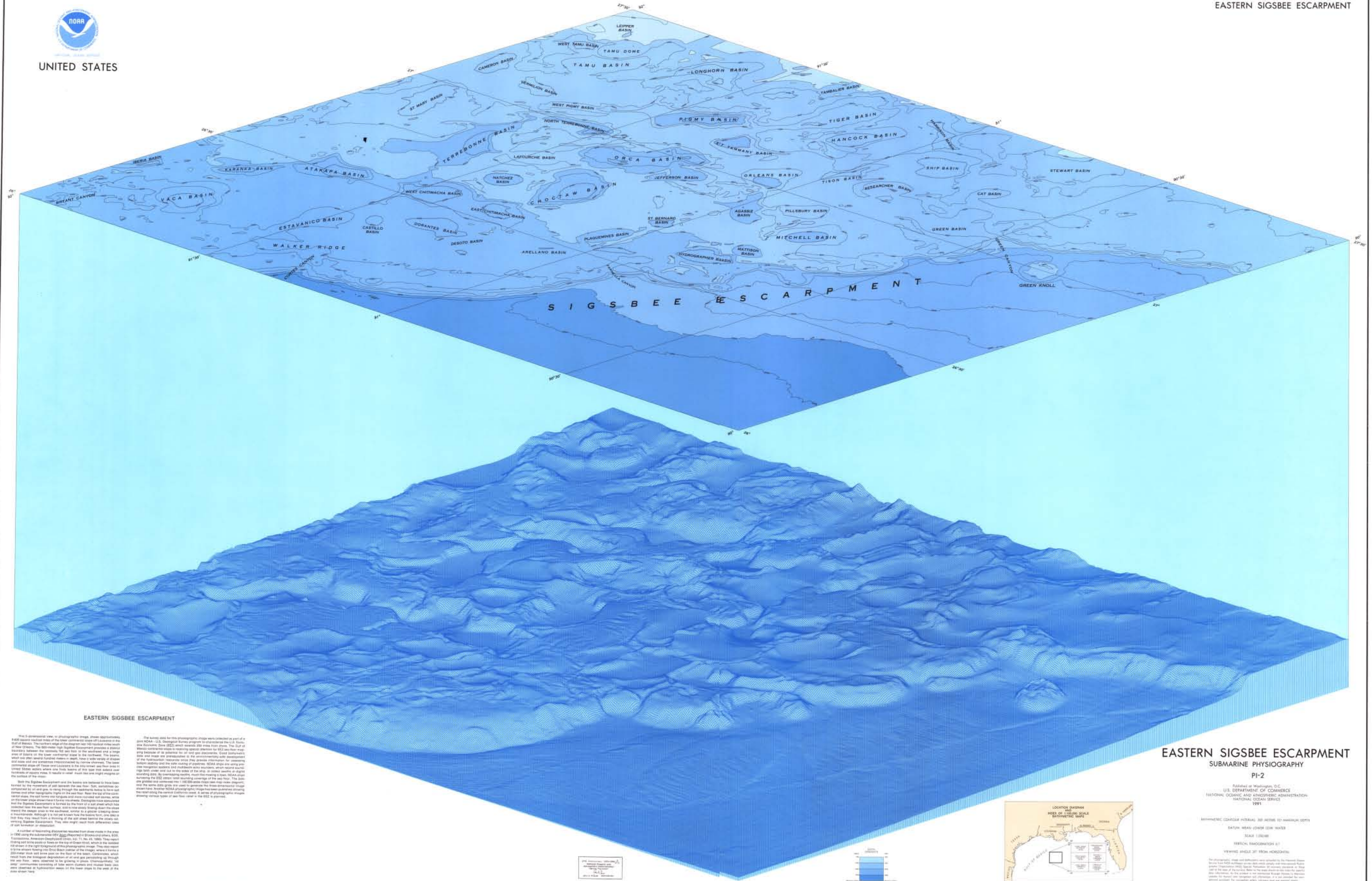


PHYSIOGRAPHIC IMAGE

GULF OF MEXICO
EASTERN SIGSBEE ESCARPMENT



UNITED STATES



EASTERN SIGSBEE ESCARPMENT

EASTERN SIGSBEE ESCARPMENT
SUBMARINE PHYSIOGRAPHY

PI-2

NOAA, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
1991

BATHYMETRIC contours: INTERNAL 50 METERS TO ANNUAL DEPTH
DATA: MEAN LOWER LOW WATER
SCALE: 1:50,000
VERTICAL MAGNIFICATION: 1:1
VIEWING: SHELL 20° FROM HORIZONTAL



This 3-dimensional view of physiographic image, shown approximately 800 square meters wide of the lower continental slope off Louisiana in the Gulf of Mexico. The northern edge of the image is 142 nautical miles south of New Orleans. The 500-meter high Sigsbee Escarpment provides a partial barrier to sediment transport from the shelf edge to the continental slope. The basins, which are the primary depositional sites in depth, have a wide range of shapes and sizes and are sometimes interconnected by narrow channels. The lower continental slope of France and Louisiana is the source of the sediment that fills these basins. It is the sediment that has accumulated over thousands of years of time. It is the sediment that has accumulated over the course of the eons.

Both the Sigsbee Escarpment and the basins are believed to have been formed by the movement of salt beneath the sea floor. Salt, sometimes accompanied by oil and gas, is being pushed through the sediments, where it forms salt domes and other topographic highs on the sea floor. Beneath the salt domes, the salt forms irregularly shaped salt domes, which are the primary depositional sites in depth. Sediments are deposited in the basins, which are the primary depositional sites in depth. The basins are the primary depositional sites in depth. The basins are the primary depositional sites in depth.

A number of interesting discoveries resulted from these studies in the area of the Sigsbee Escarpment. The first was the discovery of the Walker Ridge, a 200-meter high ridge that runs parallel to the escarpment. The second was the discovery of the Atakapa Basin, a large basin that is the primary depositional site in depth. The third was the discovery of the Terrebonne Basin, a large basin that is the primary depositional site in depth. The fourth was the discovery of the Sigsbee Escarpment, a 500-meter high escarpment that runs parallel to the continental slope.

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