

GOM³**July 2009 Monthly Newsletter
GOM³: First Steps Onshore**

While GOM³ has always focused on the federal portion of the Gulf of Mexico, it is a small portion of the Gulf Coast basin from a geologic perspective. In recognition of that fact, Earth Science Associates regularly checks for data that can be incorporated to improve the coverage of the region. While large-scale changes to data processing have not yet been undertaken to manage large onshore datasets, users should be aware of the data available in GOM³.

Small changes have been made in the last few years to include more onshore data when it has been easy to access and process. These datasets include refineries from the EIA, hurricane tracks from the National Hurricane Center, and the block outlines for state waters areas of Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. Many of our Third Party partners include data extending well onshore: GeoMark Research, Paleo-Data, Inc., Earth Studies Group, University of Texas' GBDS, Earthfield Technology and GX Technology.

Recently, two large datasets have been added from the now-defunct US Oil & Gas Resource System: Generalized Surface Geology and Gulf Coast Fields. Look for the "Gulf Coast Oil and Gas Fields" map in GOMsmart's Map Library to see the two datasets together in a poster-size map. The Generalized Surface Geology data is from the P.B. King & H.M. Beikman "Geology of



the Conterminous United States" map. It can be accessed on the Geology tab under GOM-Cubed → Map Layers → Geology.

The Gulf Coast Fields is a dataset of field outlines created using an early version of the current algorithm to generate sand-body reservoir outlines. This algorithm creates an area of influence around each producing well with a negative influence around the dry holes. The current version is more sophisticated in how the algorithm constrains the size of the reservoirs as defined by the MMS; the version used for these onshore data employed

arbitrary values based on whether the well was producing oil or gas. While there is not a great deal of attribute data, each horizon penetrated by the wells of the field is indicated. The data can be accessed under GOM-Cubed → Map Layers → Hydrocarbon Accumulations. The metadata, available on the dialog when loading the data into ArcMap, provides codes to the horizons penetrated.

We expect to continue adding onshore datasets in the future. While data can be inconsistent from state to state, the situation has improved greatly over the last ten years and, with increasing value on accessible data and GIS knowledge, it will likely continue to do so.

Earth Science Associates (562) 428-3181

**Western Lease Sale 210
August 19, 2009**

**GOM³ Calendar
User Conference
October 22, 2009**

**GIS-Support Conference
October 22, 2009**

4300 Long Beach Boulevard Suite 310 Long Beach, CA 90807
www.earthsci.com

