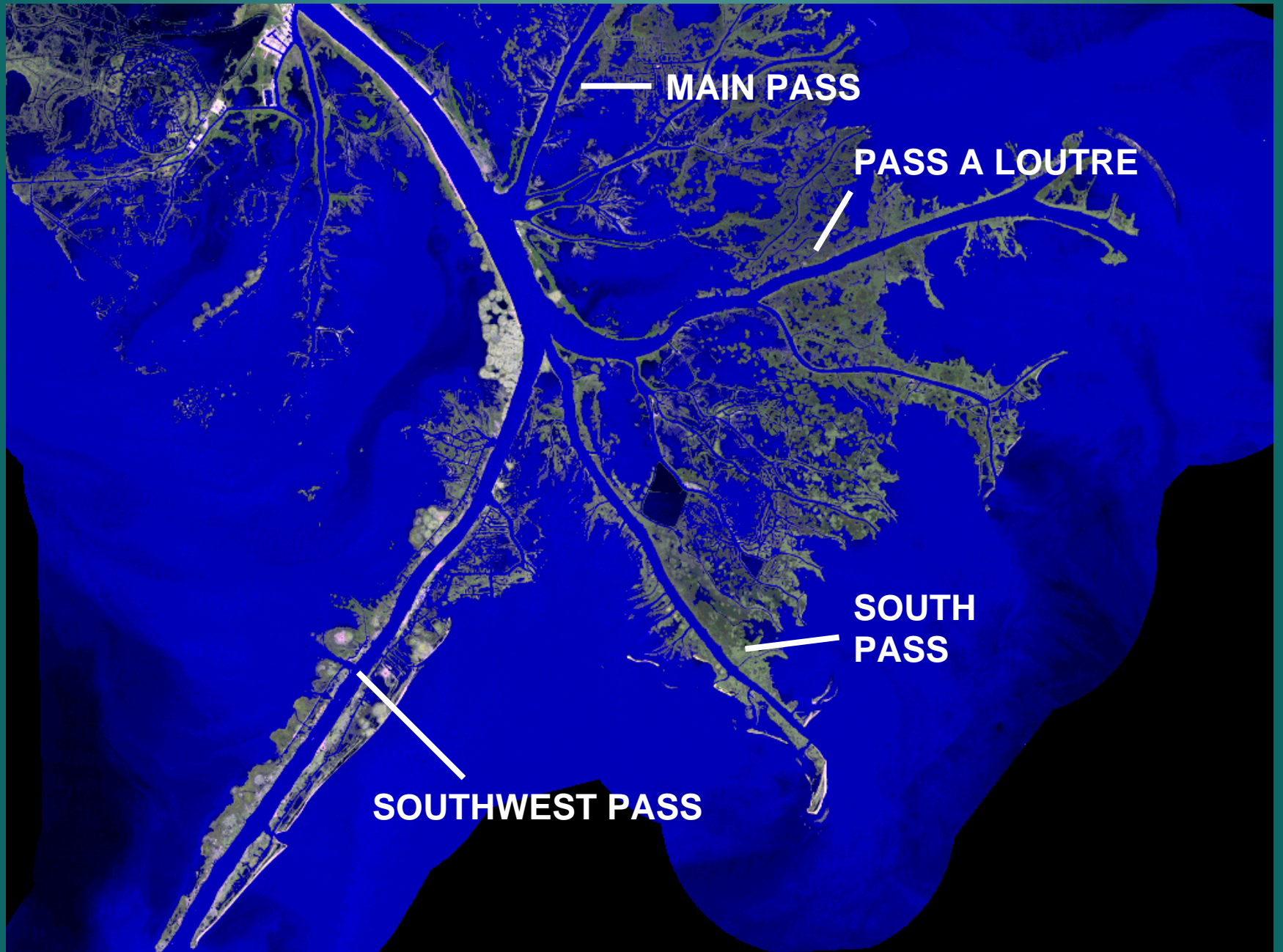
# DESIGN CHALLENGES

- **Hurricane Survivability**
- **Fabrication & Installation**







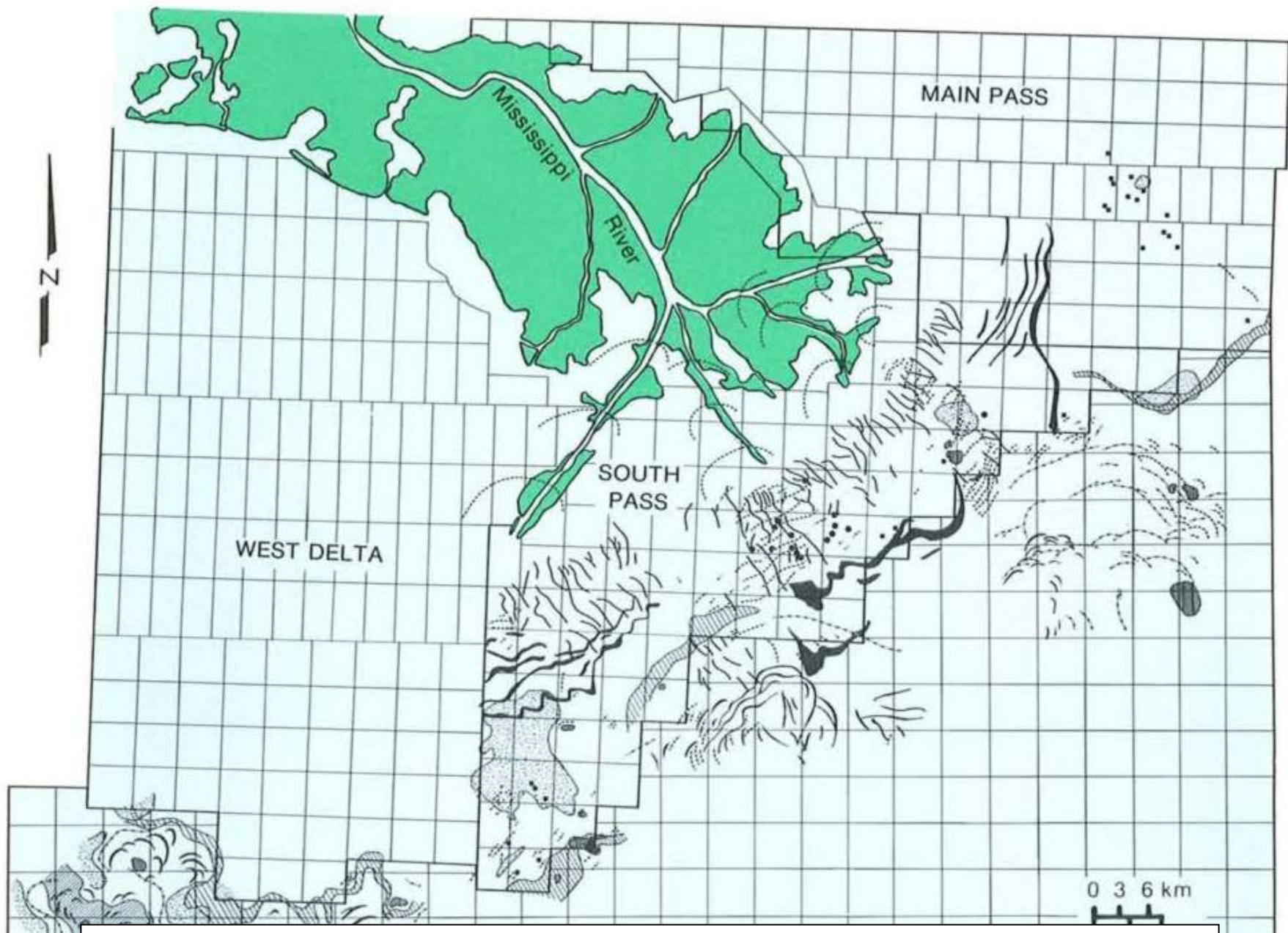


— MAIN PASS

/ PASS A LOUTRE

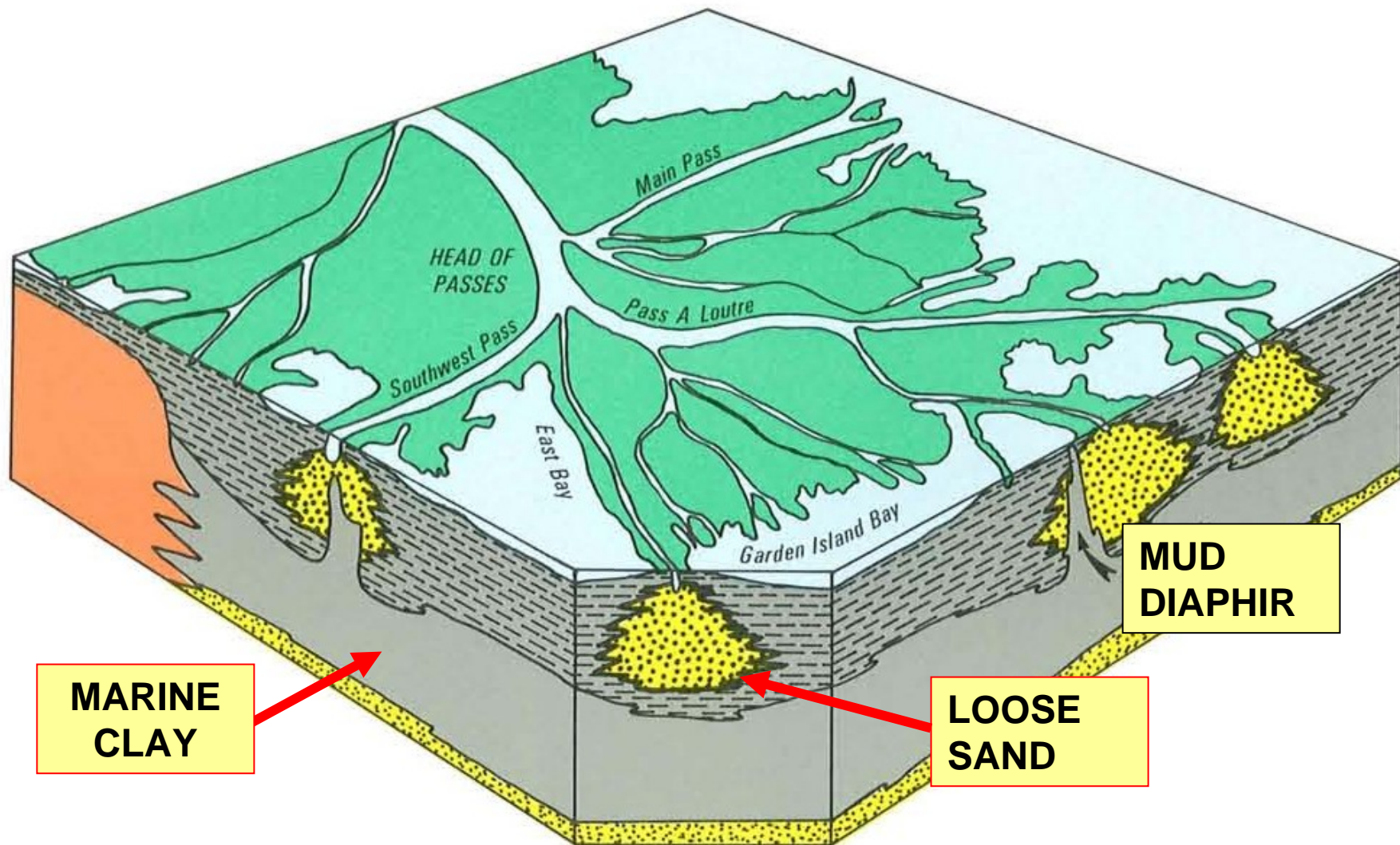
— SOUTH PASS

/ SOUTHWEST PASS



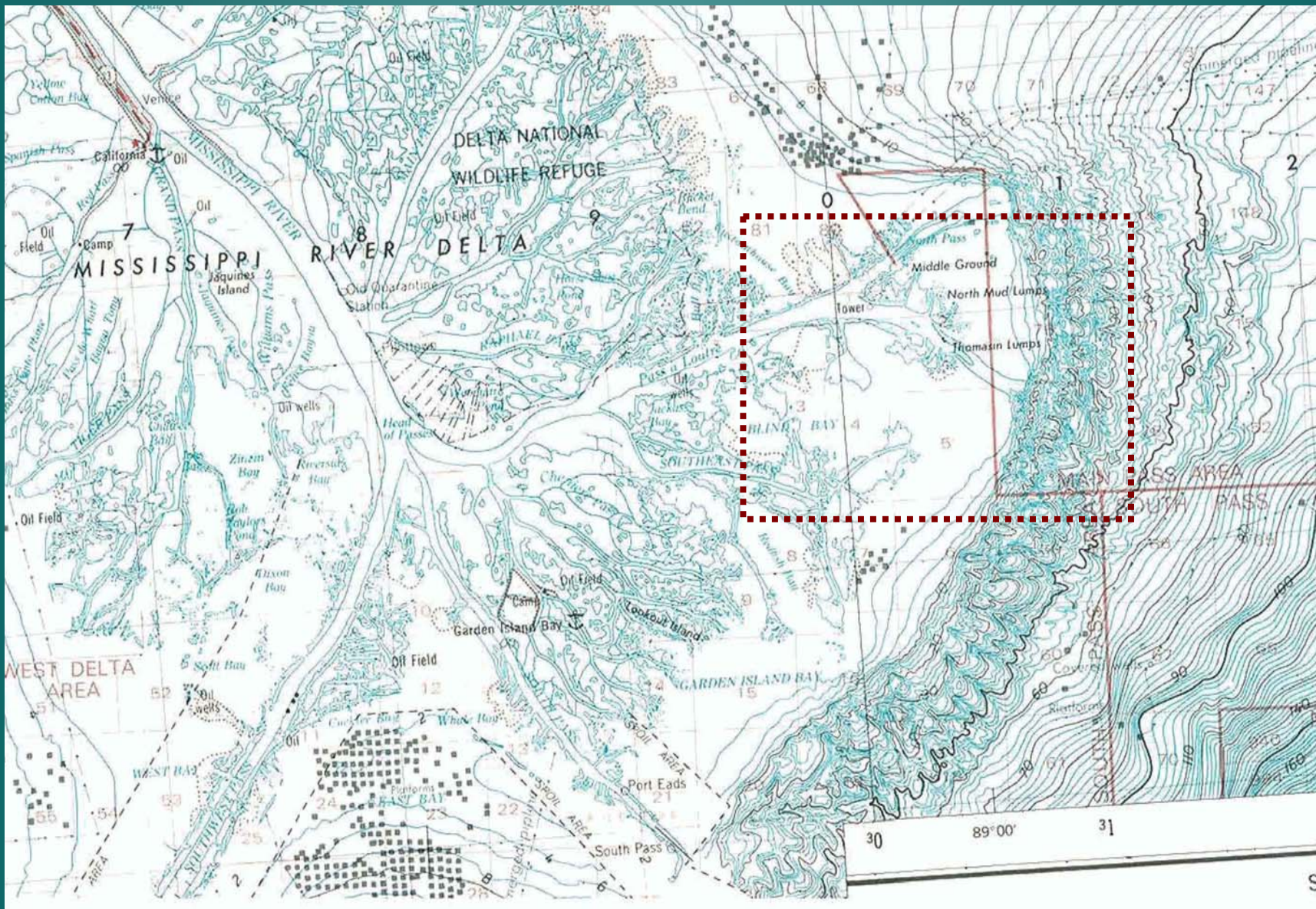
Major Deformational Features in the Vicinity of the Mississippi River Delta (Coleman & Coleman, 1977)



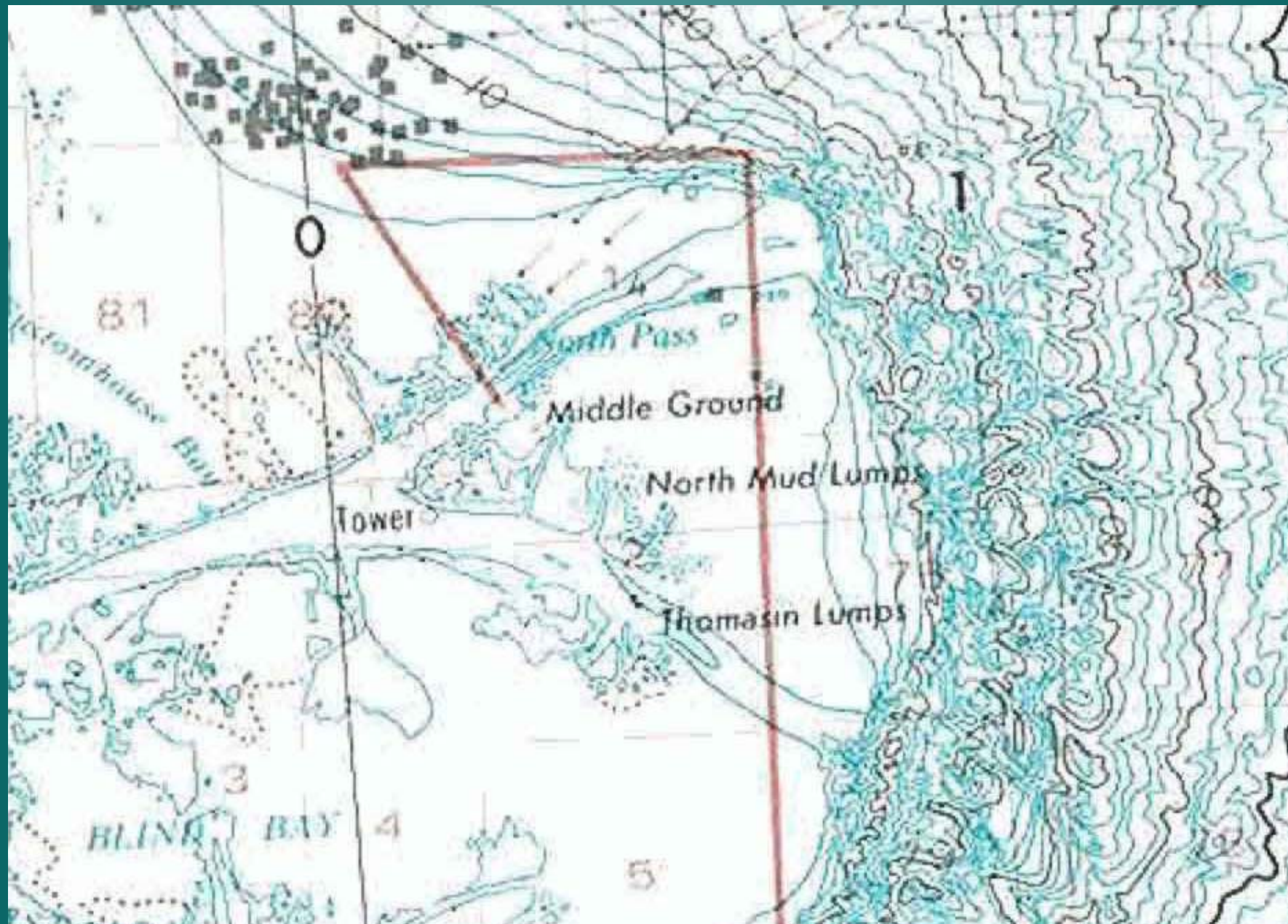


b. Birdfoot delta, Mississippi River (after Fisk et al, 1954)

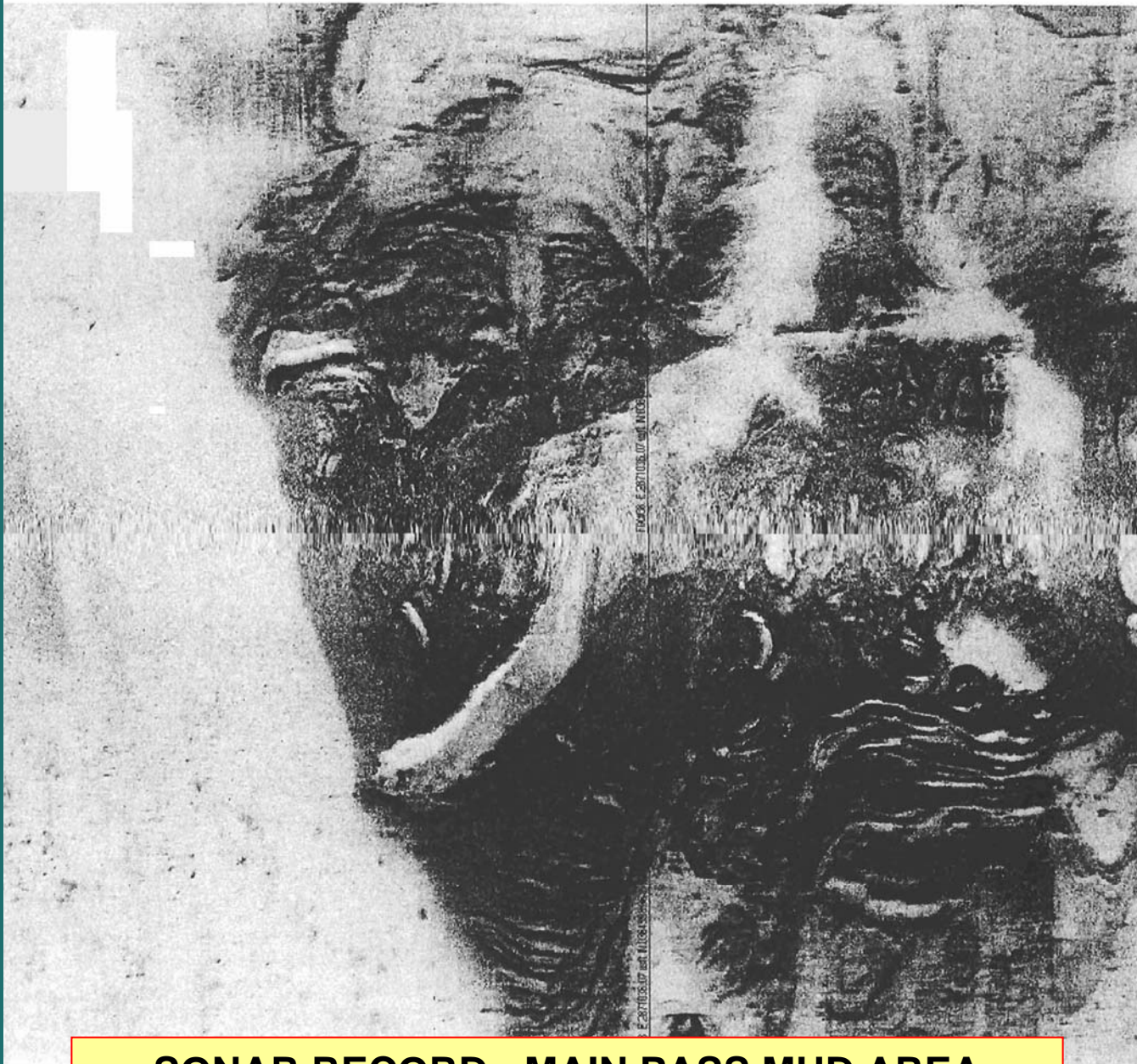






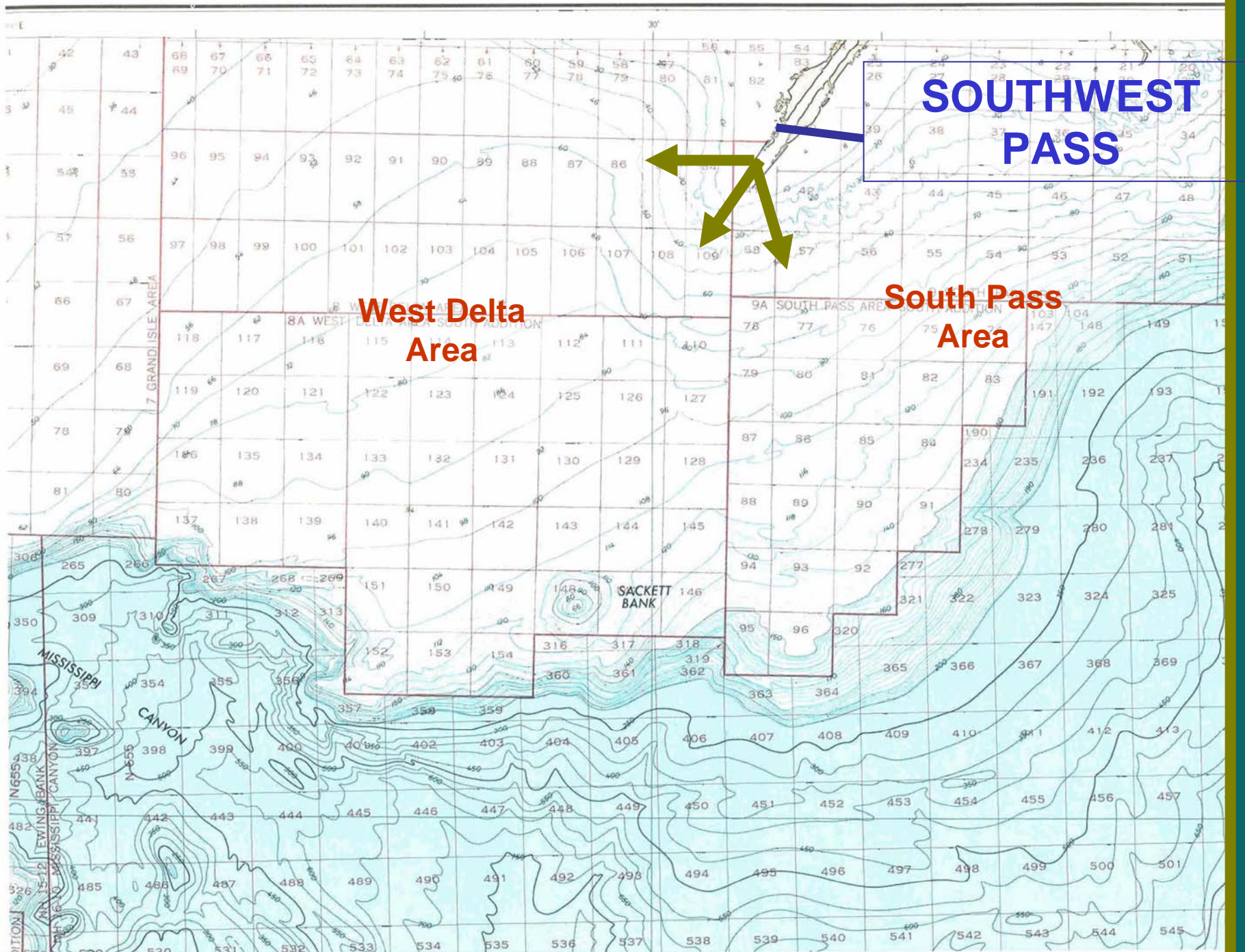






**SONAR RECORD: MAIN PASS MUD AREA**





**SOUTHWEST  
PASS**

**West Delta  
Area**

**South Pass  
Area**

**SACKETT  
BANK**

**MISSISSIPPI  
CANYON**

# UNSTABLE DELTA SOIL

- Poor foundation for offshore structures.
- Susceptibility to displacement during hurricanes – risk to O&G infrastructure

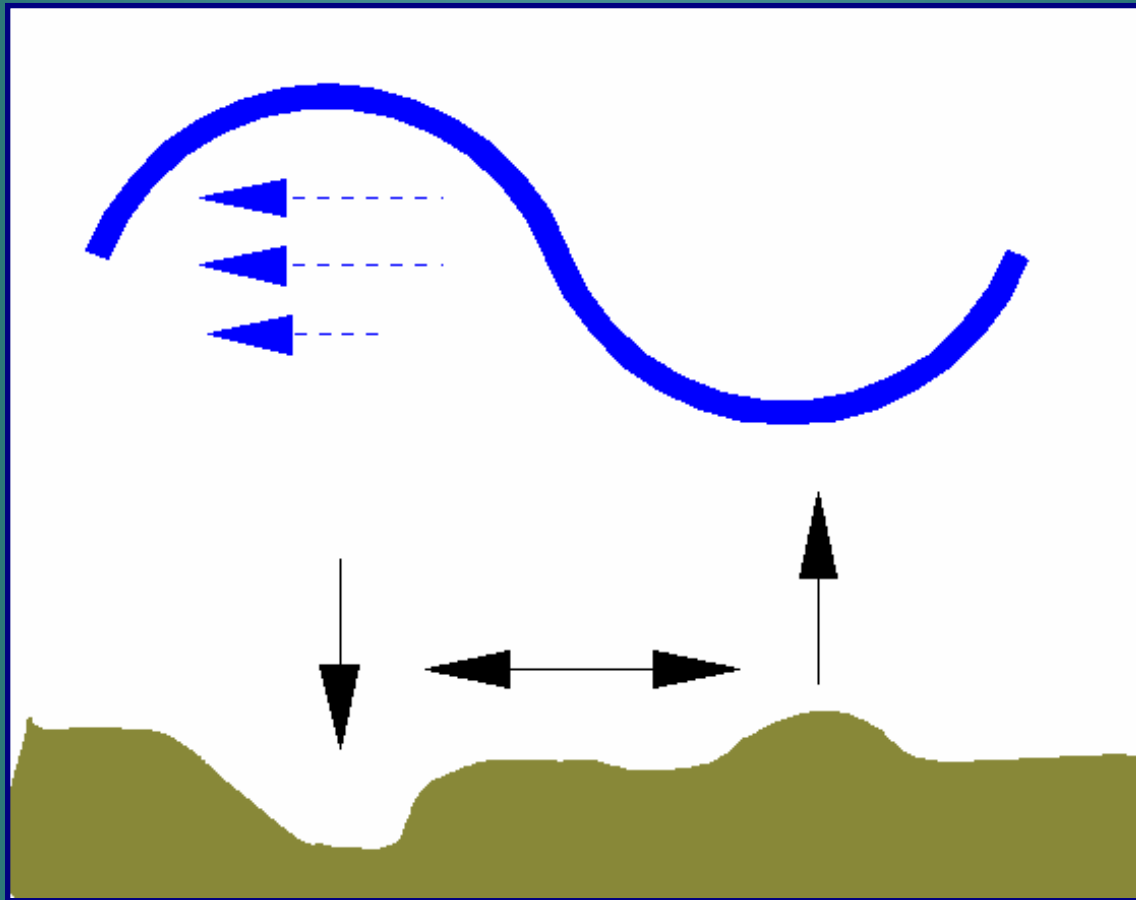


# MUDSLIDE RECOVERY

- **Delta clays are thixotropic materials - regain strength with time (full recovery decades?)**
- **Multiple events extend the recovery period**

# MUDSLIDE INITIATORS

- **Storm Wave Effects on Soil**



- **Degradation of Shear Modulus**

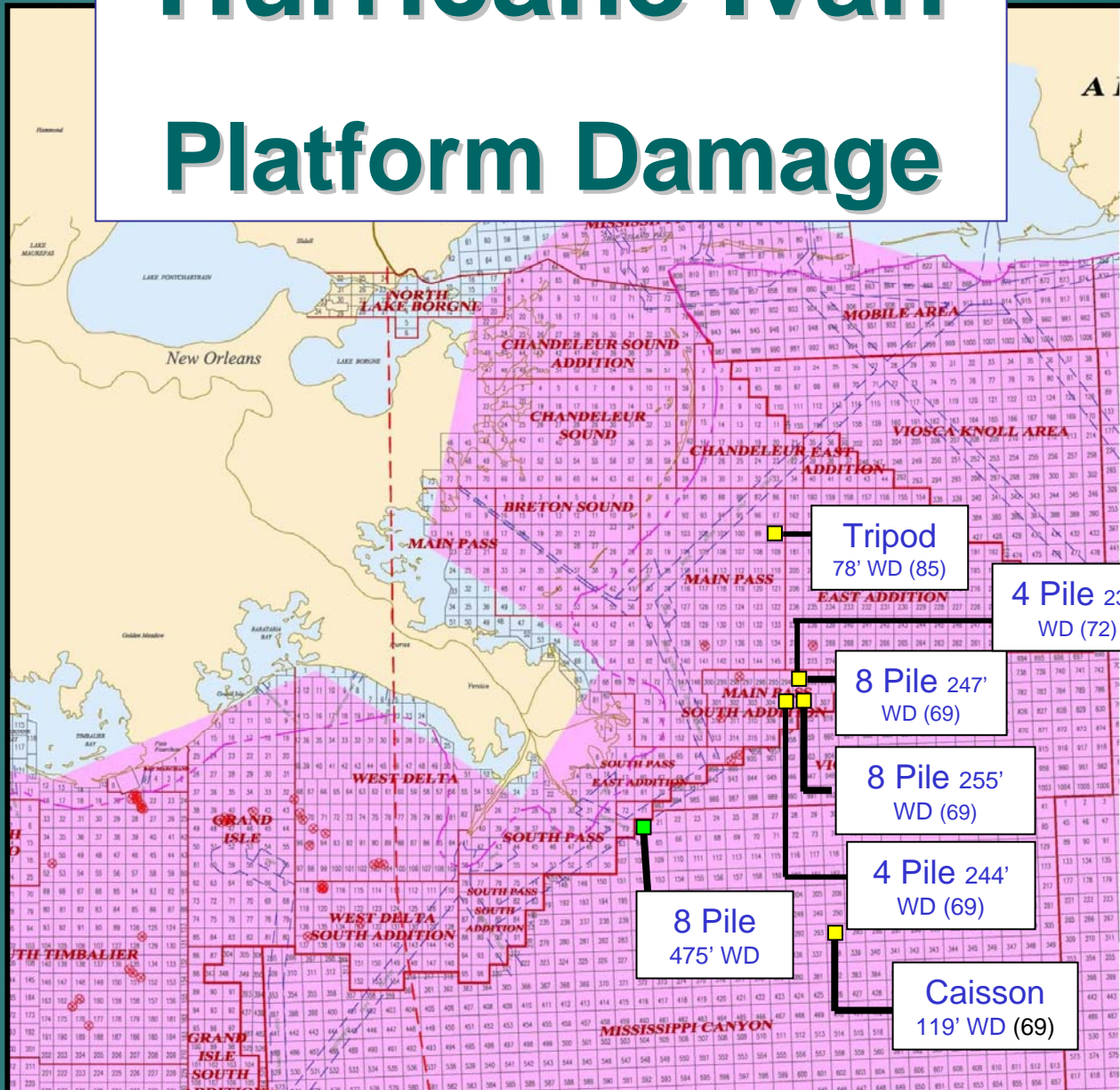


# HURRICANE DAMAGE

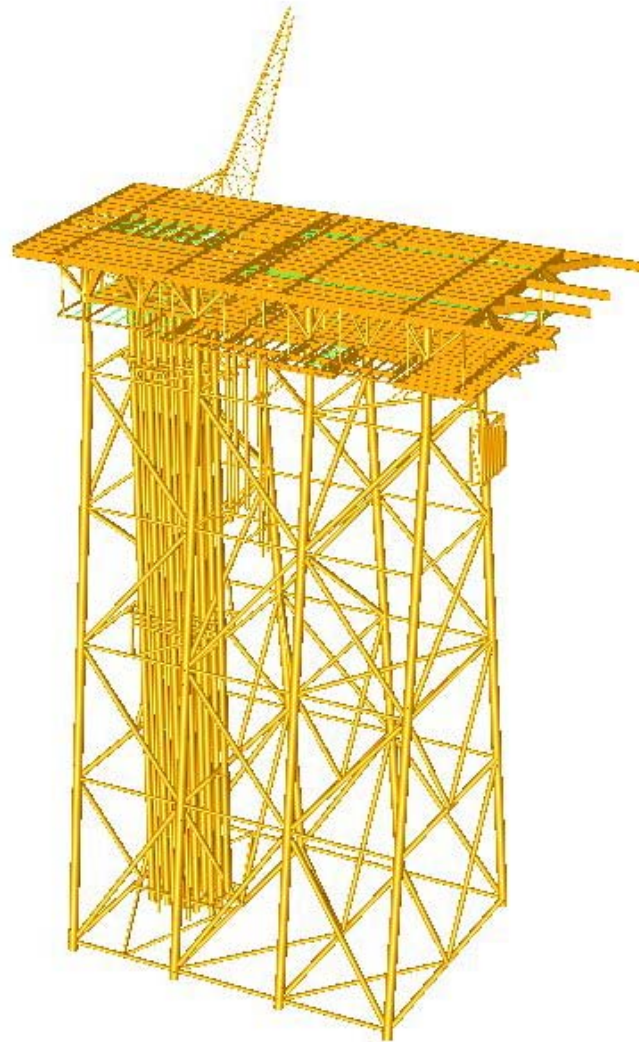
- **Pipeline Damage**
- **Platform Damage**
- **Rig Damage**

STORM	Platform Destroyed	Pipelines (>10") Damaged	Rigs Destroyed (Damaged)
Ivan (2004)	7	20	ND
Katrina (2005)	44	61	4 (9)
Rita (2005)	69	40	1 (10)

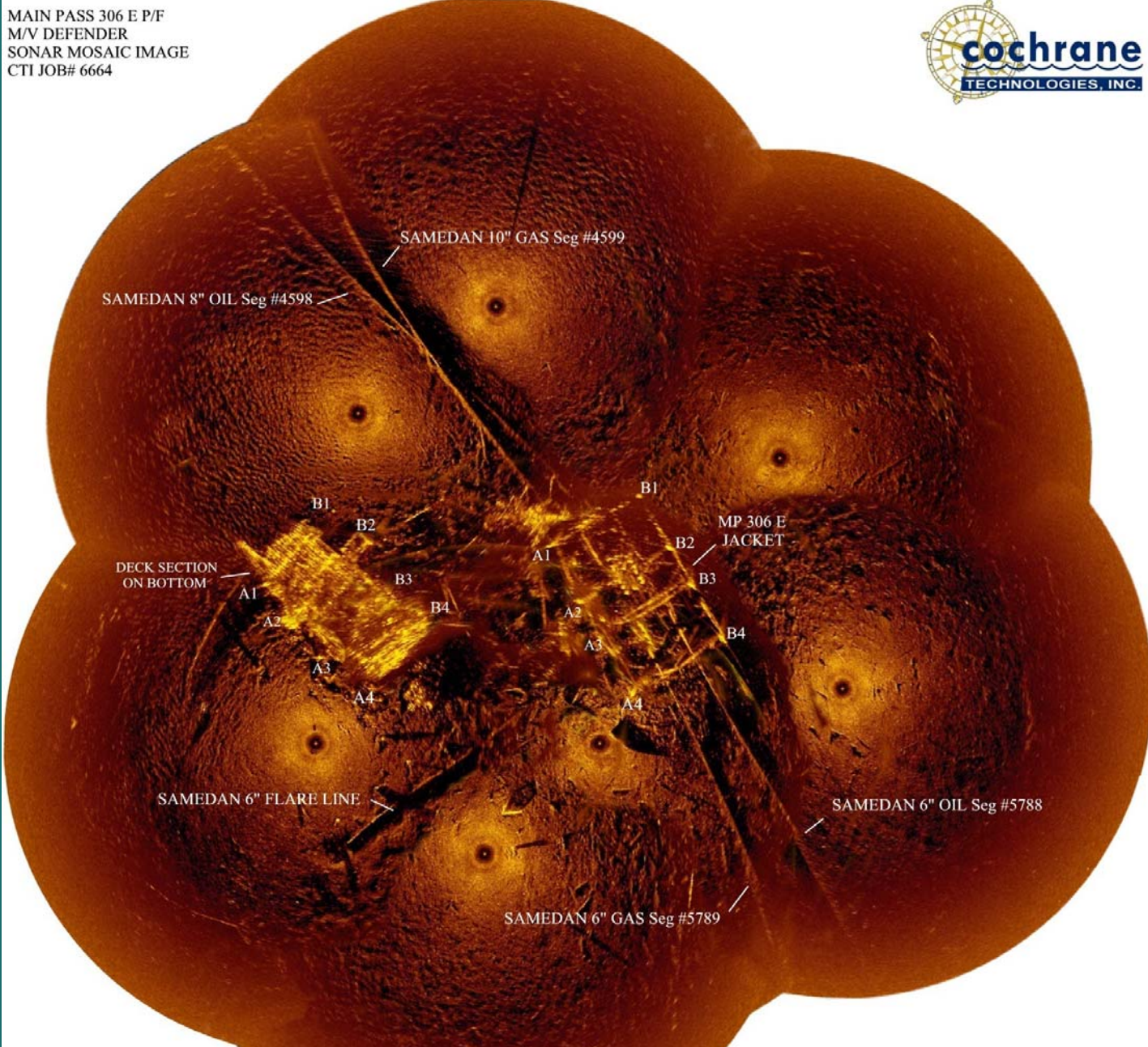
# Hurricane Ivan Platform Damage





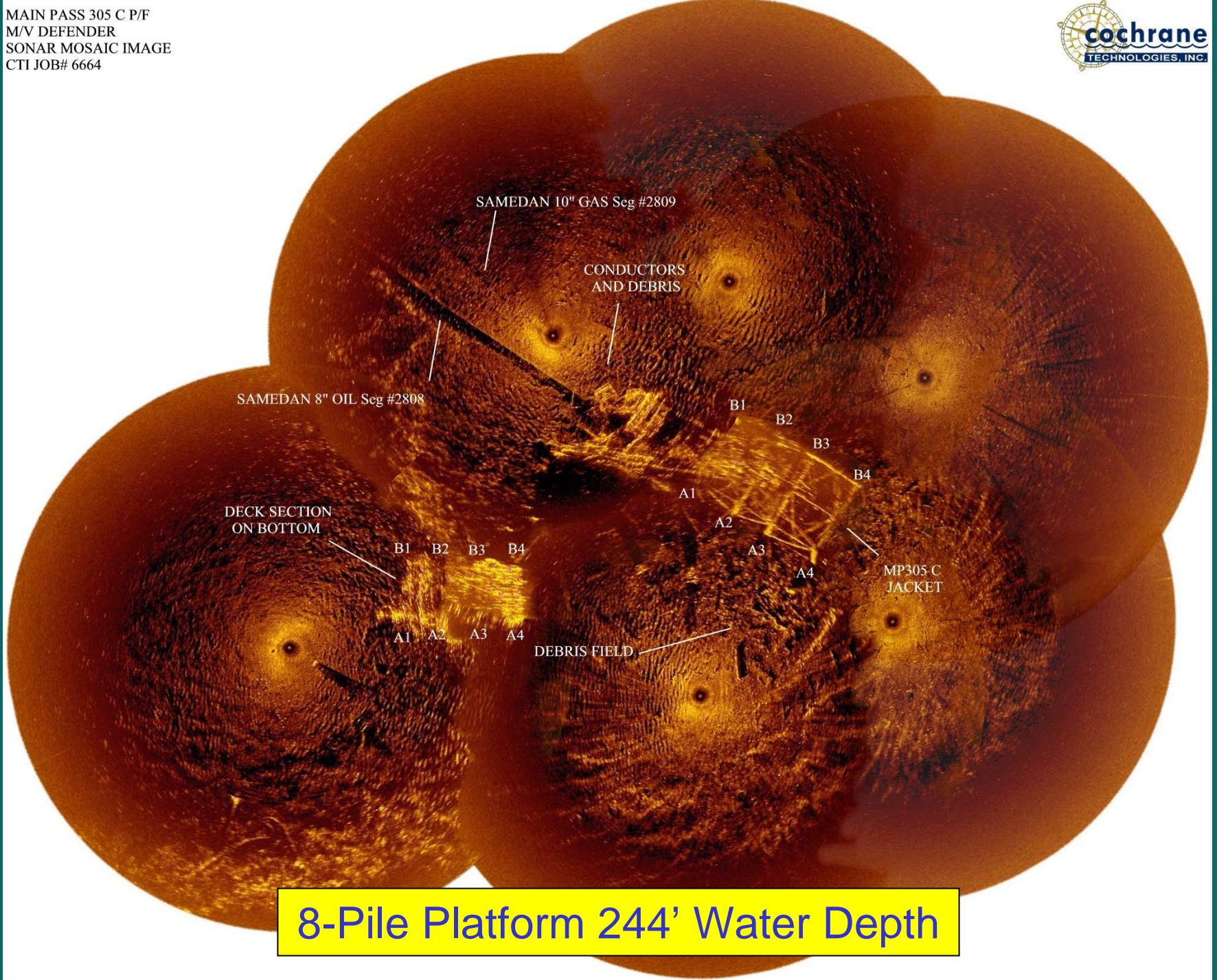


Typical 8-Pile Platform

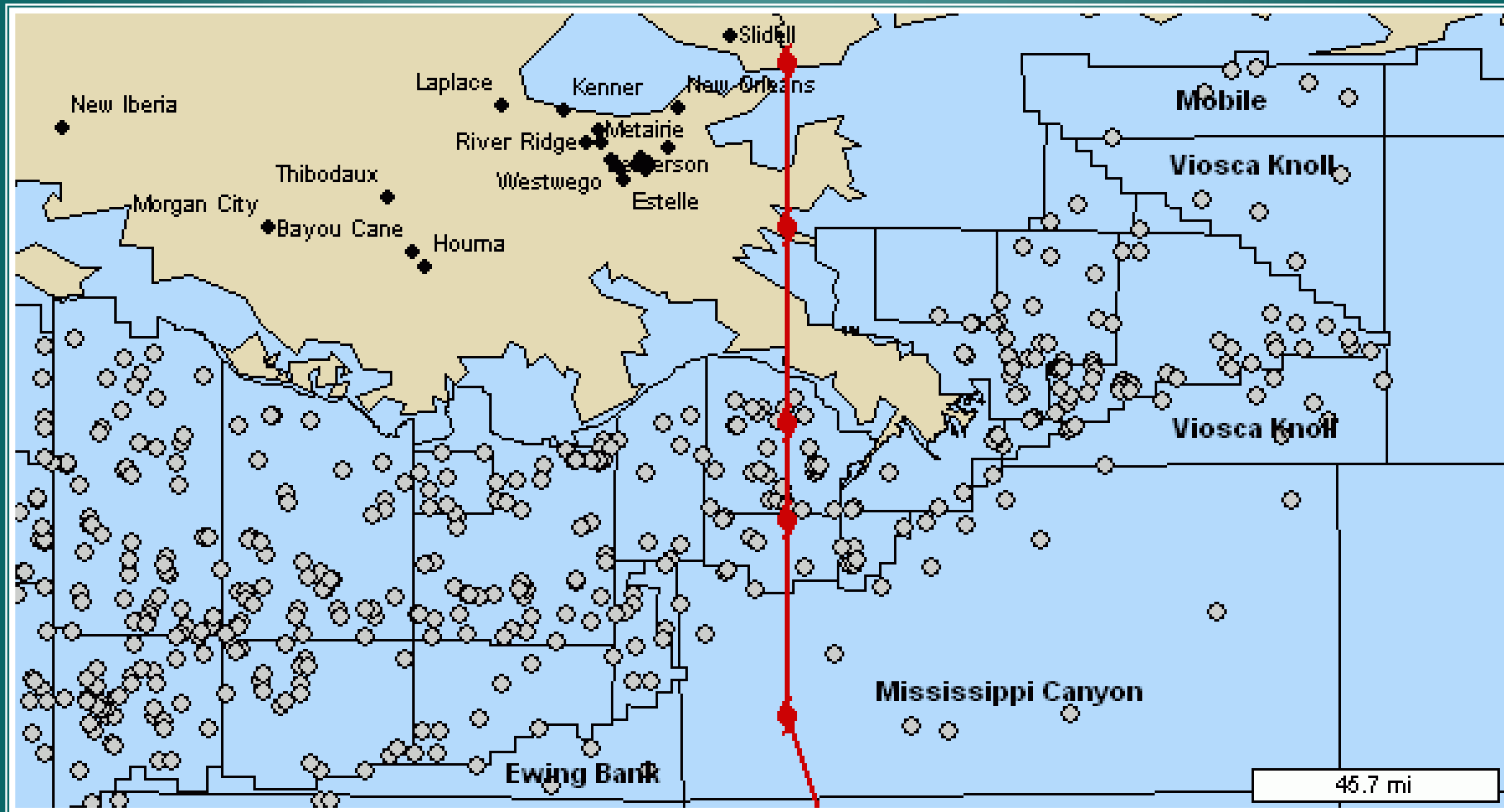


8-Pile Platform 247' Water Depth

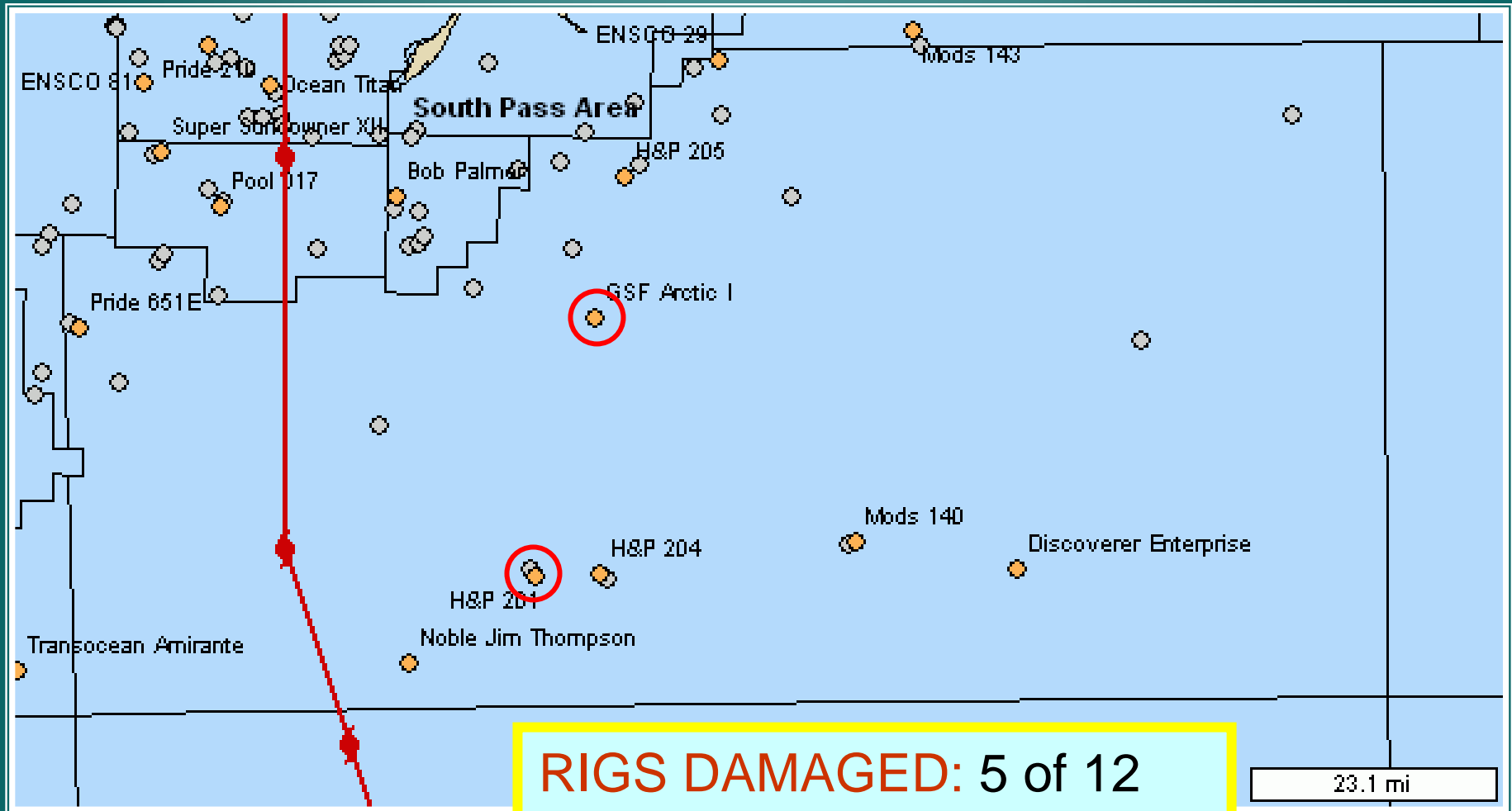




8-Pile Platform 244' Water Depth



# MISSISSIPPI CANYON



**RIGS DAMAGED: 5 of 12**

**PLATFORMS DAMAGED: 3**

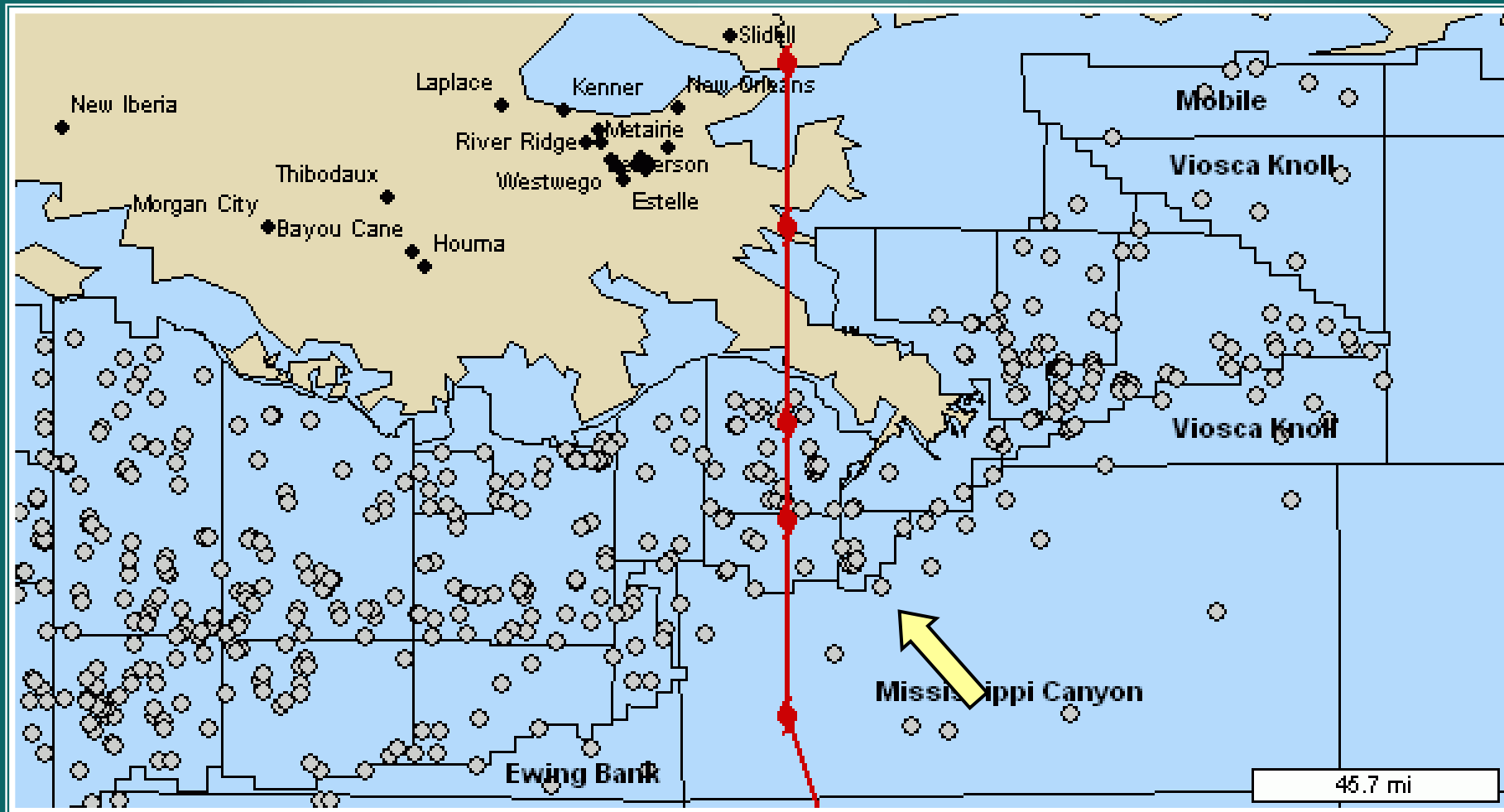
Spinnaker rig lost mooring & drifted



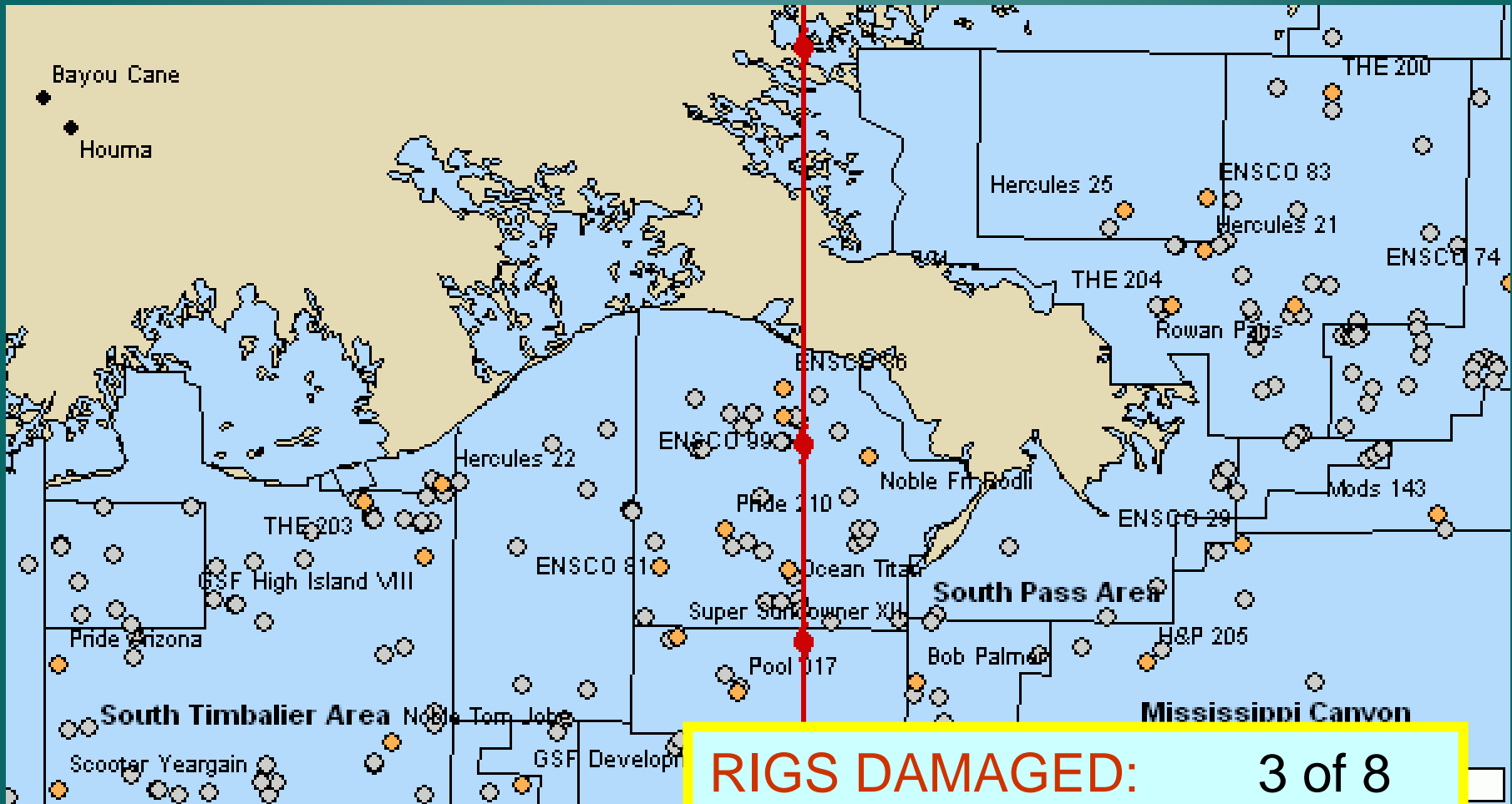
# Shell's MARS TLP



**Platform Rig Derrick Collapse – Hurricane Katrina**



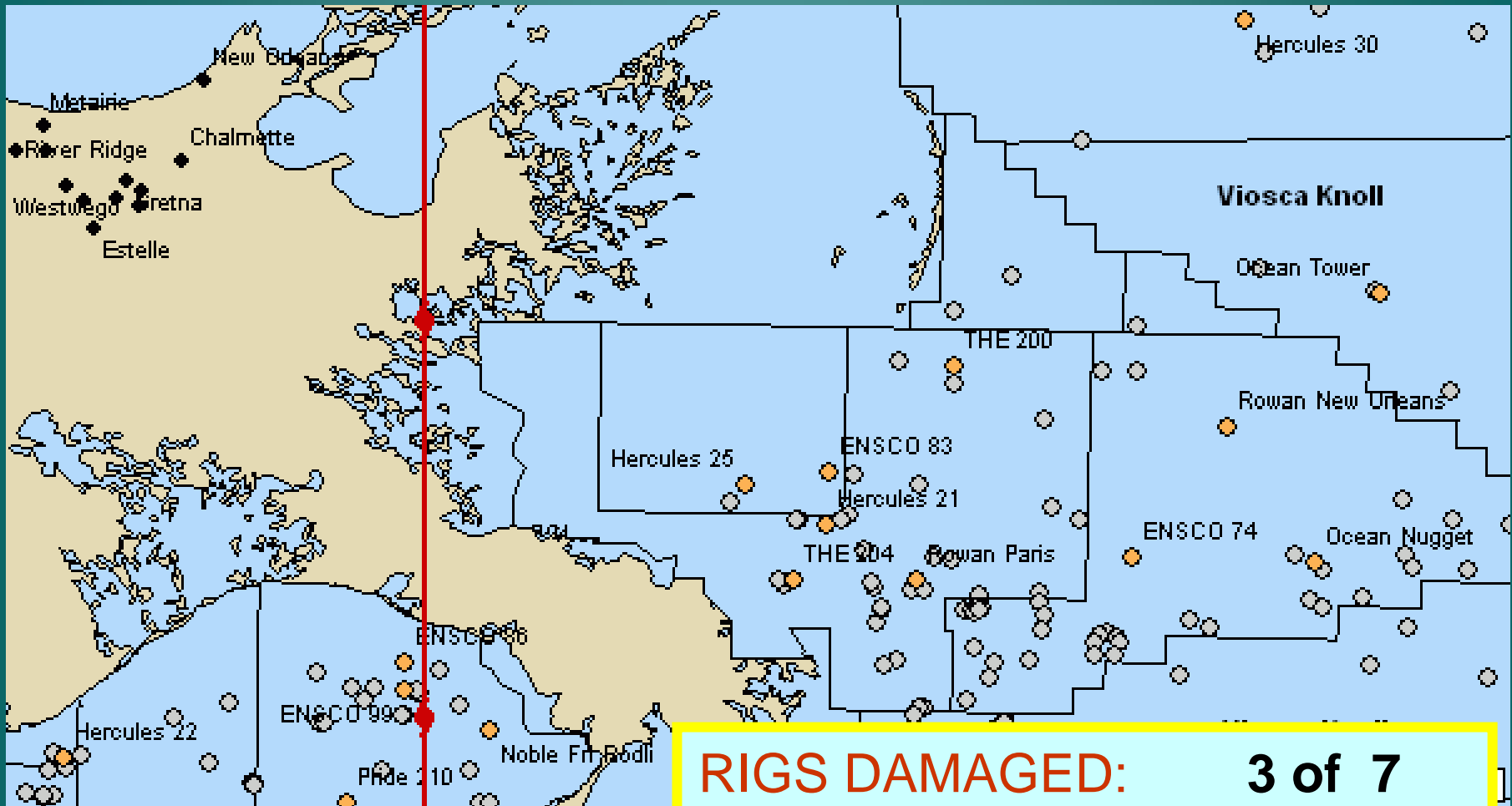
# WEST DELTA



4 Chevron Platforms



# MAIN PASS



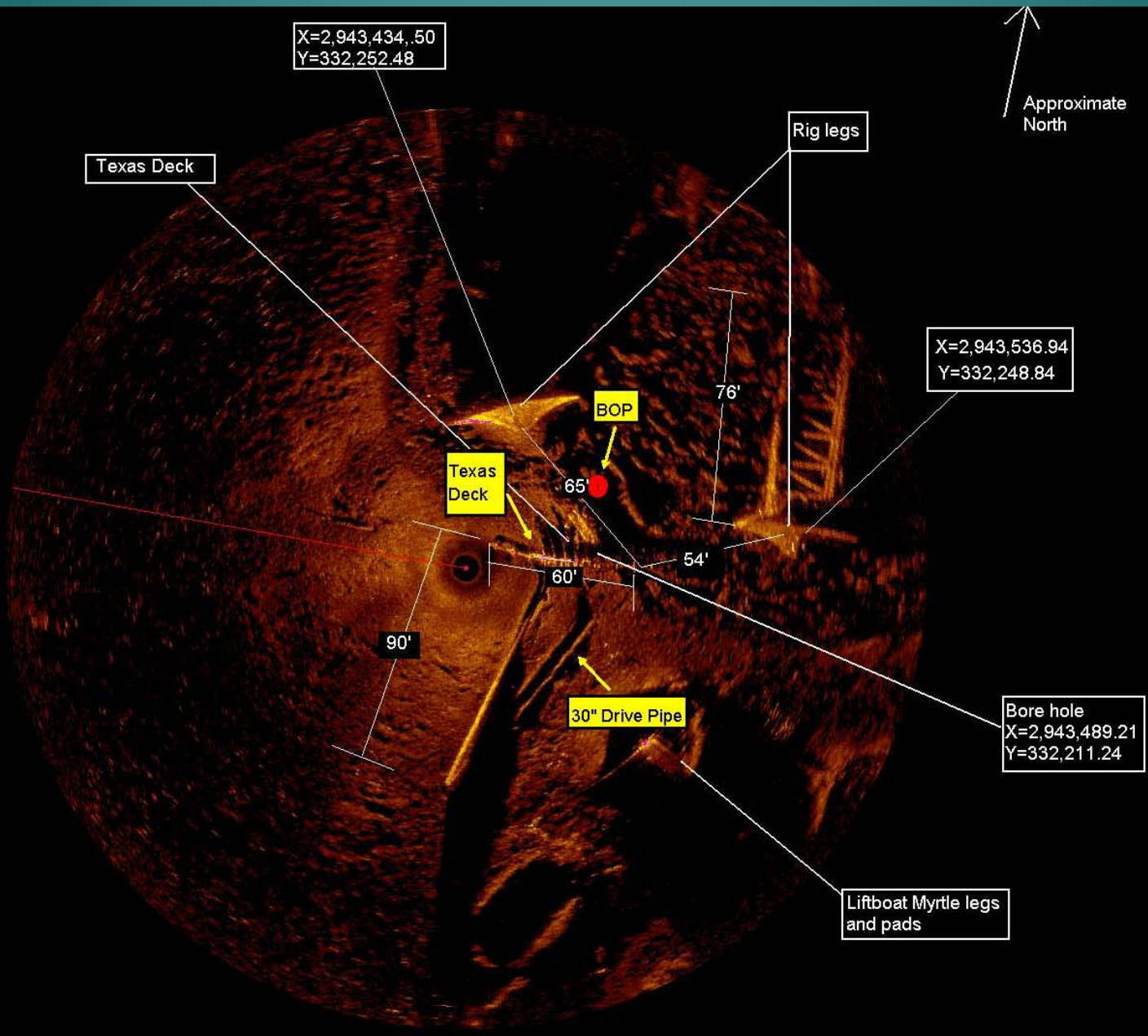
- 1 Newfield MP128
- 1 Noble Energy MP 306D
- 1 Chevron

**RIGS DAMAGED: 3 of 7**

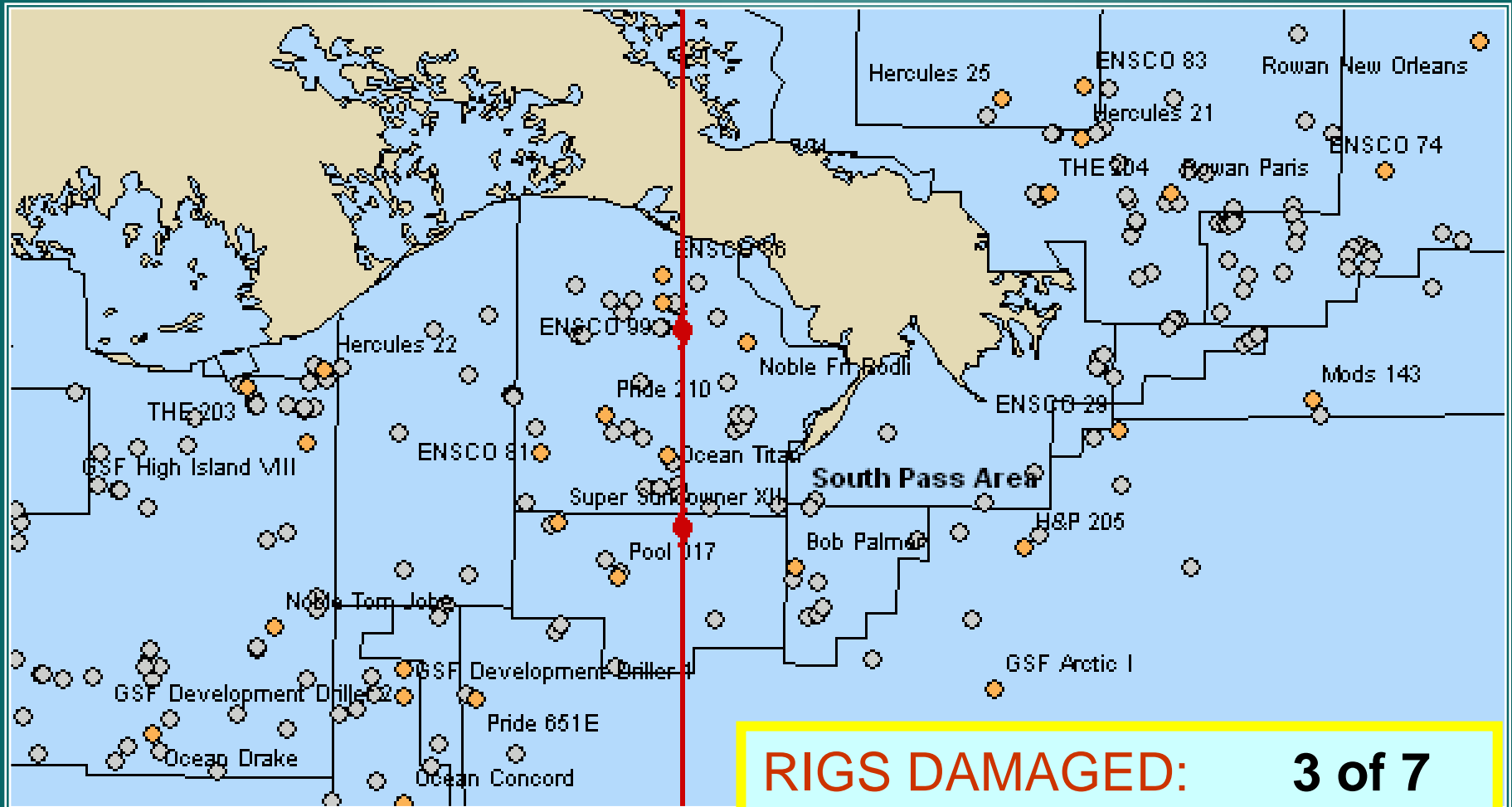
**PLATFORM DAMAGED: 1**

**PLATFORMS LOST: 3**

on  
#1



# SOUTH PASS



**RIGS DAMAGED: 3 of 7**

**PLATFORM DAMAGED: 6**

**PLATFORMS LOST: 2**

2 Chevron



# DESIGNING FOR FUTURE STORMS

## ELEVATION OF DECK HEIGHTS

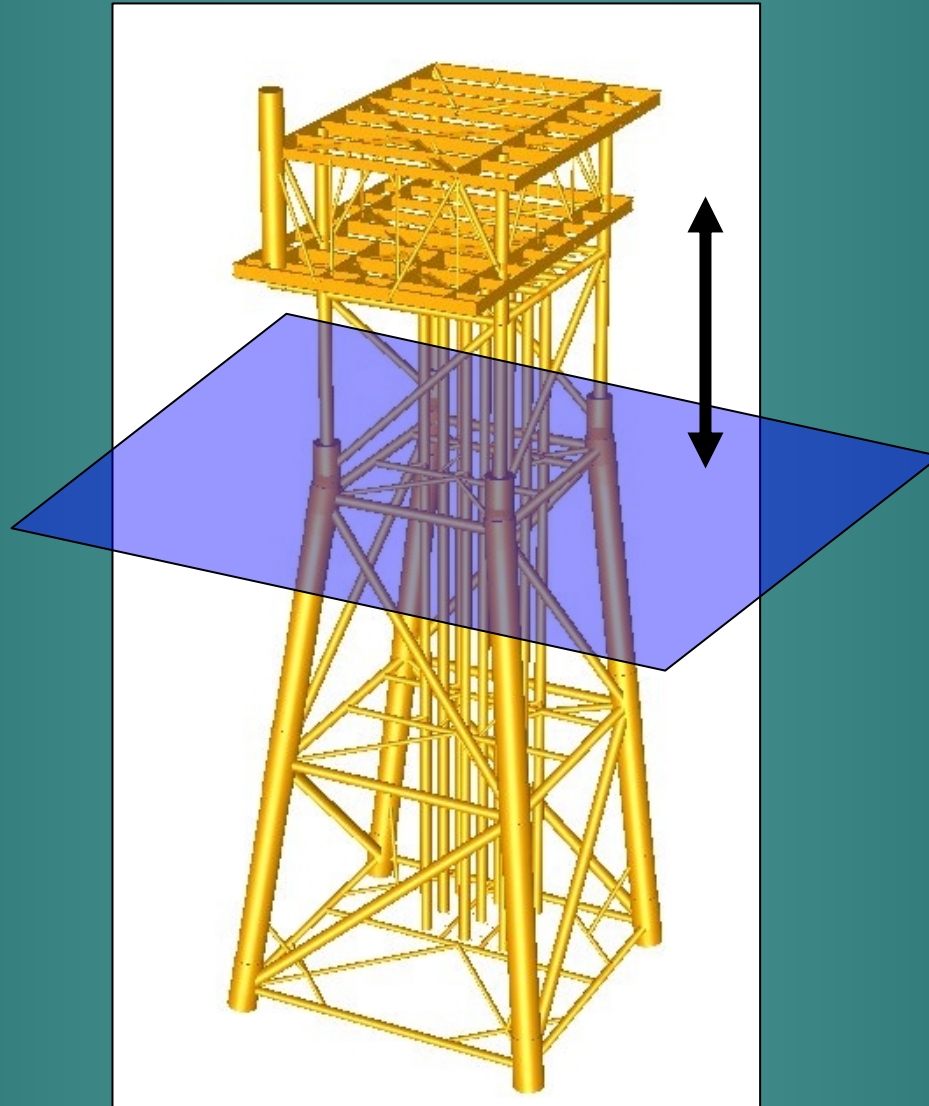
- Minimize Wave Innundation
- New Deck Heights Criteria

## JACKET MODIFICATIONS

## IMPROVEMENT OF SEA FASTENING OF RIGS

- Topside Fixation of Topside Drill Rigs
- Anchoring / Stabilization of Floating Rigs

# PLATFORM DECK HEIGHT



# DECK HEIGHT

(100-300 FT W.D.)

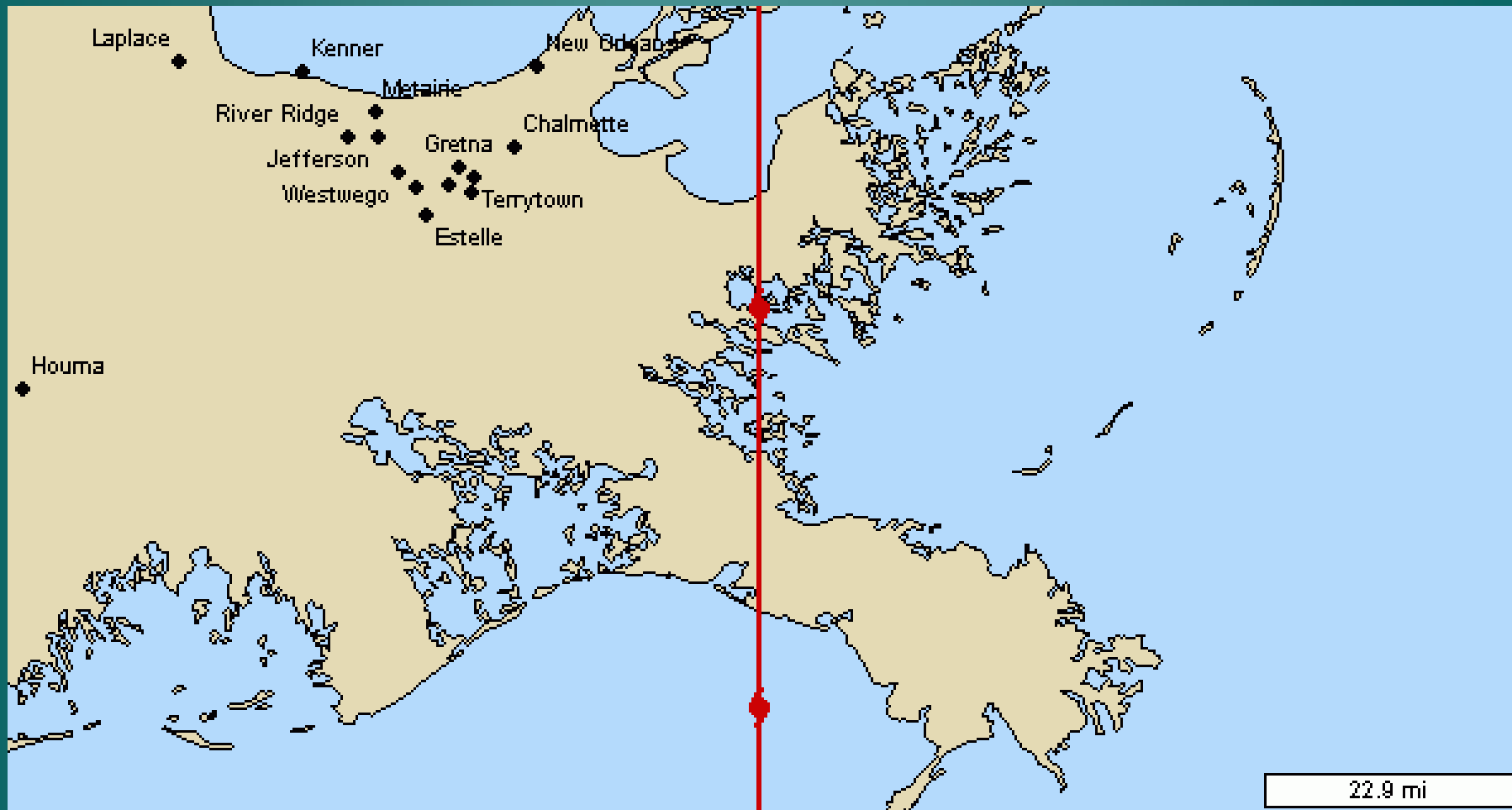
## CURRENT CRITERIA

API RP2A, Sec2, L1	<b>DATA POOL</b> <b>Lost Platforms</b>	<b>47-54 ft</b>
API RP2A, Sec17, L1		<b>45-47 ft</b>
API RP2A, Sec17, L2		<b>38-37 ft</b>
API RP2A, Sec17, L3		<b>30 ft</b>

**Hurricane Andrew: Deck Heights vs. API RP2A Minimum Deck Elevation Requirements**



# KATRINA TRAJECTORY Through Inland Bay Fields



# TYPICAL BAY FIELD FACILITIES



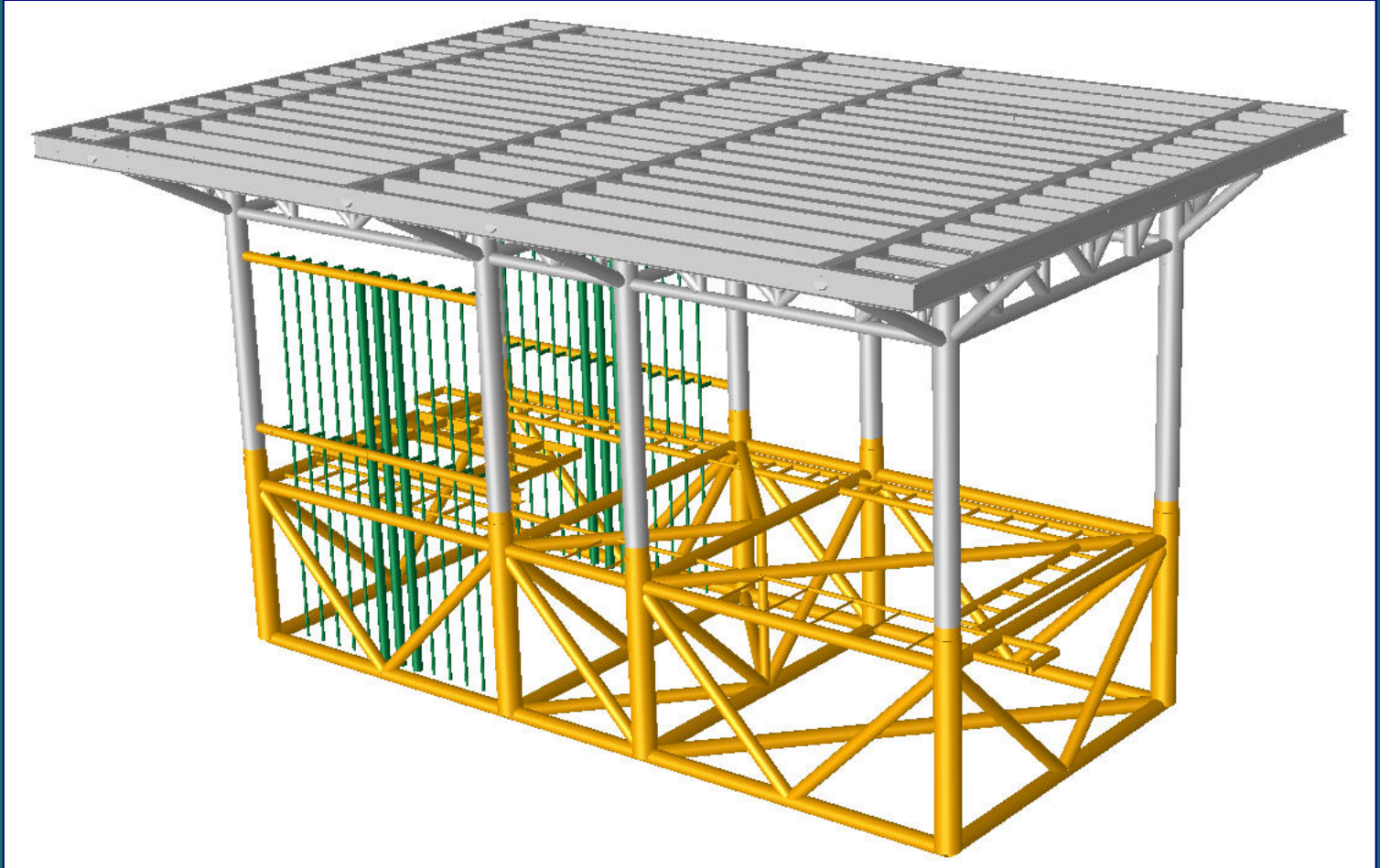
**Typical Construction:  
12" x 60-80' Timber Piles  
Concrete Slab Construction**

# Bay Field O&G Facility East of River





# Steel Structure Alternatives



# Hurricane Damage to Pipelines

- **Rig Anchor Damage**
- **Mudslide Displacement & Failure**

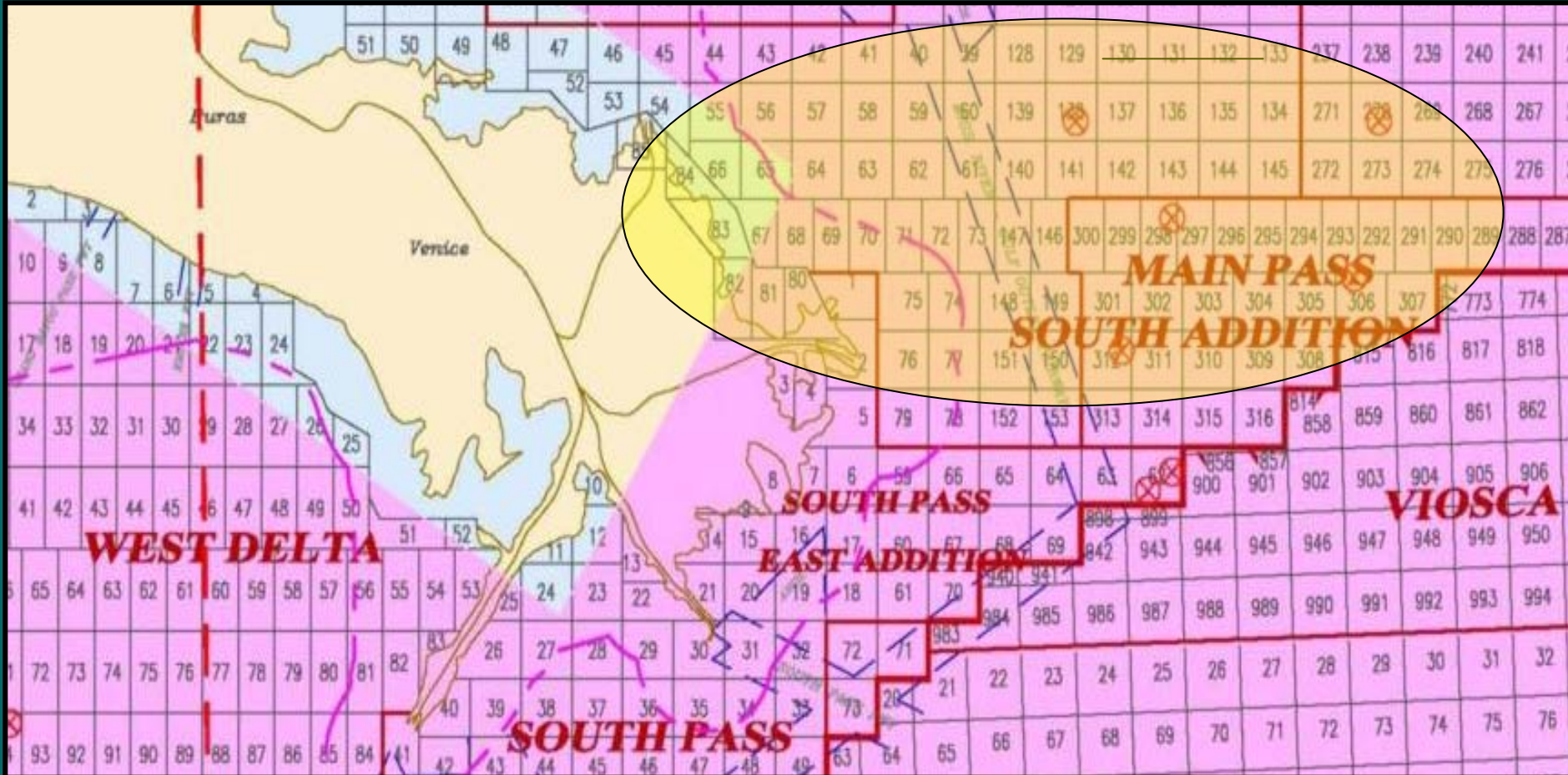
# Mudslide Damage

## **Failure Susceptibility**

- **Larger Diameter Pipelines**
- **Pipeline Perpendicular to direction of mudslide**



# Larger Diameter TRUNK LINE MOVEMENT



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