

## **Next Round of Deepwater Challenges**

# Jim Maher Frontiers of Engineering March 2011

## Brief Tribute to Mohole Project – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



- CUSS I
- Set Pace for Deepwater Drilling to Present Day
- Drilled in 13,000' WD in 1961
- Heave compensation
- Dynamically Positioned







"CUSS 1's drilling has about the same emphasis as Columbus' first feeble voyage of discovery: on this first touching of a new world the way to discovery lies open"

– John Steinbeck



# DEEP WATER

# The Gulf Oil Disaster and the Future of Offshore Drilling



### Macondo



Horton Wison Deepwater Delivering Offshore Solutions™

### **Changes in the Deepwater Business**

- More Comprehensive Safety Standards
  - Additional levels of redundancy may be required

#### New Technical Drivers

- Higher Pressure Regimes
- More Complex Reservoirs

#### Changes in Appraisal

Less information available prior to making project decisions



## **Containment System Overview**







# Blow-Out Preventers Surface Drilling Safety Joint Industry Project



SUBSEA BOP

SURFACE BOP



## Significant Experience in Shallow Water



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![](_page_11_Picture_1.jpeg)

## **Deepwater Spars**

![](_page_12_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_1.jpeg)

## New Deepwater Frontier – Deeper and Deeper

![](_page_14_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_2.jpeg)

# Is the Salt Winning?

![](_page_15_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Picture_0.jpeg)

## Deepwater Appraisal Sequence (Traditional)

+

\$150-200+ mm per well = \$600-800 mm
\$100 mm flow test
4-6 years to development decision
9-10 years to first oil

![](_page_17_Figure_2.jpeg)

# New Fields More Complex – Need to Make Decisions Based on Limited Data

![](_page_18_Figure_1.jpeg)

Normalized Complexity Index

![](_page_18_Picture_3.jpeg)

# Traditional Appraisal Has Not Been Successful

**Reserve vs Production Variance Model** 

![](_page_19_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Picture_3.jpeg)

Understanding Reservoirs Prior to Production Is Difficult – Learn Much After Production Data Available

![](_page_20_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Picture_2.jpeg)

## **Future of Deepwater**

- We need to handle new technical complexity
- Regain trust through safety standards
- Address appraisal challenges and reservoir complexity

![](_page_21_Picture_4.jpeg)