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Estimation of net apparent erosion in the southwestern Barents Sea by applying velocity inversion analysis --Manuscript Draft--

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Abstract:	<p>The southwestern Barents Sea was subject to significant uplift and erosion during the Cenozoic, processes which are believed to have had a significant impact on hydrocarbon maturation and migration in the area. The current study uses compaction of shale- and sand-dominated layers to make a map of net apparent erosion throughout the southwestern Barents Sea. The map shows regional trends consistent with deep-seated isostatic uplift of the crust in combination with glacial erosion as a driving mechanism for the erosion. We find increased erosion towards the north and decreased erosion towards the west, in the western Barents Sea. The trend of highest erosion has an axis stretching in a southeast to northwest orientation towards Svalbard. This indicates a major change in the crustal uplift pattern in the transition from the Norwegian mainland to the Barents Sea. The velocity inversion method used in this study combined with a two-baseline normal compaction trend model demonstrates a reliable procedure for accurate erosion estimations. It allows erosion estimates from layers with different lithologies to be integrated into a common interpretation and differences to be interpreted geologically, for example, an apparent facies change to a mixed sand-shale lithology, possibly with reservoir quality sands developed, in the Cretaceous on the Bjarmeland Platform.</p>
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1 Estimation of net apparent erosion in the southwestern Barents Sea by 2 applying velocity inversion analysis

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10 **Keywords:** Velocity inversion, Normal Compaction Trend (NCT), Net apparent erosion,
11 Maximum burial, Shale compaction, Southwestern Barents Sea

12

13 Abstract

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15 processes which are believed to have had a significant impact on hydrocarbon maturation and
16 migration in the area. The current study uses compaction of shale- and sand-dominated layers to
17 make a map of net apparent erosion throughout the southwestern Barents Sea. The map shows
18 regional trends consistent with deep-seated isostatic uplift of the crust in combination with
19 glacial erosion as a driving mechanism for the erosion. We find increased erosion towards the
20 north and decreased erosion towards the west, in the western Barents Sea. The trend of highest
21 erosion has an axis stretching in a southeast to northwest orientation towards Svalbard. This

22 indicates a major change in the crustal uplift pattern in the transition from the Norwegian
23 mainland to the Barents Sea. The velocity inversion method used in this study combined with a
24 two-baseline normal compaction trend model demonstrates a reliable procedure for accurate
25 erosion estimations. It allows erosion estimates from layers with different lithologies to be
26 integrated into a common interpretation and differences to be interpreted geologically, for
27 example, an apparent facies change to a mixed sand-shale lithology, possibly with reservoir
28 quality sands developed, in the Cretaceous on the Bjarmeland Platform.

29

30 **Introduction**

31 The southwestern Barents Sea (Fig. 1) has undergone a series of regional uplift and erosion
32 episodes during the Mesozoic and Cenozoic, where the late Cenozoic episodes appear to be the
33 most important. Due to the large hiatus in the rock record there are many alternative proposals
34 for the amount, timing and magnitude of the erosion events (Vorren et al. 1991; Faleide et al.
35 1996; Dimakis et al. 1998; Cavanagh et al. 2006; Green & Duddy 2010; Henriksen et al. 2011a;
36 Laberg et al. 2012; Duran et al. 2013; Zieba et al. 2014; Baig et al. 2016; Zattin et al. 2016;
37 Ktenas et al. 2017). This leaves a great deal of uncertainty with respect to the geological history
38 of the southwestern Barents Sea, with consequences for hydrocarbon exploration. Rapid erosion
39 and differential uplift and tilting of the study area has led to leakage of hydrocarbons from pre-
40 existing traps, the phase transition from oil to gas, gas expansion, seal failure and cooling of
41 source rocks (Doré & Jensen 1996; Henriksen et al. 2011a). For the known hydrocarbon
42 accumulations, these effects are still not fully understood. Therefore much effort has been put
43 into the task of quantifying the amounts of uplift and erosion in the Barents Sea.

44 The aim of this study is to investigate net apparent erosion in the southwestern Barents Sea,
45 defined as the difference between the maximum and the present-day burial depths for a specified
46 horizon (Henriksen et al. 2011a), and to determine the regional variation and magnitude of the
47 erosion by studying the compaction of selected layers. Compaction based net apparent erosion
48 estimates depend on a small number of model assumptions and can therefore give accurate and
49 reliable results over large areas. This is valid, as long as the normal compaction trends used are
50 appropriate, and geological factors apart from burial which influence the velocity of a layer are
51 not misinterpreted as erosion (Anell et al. 2009). The method used in this study is a multi-layer
52 velocity inversion, which in the context of the study means inversion of velocity data to
53 geological parameters by means of a Normal Compaction Trend (NCT) model with baselines
54 for more than one type of lithology. Velocity inversion is a rock physics method which solves
55 simultaneously for porosity (Schlumberger Limited, 2009), pseudo-lithology (Peikert 1985;
56 Hubred & Meisingset 2013), pore pressure (Mukerji et al. 2002; Johansen et al. 2015; Meisingset
57 et al. 2017) and net apparent erosion (Gateman & Avseth 2016; Johansen 2016; Ktenas et al.
58 2017). Ktenas et al. (2017) developed a velocity inversion NCT model referred to as the ‘Dikte
59 NCT’ for use with sonic logs in the southwestern Barents Sea wells. This model has two
60 baselines, for Cretaceous shale and Lower Jurassic–Upper Triassic sandstone dominated layers.
61 In this study the Dikte NCT model is utilised on interpreted seismic profiles and time maps.
62 These are depth converted with a check-shot calibrated high-quality regional velocity model.

63 The multi-layer velocity inversion method allows net apparent erosion to be estimated in
64 layers with different lithologies in the same geographical location. Inversion of interpreted
65 profiles with many layers, where the results can be compared with the seismic data, allows
66 investigation of which layers are most useful for net apparent erosion estimation. Artefacts
67 caused by high velocity contrast boundaries such as the edges of structural highs and tops of
68 carbonate layers, and layers where the erosion estimates fail (due to lithofacies changes,

69 overpressure and insufficient layer thickness) can be studied in detail. Velocity inversion of
70 regional maps provides full coverage of the study area. When the methods are combined, it is
71 possible to select optimal layers from the map sets in each geographical location, and combine
72 them in order to make a best case net apparent erosion map.

73 Net apparent erosion estimates by velocity inversion of profiles and maps have one
74 important limitation: they rely on the assumption that the layer has a uniform lithology and the
75 applied baseline is appropriate for the whole layer. In contrast, this is not a requirement for
76 velocity inversion of wells (using sonic logs) where the lithology variation can be handled by
77 aligning the baseline with the part of the log curve which has the correct lithology. Therefore,
78 while the regional variation (shape) of net apparent erosion is best estimated from maps, the
79 magnitude of erosion estimates from wells will be more accurate. Furthermore, the best overall
80 result is obtained when well and map (and profile) results are integrated.

81

82 **Geological setting**

83 The study area is located in the southwestern Barents Shelf (Fig. 1), a region with a
84 geological evolution that dates back to the Paleozoic and further developed during the Mesozoic
85 and Cenozoic with the opening of the Norwegian-Greenland Sea and Eurasia basin (Faleide et
86 al. 1993; 2008; Tsikalas et al. 2012). The Barents Shelf is represented by a shallow platform
87 which has experienced several episodes of periodic rifting, uplift and erosion, tilting and folding
88 (Fig. 2) (Faleide et al. 1993; 2008). These processes have contributed to the present-day tectonic
89 configuration of the southwestern Barents Sea and the structural framework is dominated by key
90 features such as sub-platforms, highs and basins (Fig. 1) (Rønnevik & Jacobsen 1984; Gabrielsen
91 et al. 1990; Faleide et al. 2008; Henriksen et al. 2011b). The geological evolution and

92 tectonostratigraphy of the southwestern Barents Sea has been documented in detail by Faleide
93 et al. (2008) and Henriksen et al. (2011b) and references therein (Fig. 2).

94 During the late Cenozoic, the southwestern Barents Sea underwent episodes of broad
95 uplift and erosion. Due to limited stratigraphic control, the exact timing and number of episodes
96 is poorly constrained. A simplification which is useful for basin modelling is to assume two
97 episodes: one which pre-dates the Pleistocene sediments (e.g. Duran et al. 2013; Lasabuda et al.
98 2018) present in the area (and for basin modelling purposes can be assumed to have created a
99 flat surface), and one which post-dates (e.g. Cavanagh et al. 2006; Nielsen et al. 2015) these
100 sediments (and for basin modelling purposes can be assumed to be responsible for the present-
101 day seabed terrain).

102 There is abundant literature on proposed mechanisms of uplift and erosion in the
103 Fennoscandian-Barents Sea, based on: deep-seated thermal anomalies (Dimakis et al. 1998),
104 mantle flow phase changes (Riis & Fjeldskaar 1992), isostatic response and sedimentary
105 unloading (Riis & Fjeldskaar 1992), glacial erosion due to isostatic compensation (Eidvin et al.
106 1993), flexural response to sediment loading and intra-plate stress (see extensive review by Anell
107 et al. 2009), as well as regional tectonic uplift (Vågnes & Amundsen 1993) related to a North
108 Atlantic gravity anomaly (Cochran & Talwani 1978). The broad regional shape of the
109 southwestern Barents Sea uplift and erosion, is consistent with a regional, isostatic uplift
110 mechanism. Some proposed mechanisms for isostatic uplift include a temperature increase in
111 the mantle (Cochran & Talwani 1978), and/or chemical alteration of the base of the lithosphere,
112 creating less dense minerals such as serpentine (Vågnes & Amundsen 1993).

113 Zattin et al. (2016), using apatite (U-Th)/He thermochronology data, propose a late
114 Miocene to early Pliocene age for the last important phase of exhumation. They note that while
115 their method does not detect the younger (glacial) exhumation episode during the last 2 million

116 years, it shows that the erosion magnitude of this episode must have been significantly lower
117 than for the older episode. These results are compatible with a regional isostatic uplift
118 mechanism for the older erosion episode along with glacial erosion with associated isostatic
119 rebound for the younger erosion episode. A number of other authors propose different ages of
120 uplift and erosion for the older episode (e.g. Anell et al. 2009 and references therein).
121 Considering the size of the eroded area and the depth of erosion it is likely that the older episode
122 would have taken a considerable amount of time, and erosion may not have been ceased
123 everywhere in the southwestern Barents Sea until the earliest Pleistocene, when erosion by
124 glacial ice-streams was initiated (Andreassen & Winsborrow 2009; Knies et al. 2009; Bellwald
125 et al. 2018).

126

127 **Database and Methods**

128 *Interpreted seismic horizons, NCT model and velocity model*

129 In this study, 2D regional seismic Profiles A-A', B-B' and C-C' were carefully selected
130 from among the dense 2D and 3D seismic data covering the southwestern Barents Sea (Fig. 1).
131 Well-log data and formation tops from wells on and close to the profiles were calibrated to the
132 seismic (well-to-seismic-tie) in order to obtain an accurate seismic interpretation (Fig. 1). The
133 composite 2D seismic lines were obtained from the Norwegian Diskos National Data Repository
134 (DISKOS) database. Regional time interpreted maps on selected horizons were provided by
135 North E&P AS. The Dikte NCT model and the net apparent erosion map derived from sonic logs
136 used in this study are based on an earlier piece of work carried out on the Norwegian Continental
137 Shelf (NCS) (Ktenas et al. 2017). A regional high velocity cube (Barents Sea velocity cube
138 hiQbe™ model, version BS-0615T) with grid dimensions 3000 x 3000 m laterally and 100 ms
139 vertically from 0–12000 ms TWT has been used for depth conversion and velocity inversion of

140 the interpreted seismic profiles and time maps (Meisingset et al. 2018; First Geo 2017). The
141 hiQbe™ is a commercially available high quality regional velocity model based on seismic
142 processing velocities and check-shots from the public domain and other sources.

143143

144 *Velocity inversion analysis*

145 The use of seismic velocities combined with shale compaction and rock physics for
146 estimation of uplift and erosion is an established exploration geophysics technique and has been
147 used by several workers on the NCS (e.g. Richardsen et al. 1993; Dræge et al. 2014; Baig et al.
148 2016; Gateman & Avseth 2016). The shale compaction method depends on an NCT baseline for
149 each lithology under study, which defines the increase of velocity with depth. Several
150 compaction trends based on well log data have been published, such as the NCT model for shale
151 and sandstone in the UK-Danish North Sea by Japsen (2000; 2018) and Japsen et al. (2007), the
152 NCT for the northern North Sea (Sclater & Christie 1980, Storvoll et al. 2005), the Dikte NCT
153 model for the southwestern Barents Sea (Ktenas et al. 2017) and the NCT from the Gulf of
154 Mexico area (based on Gardner et al. 1974).

155 In this study, the Dikte NCT model which has baselines for two lithologies, was used. The
156 model was established based on a database of 40 sonic logs from wells on the NCS (Ktenas et
157 al. 2017). The Dikte baseline for shale-dominated layers, which has been calibrated for use for
158 the Cretaceous shales (CretShale) in the southwestern Barents Sea, was utilized for the Neogene,
159 Paleogene and Cretaceous stratigraphic intervals in this study. The zero uplift reference for this
160 baseline is the Cretaceous shales in selected Norwegian Sea wells, which are thought to consist
161 of a similar litho-facies type as same age shales in the southwestern Barents Sea. The Dikte
162 baseline for mixed sand-shale lithologies, calibrated for use with the Lower Jurassic–Upper
163 Triassic (LJurTrias) intervals in the southwestern Barents Sea, was utilized for layers of Jurassic

164 and Triassic age in this study. The zero uplift reference for this baseline was the Åre Formation
165 of the Norwegian Sea. The Åre Formation (Rhaetian-Pliensbachian) consists mainly of coastal
166 plain deposits, which formed in a similar depositional environment to deposits of the Lower
167 Jurassic Nordmela and Upper Triassic Fruholmen formations in the Barents Sea (Fig. 2). The
168 Dikte NCT model is suitable for subsiding sedimentary basins where the state of the shale
169 compaction disequilibrium is similar to the Norwegian Sea reference area (Ktenas et al. 2017).

170 Net apparent erosion is computed from an NCT model by depth-shifting the velocity data
171 (from sonic logs, profiles and/or time grids) down to the point where it intersects the baseline.
172 The applied depth shift, is used as an estimate for the net apparent erosion. This is a standard
173 shale compaction method, which assumes that a porous rock will compact mechanically and/or
174 chemically mainly as a consequence of the maximum vertical effective stress and temperature
175 applied to it, and neither decompact, nor compact further through diagenesis, during uplift and
176 erosion. Furthermore, it is assumed that the maximum vertical effective stress and temperature
177 occurs at the maximum depth of burial, and that a precise relationship exists between compaction
178 and velocity (for a given lithology). Neither of these assumptions will always be true, but the
179 deviations from the assumptions are normally minor, and in most cases they can be ignored.

180 A conceptual model for the net apparent erosion estimation is shown in Figure 3.
181 Velocity inversion of interpreted horizons is performed on a set of layers, where mid-point depth
182 and interval velocity are used as inversion inputs. When the vertical velocity variation within the
183 layer is linear, then the velocity at the mid-point depth will be identical to the interval velocity.
184 These values are therefore the most representative for the layer, when all that is known is the
185 time and depth to top and base (as is the case when the inputs are surfaces from seismic
186 interpretation). Figure 3a shows two layers with their mid-points indicated in terms of depth and
187 velocity. Layer 1 (green) is a Cretaceous shale, and should be referenced to the Dikte CretShale

188 baseline. Layer 2 (yellow) is an Upper Triassic sand/shale layer which should be referenced to
189 the Dikte LJurTrias baseline. Figure 3b shows the mid-points plotted together with the baselines
190 in a net apparent erosion analysis window. The estimated erosion is equal to the vertical distance
191 in metres between the points and their respective baselines. The arrows show the uplift path of
192 the points from their maximum depth of burial, when they were located on the baselines, to their
193 present depth.

194 Net apparent erosion estimates by velocity inversion of layer mid-points suffers from
195 some limitations when compared with well-log based estimates. Erosion estimation from a well
196 log is an interpretation where the baseline is subjectively aligned with the part of the well log
197 which has the appropriate lithology. In the layer mid-point velocity inversion method, where the
198 only inputs are time and depth at the top and base of the layer, as the calculation is a mathematical
199 average with no possibility for subjective alignment. The NCT baselines may not be fully
200 appropriate if they have been (as in this study) developed from uncalibrated sonic log velocities
201 and are applied to check-shot calibrated velocities. There is also a potential issue with the
202 curvature of the NCT baseline in thick layers, due to the assumption that velocity increases
203 linearly, inherent in the mid-point method. For these reasons, net apparent erosion estimates
204 from mid-point data, such as profiles and time maps, should not be expected to absolutely match
205 the estimates from wells. It is therefore recommended to calibrate net apparent erosion estimates
206 from velocity inversion of layer mid-point data, against estimates from wells.

207 Another important pitfall in the southwestern Barents Sea is 'velocity leakage'. This
208 occurs at high velocity contrast boundaries such as the edges of structural highs and tops of
209 carbonate layers. The velocity data used (a regional high quality velocity model) does not have
210 adequate resolution to capture the exact position of such boundaries; in addition, the seismic
211 horizon interpretation, especially when gridded into time surfaces, may not have been placed

212 precisely at the high contrast boundary in the subsurface. Furthermore, the seismic processing
213 velocities that were used in the velocity model may disagree with the seismic interpretation, with
214 regards to boundary position in a zone of poor seismic data quality. These issues can cause high
215 velocities to erroneously appear in a given layer on the low velocity side of the boundary, for
216 example. In this study we term this phenomenon ‘velocity leakage’. It is best to avoid relying
217 on layers which lie directly on a high velocity contrast horizon for net apparent erosion estimates.

218 **Results**

219 *Net apparent erosion estimates on seismic profiles in the southwestern Barents Sea*

220 Velocity inversion analysis was carried out on three regional interpreted seismic profiles
221 in the southwestern Barents Sea for the Cretaceous and Lower Jurassic-Triassic sequences (Figs
222 4, 5 and 6). The purpose of the horizon interpretation was to delineate a set of layers which were
223 suitable for estimation of net apparent erosion using the Dikte NCT model (Ktenas et al. 2017).

224224

225 **Profile A-A'**

226 Profile A-A,’ running from the west to the east, is shown in Figure 4. The vertical axis is
227 in depth. Figure 4a is coloured by stratigraphic layer, and shows interpreted horizons and faults.
228 The interpreted horizons, which range in age from the seabed to the basement, illustrate the basin
229 configuration as well as the structural changes from the west to the east in the study area. Figure
230 4b shows the interval velocity from the regional velocity cube extracted along the plane of the
231 profile. Velocities are stable and follow the layers, with an increase against depth which comes
232 from increased compaction, except for some apparent layering (i.e. velocity anomalies) at around
233 7000 m depth in the Sørvestsnaget Basin towards the shelf edge (lower left corner of Fig. 4b,

234 Layer 10). The seismic data quality here, and thus the quality of the seismic processing
235 velocities, is poor.

236 Figure 4c consists of two panels. The upper panel shows the net apparent erosion
237 estimates in colour superimposed on the seismic. Net apparent erosion was estimated from the
238 Neogene (Layers 03-07), Paleogene (Layers 08-09) and Cretaceous (Layer 10) (using the
239 CretShale baseline), and Lower Jurassic–Triassic (Layer 13) (using the LJurTrias baseline).
240 These layers are considered to be valid for the inversion study, except for the Layer 10-
241 Cretaceous where the velocities are poor in the Sørvestsnaget Basin. Wells 7220/8-1, 7222/11-
242 1 and 7124/3-1 are superimposed (Figure 4c, upper panel), with coloured tube displays of net
243 apparent erosion estimates from sonic logs (Ktenas et al. 2017). The lower panel in Figure 4c
244 shows the estimated net apparent erosion from each of the inverted profile layers. Net apparent
245 erosion from the corrected map is included for comparison (discussed in detail below). The graph
246 shows stable erosion estimates in the eastern and central parts of the profile as well as significant
247 uncertainty in the west. Enlarged displays of the eastern, middle and western parts of Profile A-
248 A' are shown in Figures 4d–j. The best layers for net apparent erosion estimation in the eastern
249 and middle parts of the profile are Layers 10-Cretaceous and 13-Triassic (Fig. 4d, e, g, h).

250 Figure 4f illustrates the interpretation process by which valid layers are selected. It shows
251 the net apparent erosion estimates from all of the interpreted layers in the eastern part of Profile
252 A-A', regardless of whether or not the estimates are considered valid. The inversion used the
253 LJurTrias baseline for Layers 17-Carboniferous up to 12-Jurassic and the CretShale baseline for
254 Layers 11-Cretaceous to 01-Neogene. Layers 17-Carboniferous and 16-Permian are carbonate
255 dominated, and as such the LJurTrias baseline is inappropriate; thus the erosion estimates are
256 invalid. Layer 15-Triassic is of Lower Triassic age; it overlies the Permian carbonates (high
257 velocity contrast boundary) and experiences 'velocity leakage' from below. The estimates in this
258 layer are invalid for two reasons: velocity leakage and the LJurTrias baseline being inappropriate

259 for the Lower Triassic. Similarly, it is also inappropriate for layer 14-Triassic, which is of Middle
260 Triassic age. Layer 13-Triassic is of Upper Triassic age, and the LJurTrias baseline is valid.
261 Layers 12-Jurassic and 11-Cretaceous are thin relative to the vertical resolution of the velocity
262 data, and therefore do not give reliable estimates. Layer 10-Cretaceous is valid, with the
263 CretShale baseline. In the upper section, there is one Paleogene (09-Paleogene) and one Neogene
264 layer (03-Neogene). The Paleogene layer has a sufficient thickness, but the well indicates that it
265 is not well aligned with Layer 10-Cretaceous, and the CretShale baseline is therefore invalid for
266 it here. The Neogene layer is thin and close to the seabed. This interpretation procedure leaves
267 us with two valid layers for net apparent erosion estimation in the eastern part of Profile A-A',
268 namely 10-Cretaceous and 13-Triassic.

269 On the eastern part of the Profile A-A', on the Finnmark Platform, the erosion decreases
270 slightly towards the east (Fig. 4d, e). This indicates a regional trend of less erosion towards the
271 Russian sector. In the centre of Profile A-A', the transition from the Hammerfest Basin onto the
272 Loppa High shows no significant change in the net apparent erosion (Fig. 4g, h). This
273 observation implies that the Loppa High was not an active structural element during the late
274 Cenozoic erosion episodes.

275 From the western edge of the Loppa High (Fig. 4i, j) there is a gradual westwards
276 decrease in the estimated net apparent erosion, best seen in the Neogene (Layers 03-07) and
277 Paleogene (Layers 08 and 09) using the CretShale baseline. The Harstad, Tromsø, Sørvestsnaget
278 and Bjørnøya basins are deep Cretaceous basins (Fig. 1) with massive shales. The deep
279 Cretaceous (and parts of the deeper Paleogene) has anomalously low velocity throughout the
280 whole area and does not conform to the CretShale baseline. The low velocity in these areas has
281 been quality controlled and is not an artefact. One possible explanation for this is high
282 overpressure prior to uplift and erosion, some of which may remain today. There may also be a

283 lithology change in the Paleogene in places from shale to biogenic ooze (silica), which has lower
284 velocity than shale and would give a significant mismatch with the CretShale baseline. Presence
285 of ooze has been reported in well 7216/11-1S (Ryseth et al. 2003) and further north, closer to
286 Profile A-A', in well 7316/5-1 within the Paleogene wedges (Eidvin et al. 1998). Due to these
287 strong geological velocity variations the net apparent erosion estimates in this area are uncertain.

288288

289 **Profile B-B'**

290 The layout of Profile B-B' in Figure 5a–c is similar to that for profile A-A'. This profile
291 has a different set of interpreted horizons, and runs from north to south. The best layers for net
292 apparent erosion are Cretaceous (Layer 06) and Triassic (Layer 10) (Fig. 5a). The velocities
293 above the Permian are stable and there are no problems using these layers for velocity inversion
294 analysis (Fig. 5b). On the net apparent erosion profile in Figure 5c (upper panel), well 7125/4-2
295 is superimposed, with estimated erosion from the sonic log method (enlarged in Figure 5d, e
296 (Ktenas et al. 2017)). The graph in the lower panel of the figure shows stable erosion estimates
297 from the two layers in the south, as compared to the northern and central parts of the profile,
298 where estimates from the two layers differ significantly. The corrected map follows estimates
299 from the Triassic (Layer 10). Apart from the mismatch between the layers, the profile shows a
300 stable and almost linear increase in net apparent erosion towards the north.

301 Enlarged displays of the southern and northern parts of Profile B-B' are shown in Figure
302 5d–h. Figure 5d, e shows the southern section, the Nysleppen Fault Complex area, where the
303 erosion estimates from Layers 06-Cretaceous and 10-Triassic are in good agreement. Figure 5f,
304 g shows the northern part, the Bjarmeland Platform, where the erosion estimates from Layers
305 06-Cretaceous and 10-Triassic disagree. Closer inspection of the velocity inversion results
306 indicates that the Cretaceous layer appears to have changed lithofacies such that the CretShale

307 'shale' baseline is no longer appropriate. A facies change towards a mixed sand-shale lithology
308 is seen on Svalbard and in the Russian Barents Sea (Stoupakova et al. 2011) and is indicated by
309 seismic observations of clinoforms farther east in the Norwegian sector (Marin et al. 2017). No
310 wells have been drilled through the Cretaceous in this area. In the absence of a well-tie, we tested
311 the hypothesis that the Cretaceous might consist of a mixed-sand shale lithology on the
312 Bjarmeland Platform by plotting Layer 06-Cretaceous against the 'mixed sand-shale' LJurTrias
313 baseline, as used for layer 10-Triassic. The result is shown in Figure 5h and gives a good match
314 between the two layers. This indicates that there is a good chance of finding reservoir sands in
315 the Cretaceous in this area.

316316

317 **Profile C-C'**

318 The layout of Profile C-C' in Figure 6a–c is similar to that for Profile A-A'. This profile
319 has a different set of interpreted horizons and also runs from north to south. The best layers for
320 net apparent erosion are 03-Paleogene, 04-Cretaceous and 07-Triassic (Fig. 6a). The velocities
321 are stable above the Permian (Fig. 6b). In the deep Bjørnøya Basin, velocities are anomalously
322 low. Figure 6c (upper panel) shows net apparent erosion along the profile, with a sonic log based
323 erosion estimate from well 7120/2-1 superimposed (enlarged in Figure 6d, e (Ktenas et al.
324 2017)). The graph in the lower panel of Figure 6c shows significant disagreement between
325 erosion estimates from the different layers of the profile. A possible reason for the uncertainty
326 is that Profile C-C' runs north-south close to the edge of the deep Cretaceous basins of the
327 western Barents Sea (Fig. 1).

328 The quality of the net apparent erosion estimates along this profile is lower than those in
329 the other profiles. With support from other data it is possible to make a valid interpretation of
330 net apparent erosion along the whole length of profile C-C' (Fig. 6c), but the same layers cannot

331 be used everywhere. The best layer is 03-Paleogene, which matches 04-Cretaceous in the
332 Hammerfest Basin (and therefore gives a valid estimate there with the CretShale baseline), and
333 is stable until it pinches-out in the middle of the Bjørnøya Basin. Layer 04-Cretaceous is reliable
334 in the Hammerfest Basin, partly over the Bjørnøya Fault Complex (the down-stepping fault
335 blocks north of the Loppa High), and at the northern pinch-out in the Bjørnøya Basin. Layer 07-
336 Triassic is more noisy. It is reliable over most of the Hammerfest Basin, on the Loppa High, and
337 at the northern pinch-out edge in the Bjørnøya Basin. At the base of the Bjørnøya Basin, the
338 layer has anomalously low velocity which gives a zero erosion estimate. This is most likely an
339 artefact for the same reasons as discussed under Profile A-A', in the deep Cretaceous in
340 Sørvestsnaget Basin. A possible geological mechanism is that of high overpressure prior to uplift
341 and erosion, which some of it may remain until today. The Triassic is affected by high 'velocity
342 leakage' from the basement (blue-green colour) in the hanging wall of the southern Loppa High
343 boundary fault, and by low velocity leakage from the Bjørnøya Basin Cretaceous sequence in
344 the Bjørnøya Fault Complex (red colour).

345 When anomalies and inaccurate erosion estimates are not taken into account, Profile C-
346 C' shows a smooth regional trend with little variation in net apparent erosion from the
347 Hammerfest Basin in the south and across the Loppa High. As the layers incline towards the
348 north and start to sub-crop, from the middle of the Bjørnøya Basin and northwards, there is a
349 marked northwards increase in erosion towards the Stappen High. The net apparent erosion
350 values estimated at the northern edge of the profile are ~2500 m, and assuming further
351 northwards increase, are comparable with the estimate of circa 3 km of erosion reported by
352 Vågnes & Amundsen (1993), from analysis of samples from Bjørnøya.

353353

354 *Net apparent erosion map estimates in the southwestern Barents Sea*

355 Gridded time structure maps were available for Top Paleogene, Base Tertiary, Base
356 Cretaceous, Intra Lower Jurassic and Base Upper Triassic. These were used to perform velocity
357 inversion for the Paleogene (with the CretShale baseline, Fig. 7), Cretaceous (with the CretShale
358 baseline, Fig. 8), and Lower Jurassic–Upper Triassic layers (with the LJurTrias baseline, Fig. 9).
359 The zero erosion lines drawn in Figures 7 and 8 follow the present day continental shelf break.
360 Overall, the best net apparent erosion estimates are associated with the Cretaceous map, but there
361 are areas where this map is invalid. In the western Barents Sea, as discussed under Profile A-A’
362 and C-C’, the Paleogene map was used in preference. On the Bjarmeland Platform, as discussed
363 under Profile B-B, the Lower Jurassic–Upper Triassic map was used. There is also a limitation
364 in the extent of the Cretaceous map (Fig. 8), especially towards the east, but also to the north,
365 south and on the Loppa High. In these areas values from the Lower Jurassic–Upper Triassic map
366 (Fig. 9) were merged in. The merged map was then calibrated to wells (Ktenas et al. 2017), as
367 previously recommended. The calibration was performed by linear regression of erosion
368 estimated from the sonic log method for wells (Ktenas et al. 2017, shown in Fig.10) against map
369 erosion estimates. The correction was carried out by applying the cross-plot regression to the
370 map. The corrected map was not tied to wells, instead the estimated differences at the well
371 locations were measured and tabulated. The crossplot and data values are shown in Figure 11
372 and Table 1. The corrected map is shown in Figure 12. Some changes were made to the Intra
373 Lower Jurassic and Base Upper Triassic map during this merging process; including clipping
374 areas where the corrected map estimates were considered unreliable. As it is based on mid-point
375 data, the corrected map will include some variations which are due to lithology changes rather
376 than indications of erosion; thus the corrected map will not be reliable in detail, but large scale
377 trends should be reliable.

378 An interesting observation was made at the map merge step around the Nordkapp Basin,
379 where the Lower Jurassic–Upper Triassic map (Fig. 9) has a zone of increased velocity which

380 gives an impression of increased net apparent erosion. However, this is not seen for the
381 Cretaceous (Fig. 8). We believe that this might be related to a diagenetic effect caused by
382 enhanced vertical fluid flow through the more sandy Triassic and Jurassic section in the vicinity
383 of the salt diapirs.

384384

385 *Comparison of map based inversion with well log methods*

386 Velocity inversion of time structure maps using a high quality regional velocity model
387 gives an areally continuous estimate of net apparent erosion (Fig. 12). The well log based method
388 is more accurate, but produces a sparse data set from which it can be difficult to make a reliable
389 map (Fig. 10). Comparison of the maps from the two different methods shows great similarities.
390 The trends of decreasing net apparent erosion towards the west in the western Barents Sea, and
391 of increasing erosion towards the north in the central study area, are similar. These appear to be
392 fairly smooth regional trends which the sparse well data set has enough resolution to capture.

393 Closer comparison of the two maps reveals trends which the well log study fails to reflect.
394 There is a clear relationship between the density of well data and the ability of the well study to
395 capture trends. At the eastern edge of the study area, the map based inversion picks up decreasing
396 net apparent erosion towards the Olga Basin in the Russian Barents Sea (east of our study area,
397 NPD 2017), and the erosion isocontours swing around to a northerly direction. West of this, in
398 the central-northern area, the isocontours have a NE-SW direction. The overall trend in Figure
399 12 shows a subtle axis of higher erosion trending towards the NW (towards Svalbard). This trend
400 is also visible in the estimated tectonic uplift map of Vågnes & Amundsen (1993), which
401 includes Svalbard. Their map overlaps the northern section of our study area. This indicates that
402 there is a major change in the crustal uplift pattern at the transition from the Norwegian mainland
403 to the Barents Sea. The up-to-the-west tilt of the Norwegian mainland does not seem to continue

404 into the Barents Sea. In particular, there are no traces of an up-to-the-west tilt connecting the
405 mainland with Bjørnøya and Svalbard. While there is an obvious similarity between these areas,
406 both the southwestern Barents Sea and the adjacent Norwegian mainland have been significantly
407 uplifted and eroded during the late Cenozoic. The axis of the uplift, and perhaps also the timing
408 and magnitude, appears to differ.

409 Investigation of details in the corrected net apparent erosion map shows features like the
410 small apparent ‘high erosion ridge’ (green in Fig. 12) running NE-SW through well 7122/2-1.
411 The corrected map based net apparent erosion estimate in this well (Table 1) is 2072 m, 472 m
412 higher than the well estimate of 1600 m. The apparent ‘ridge’ is most likely a geological feature
413 where the assumptions in the mid-point inversion methods are invalid. It seems that this feature
414 also crosses another well, 7224/7-1 where the erosion estimate is 269 m too high. This feature is
415 very local, and the broader area of the map around well 7122/2-1 shows lower erosion values
416 (yellow) which appear to be regionally consistent and better aligned with the wells estimates. In
417 well 7222/11-1 T2, the nearest well to 7122/2-1 on the map, the corrected map estimate is 1629
418 m, only 29 m different from the well study estimate of 1600m.

419 There are three areas with a generally poor match between the well and map predictions.
420 The first is the western Barents Sea, around wells 7019/1-1, 7117/9-1, 7119-7-1, 7216/11-1 S
421 and 7316/5-1. These are in the area where the map erosion estimates are taken from the
422 Paleogene. The first three wells have Paleogene and Cretaceous present, and the Cretaceous
423 shales have been aligned with the CretShale baseline. The last two wells are far to the west, have
424 no Cretaceous section present, and were aligned with the Paleogene (Ktenas et al. 2017). The
425 poor match may be related to variations in lithology and/or pore pressure within the Paleogene.
426 The second area is in the Fingerdjupet Sub-basin, around wells 7321/7-1 and 7321/8-1. The well

427 estimates here are determined from alignment of both the Cretaceous and Triassic against their
428 respective baselines (Ktenas et al. 2017) and appear to be of good quality.

429 The third area is in the Nysleppen Fault Complex area, around wells 7124/3-1 and
430 7125/4-2. Both well estimates come from alignment of both the Cretaceous and Triassic and
431 appear to be good quality (Ktenas et al. 2017). The map (and profile B-B') inversion appears
432 reasonable, but there is a difference in the detail of the results. The wells are located at the south-
433 eastern edge of the Hammerfest Basin, near the Finnmark coast where the sedimentary section
434 is thin. There may be some velocity leakage into the Cretaceous which affects the map inversion,
435 especially if the time maps were not accurately interpreted.

436436

437 **Discussion**

438 The corrected map of net apparent erosion in the southwestern Barents Sea (Fig.12) has many
439 similarities with those of others (e.g. Vågnes & Amundsen 1993; Henriksen et al. 2011a; Baig
440 et al. 2016; Johansen 2016), both in terms of regional variation (shape) and magnitude. There is
441 a general consensus around the large scale trends: the declining erosion towards the west in the
442 Western Barents Sea, the northwards increase in erosion, and for those with a large enough study
443 area, the decrease towards the Olga Basin in the Russian Barents Sea with a change to
444 approximately north-south directed erosion isocontours in the proximity of the Norway-Russia
445 maritime border. Some studies have mapped this out over larger areas, up to and including
446 Svalbard (Vågnes & Amundsen 1993; Henriksen et al. 2011a). Data commonly used are seismic
447 (interpretation), compaction (velocity from seismic and wells), vitrinite reflectance and apatite
448 fission track analysis. Important contributions have also been made using other input data such
449 as gravity (Cochran & Talwani 1978) and apatite U-Th/He thermochronology (Zattin et al.

450 2016). Each data type sheds light on a different aspect of the uplift and erosion history of the
451 area (Anell et al. 2009).

452 The difference in this study is not in the fundamental method, but in how it has been applied.
453 Multi-parameter velocity inversion with a two lithology NCT model is a better approach than
454 single lithology compaction methods. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first documented
455 work applying this method in the Barents Sea, and the corrected net apparent erosion map is
456 more detailed and perhaps more precise in comparison to other published maps.

457 Compaction based erosion estimation using velocity data is the only available method away
458 from wells. At the wells, there is a choice to establish the baseline to which the map based erosion
459 estimates were calibrated. We considered two methods, vitrinite reflectance and compaction
460 (Ktenas et al. 2017). Darkening of organic particles, measured as vitrinite reflectance, happens
461 as a consequence of time and temperature, and the influence of time is significant. The advantage
462 of the method is that older tectonic episodes (when associated with high heat flow) can be
463 detected. The disadvantage, in terms of net apparent erosion estimates, is that vitrinite reflectance
464 depends on the heat flow history, the thermal conductivity of the layers (i.e. the modelled rock
465 types), as well as the timing and magnitude of erosion, all of which have to be estimated from
466 the calibration of observed and modelled vitrinite reflectance. The relationship between
467 compaction, velocity and net apparent erosion relies on fewer assumptions, and the relevant
468 parameters are easier to determine (i.e. zero erosion reference wells in similar lithology).
469 Compaction based estimates of net apparent erosion are therefore normally more reliable (Japsen
470 2000; Anell et al. 2009), and hence this compaction method was adopted for our study.

471 A key element in this study was the use of a high quality regional velocity model for the
472 profile and map based erosion estimates. These estimates are critically dependent on the velocity
473 data used. Another key element was to choose layers which were unaffected by high velocity

474 contrast boundaries such as salt domes or the top of Permian carbonates. Regional time maps
475 and velocity models are never precise, and high (or low) velocities have a tendency to ‘leak’,
476 vertically or horizontally, some distance away from such boundaries (such as at faults).

477 The net apparent erosion observed in the southwestern Barents Sea is a consequence of
478 tectonic uplift. The shape of the erosion map gives some insight into the possible mechanisms
479 and timing of this process. Taking into account previous studies, we consider regional, isostatic
480 uplift related either to a temperature increase in the mantle and/or chemical alteration of the base
481 of the lithosphere to be likely. For basin modelling, we propose to describe the late Cenozoic
482 uplift and erosion history as two phases of erosion, one prior to and one after the deposition of
483 the Pleistocene deposits in the study area. There are prominent seismic unconformities to which
484 these phases can be correlated (e.g. Profile A-A’, Fig. 4a).

485485

486 **Conclusions**

487 This study shows that a rigorous application of compaction based erosion estimates, such
488 as in multi-parameter velocity inversion with baselines for two lithologies, together with a high
489 quality regional velocity model and time structure maps, can be used to produce net apparent
490 erosion maps of high quality. The use of two baselines also allowed a larger geographical area
491 to be studied, such as the northern and northeastern part of the study area where the estimates
492 are mainly based on the Triassic. The use of several layers together in the same location also
493 allows, in some cases, other geological parameters to be interpreted: such as the likely lithofacies
494 change to a mixed sand and shale in the Cretaceous in the Bjarmeland Platform, and the possible
495 diagenetic effects in the Lower Jurassic to Upper Triassic around the Nordkapp Basin. Both
496 areas may be important for oil and gas exploration.

497 The regional map of net apparent erosion (Fig. 12) which has been produced for the
498 southwestern Barents Sea is primarily consistent with similar published maps with an overprint
499 of detail. The shape (regional variation) of the map will be an important input for petroleum
500 migration studies as it indicates the area tilted during tectonic uplift, showing the direction of
501 migration prior to uplift. Uncertainty is related to lithological variation, compaction
502 disequilibrium in shales and fluid/gas fill in the sediment pore spaces.

503503

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678

679 **Figure Captions**

680

681 **Fig. 1.** Map of the Norwegian Barents Sea showing the different structural elements and oil-

682 gas discoveries. The regional seismic Profiles A-A', B-B' and C-C' and the wells studied
683 along the lines are indicated with red lines and red dots, respectively. The location of the
684 study area is indicated in the inserted figure. Modified after Norwegian Petroleum
685 Directorate (NPD 2016).

686686

687 **Fig. 2.** Generalized lithostratigraphic chart illustrating the approximate age, lithologies and
688 major geodynamic events. Modified after Norwegian Interactive Offshore Stratigraphic
689 Lexicon (NORLEX) (Gradstein et al. 2010).

690690

691 **Fig. 3.** Conceptual model for the estimation of net apparent erosion **(a)** two layers of
692 Cretaceous (green) and Lower Jurassic–Upper Triassic age (yellow) with their layer mid-
693 points superimposed **(b)** the Dikte NCT model of Ktenas et al. (2017) applied in this study,
694 where the CretShale baseline is representative for Cretaceous shales and the LJurTrias
695 baseline is representative for Lower Jurassic–Triassic rocks with mixed sand-shale
696 lithologies deposited in a coastal plain to shallow marine environment. Net apparent erosion
697 is calculated as the vertical depth difference between the layer's baseline, where the layer
698 would have been at maximum depth of burial, and the present depth of burial.

699699

700 **Fig. 4.** Profile A-A'. **(a)** Regional depth converted geoseismic Profile A-A' running from the
701 northwest to the southeast illustrating areas with missing section and major erosion. **(b)** Interval
702 velocity profile from the regional Barents Sea velocity cube along the plane of the profile. **(c)**
703 Net apparent erosion for the Neogene, Paleogene, Cretaceous and Lower Jurassic–Upper
704 Triassic stratigraphic intervals in two panels, a seismic section with colour overlay and a graph.
705 Erosion estimates from wells 7124/3-1, 7222/11-1 and 7220/8-1 are superimposed. The graph
706 shows estimated erosion from each of the inverted layers. Net apparent erosion from the

707 corrected map (shown in Figure 12) is included for comparison. **(d & e)** Enlarged southeastern
708 part of the profile over the Finnmark Platform. **(f)** Enlarged inverted layers in the southeastern
709 part of the profile illustrating the sensitivity of the velocity analysis. **(g & h)** Enlarged central
710 part of the profile over the Loppa High and Hammerfest Basin. **(j & i)** Enlarged westernmost
711 part of the profile over the Sørvestsnaget Basin.

712712

713 **Fig. 5.** Profile B-B'. **(a)** North-south regional depth converted geoseismic Profile B-B' across
714 the Finnmark Platform and Bjarmeland Platform. **(b)** Interval velocity profile from the regional
715 Barents Sea velocity cube along the plane of the profile. **(c)** Net apparent erosion for the
716 Cretaceous and Lower Jurassic–Upper Triassic stratigraphic intervals in two panels, a seismic
717 section with colour overlay and a graph. On the Finnmark Platform, erosion estimates from
718 well 7125/4-2 is superimposed. The graph shows estimated erosion from each of the inverted
719 layers. Net apparent erosion from the corrected map (shown in Figure 12) is included for
720 comparison. **(d & e)** Enlarged southern part of the profile, over the Finnmark Platform and
721 Nysleppen Fault Complex. **(f & g)** Enlarged northern part of the profile, over the Bjarmeland
722 Platform. **(h)** As above, with Cretaceous on Triassic baseline.

723723

724 **Fig. 6.** Profile C-C'. **(a)** North-south regional depth converted geoseismic Profile C-C'
725 across the Finnmark Platform and Bjarmeland Platform. **(b)** Interval velocity profile from the
726 regional Barents Sea velocity cube along the plane of the profile. **(c)** Net apparent erosion for
727 the Jurassic and Lower Jurassic–Upper Triassic stratigraphic intervals in two panels, a
728 seismic section with colour overlay and a graph. The graph shows estimated erosion from
729 each of the inverted layers. Net apparent erosion from the corrected map (shown in Figure 12)
730 is included for comparison. On the Loppa High, the erosion estimate of the well 7120/2-1 is
731 superimposed on top of the profile and enlarged in **(d & e)**. The low velocity and net

732 apparent erosion estimates, which are close to zero in the Bjørnøya Basin within the
733 Cretaceous and Triassic intervals, may indicate an area of overpressure (i.e. gas movement in
734 sandstones).

735735

736 **Fig. 7.** Regional net apparent erosion map for the Paleogene interval in the southwestern
737 Barents Sea. The zero erosion line was established based on the present geomorphology of the
738 seabed.

739 Abbreviations of the structural elements: BB, Bjørnøya Basin; BFC, Bjørnøyrenna Fault
740 Complex; BP, Bjarmeland Platform; FSB, Fingerdjupet Sub-basin; HB, Harstad Basin; HFB,
741 Hammerfest Basin; HA, Hopenbanken Arch; HFC, Hoop Fault Complex; HFZ, Hornsund
742 Fracture Zone; FP, Finnmark Platform; LH, Loppa High; MB, Maud Basin; MH, Mercurius
743 High; NFC, Nysleppen Fault Complex; NH, Norsel High; NKB, Nordkapp Basin; PSP,
744 Polheim Sub-platform; RLFC, Ringvassøy-Loppa Fault Complex; SD, Samson Dome; Sv.D,
745 Svalis Dome; SFZ, Senja Fracture Zone; SG, Swaen Graben; SH, Stappen High; SNB,
746 Sørvestsnaget Basin; SR, Senja Ridge; TB, Tromsø Basin; VH, Veslemøy High; VVP,
747 Vestbakken Volcanic Province.

748 **Fig. 8.** Regional net apparent erosion map for the Cretaceous interval. In SNB, TB, VH, HB
749 and southern BB, the extracted net erosion estimates (close to zero) are erroneous. On the
750 Loppa High the net erosion is not calculated and the salt domes in NKB are indicated with a
751 grey colour. The zero erosion line was established based on the present geomorphology of the
752 seabed. For the abbreviations of the structural elements see the caption of Figure 7.

753 **Fig. 9.** Net apparent erosion map for the Triassic interval. The net erosion estimates from
754 sonic logs utilising by the Dikte NCT model are superimposed for comparison. A large part of
755 the NKB including the salt domes is not interpreted and is indicated with a grey color. For the

756 abbreviations of the structural elements see the caption of Figure 7. FH, Fedinsky High; PFC,
 757 Polstjerna Fault Complex; TIFC, Thor Iversen Fault Complex; VD, Veslekari Dome.

758 **Fig. 10.** Regional net apparent erosion map based on sonic velocity log data (modified after
 759 Ktenas et al. 2017). The map was gridded from the illustrated well points and clipped to the
 760 area of Figure 8. For the abbreviations of the structural elements see the caption of Figures 7
 761 and 9.

762 **Fig. 11.** Crossplot of the net apparent erosion estimates in wells against the values from the
 763 merged map at well locations. The X-axis corresponds to map estimates and the Y-axis to the
 764 well estimates. The regression (correction) formula is $Y = 0.7975 * X + 400$.

765 **Fig. 12.** Corrected net apparent erosion map derived from the inverted maps (Paleogene,
 766 Cretaceous and Triassic) and the net apparent erosion based on the well-log method. The
 767 wells 7128/4-1 and 7128/6-1 are not included in the calculation. For the abbreviations of the
 768 structural elements see the caption of Figures 7 and 9.

769 **Table 1.** Net apparent erosion estimates from two independent methods, based on the well-log
 770 study (Ktenas et al. 2017) and the map before and after the correction. The differential net
 771 erosion estimates illustrate the uncertainties. For the location of the wells see Fig. 12.

Well name	Well estimates (m) (Ktenas et al. 2017)	Map estimates from velocity inversion (m)	Corrected map estimates (m)	Map estimation error (±m); well minus corrected map
7019/1-1	1800	1381	1501	299
7117/9-1	1000	449	758	242
7119-7-1	1750	1228	1380	370
7120/1-1 R2	1750	1824	1855	-105
7120/12-1	1600	1192	1350	250
7120/12-2	1600	1355	1481	119
7120/2-1	1750	1857	1881	-131
7120/9-2	1700	1396	1513	187
7121/5-1	1650	1628	1699	-49
7121/5-2	1750	1681	1741	9

7121/5-3	1700	1534	1623	77
7121/9-1	1650	1592	1669	-19
7122/2-1	1600	2096	2072	-472
7124/3-1	1400	1722	1774	-374
7125/4-2	1400	1599	1675	-275
7128-4-1	1450		Not covered by map	
7128-6-1	1500		Not covered by map	
7216/11-1 S	361	430	743	-382
7220/8-1	1750	1644	1711	39
7222/11-1 T2	1600	1541	1629	-29
7224/7-1	1600	1842	1869	-269
7228/2-1 S	2250	2005	1999	251
7228/9-1 S	2000	1795	1831	169
7229/11-1	1700	1742	1789	-89
7316/5-1	800	1025	1218	-418
7321/7-1	2500	2225	2175	325
7321/8-1	2200	1846	1872	328
7324/10-1	2100	2212	2164	-64
			Average	0
			Standard deviation	252

772

Figure 1

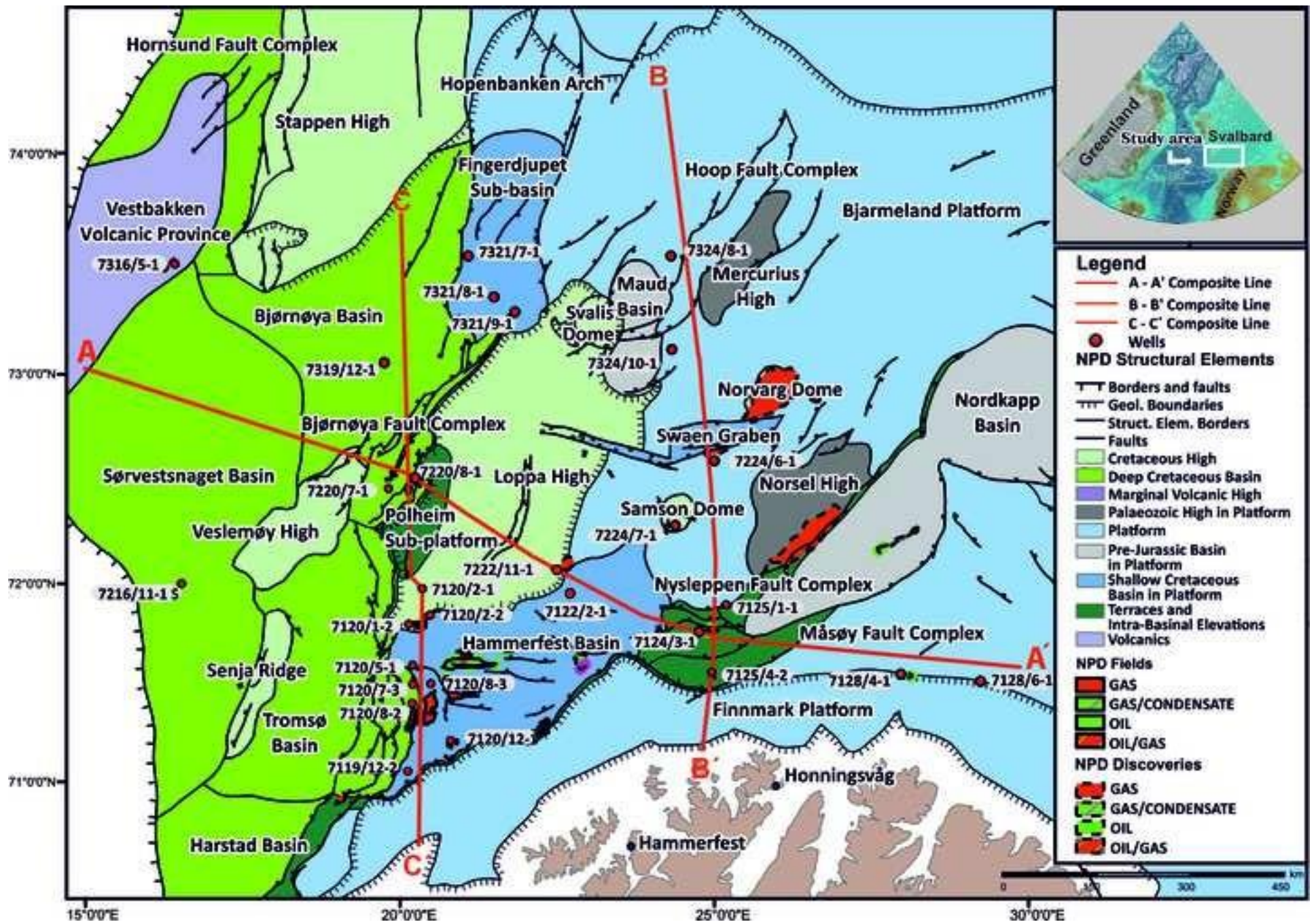
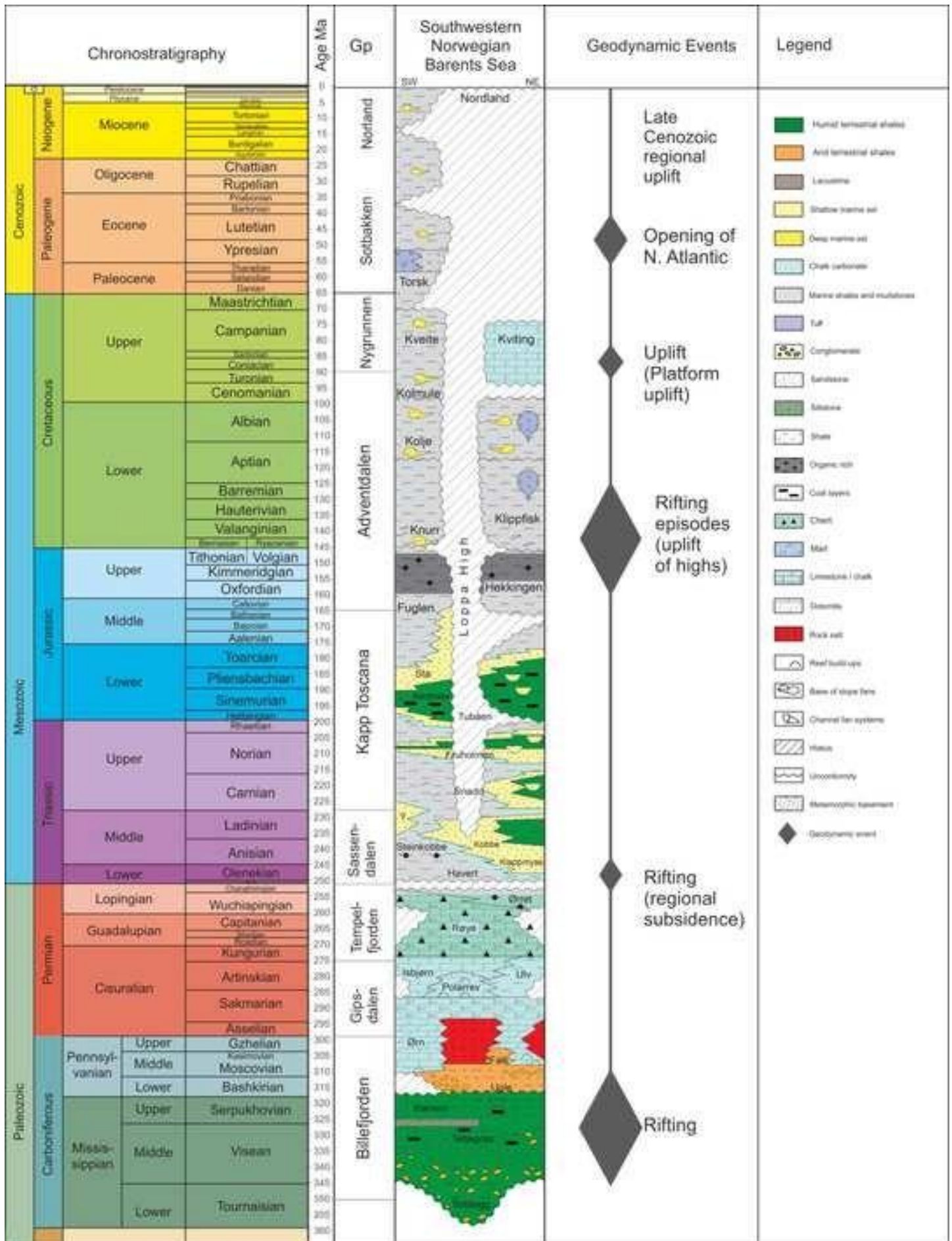


figure 2

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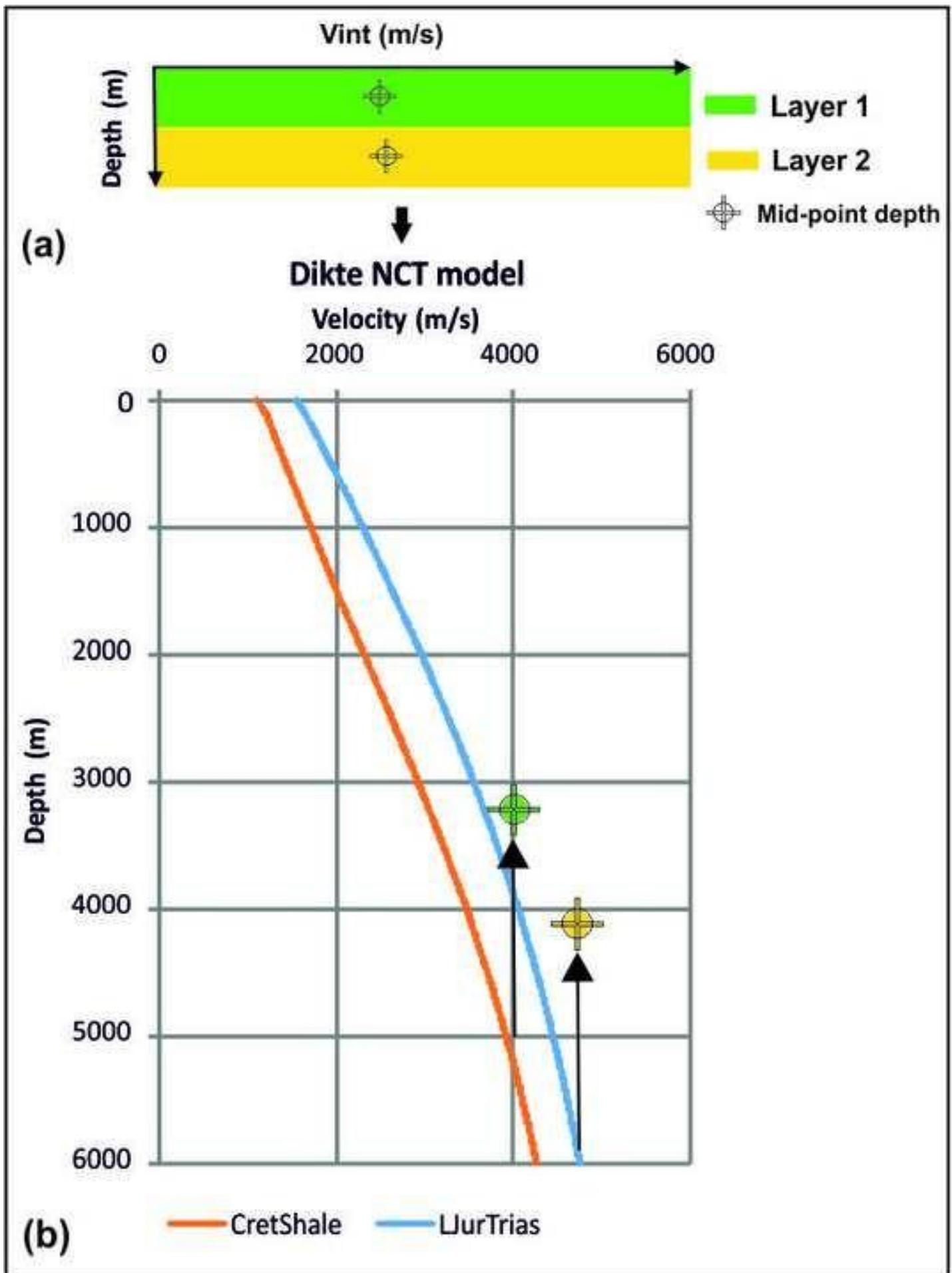
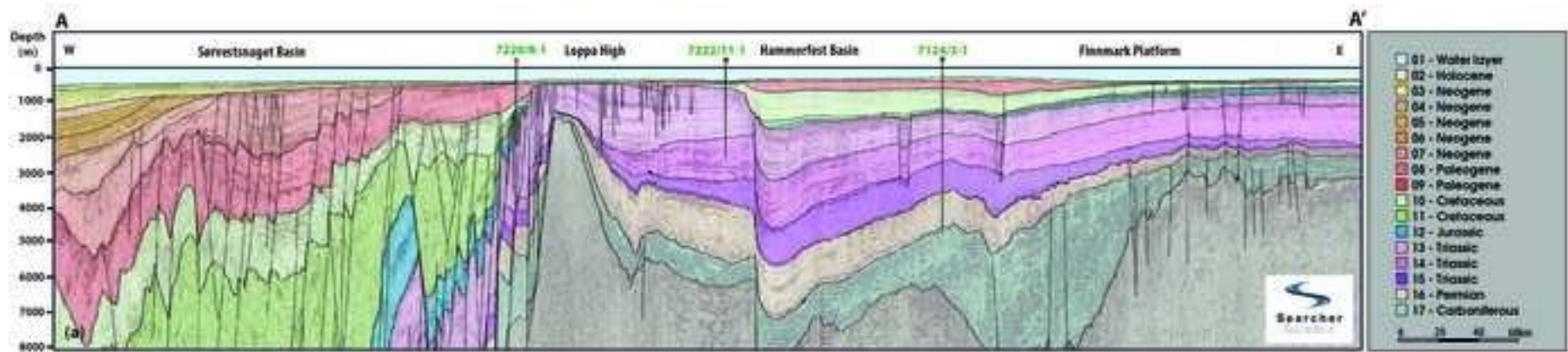
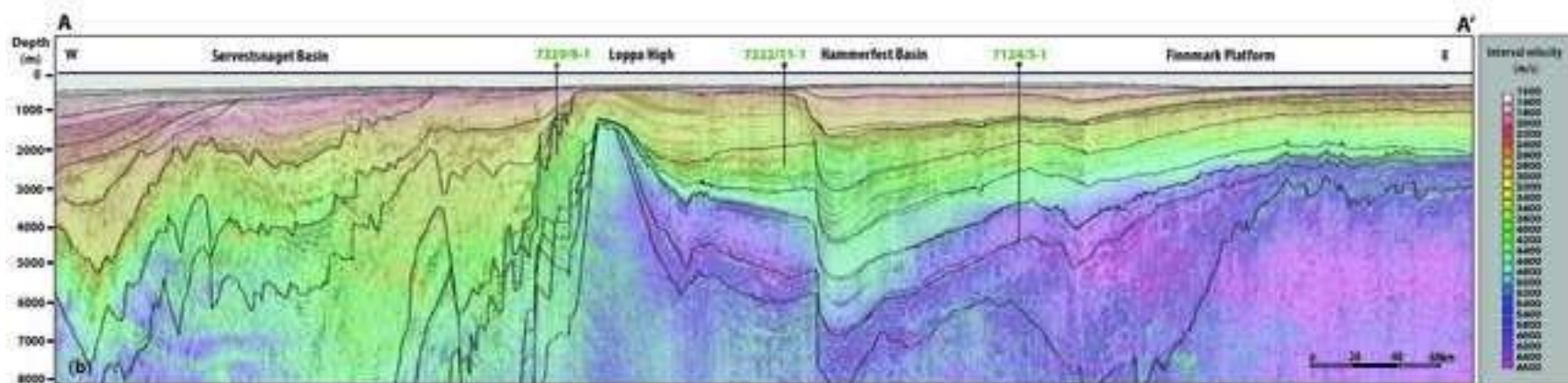
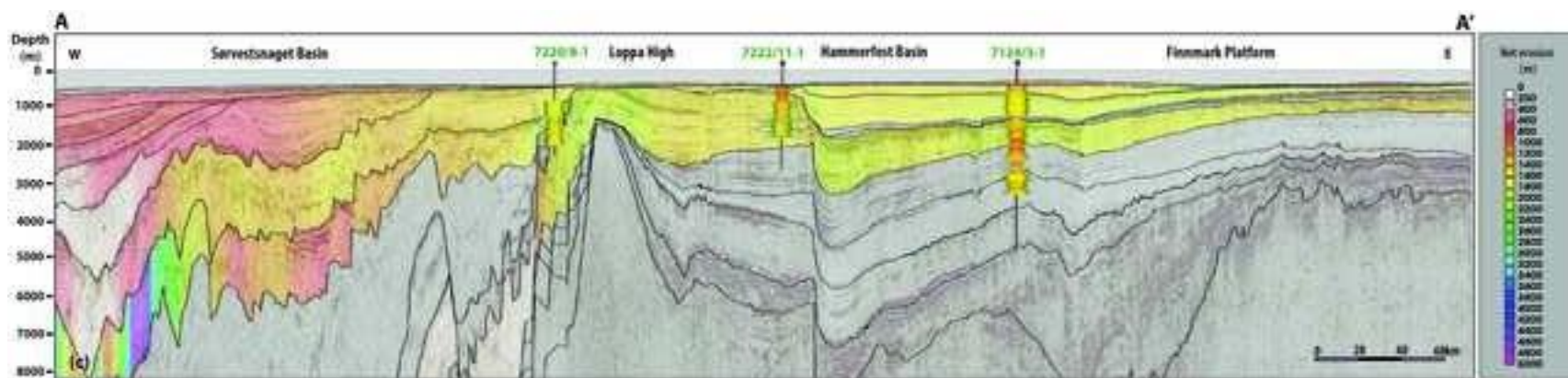
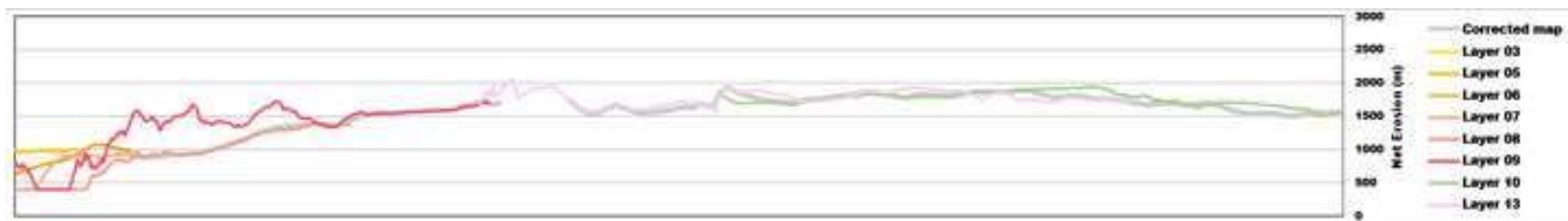


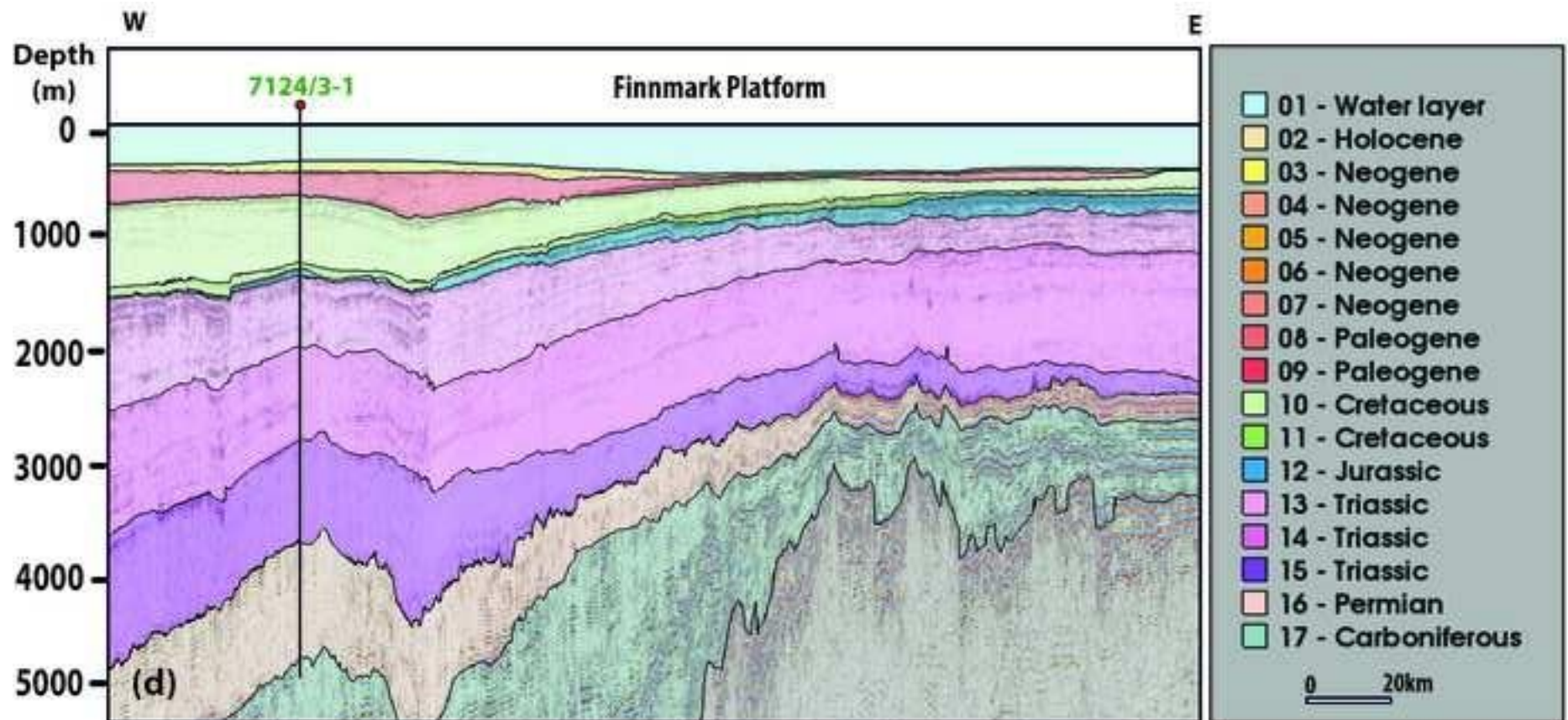
Figure 4a

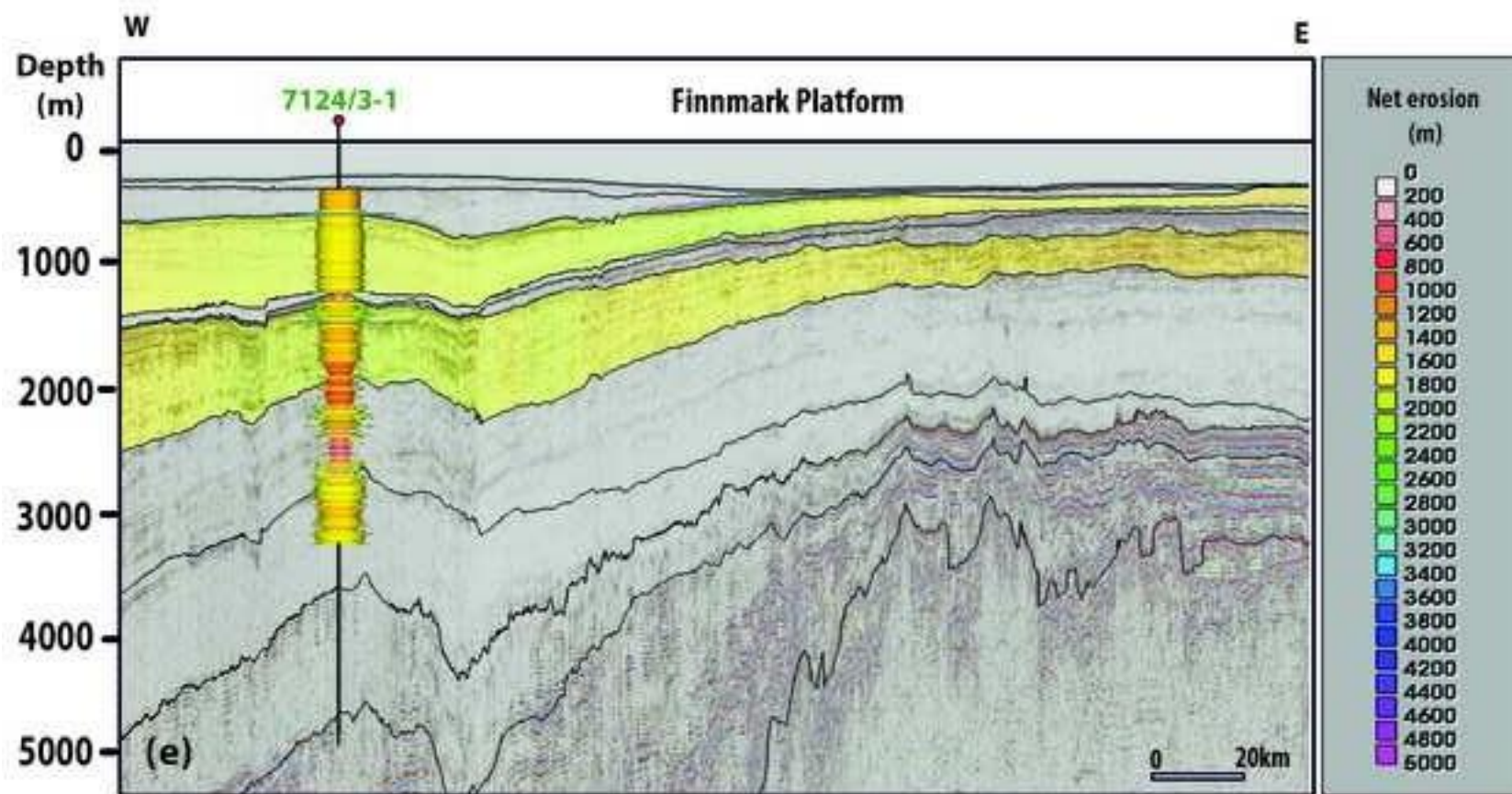


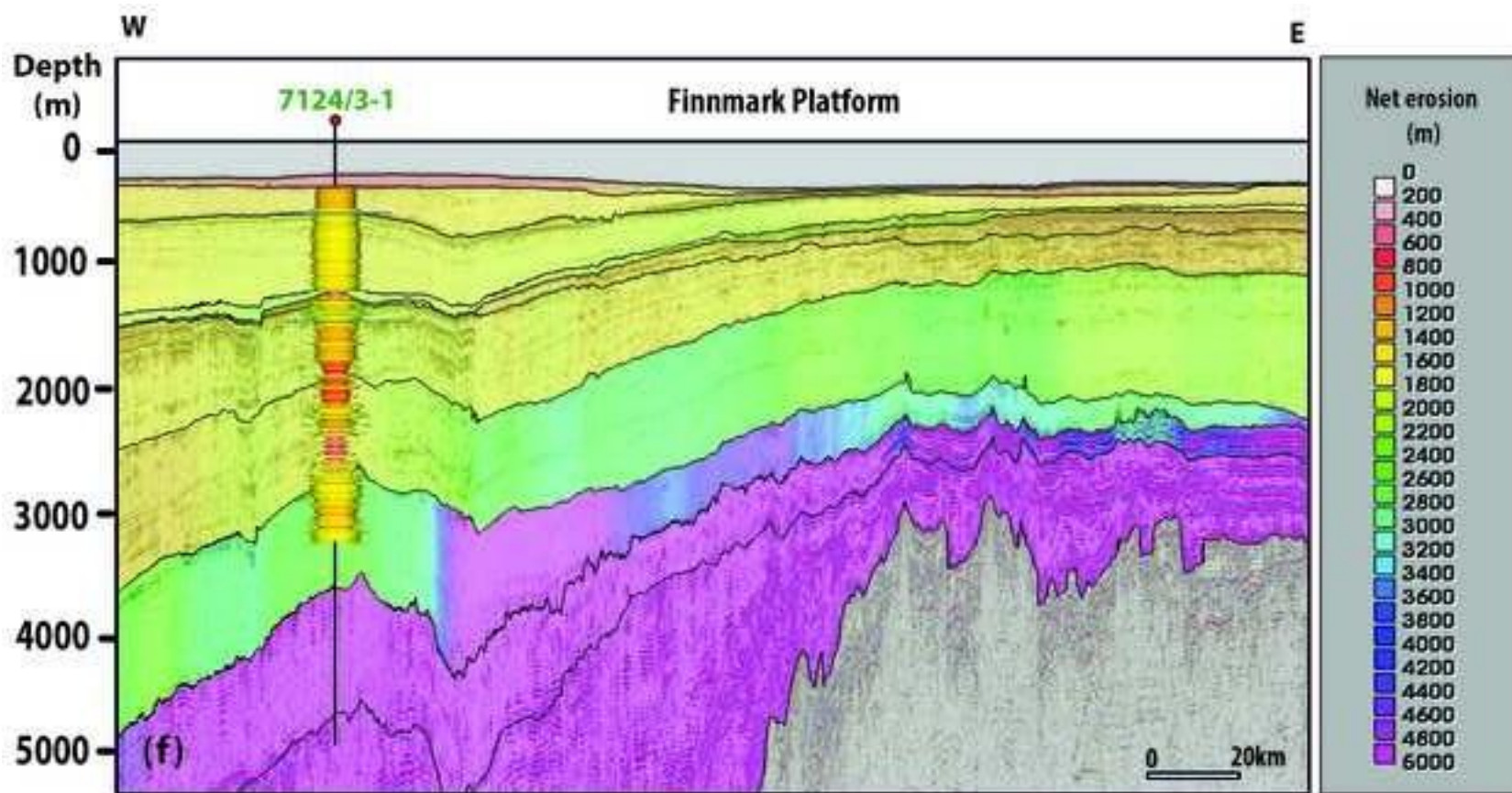


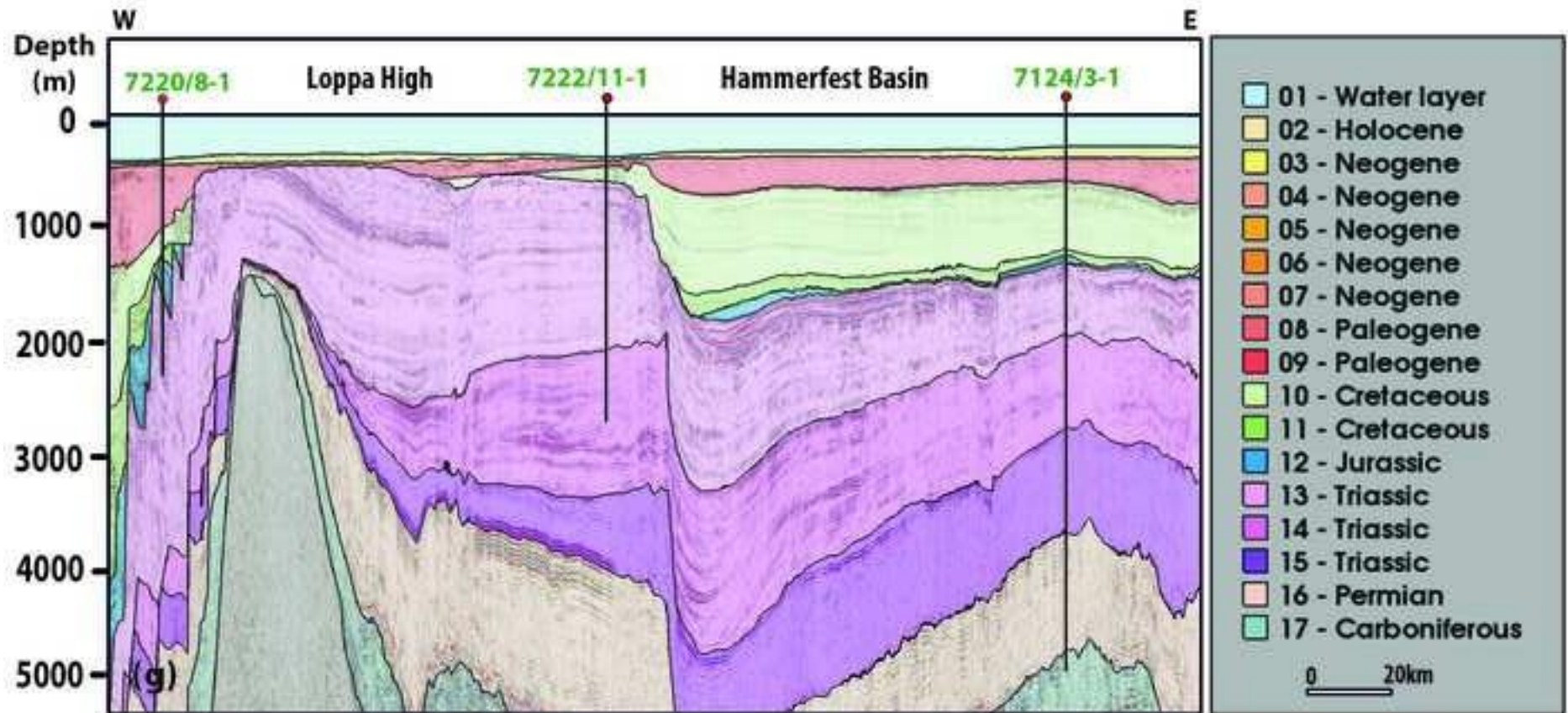


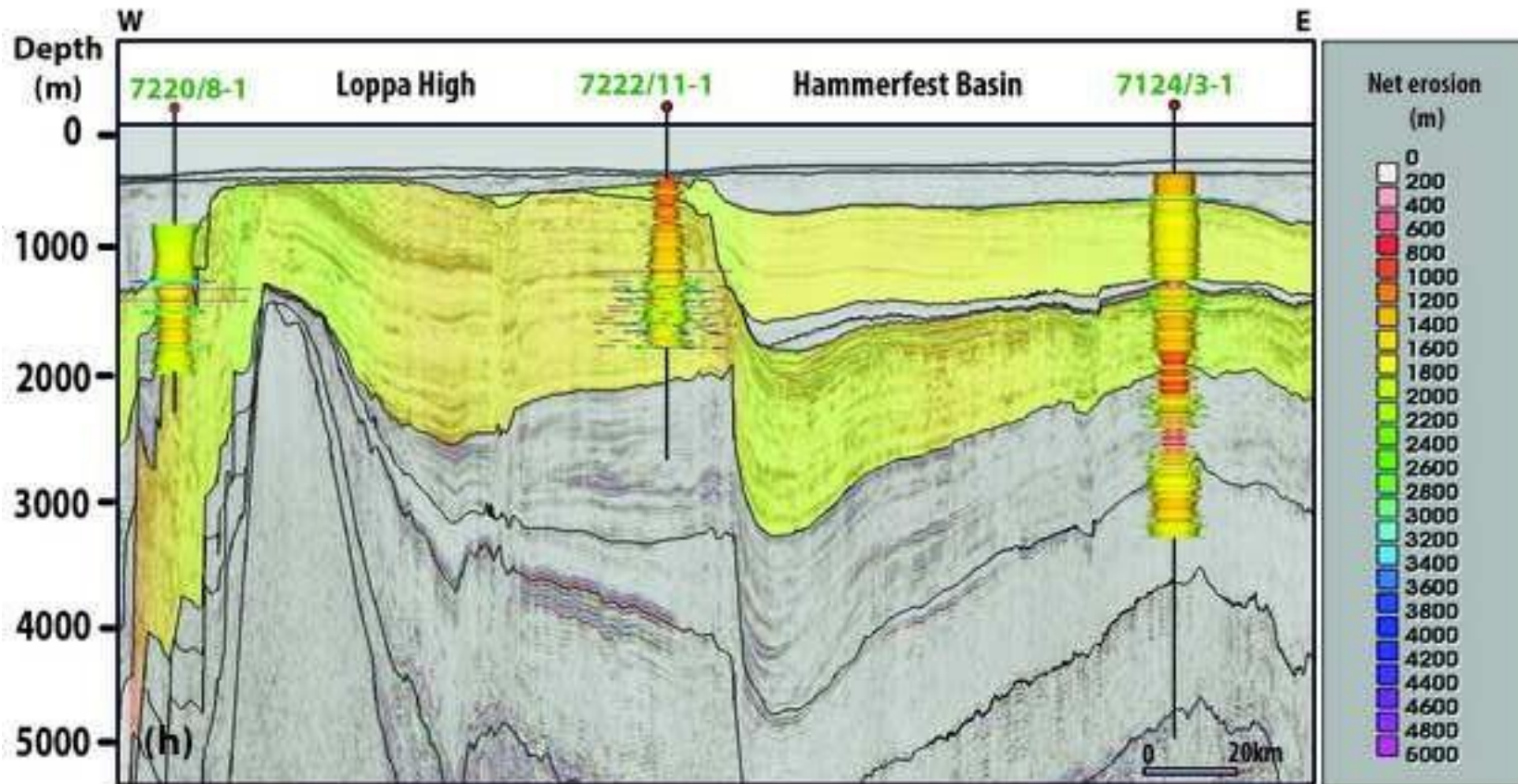


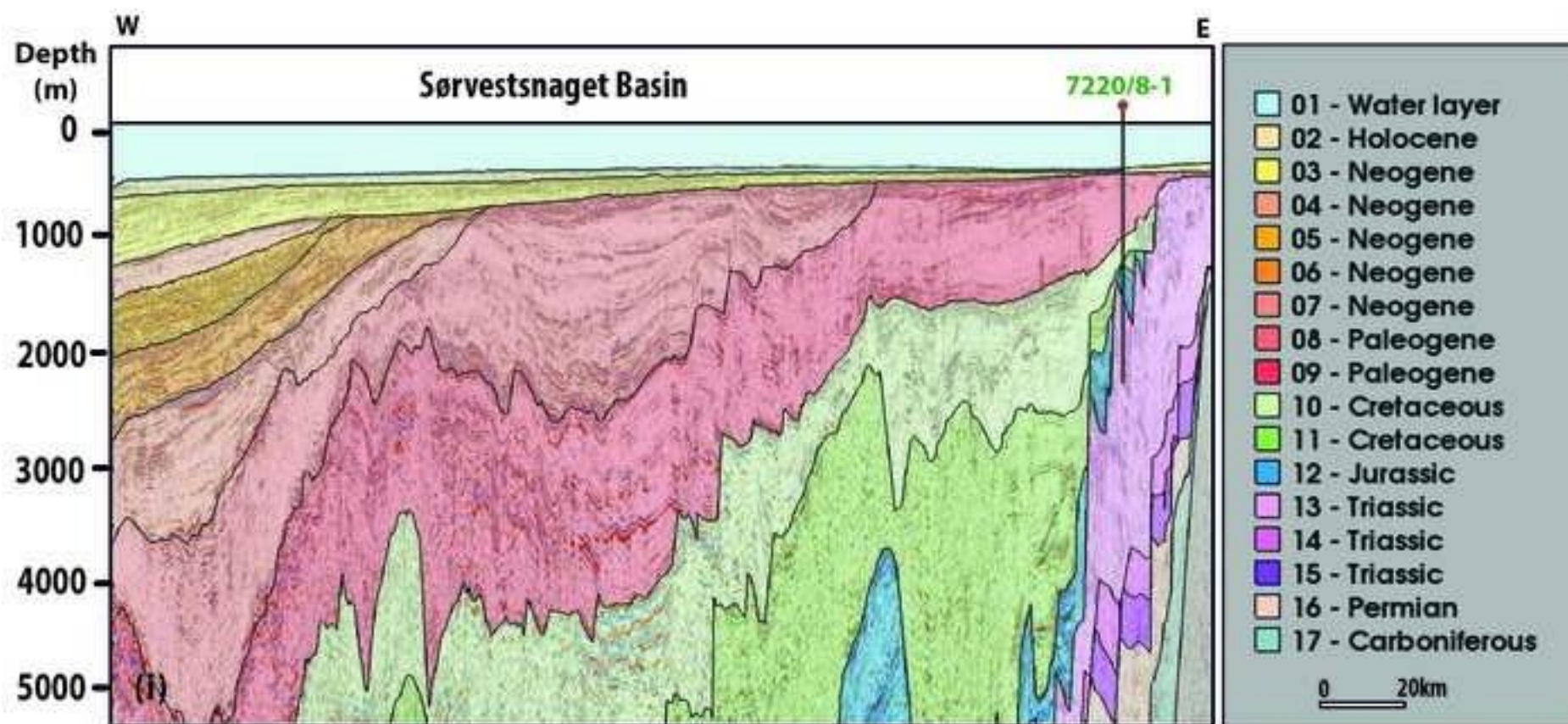


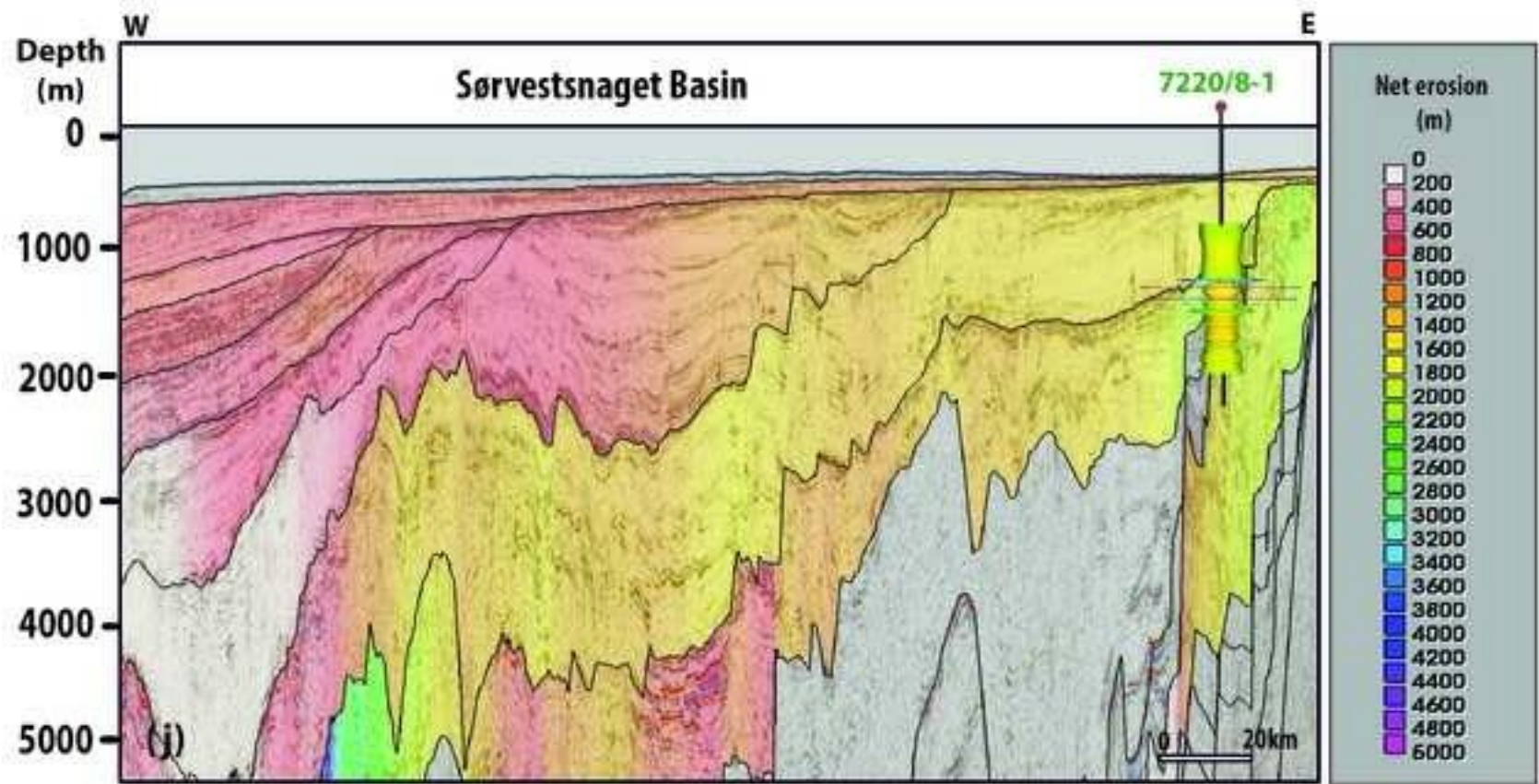


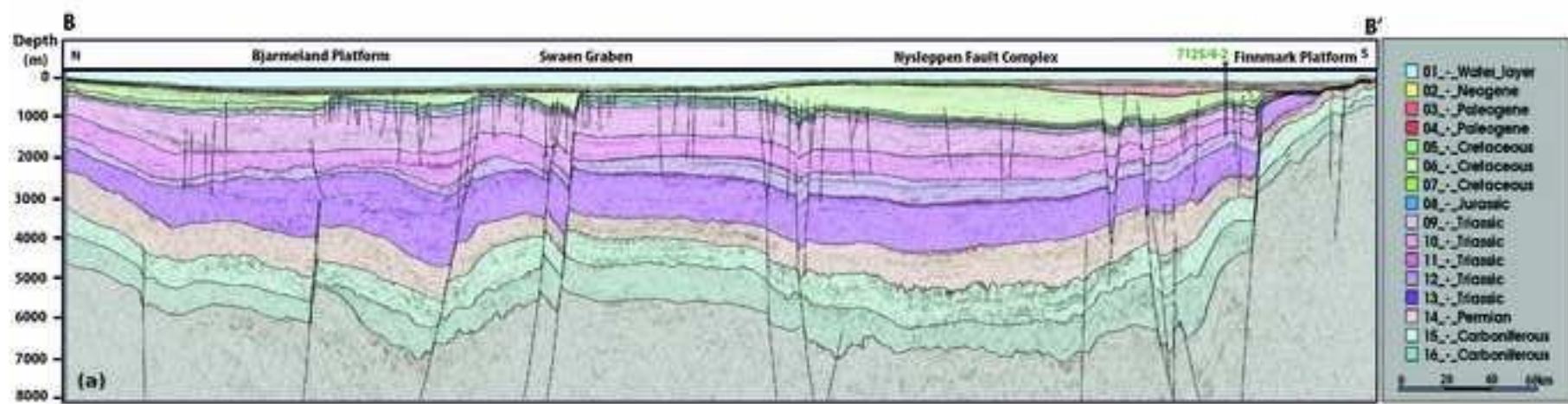


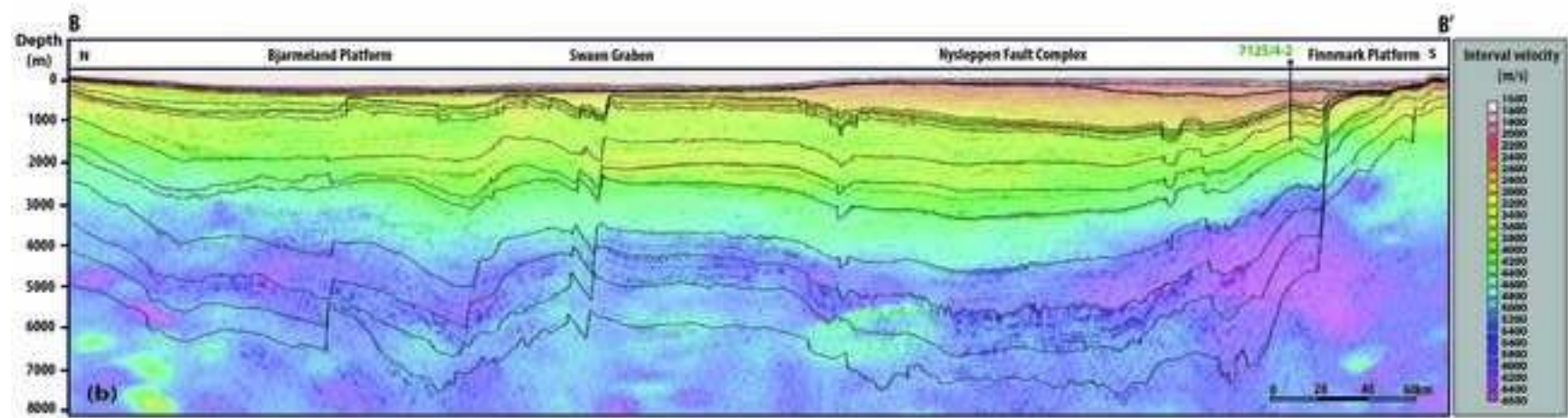


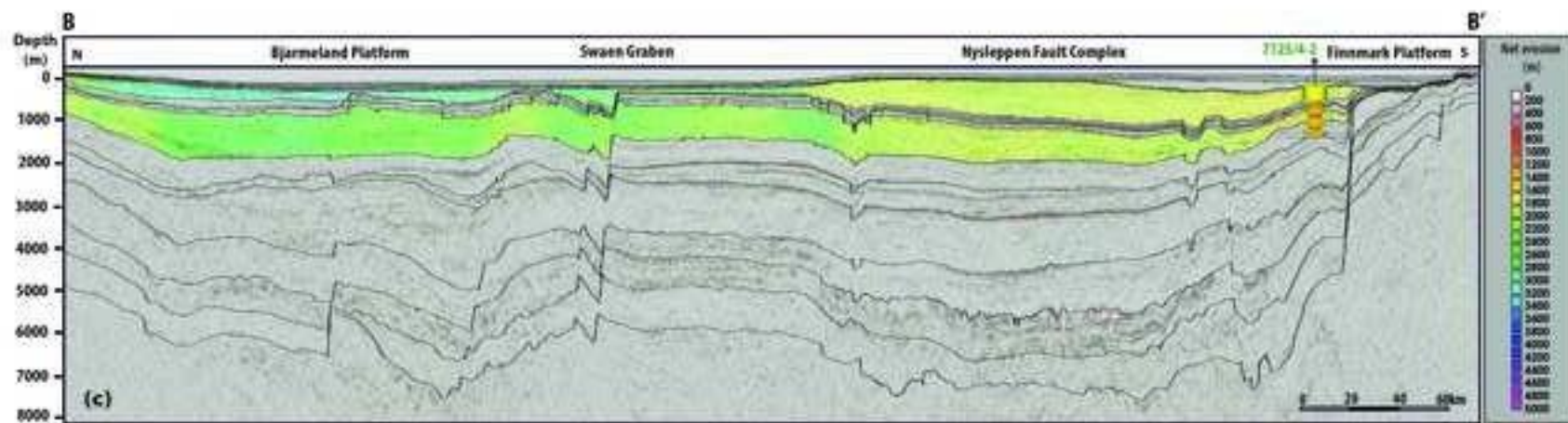


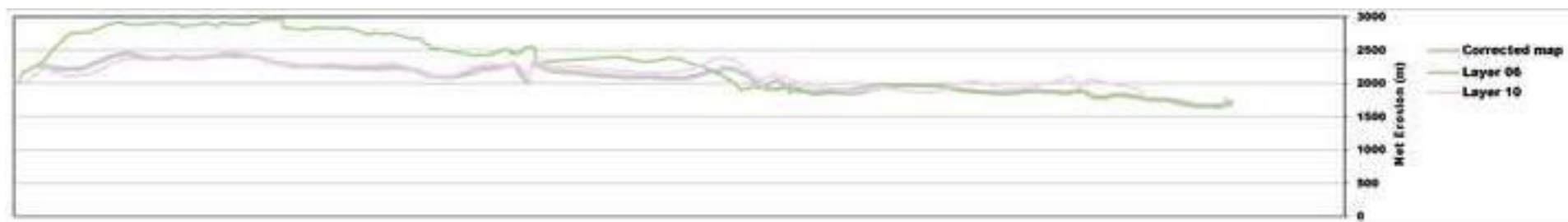


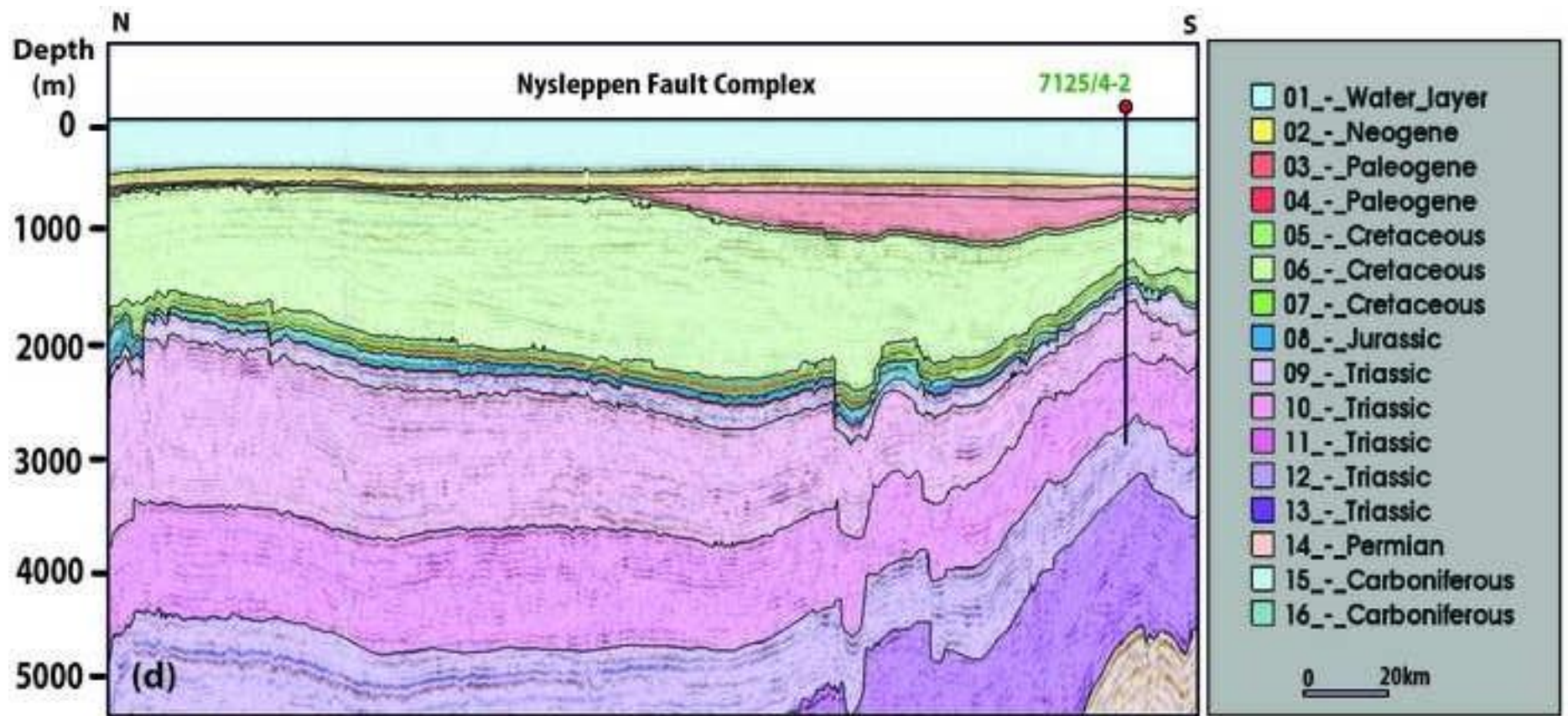


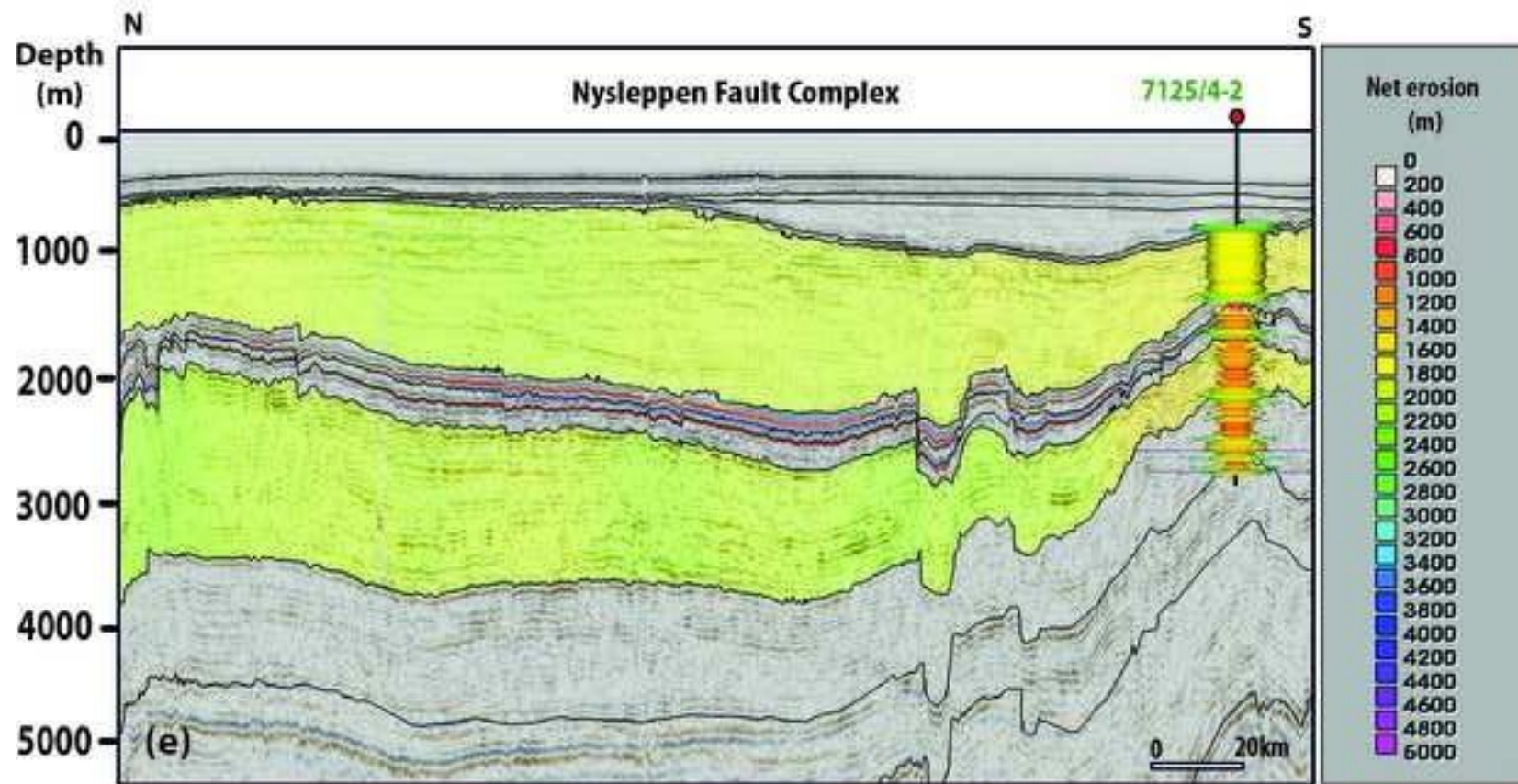


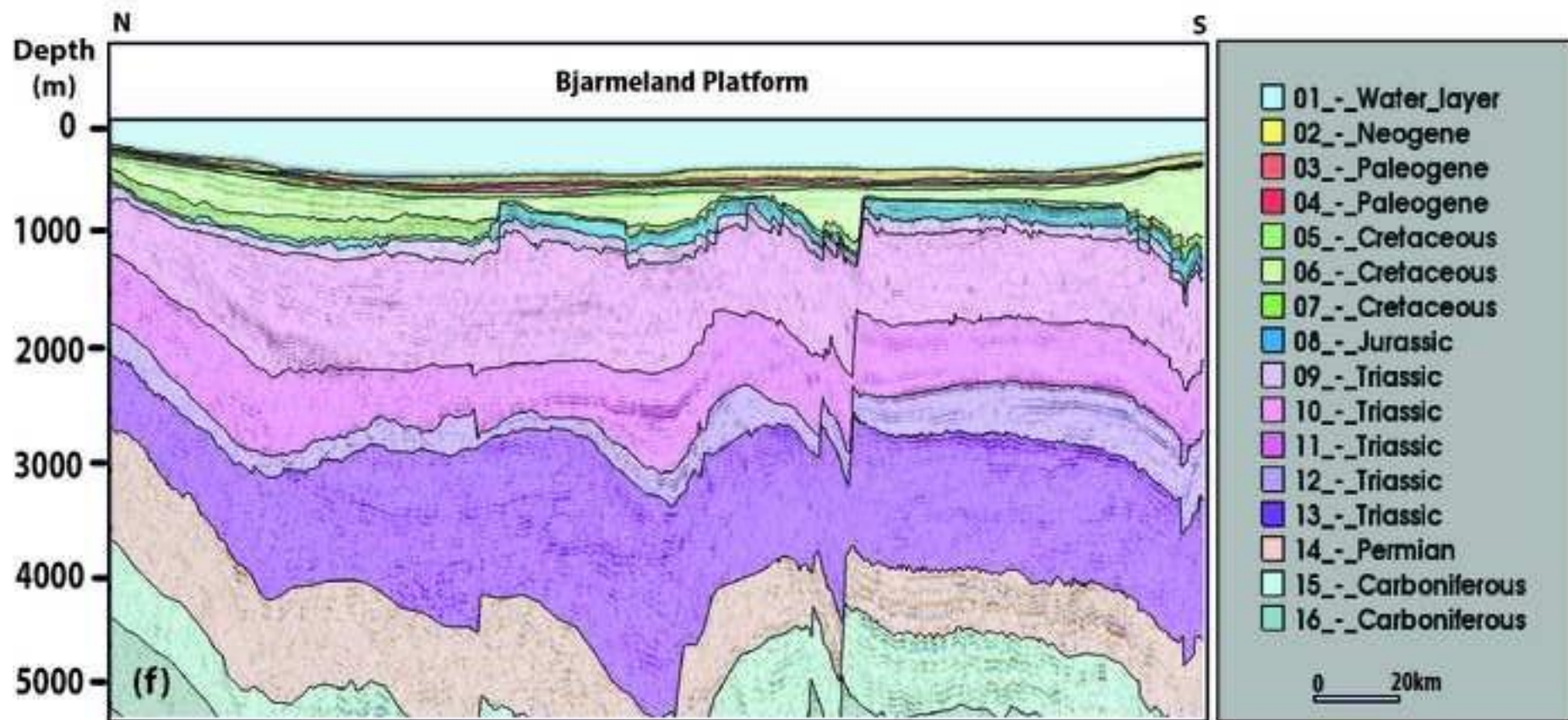


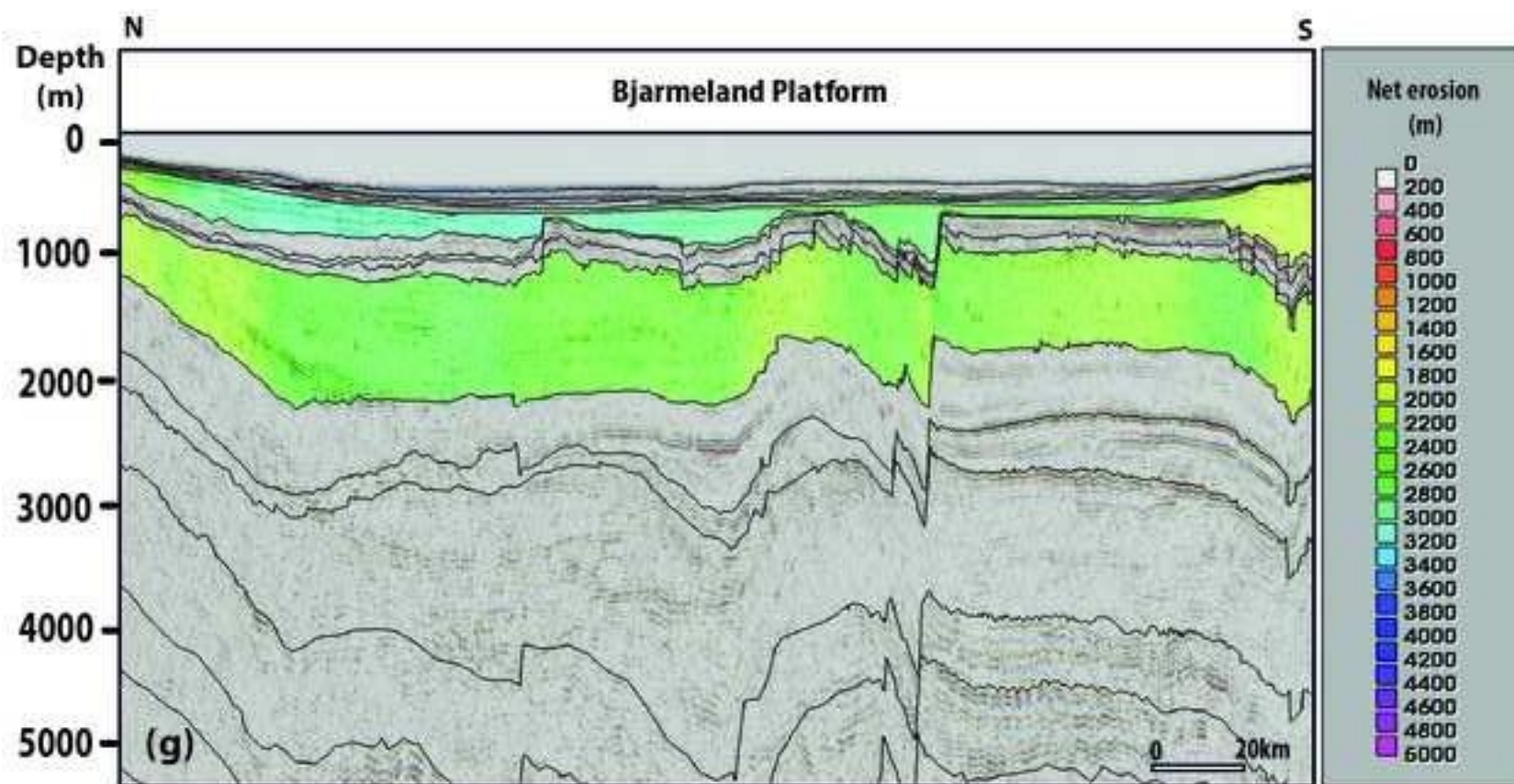


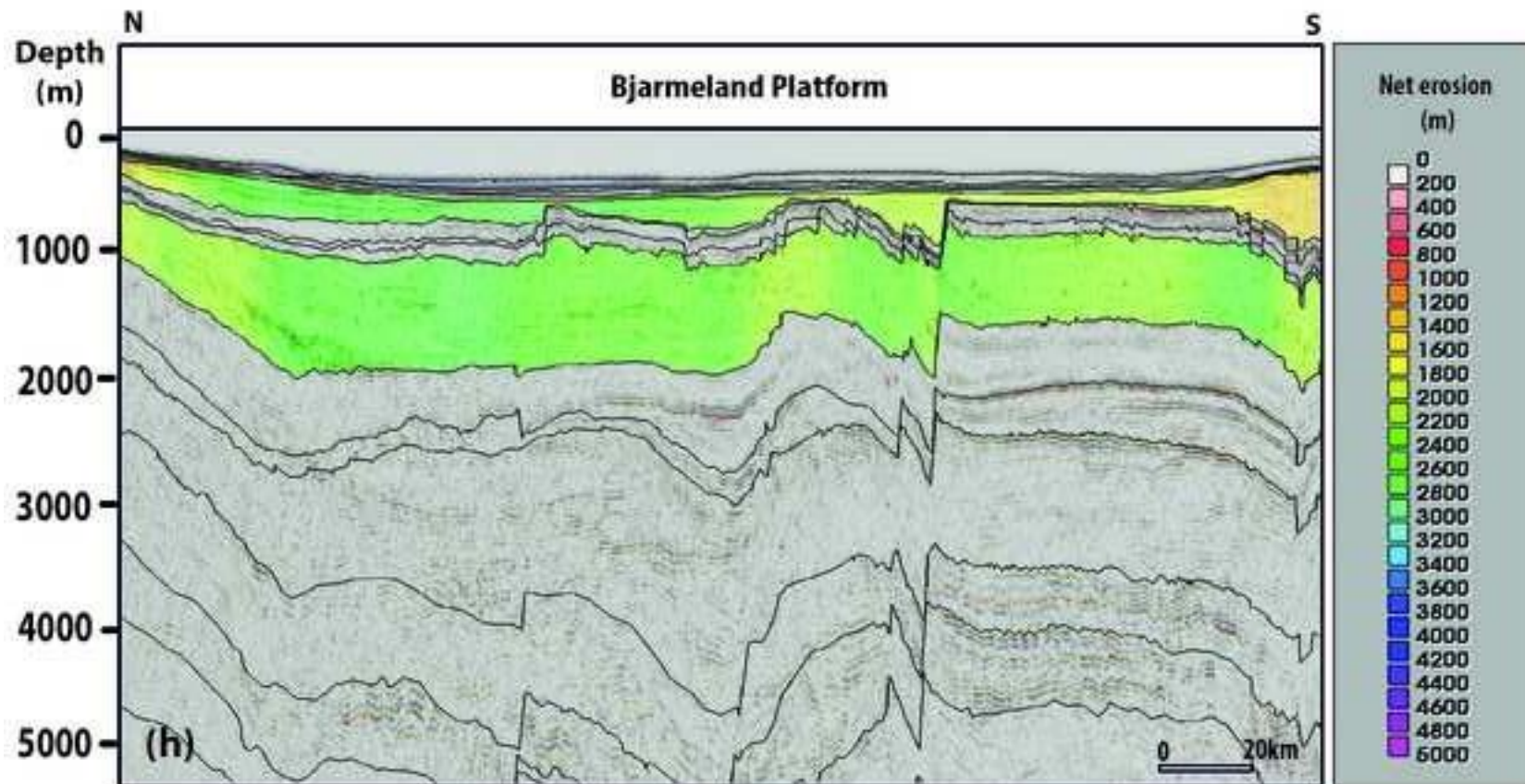


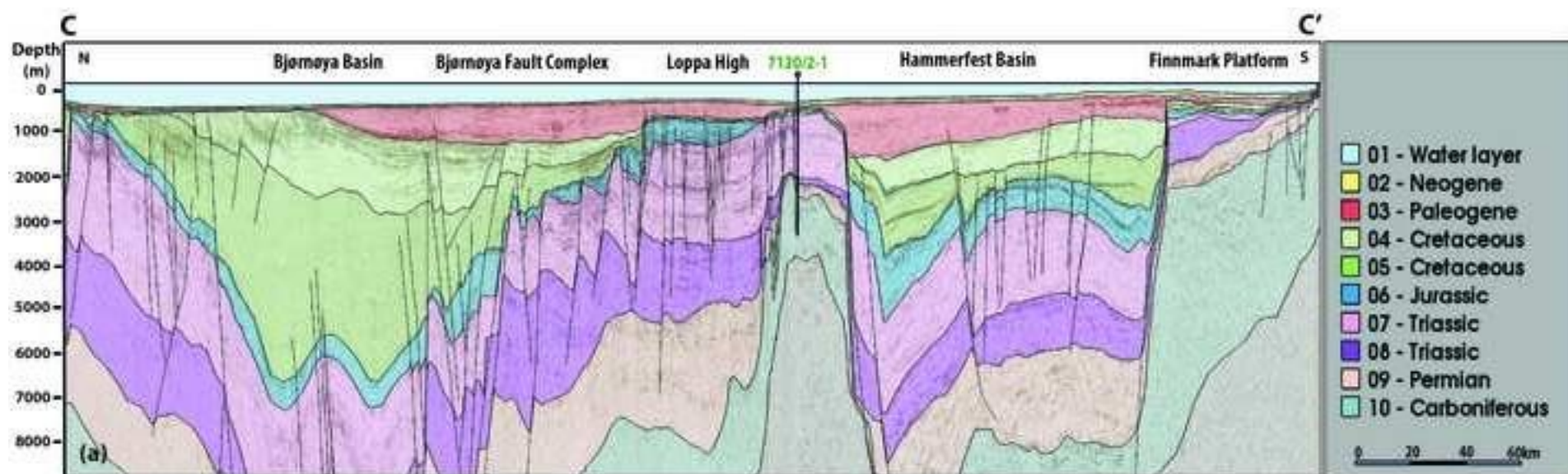


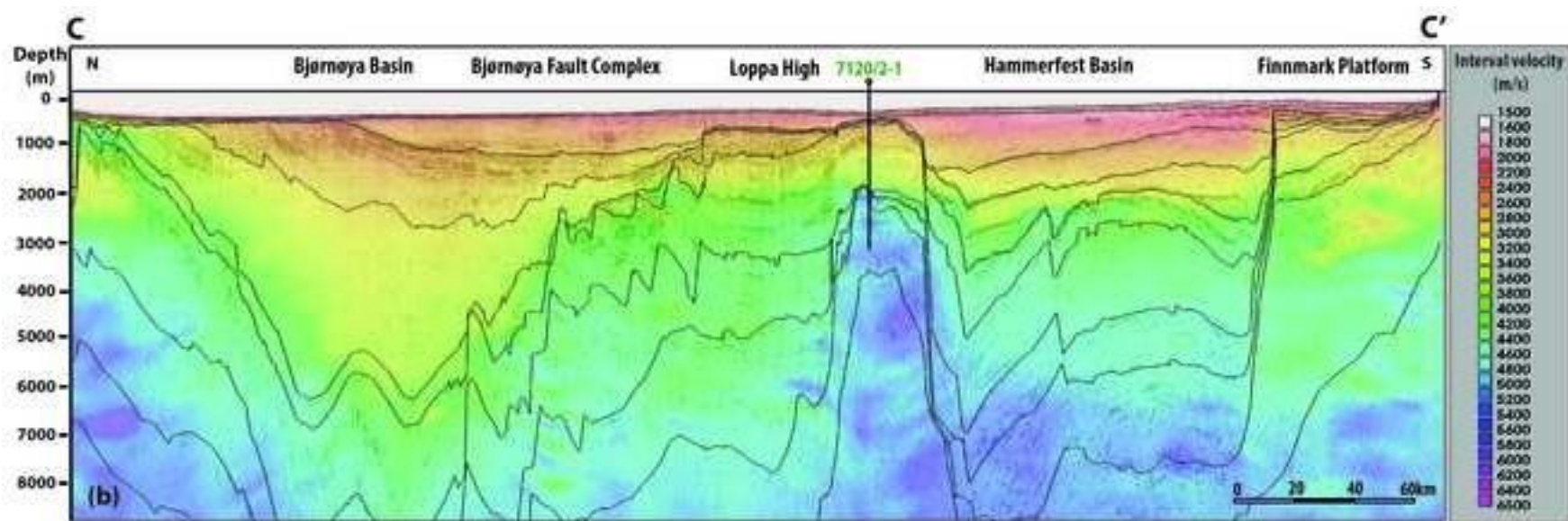


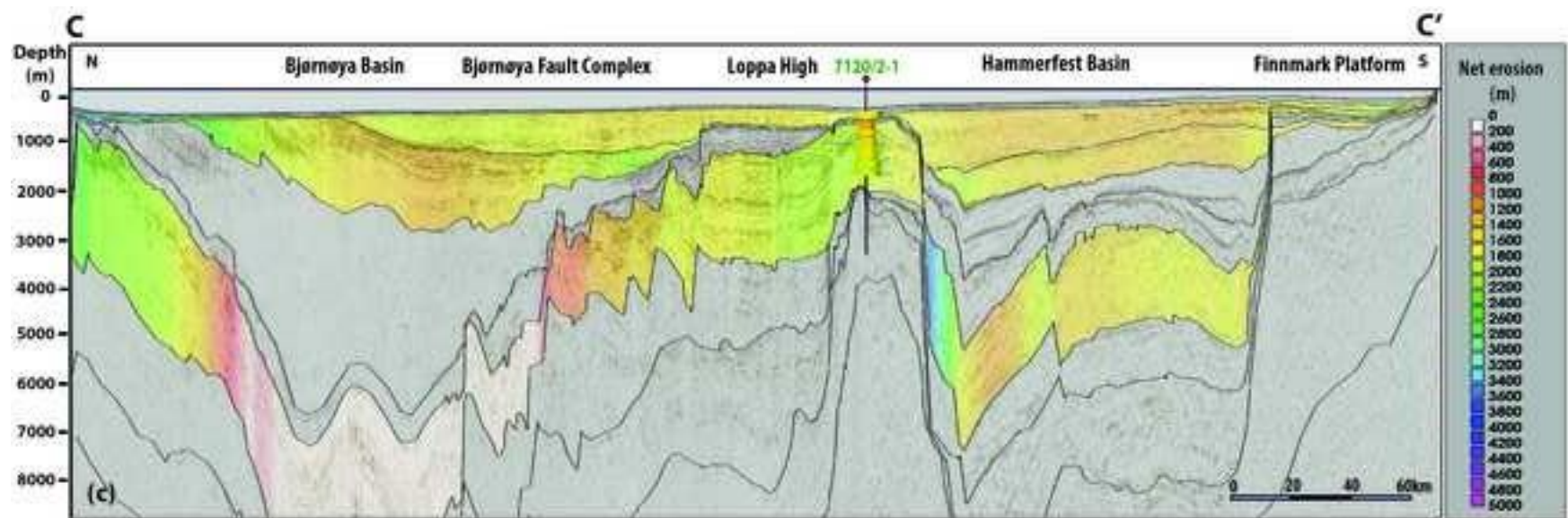


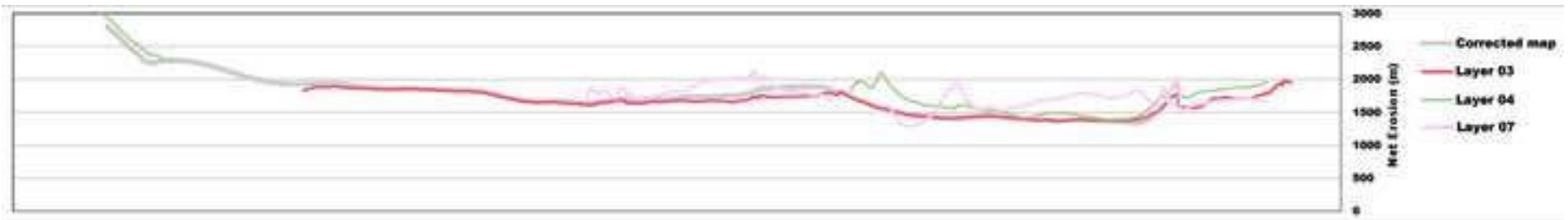


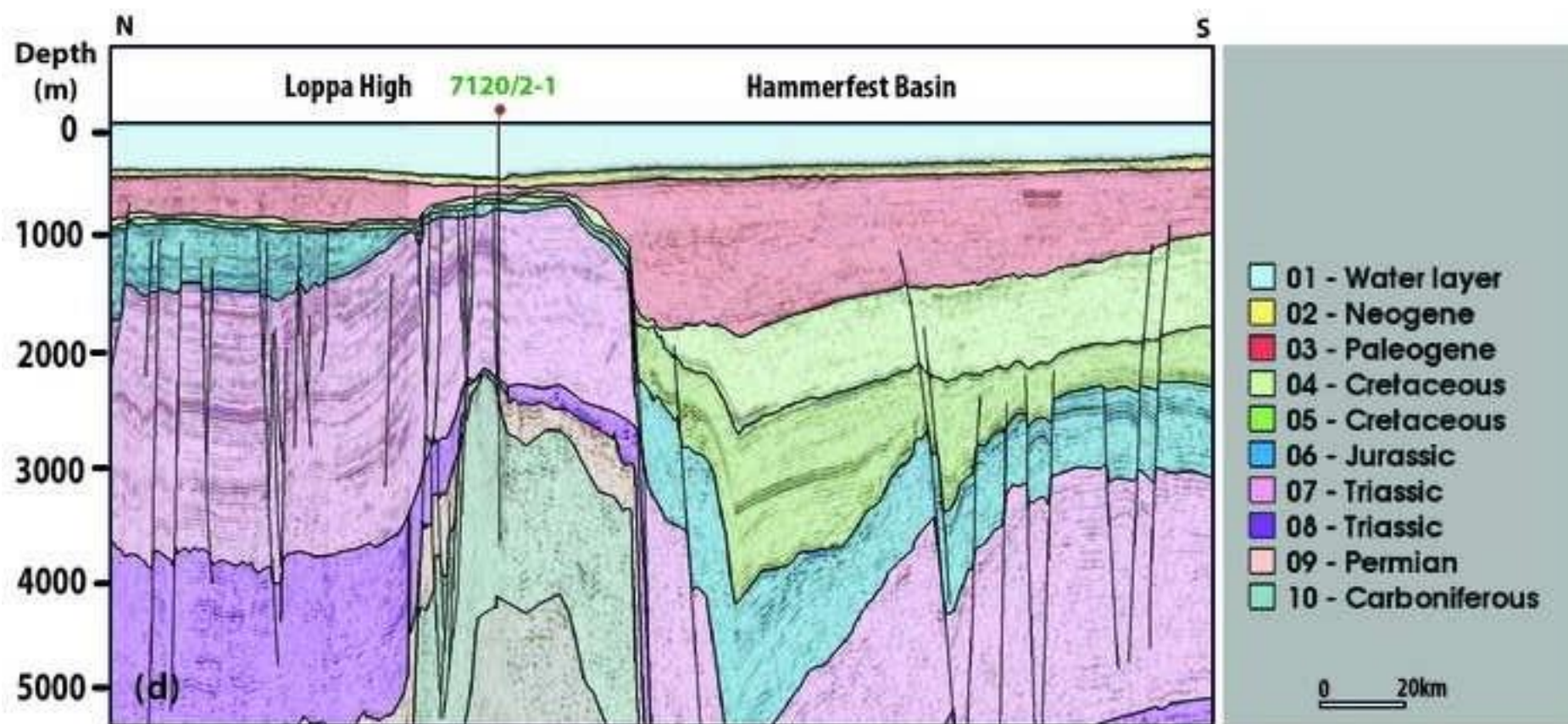












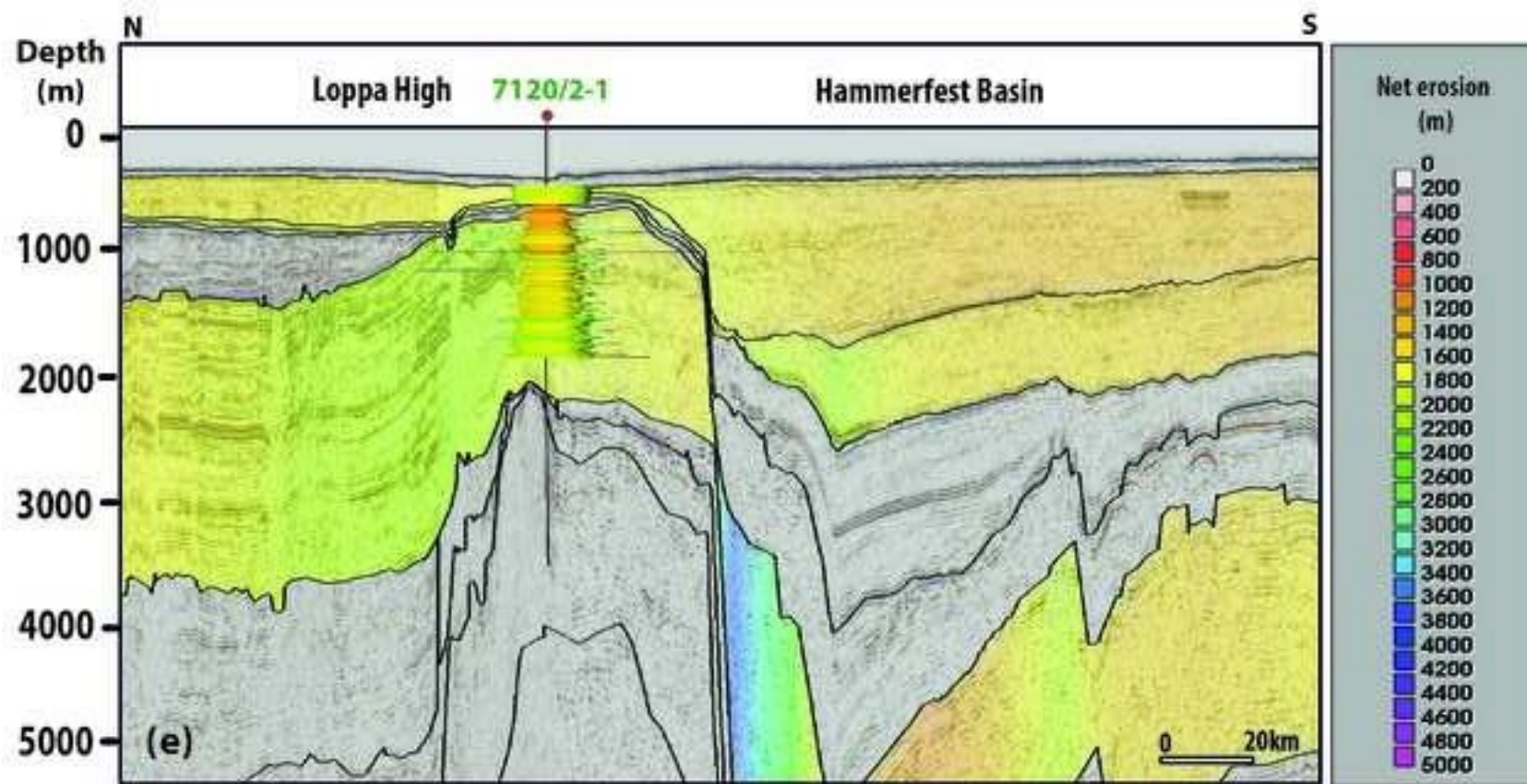


Figure 7

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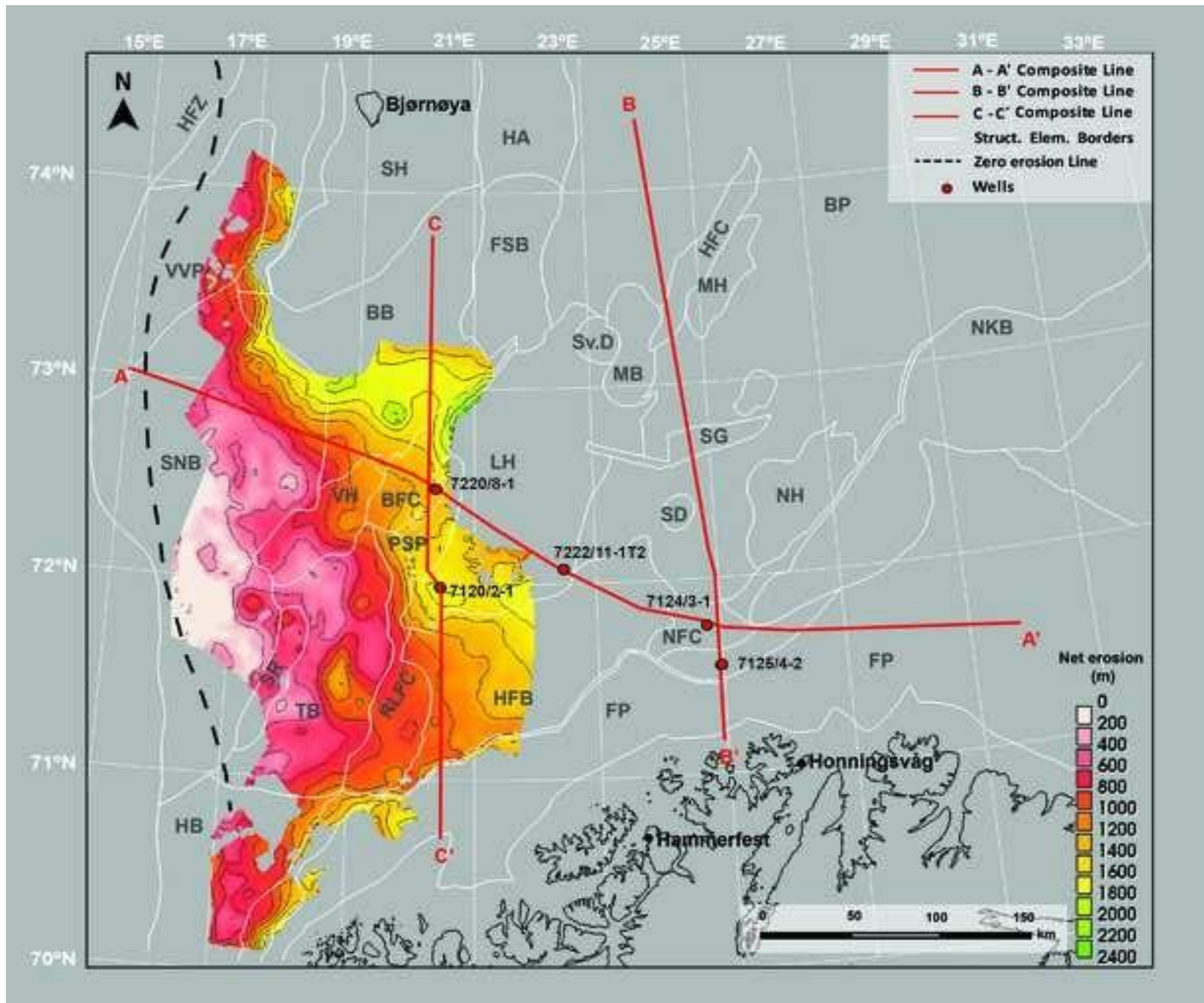


Figure 8

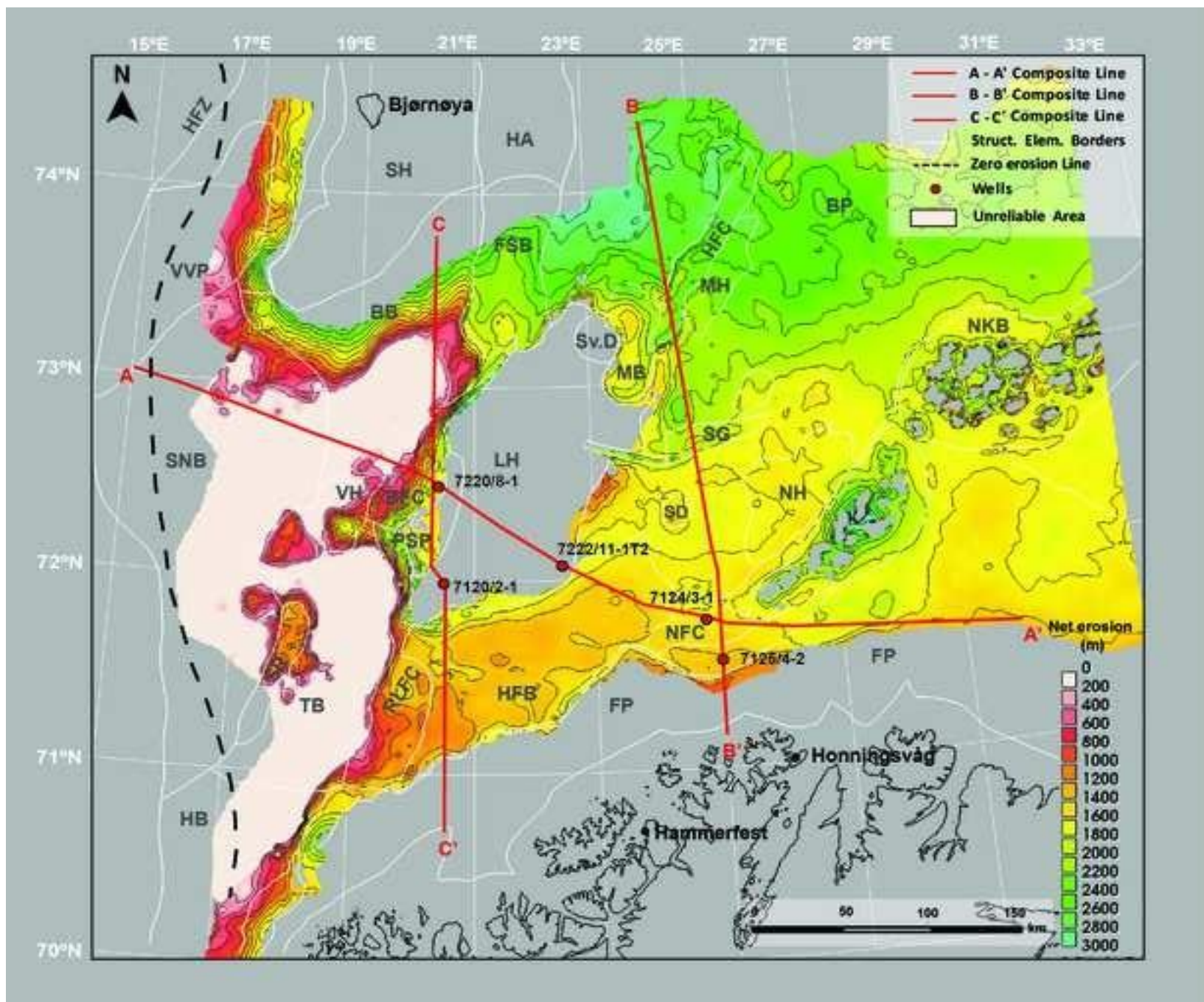


Figure 9

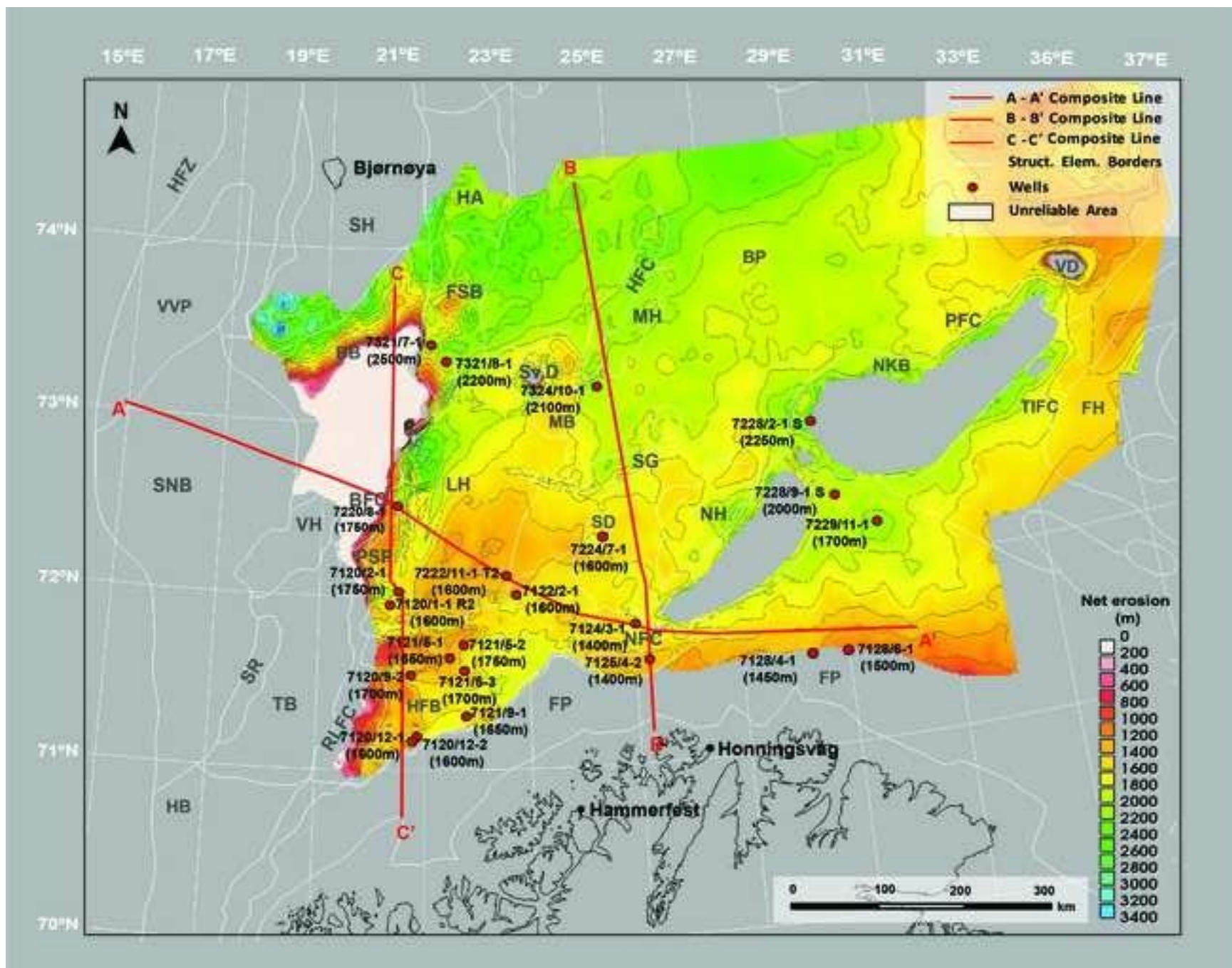


figure 10

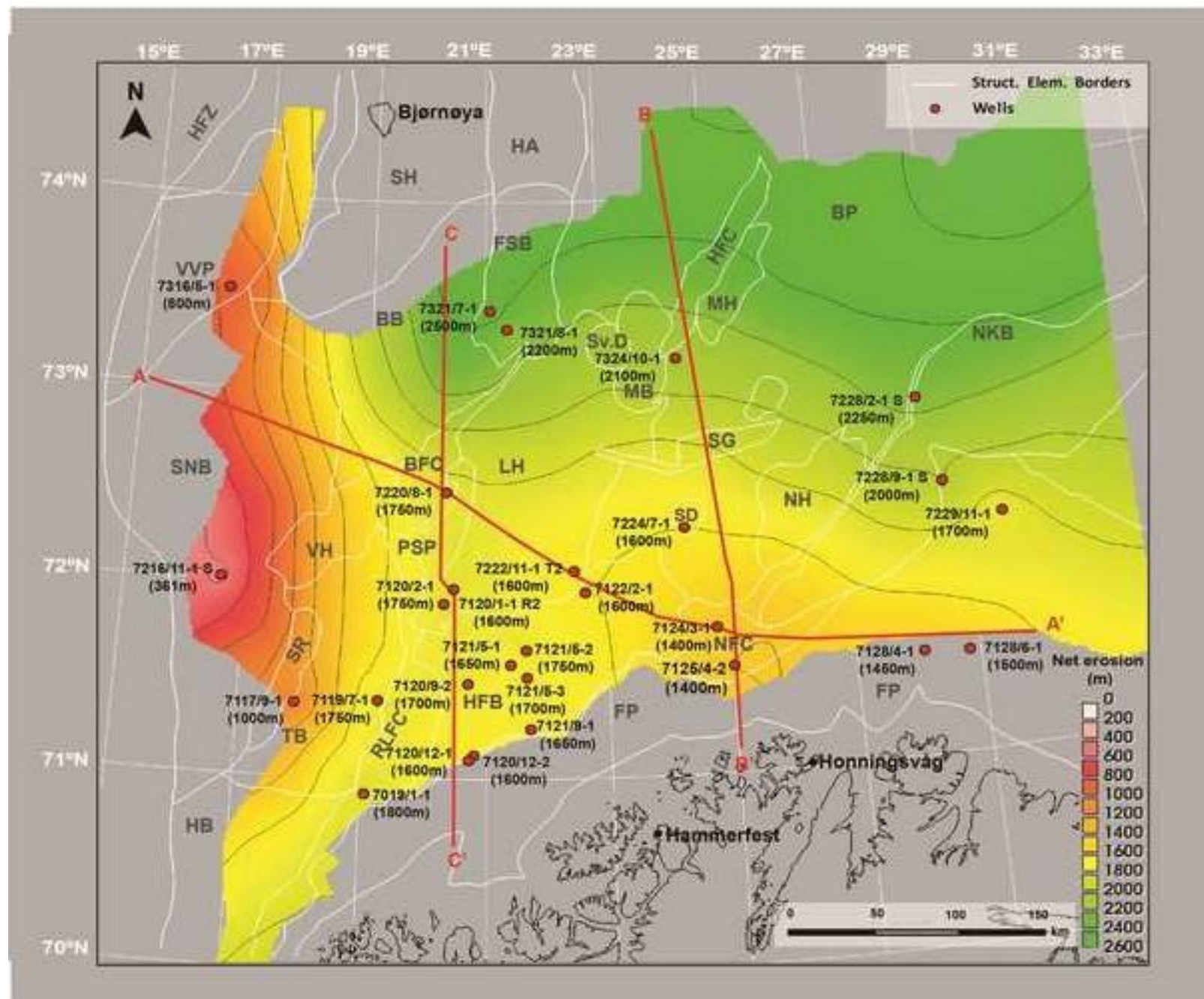


Figure 11

