

SAND RIDGES IN THE WEST MEDITERRANEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF
(VALENCIA, SPAIN), MORPHOLOGY AND SEISMIC CHARACTER

by

Jorge REY and Victor DIAZ DEL RIO
Instituto Español de Oceanografía
Laboratorio Costero de Málaga
C/Paseo de la Farola 27, Málaga 16

Résumé

Dans la zone centrale de la plateforme continentale espagnole, nous avons étudié une aire présentant des caractéristiques topographiques qui définissent une morphologie de "Sand Ridges", car, en fonction de ses dimensions, on peut l'inscrire dans la catégorie de "Sand-Waves" (100 m d'intervalle).

Ces études ont été effectuées à partir d'enregistrements obtenus par les procédés de sismique réflexion continue à haute résolution (3,5 KHz), Side Scan Sonar (100 KHz) et Echosondeur, outre six échantillons par gravité, obtenus sur une des structures.

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A part of the Central Zone of the Spanish Continental Shelf, has been molded into trending ridges. Due to these topographic conditions and morphology patterns and so as this spacing(100 mts aparted), has been included as "sand waves".

This work has been based on the precision records made with the following seismic-reflexion systems: Mud-penetrator (3.5 KHz), Side Scan Sonar(100 KHz) and Echosounder, as well as the sampling with gravity and piston cores over one of the structure.

The whole of the structures, appear to be individuali-

zed and located between 65 and 85 mts isobatic lines, in N25W direction, trending and grouped in a restricted zone inside the Shelf of the "Golfo de Valencia", just in front of "La Albufera de Valencia", having its dimensions a general progressive decrease seaward and in this direction presents its maximum slope(4.27%SE).

Covered by a fine layer of mud and molded in sand layer of 10 mts maximum, whose lower level is limited by a very uniform surface of basal Holocene sand and gravel facies.

The anomalous angle formed with the coast(75-85°N), indicates that in the past times, the coast line has had other direction to the actual one. The base emerging Pre-Holocene mapping, can give the former coast-line, because it is agrees with the directions found.