



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE

Dipartimento di Matematica e Geoscienze

Corso di Geologia Marina 2017-18



**Università di Trieste
Corso di Laurea in Geologia**

Anno accademico 2017 - 2018

Geologia Marina

Parte III

Modulo 3.3 Sistemi deposizionali polari

Docente
A. Camerlenghi



OUTLINE

- River-dominated marine sedimentary systems
- River versus ice sheet sediment source
- Ice sheet-dominated sedimentary systems
 - **Ice streams**
 - **Paleo ice streams**
 - Onshore evidence
 - Offshore evidence
 - **Trough-mouth fans**
 - Two main sedimentary agents
 - Ice stream push: Glacial maxima debris flows
 - Melt water
 - Tunnel valleys
 - Meltwater plumes and plumites
 - **Grounding-zone wedges**
 - Sea ice sediment transport
 - Contourites
 - Turbidites
 - Mass transport deposits

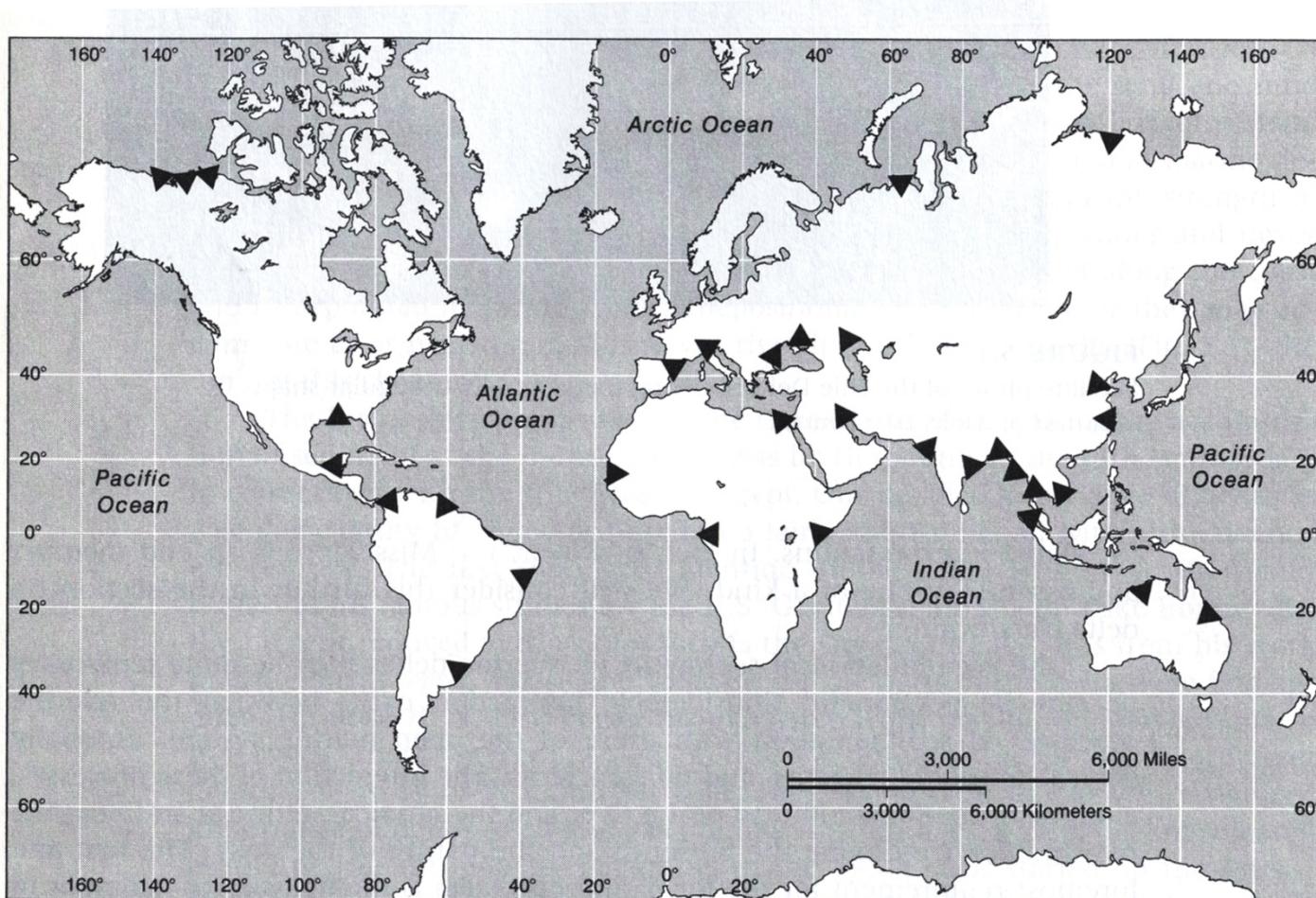


RIVER-DOMINATED MARINE SEDIMENTARY SYSTEMS





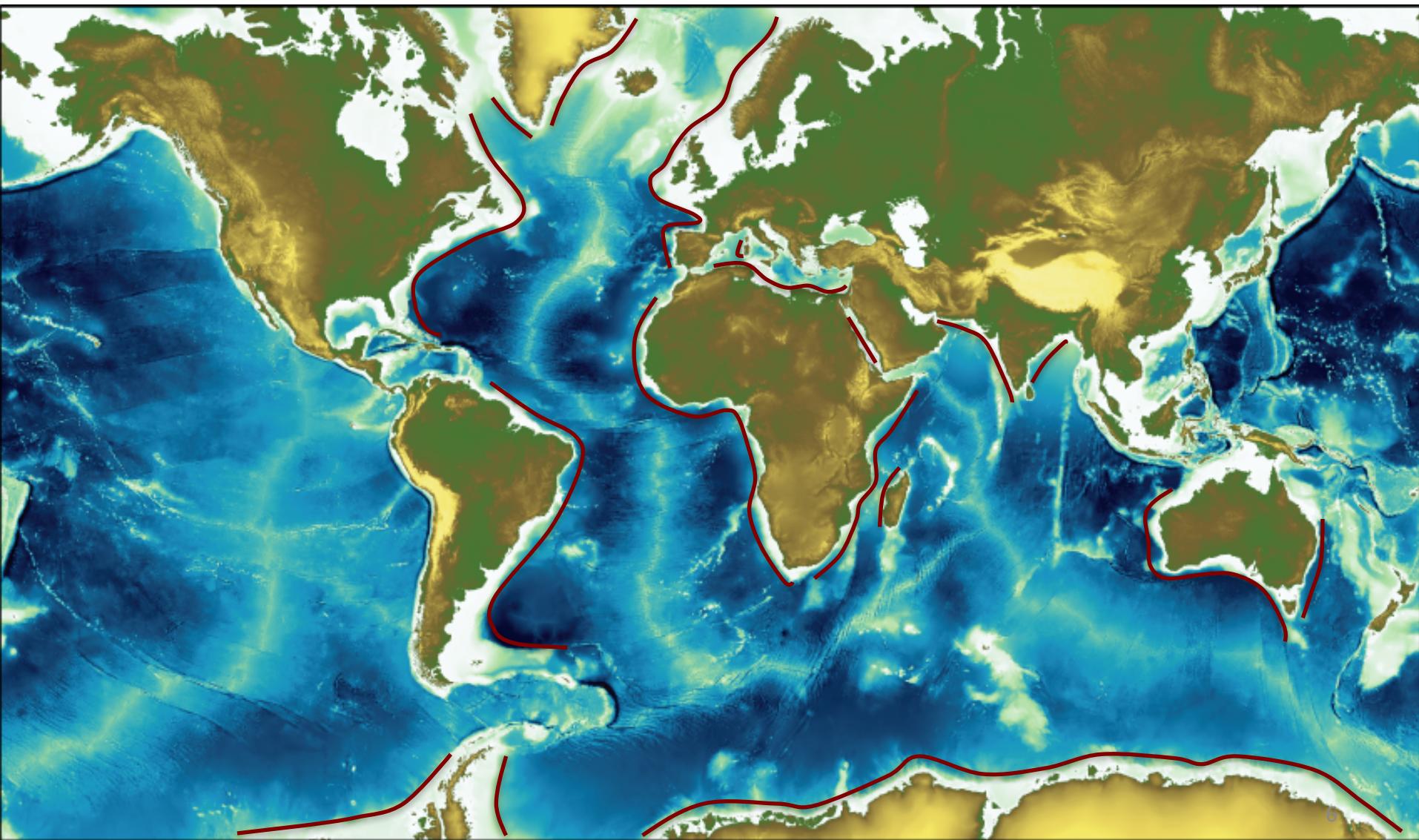
Global Distribution of Deltas

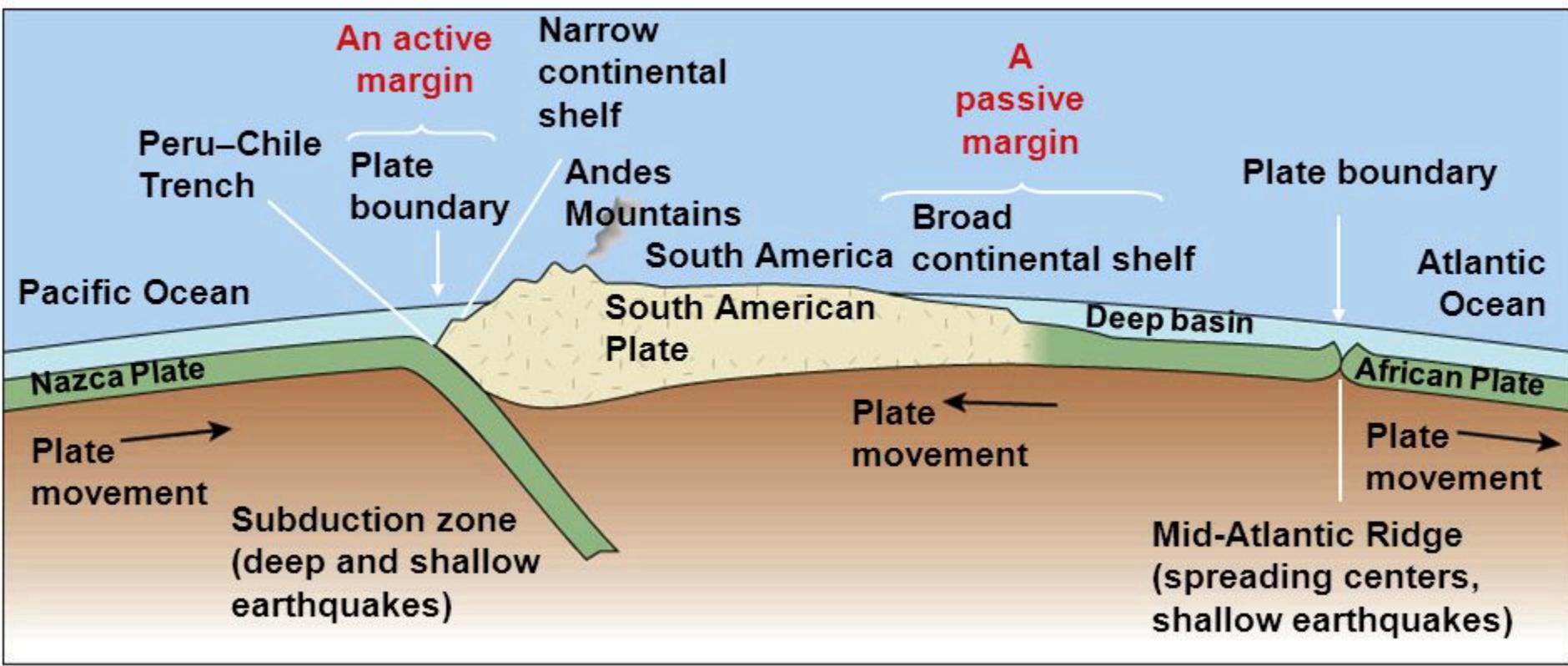


Source: Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delta_\(river\)#/media/File:Global_deltas_map.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delta_(river)#/media/File:Global_deltas_map.jpg)



Rifted margins are found in the Entire Atlantic Ocean (except Barbados and South Shetland subduction zone), Antarctica, Arctic, and Indian Ocean

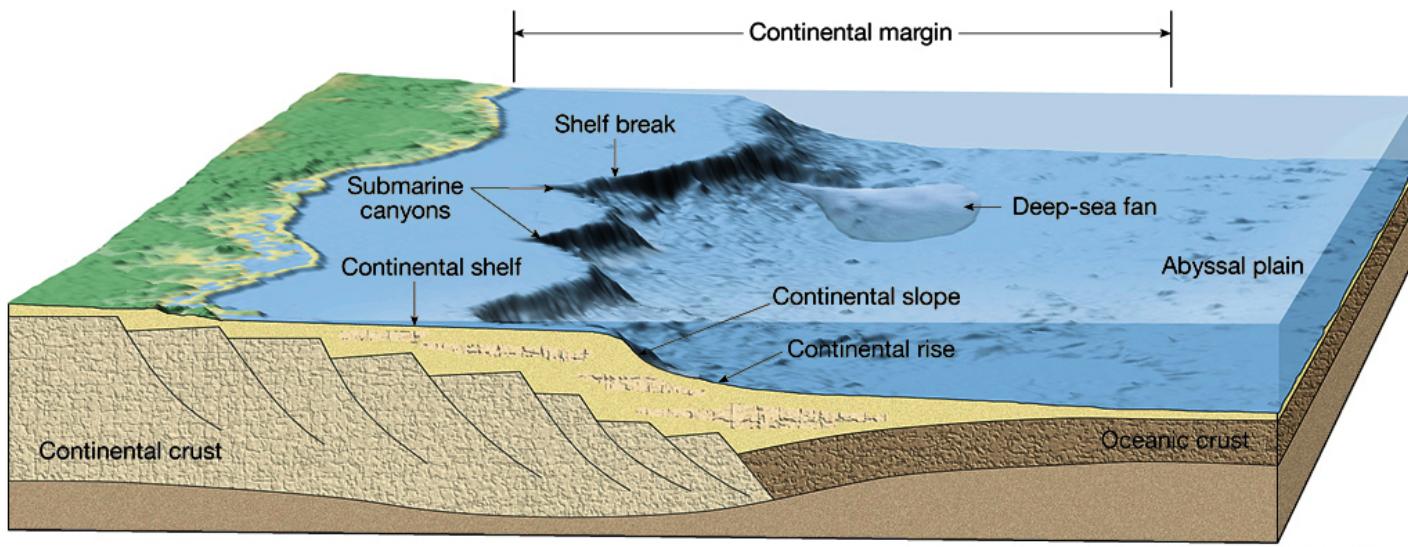






RIFTED PASSIVE MARGINS

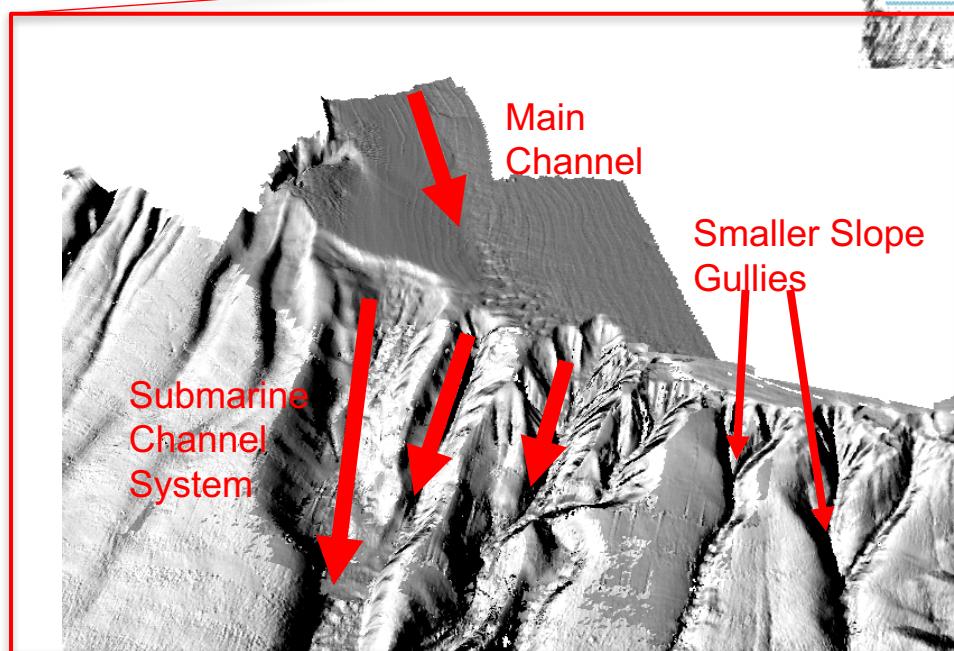
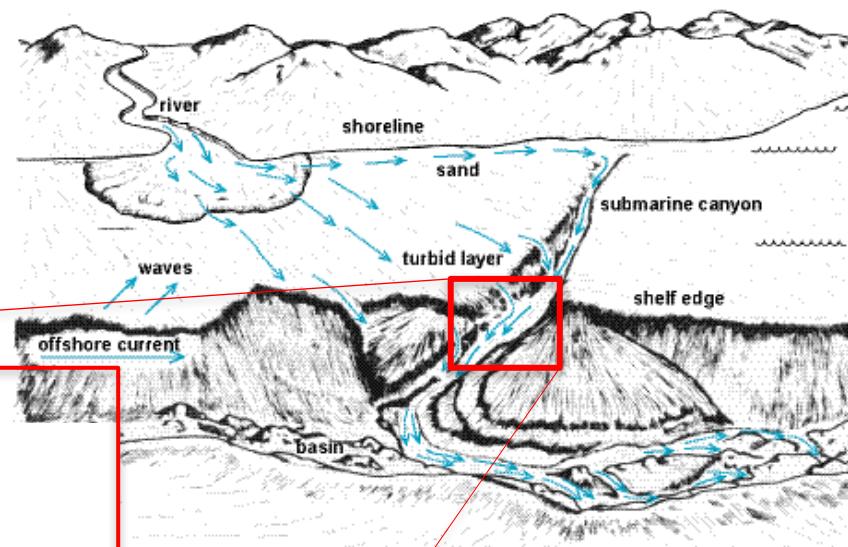
Rifted passive margin create the accommodation space for hosting the largest sedimentary accumulations in the world oceans, including the river-dominated Arctic Ocean



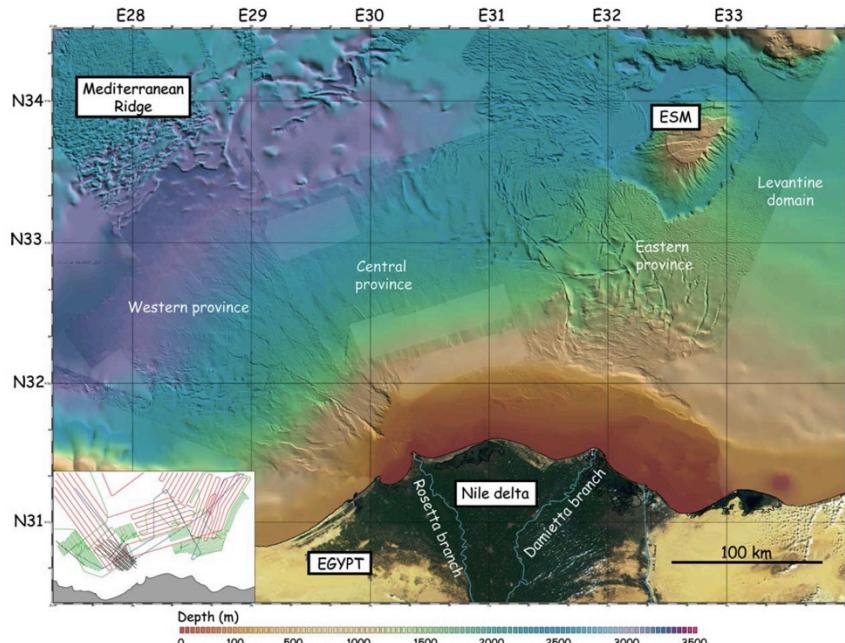
TASA Graphic Arts, 2002

RIVER DOMINATED marine sedimentary systems

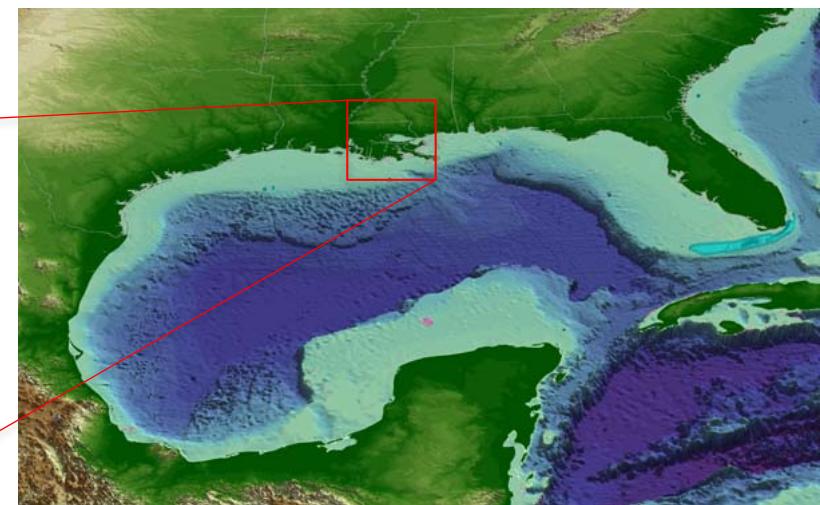
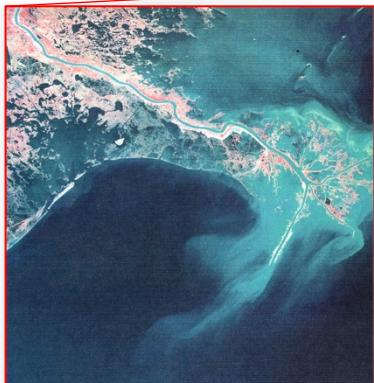
- Rivers are point-source
- Sediment transport and deposition controlled primarily by sea level changes
- River deltas
- Deep Sea Fans
- Submarine Canyons
- Deep Sea Channels



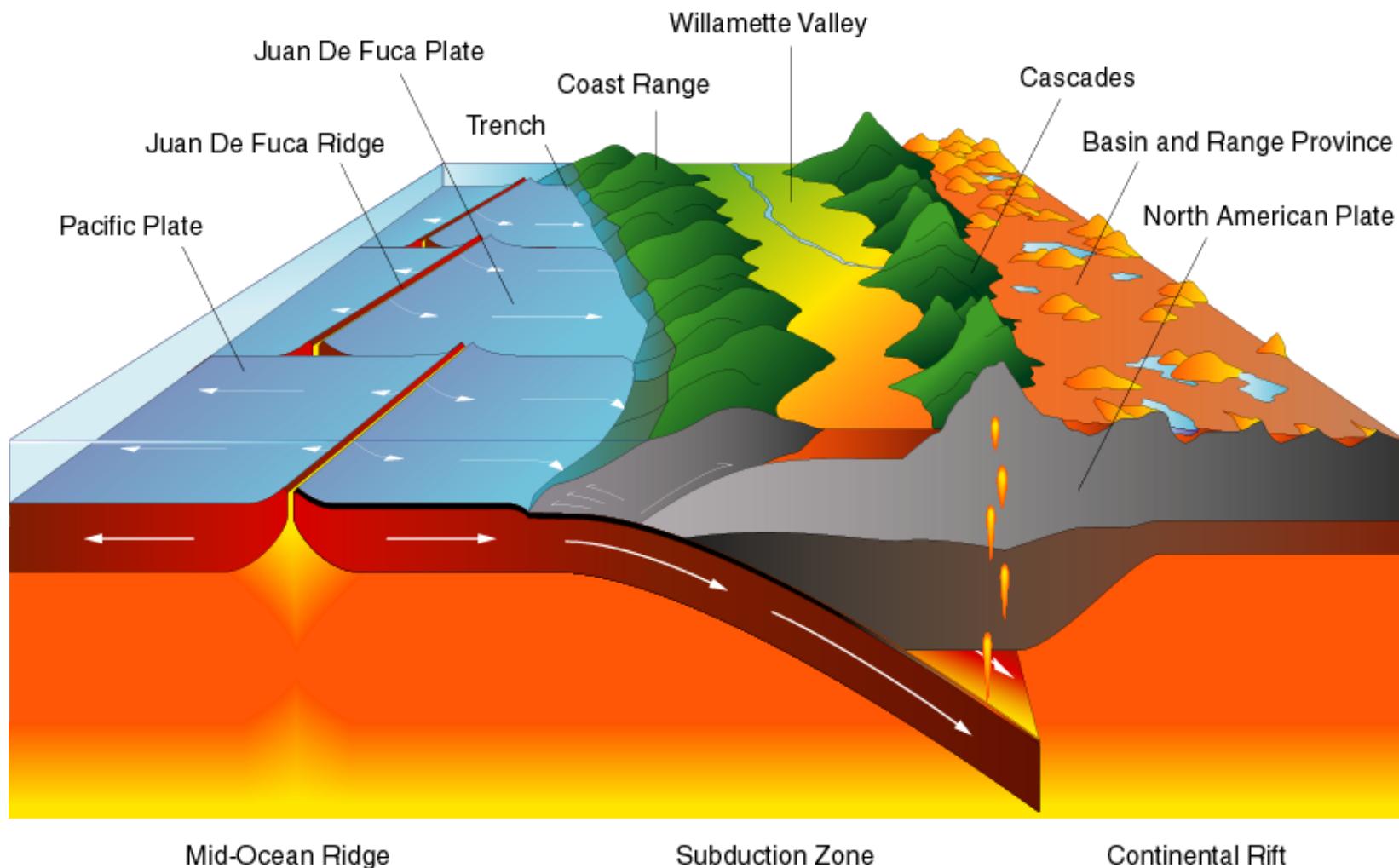
Deep sea fans



Nile, Loncke et al., 2006

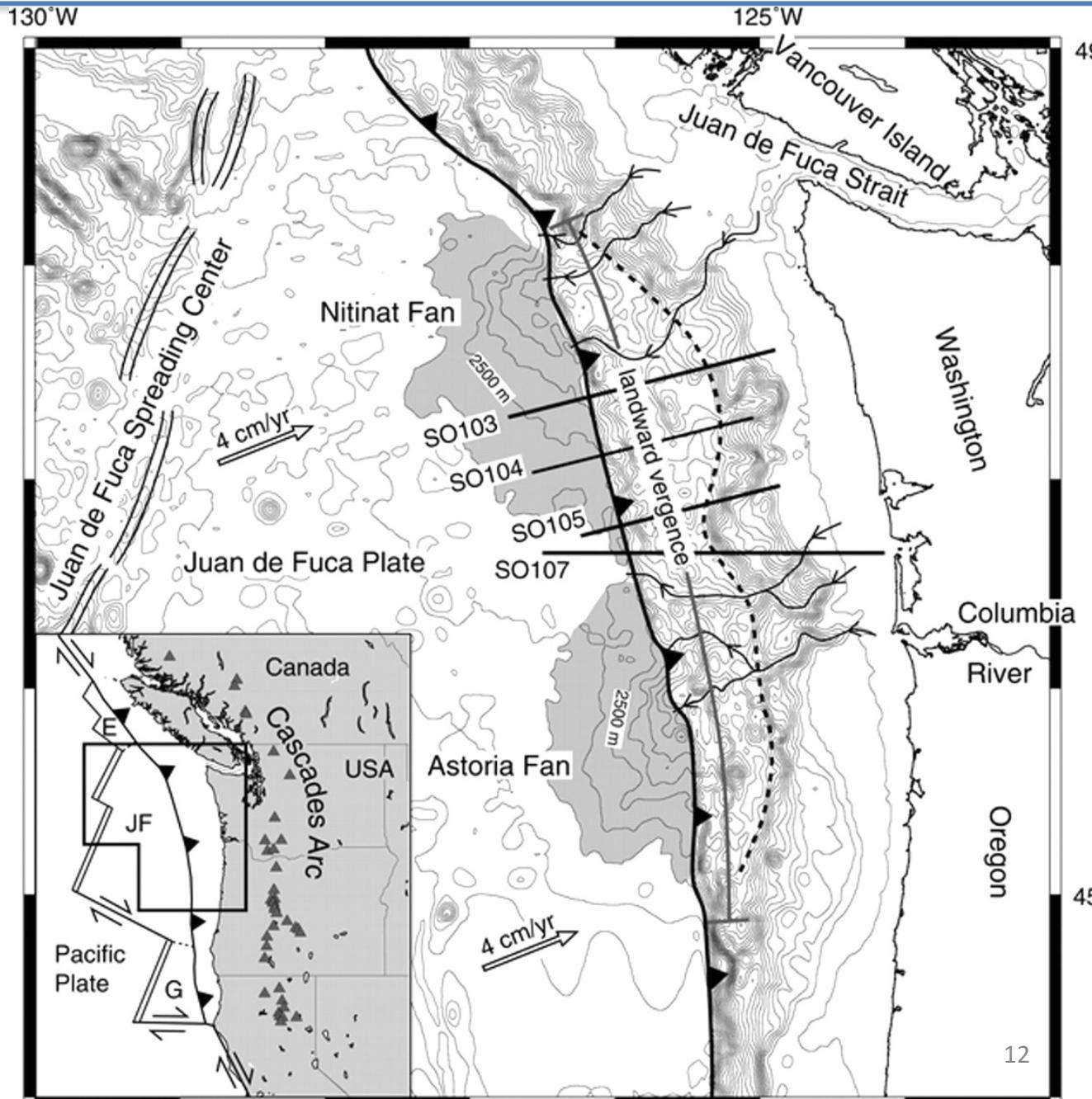


Mississippi



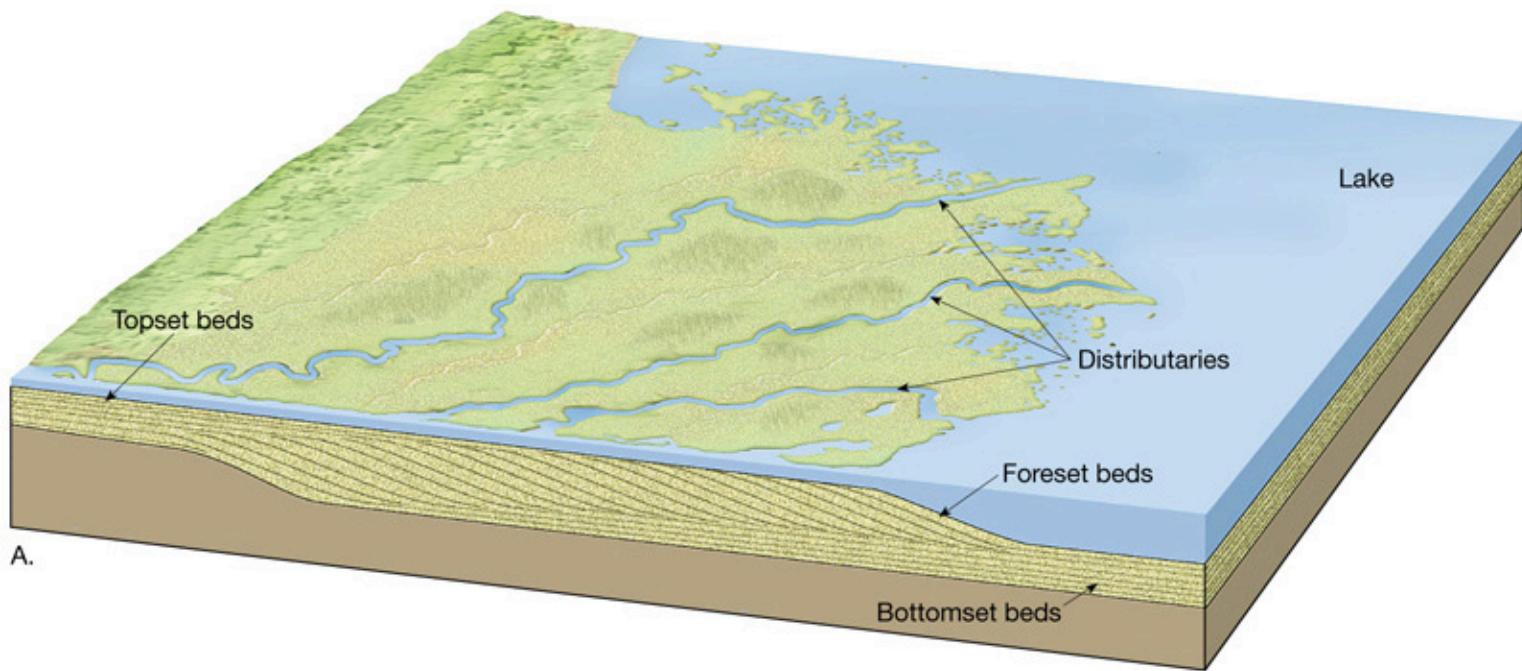


ALSO ON ACTIVE MARGINS





IN RIVER-DOMINATED MARINE SEDIMENTARY SYSTEMS SEDIMENTS ARE MOSTLY SAND

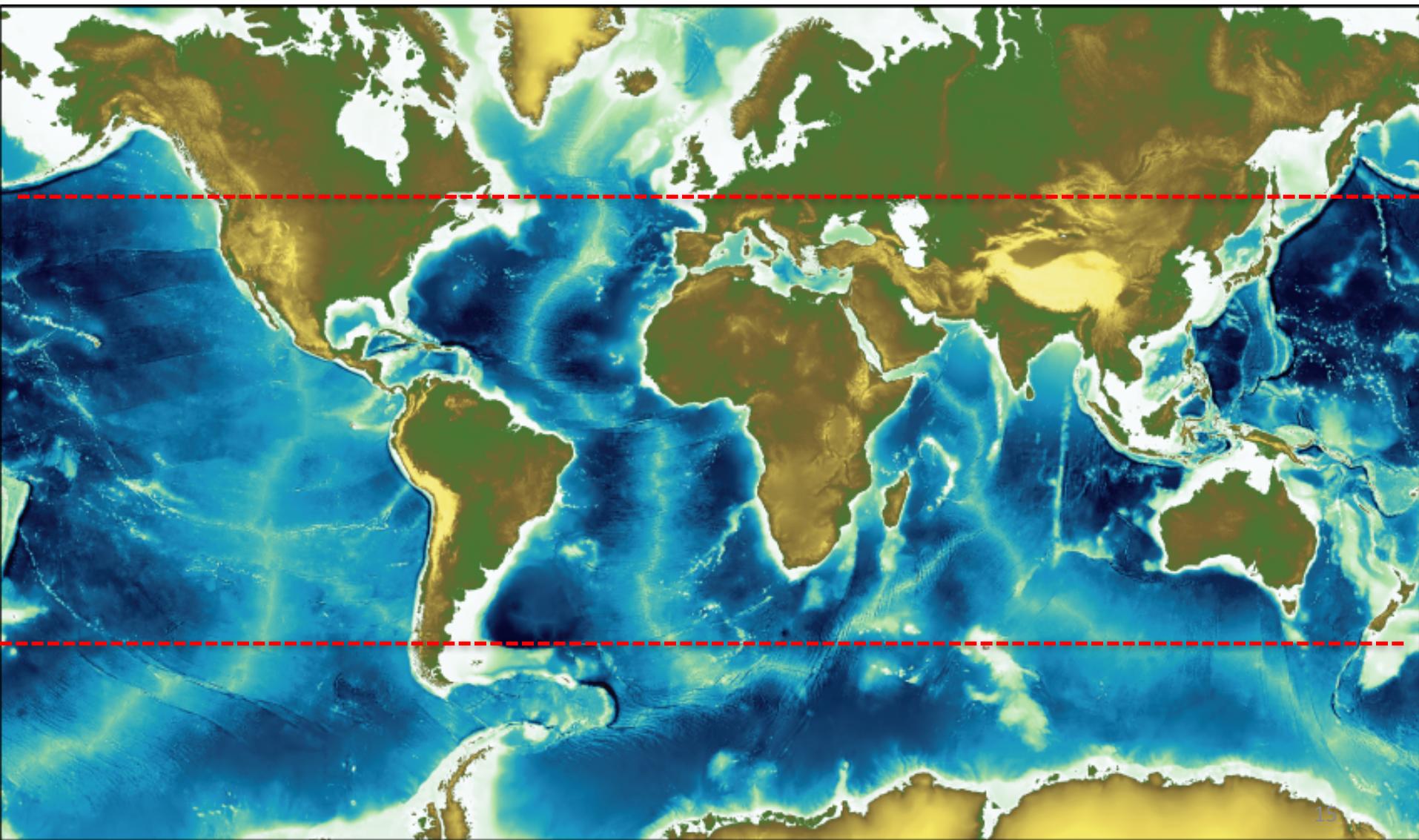




RIVER VERSUS ICE SHEET SEDIMENT SOURCE



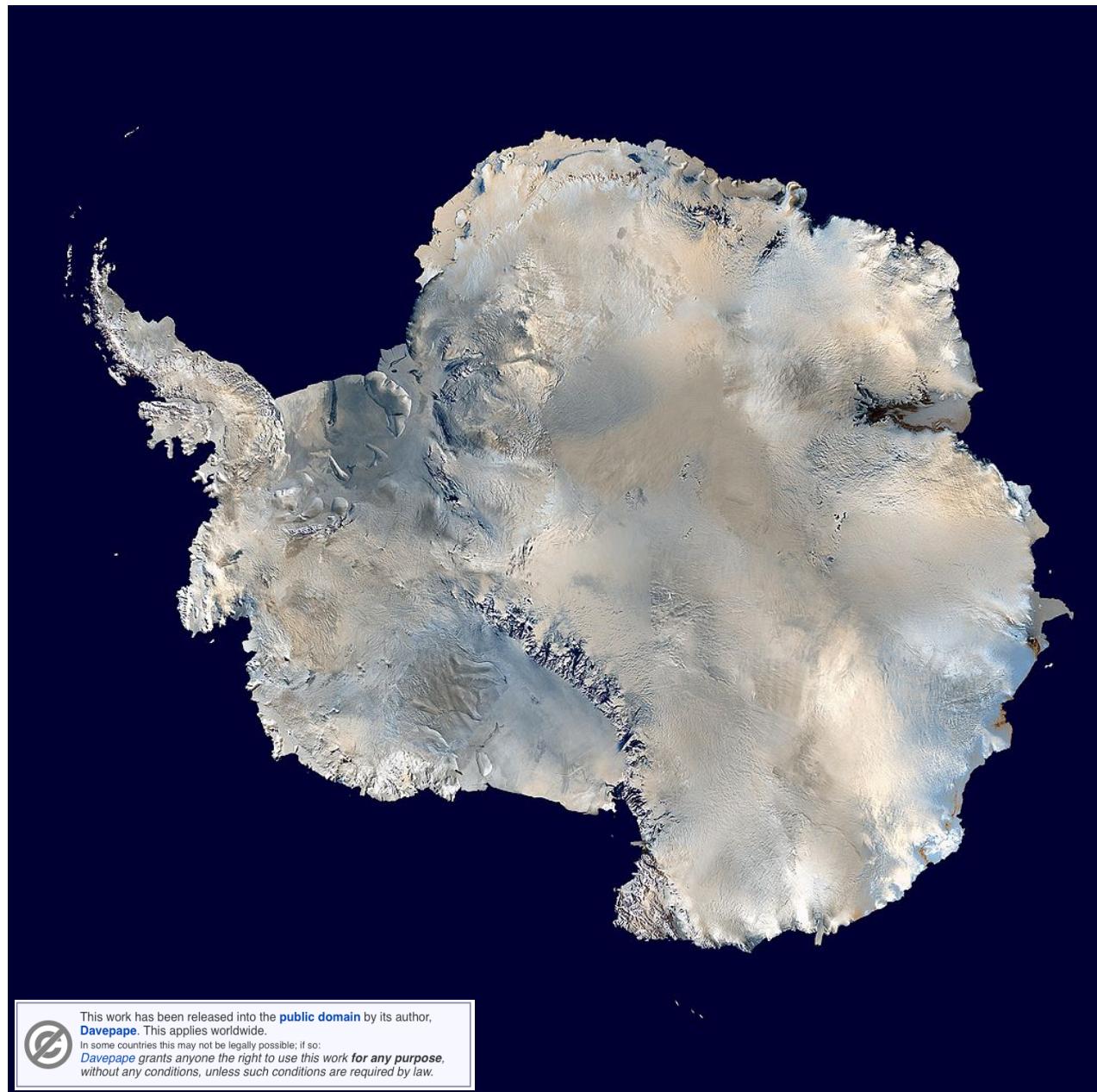
Rifted margins are found in the Entire Atlantic Ocean (except Barbados and South Shetland subduction zone), Antarctica, Arctic, and Indian Ocean

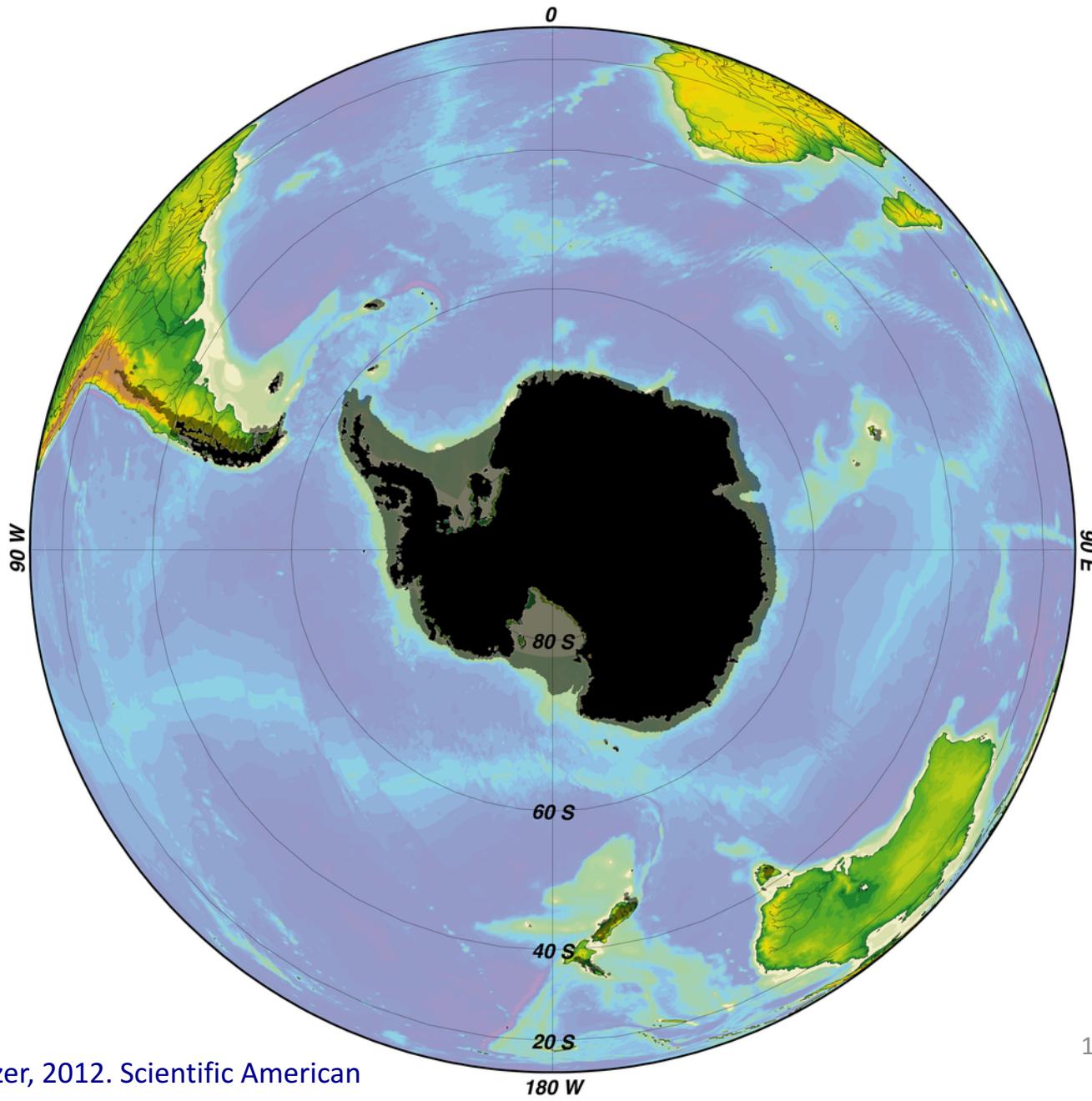




**Antarctica:
No rivers**

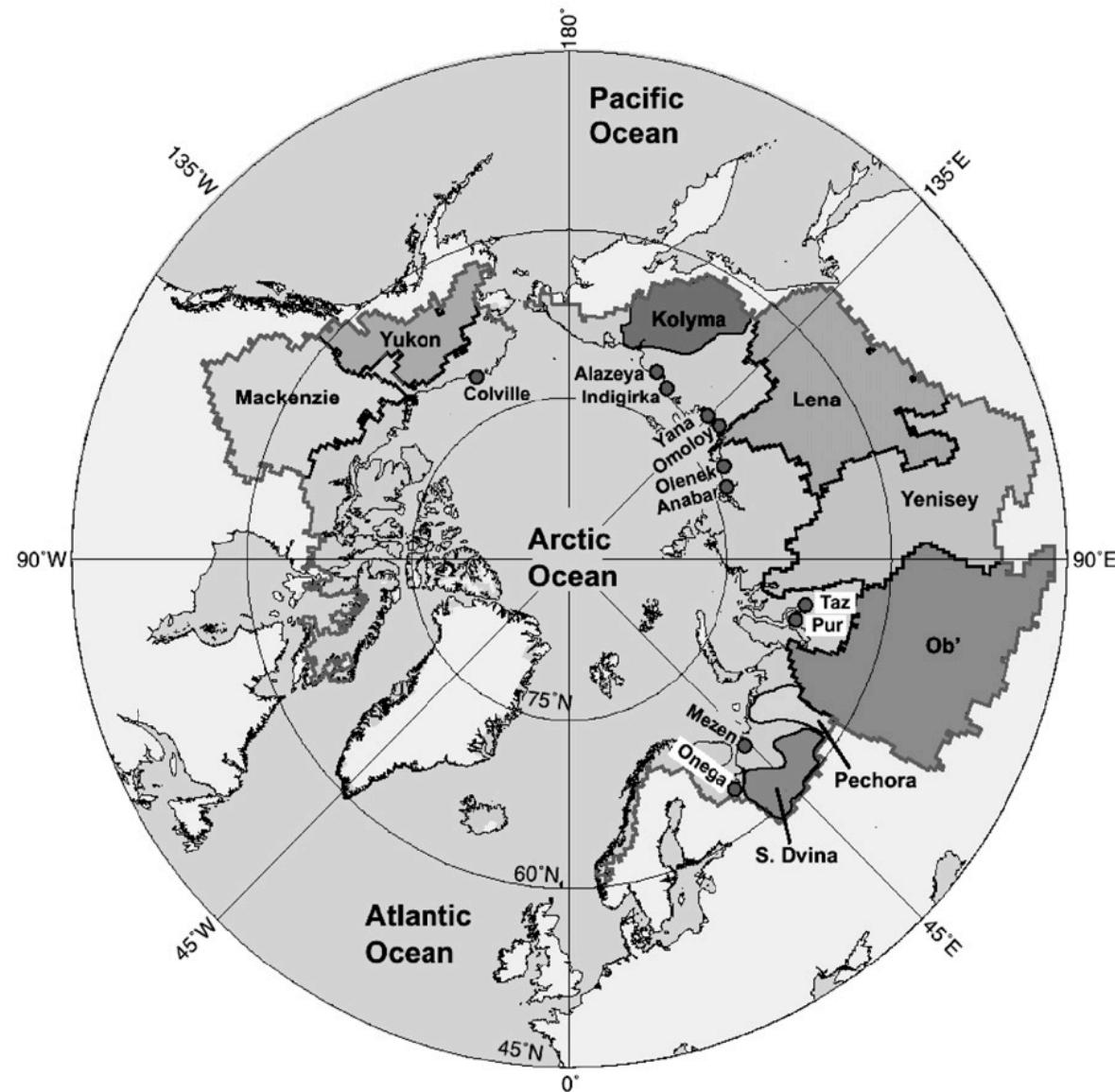
**Only ICE-SHEET
DOMINATED
Sedimentary input
to the oceans**





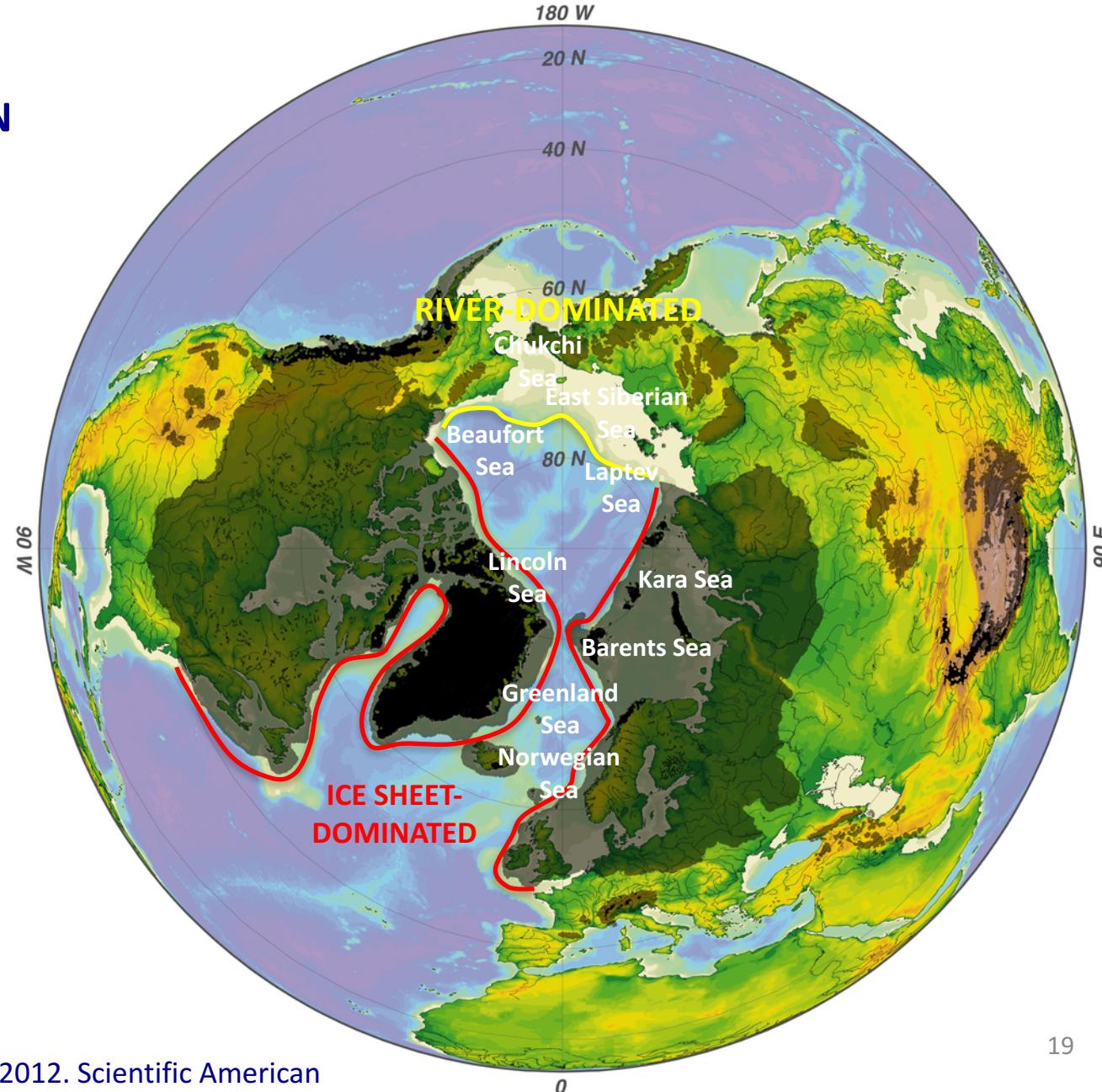


RIVERINE INPUT IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN (During interglacials)

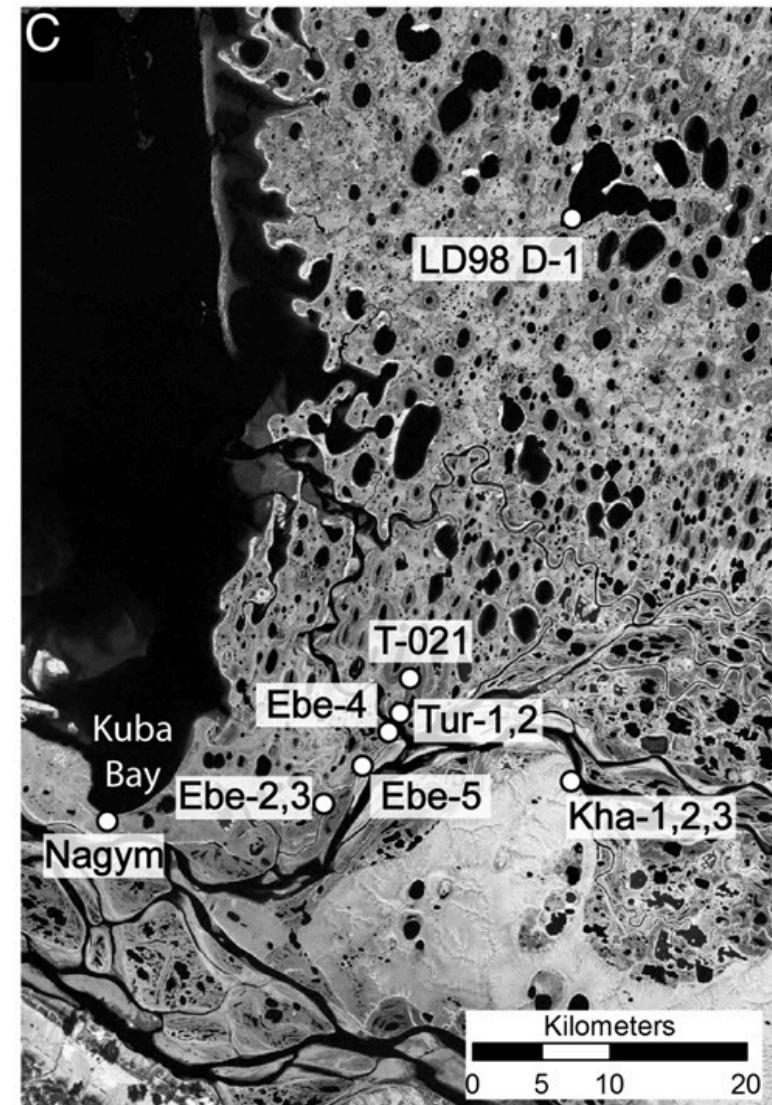
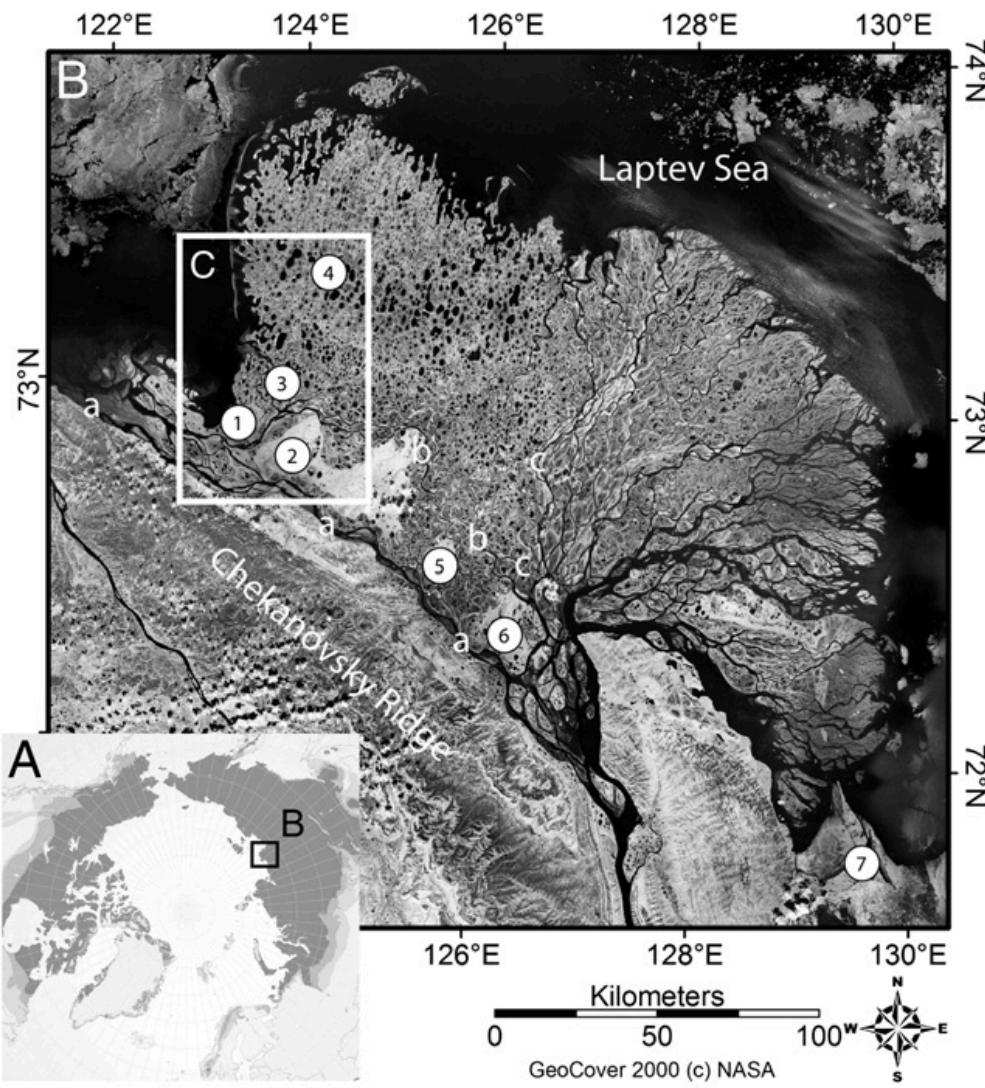




RIVERINE INPUT IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN (During glacials)

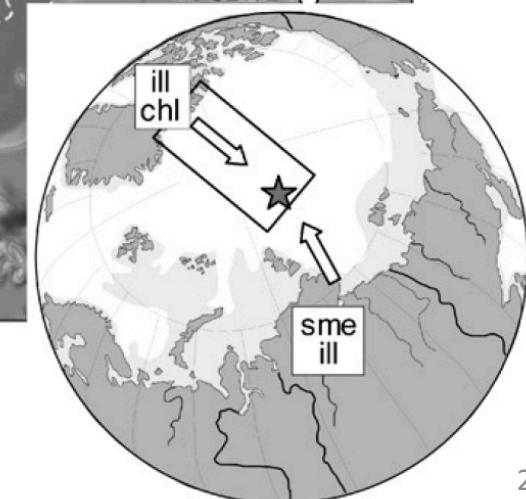
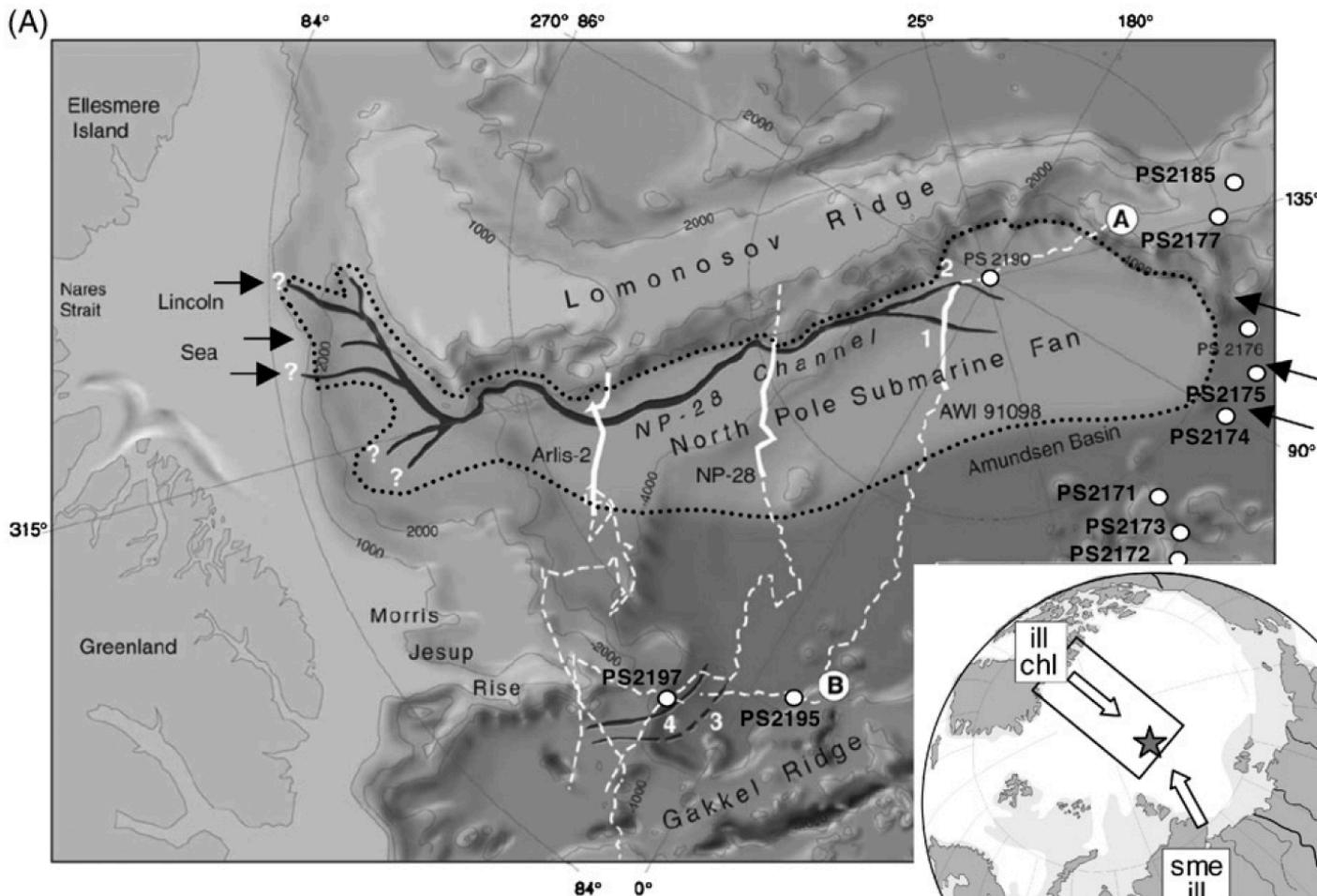


Lena Delta Today



Evidence of Deep Sea fan deposition in the deep Arctic Basin (likely river induced by riverine sedimentary input)

(A)

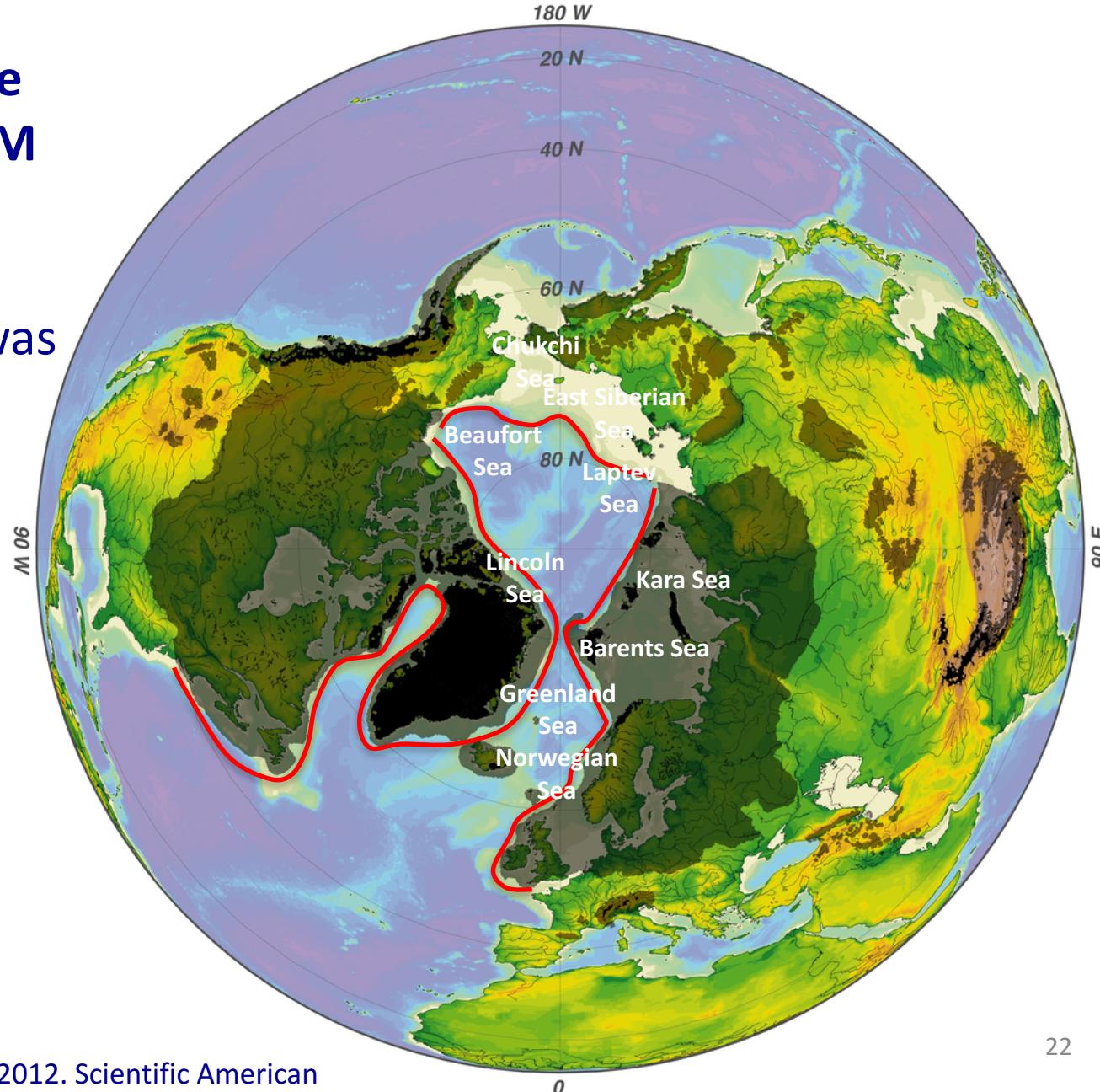


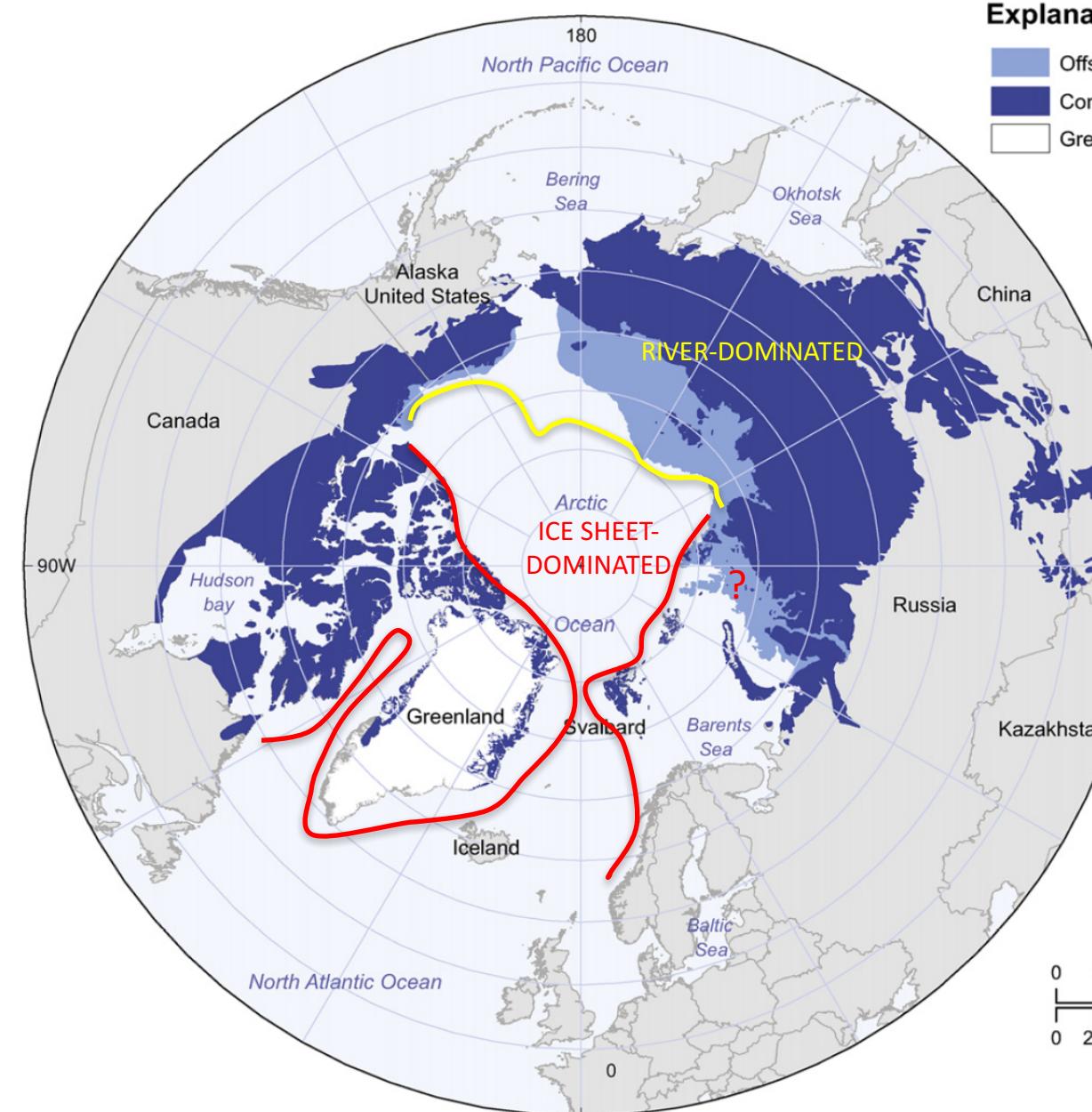
(B)



Approximate shore line during the LGM

Not all the Arctic
continental shelf was
covered by the ice
sheet

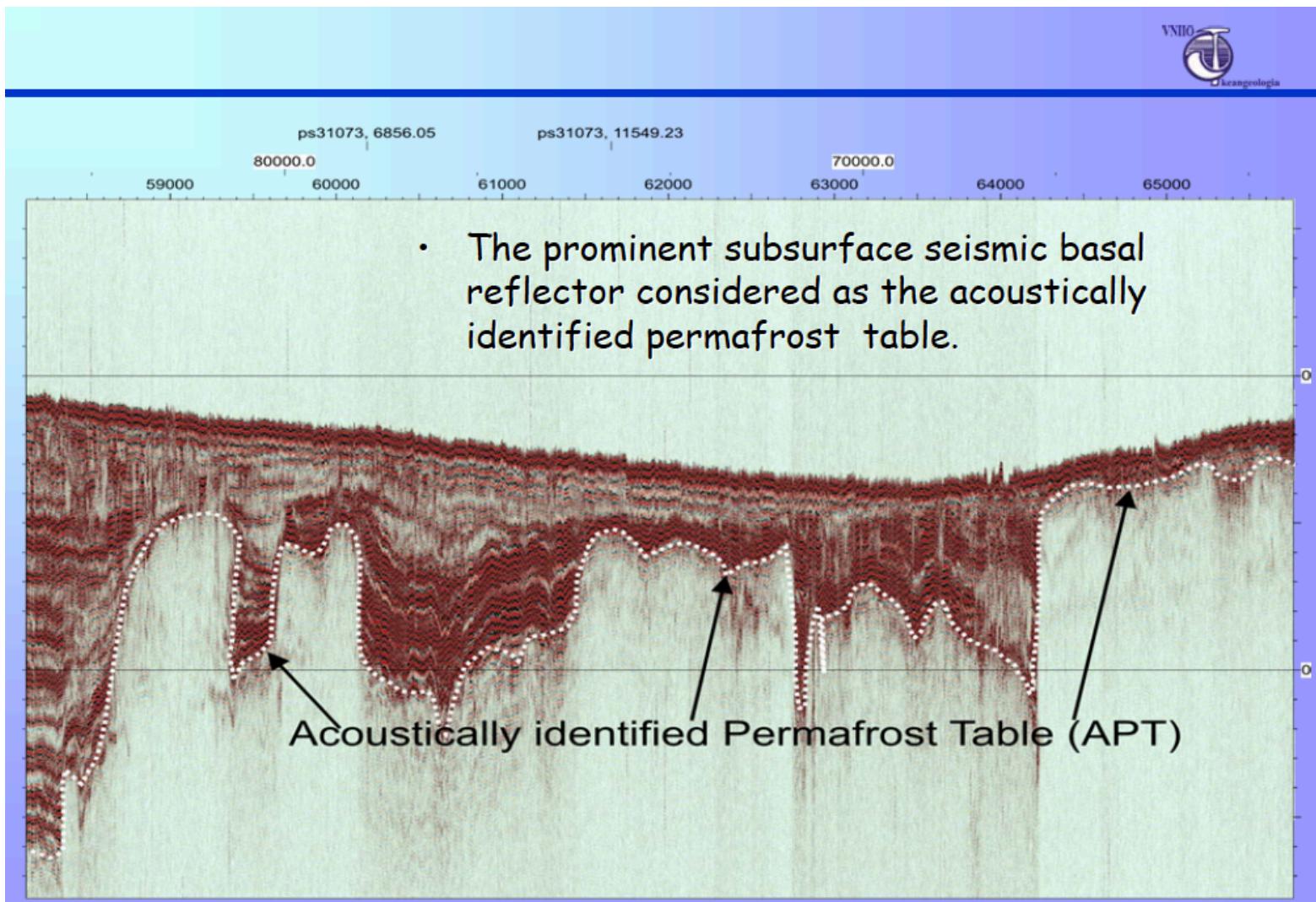




Explanation

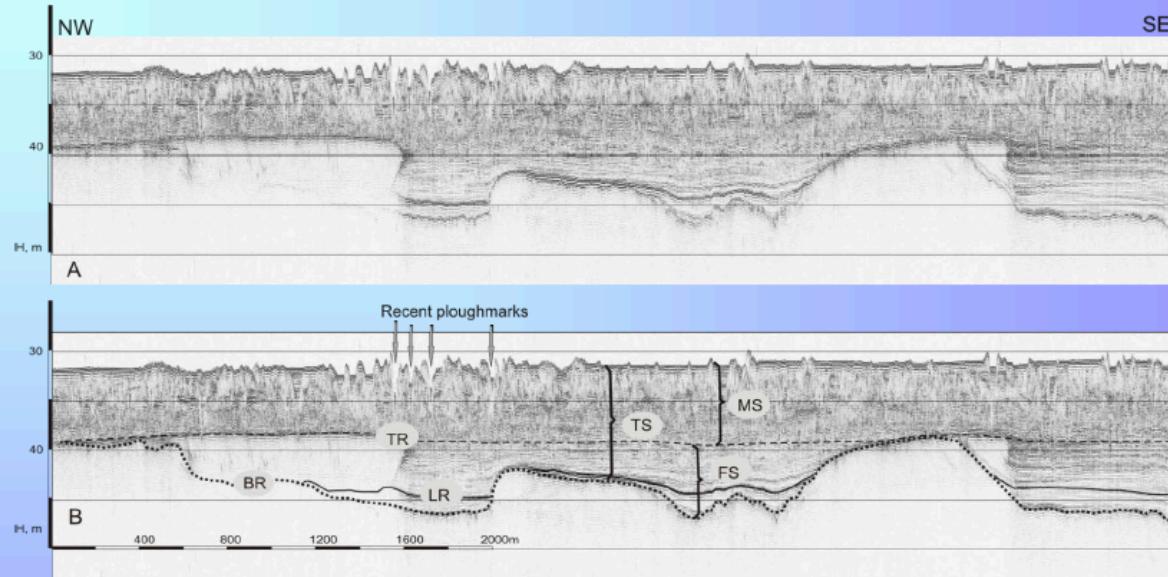
- Offshore relic permafrost
- Continuous permafrost (NSIDC)
- Greenland Ice Sheet (NSIDC)

The e continental shelf not covered by ice sheets was exposed to cold temperatures = **Permafrost**. With deglaciations, these permafrost-bearing shelves were flooded by seawater (+120m sealevel rise) leaving a **relict permafrost** layer below the seabed. Still present today, though slowly thawing





Further study



General seismic facies pattern:

Basal Reflector (**BR**) is clearly seen in the lower part of the seismic-acoustic section. Stratified Transgressive Sequence (**TS**) is bedded on top and divided by the Top Reflector (**TR**) into the Fill Sequence (**FS**) of the depression and Marine Sequence (**MS**). A distinct reflector (**LR**) in the lower part of FS, related to the peat horizon within thermokarst lake deposits



P. Rekant. et al., 2009. In the: System of the Laptev Sea and the Adjacent Arctic Seas : Modern and Past Environments





Methane fluxes from the terrestrial environment

Torsten Sachs

Helmholtz Young Investigator Group TEAM

GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences, Potsdam



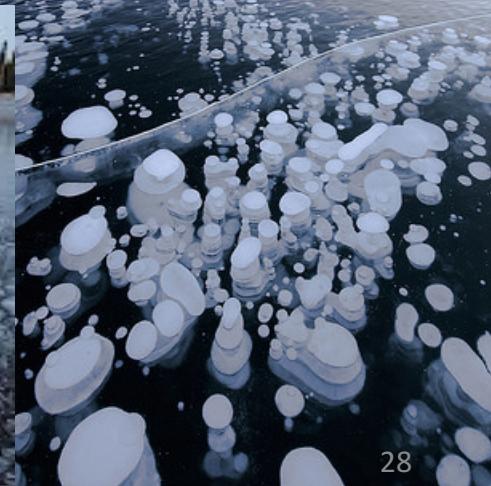
Ice on an Alaskan lake captures methane

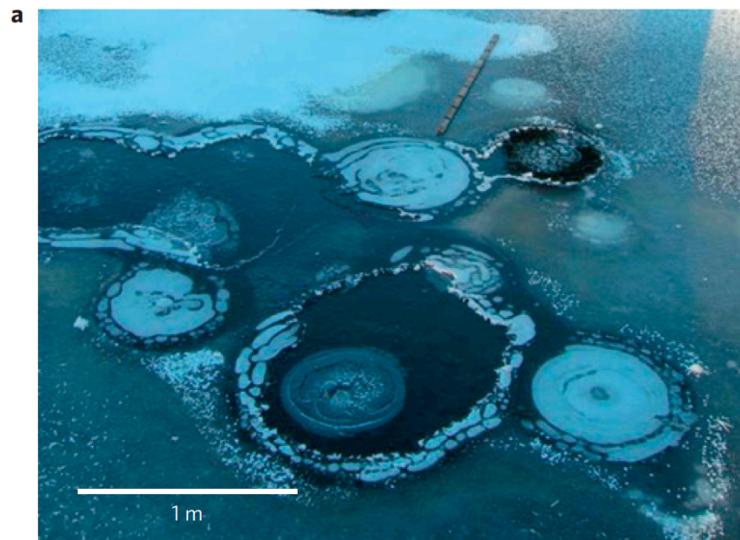
Marianne Lavelle, The National Geographic. December 2012

Photo Mark Thiessen

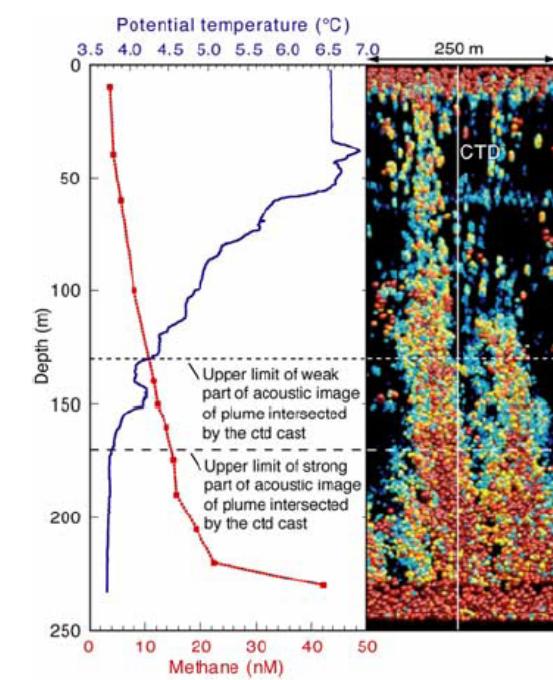
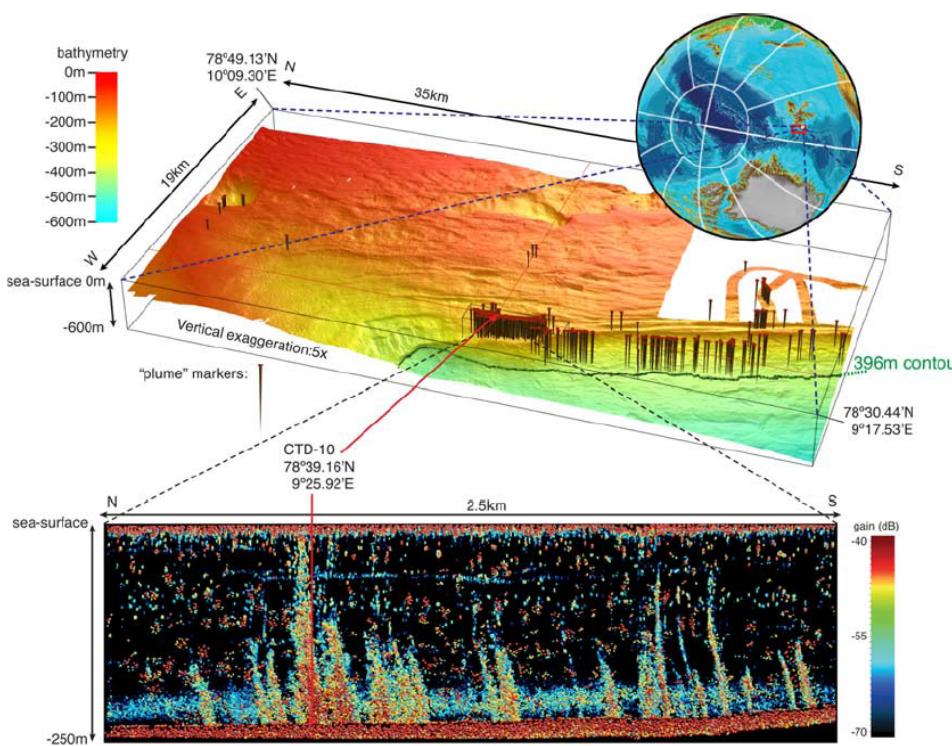


World ocean review: The impacts of hydrate mining





DEEP WATER METHANE RELEASE FROM GAS HYDRATES RESERVOIRS



Westbrook et al., 2009, GRL



RIVER DOMINATED:

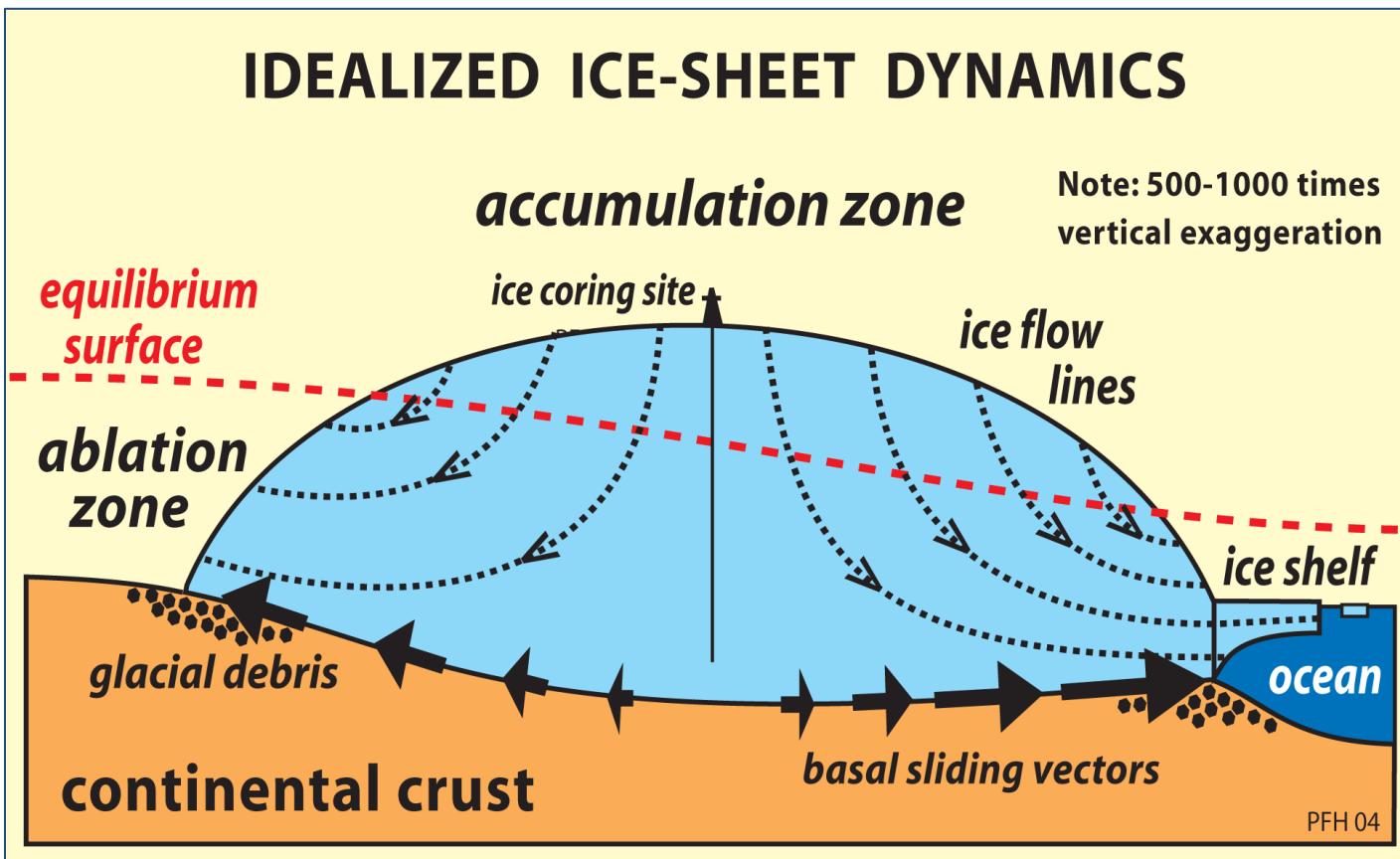
- Continental shelf edge modulated by sea level
- Deep Sea Fans
- Sand dominated
- Gentle slope
- Sub-sea permafrost

ICE SHEET DOMINATED:

- **Continental shelf edge modulated by Ice sheets at glacial maxima**
- **Trough-mouth fans**
- **Clay dominated**
- **Steep slope**
- **No subsea permafrost**



ICE SHEET-DOMINATED SEDIMENTARY SYSTEMS



Types of ice

CONTINENTAL ICE

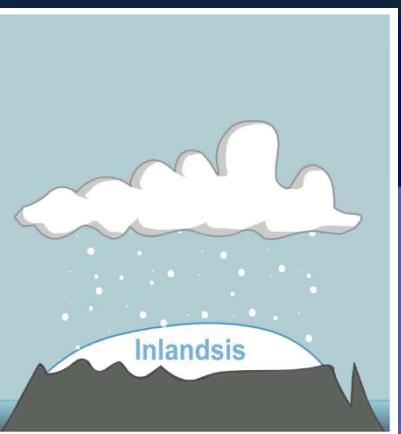
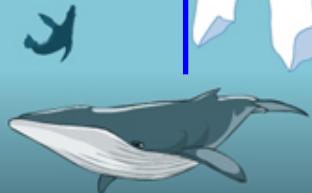
SEA ICE

ICEBERGS

ICE SHELF

ICE STREAMS

100 - 200 m



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EducaPoles
The educational website of the
International Polar Foundation

<http://www.educapoles.org>





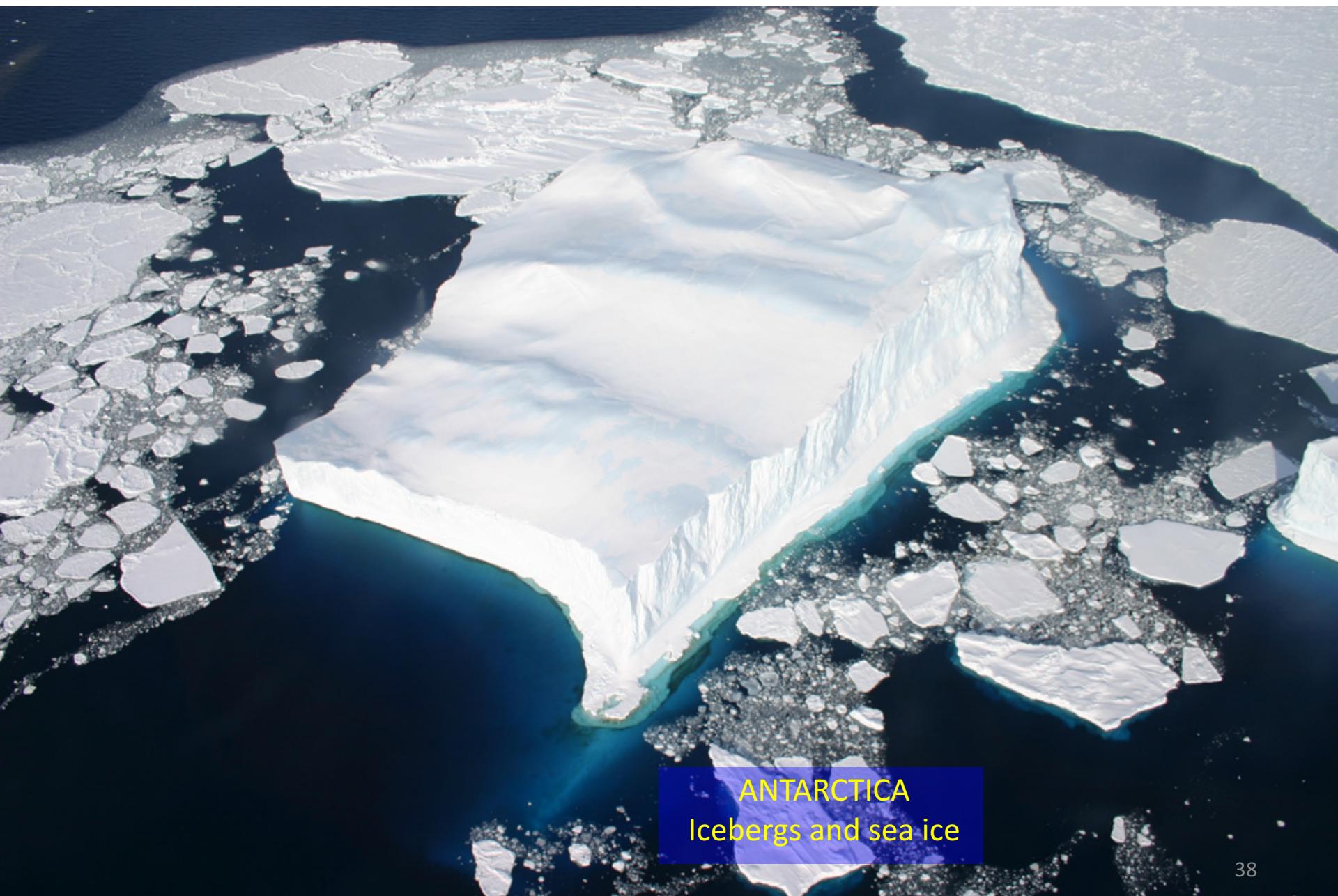


ANTARCTICA
Sea ice





ANTARCTICA
Ice sheet



ANTARCTICA
Icebergs and sea ice



ANTARCTICA

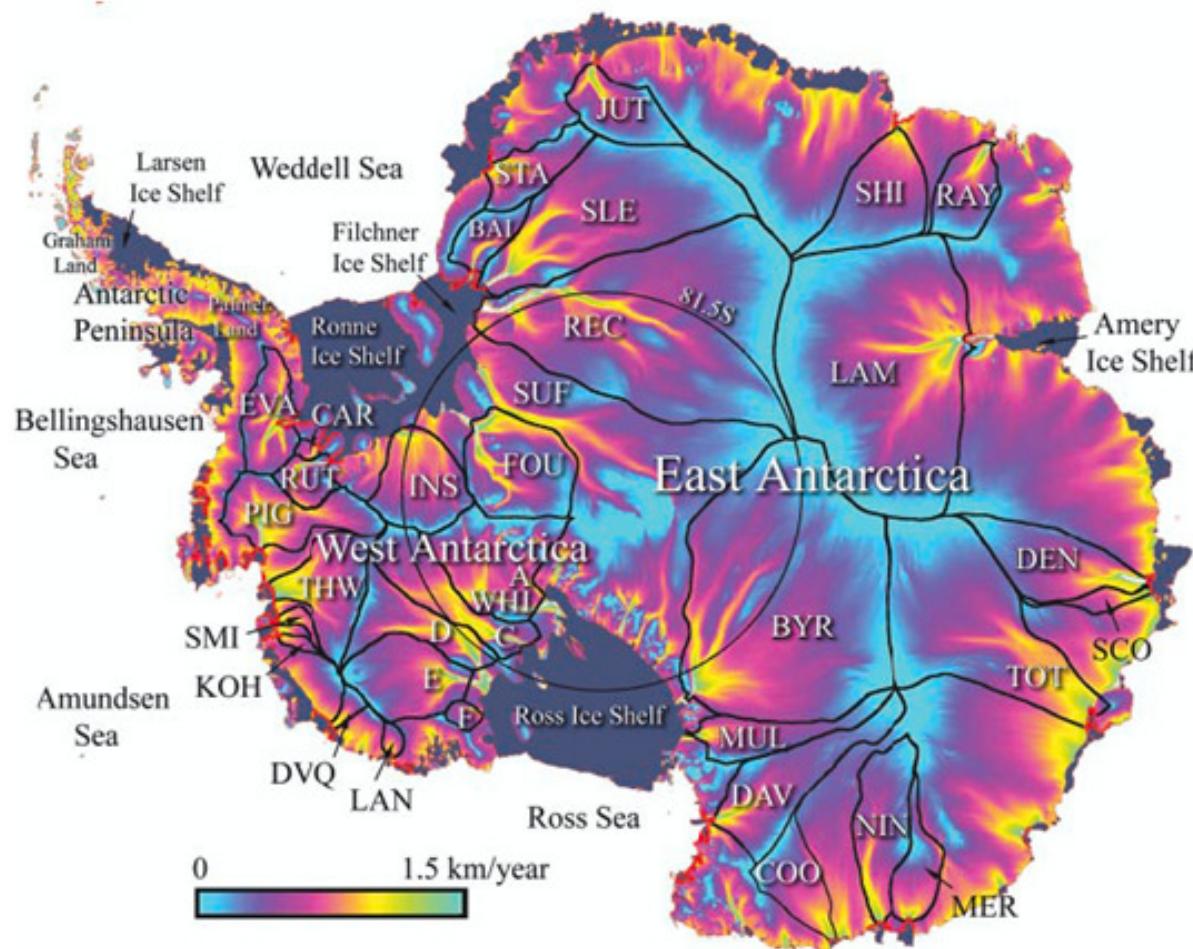
Ice sheet and icebergs

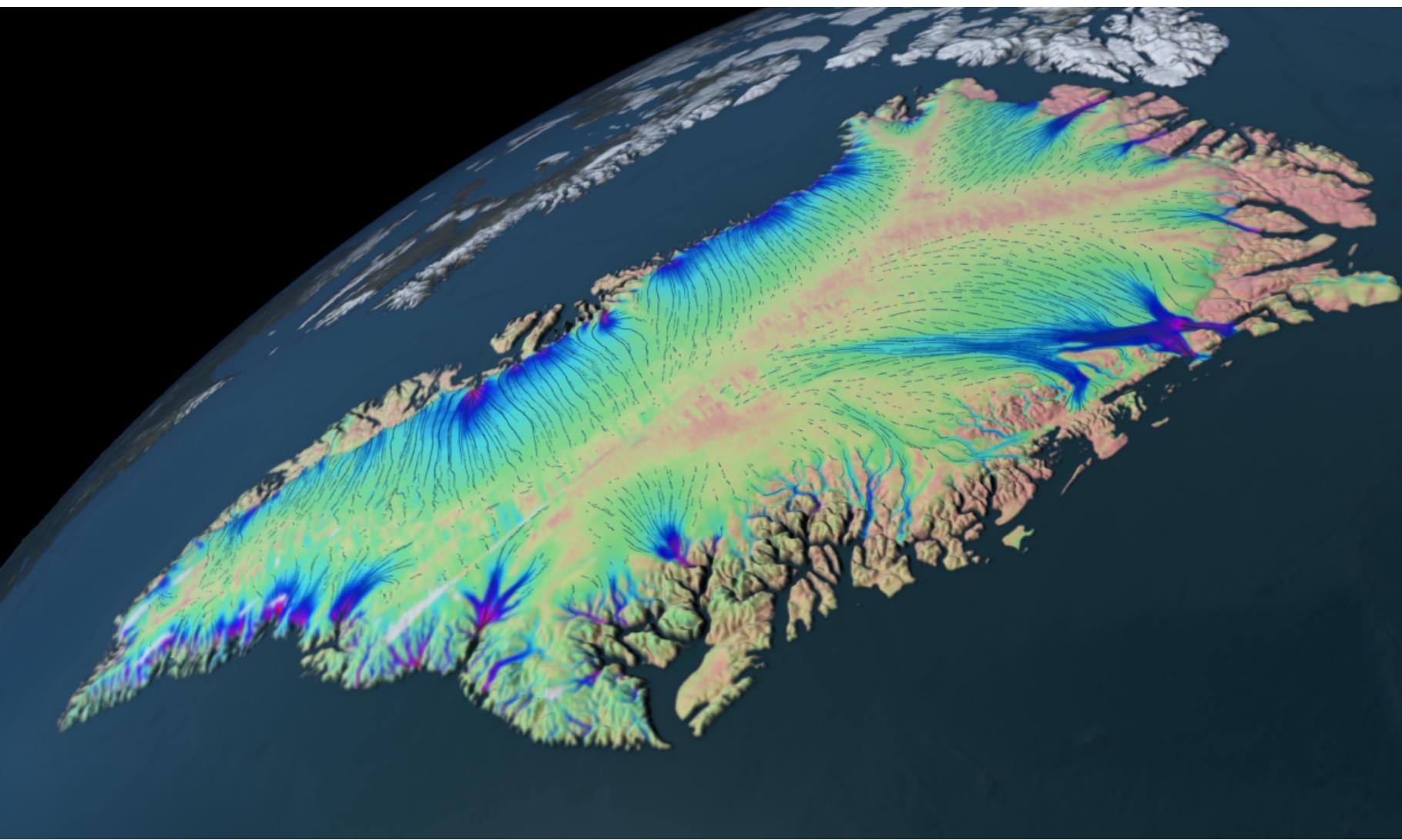




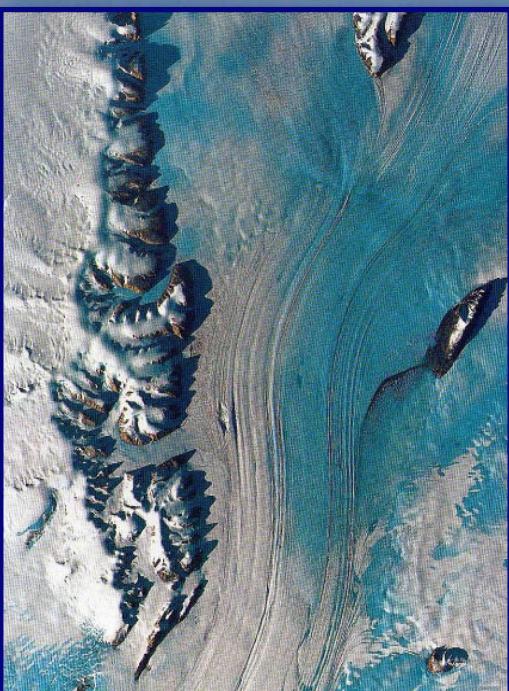
ICE SHEET-DOMINATED SEDIMENTARY SYSTEMS

ICE STREAMS









ANTARCTICA
ice streams





Two ice streams separated by a zone of more sluggish ice in Wilkes Land, Antarctica. The ice embayment coincides with the zone of sluggish ice -- on either side of it the ice is moving much faster, and has pushed out across the coast in distinct tongues.

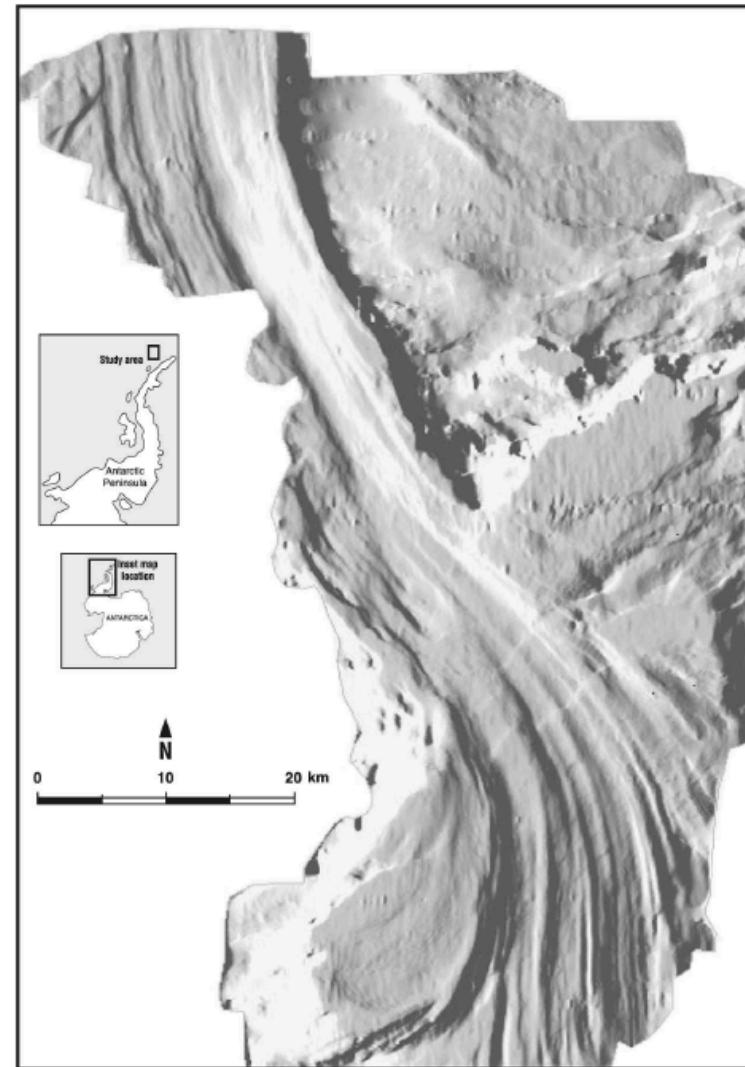


ICE SHEET-DOMINATED SEDIMENTARY SYSTEMS

**PALEO ICE STREAMS
Offshore evidence**



MEGA-SCALE GLACIAL LINEATIONS



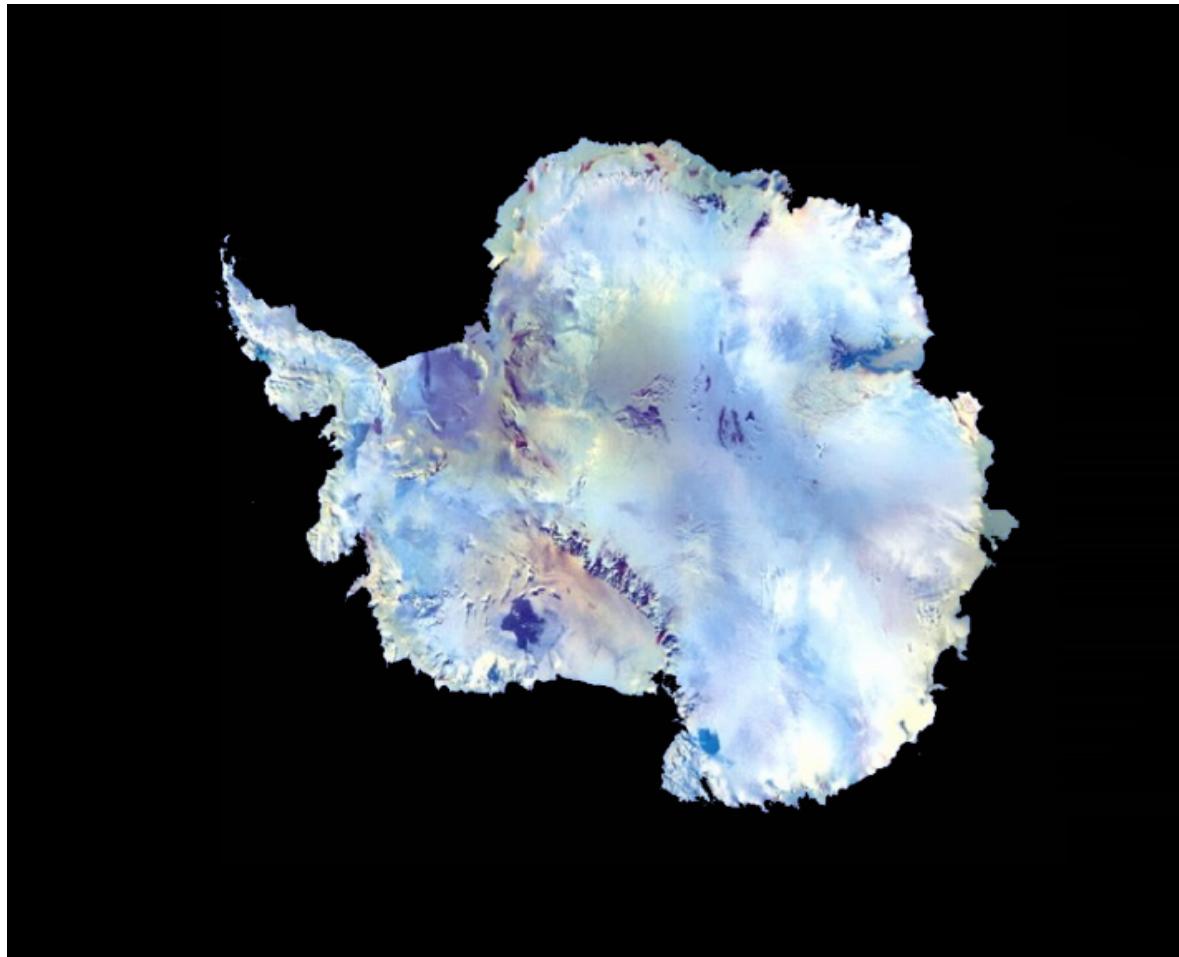
Stokes and Clark_2001_QSR

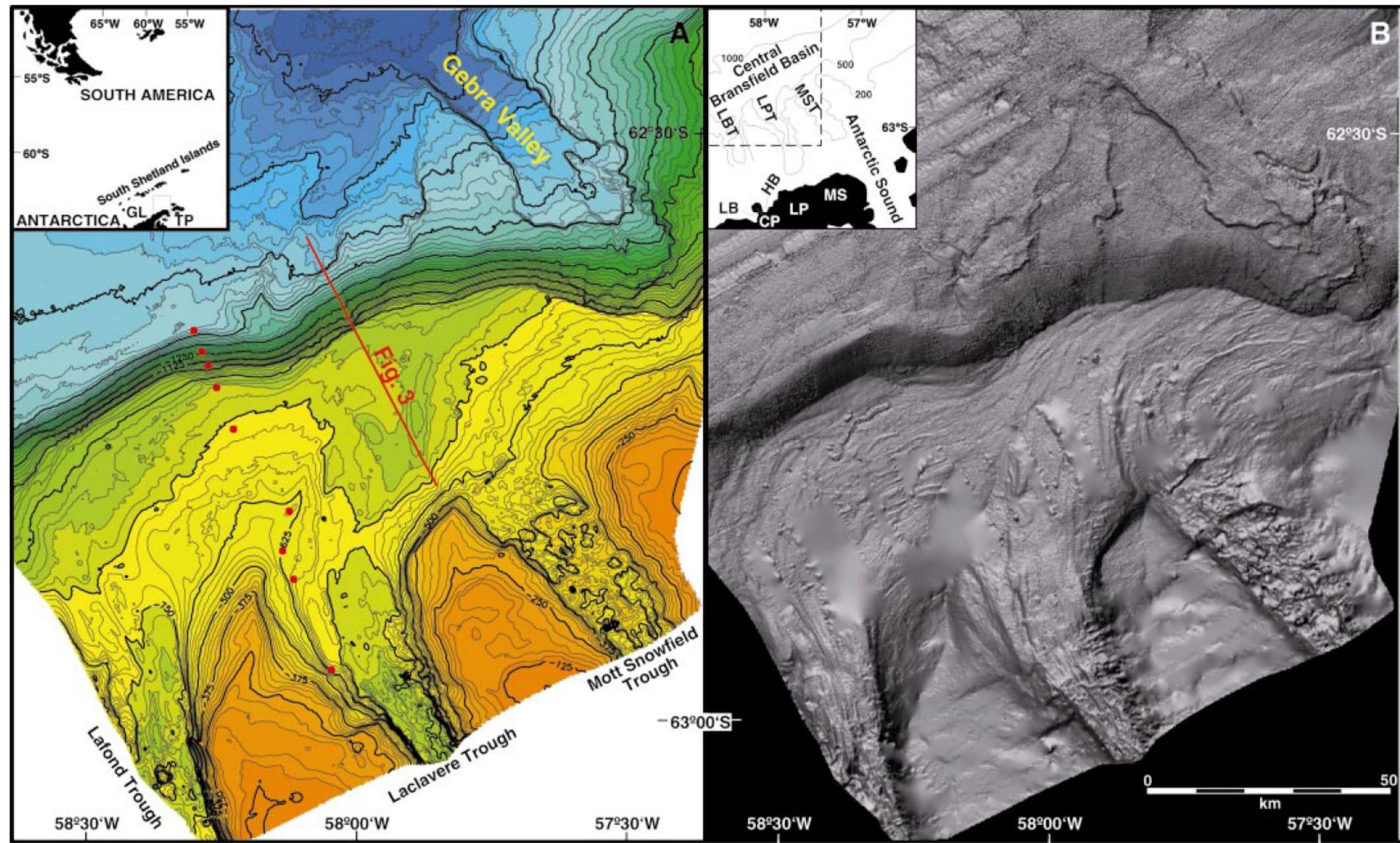


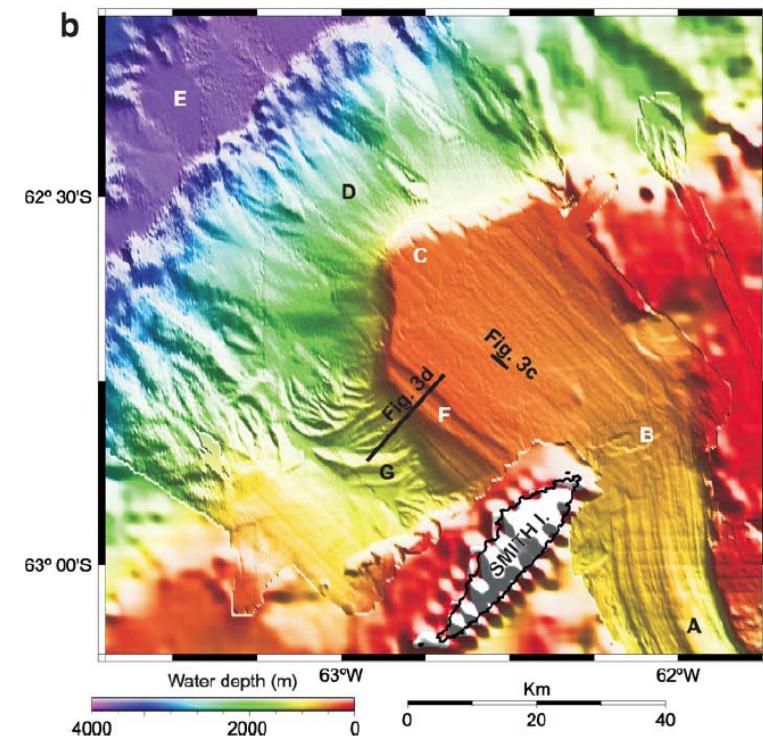
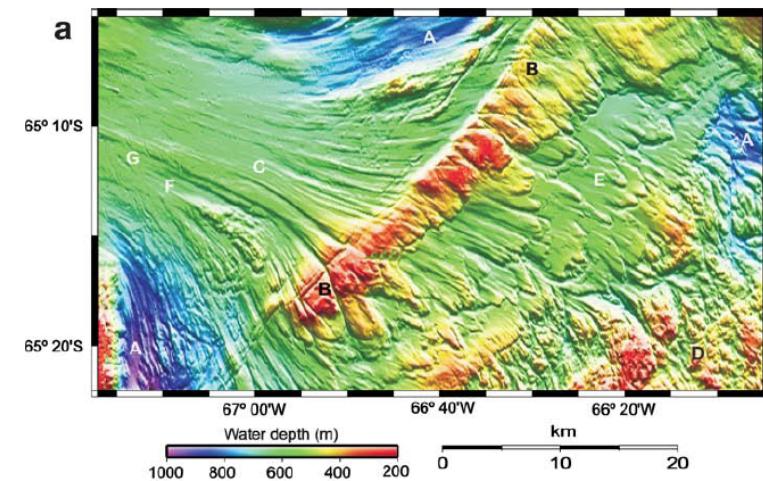
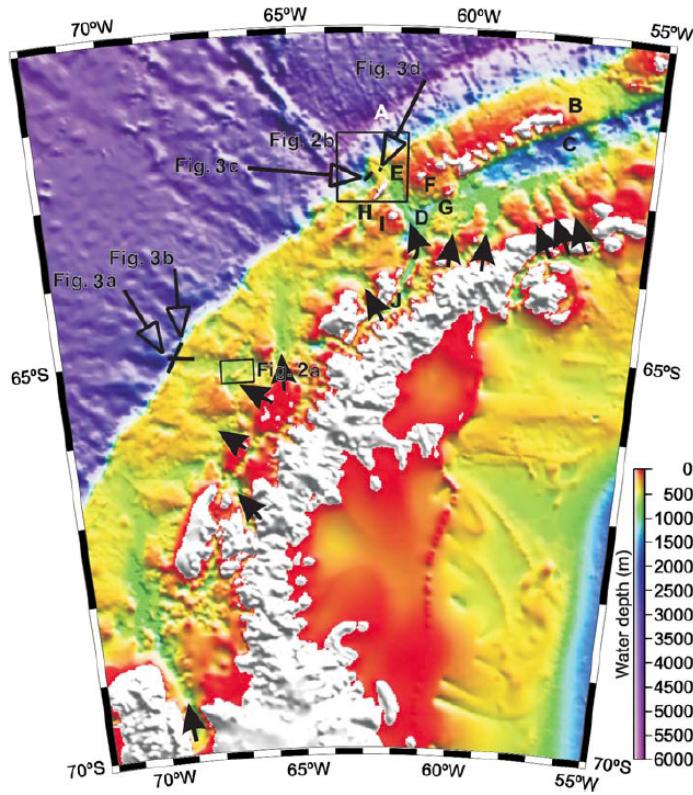
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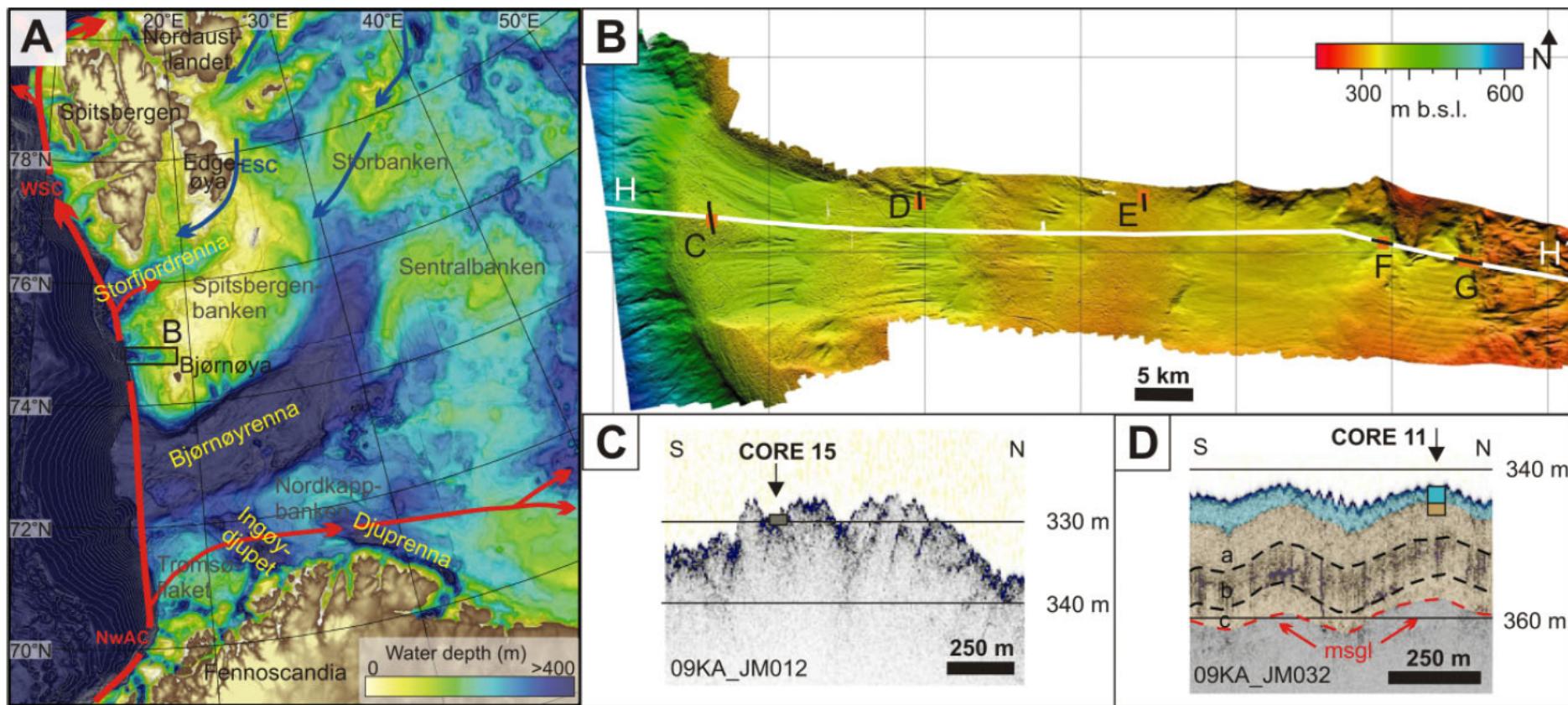
Dipartimento di Matematica e Geoscienze

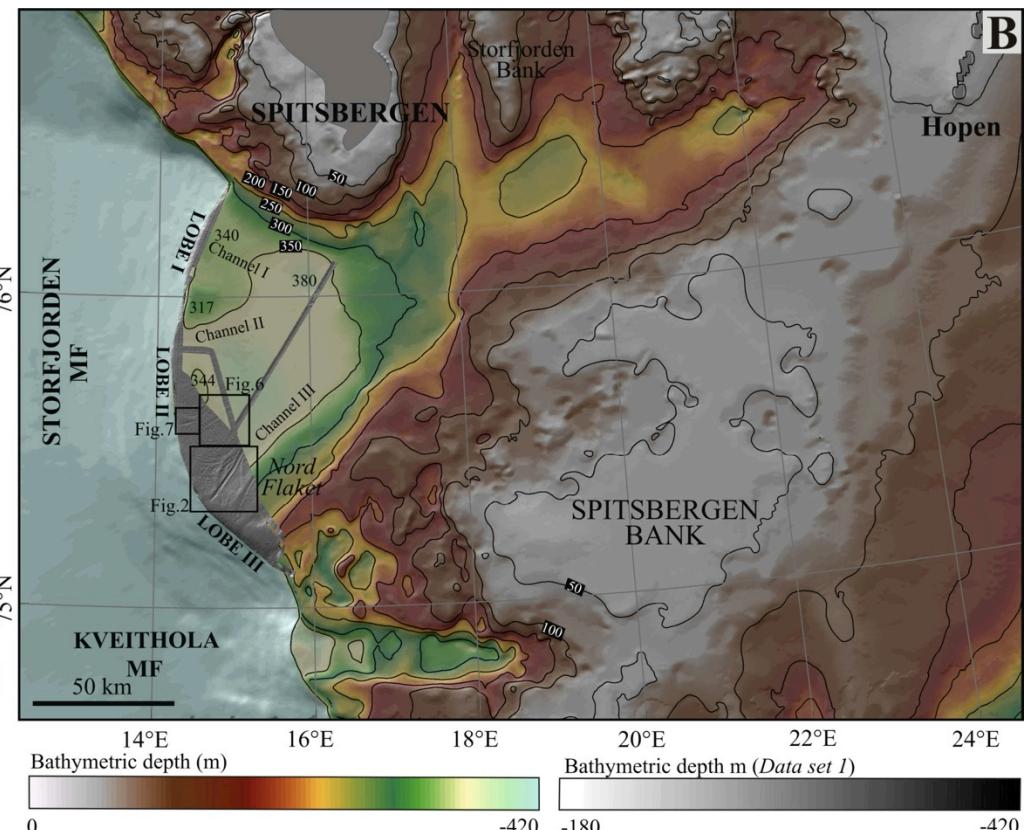
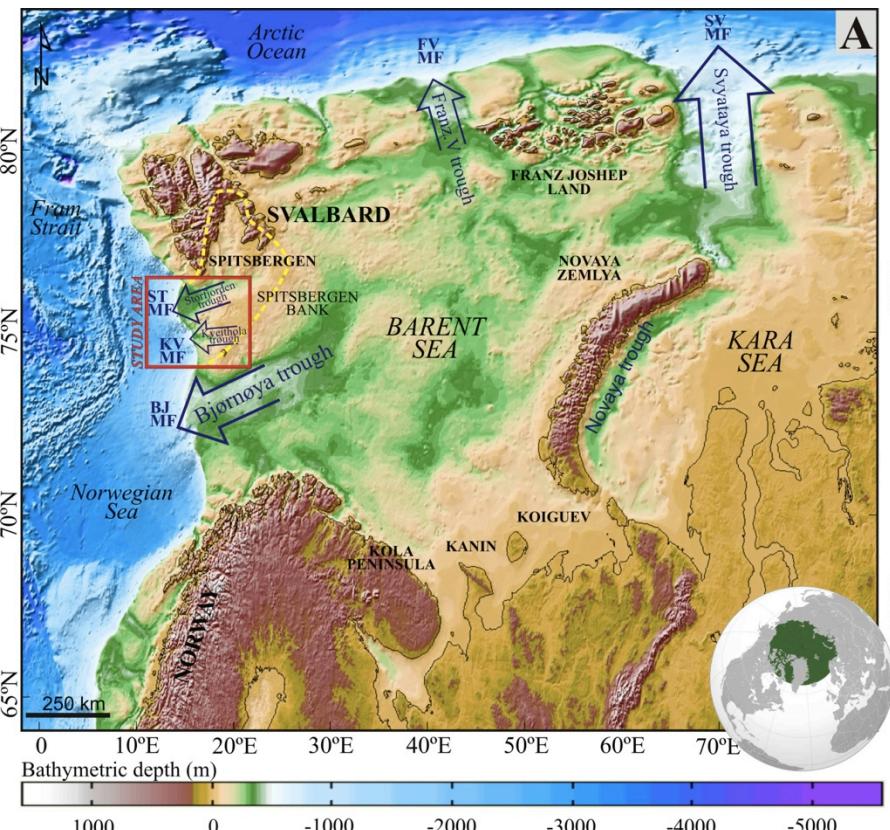
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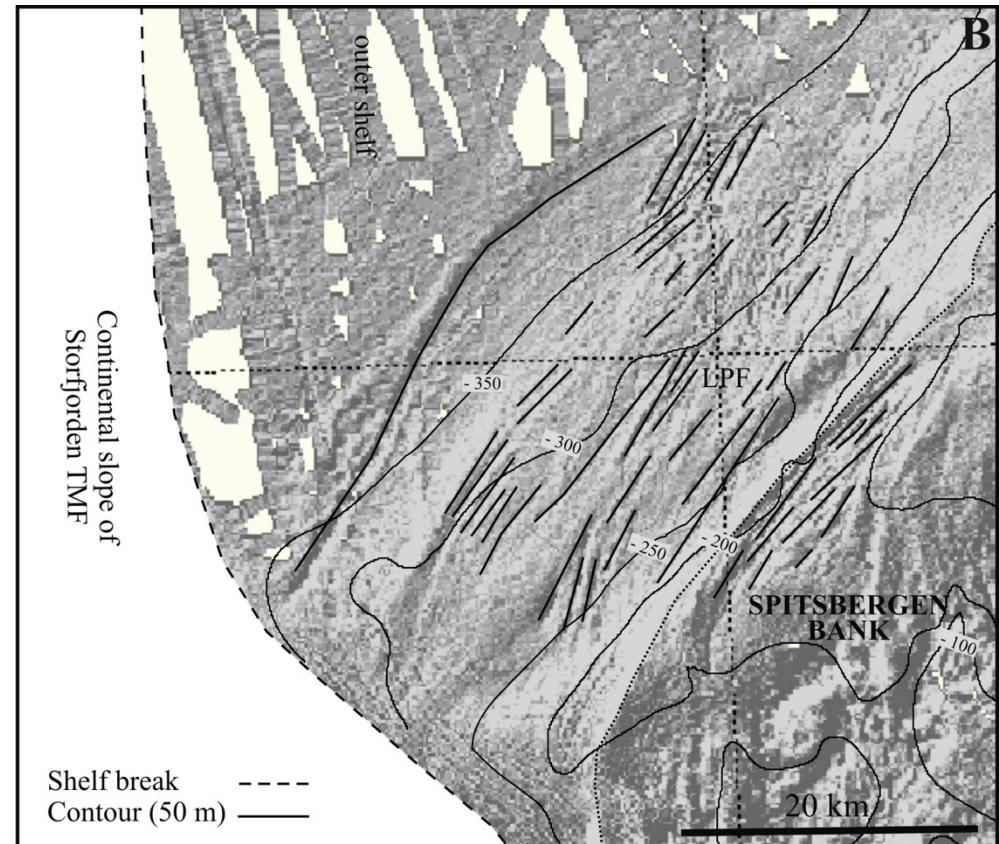
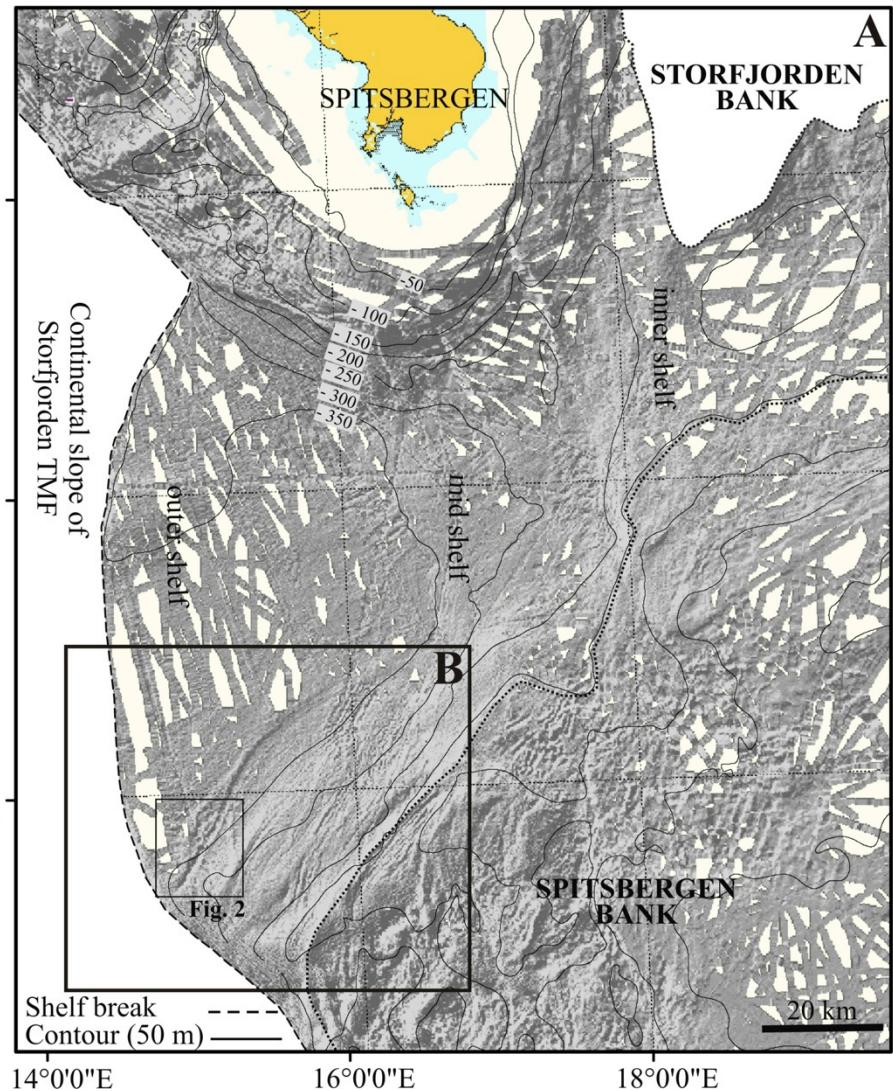












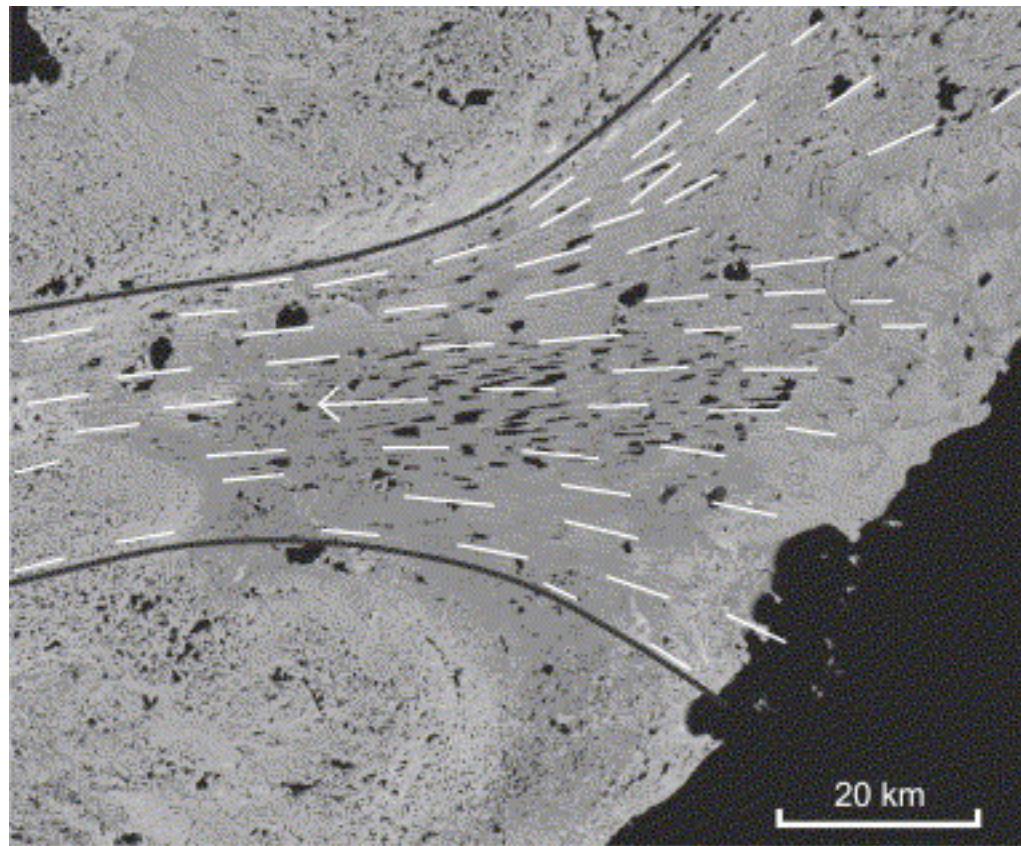


ICE SHEET-DOMINATED SEDIMENTARY SYSTEMS

PALEO ICE STREAMS
Onshore evidence

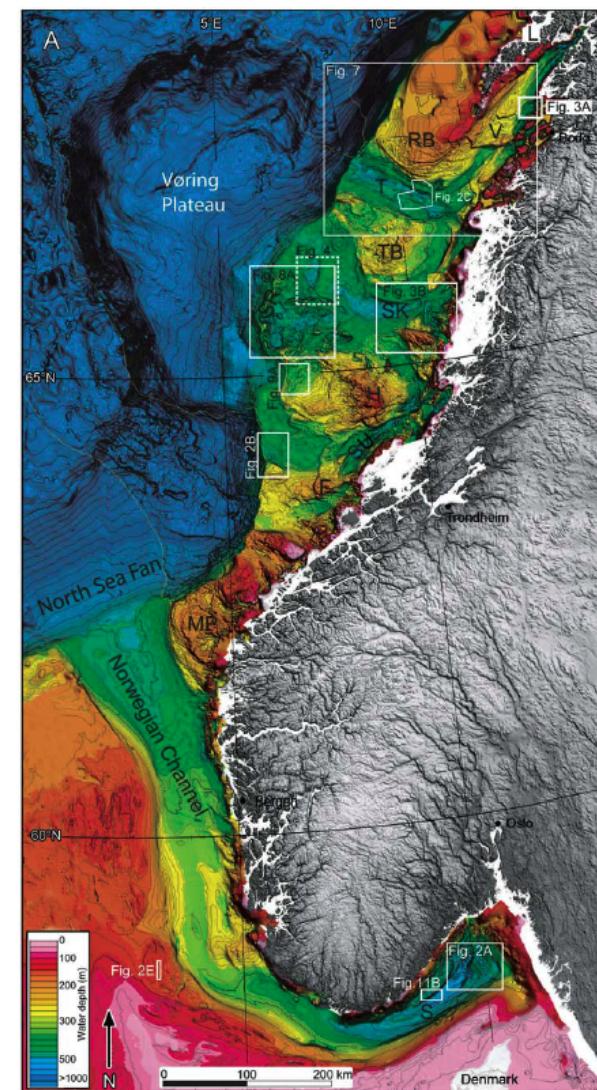
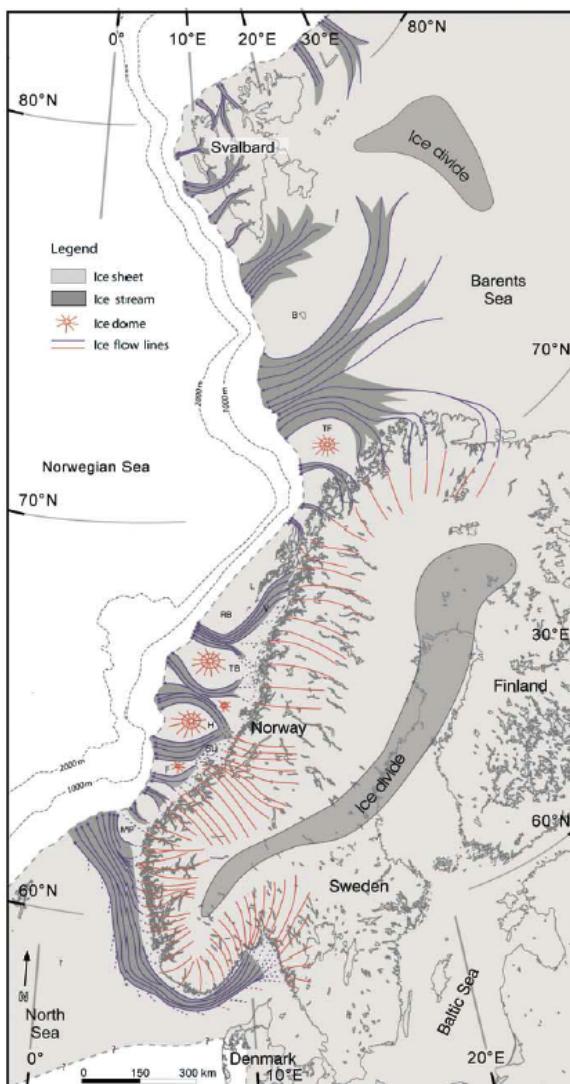


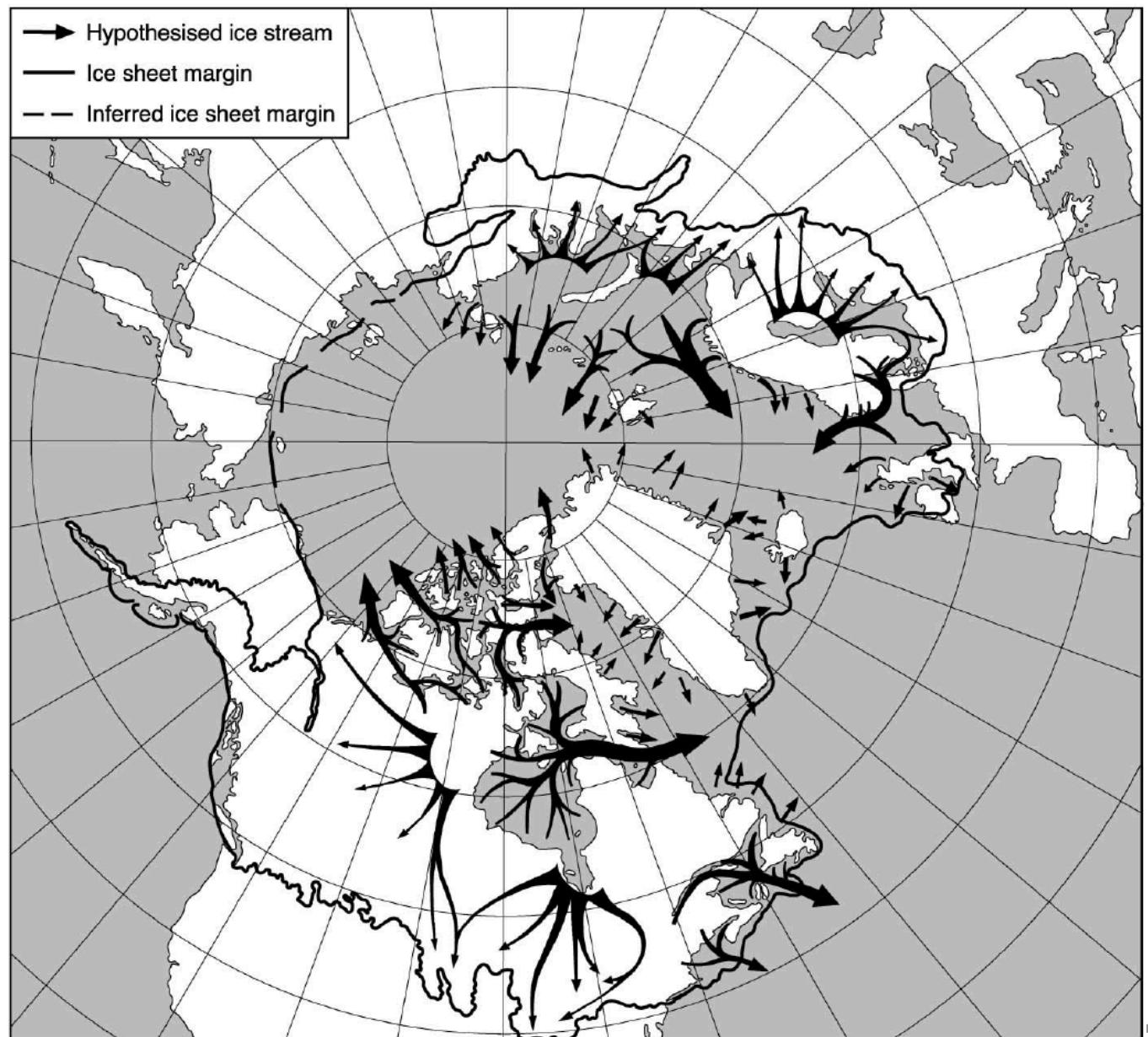
Mega-scale glacial lineations from a palaeo-ice stream landsystem in Northern Canada. Photograph: C. Stokes



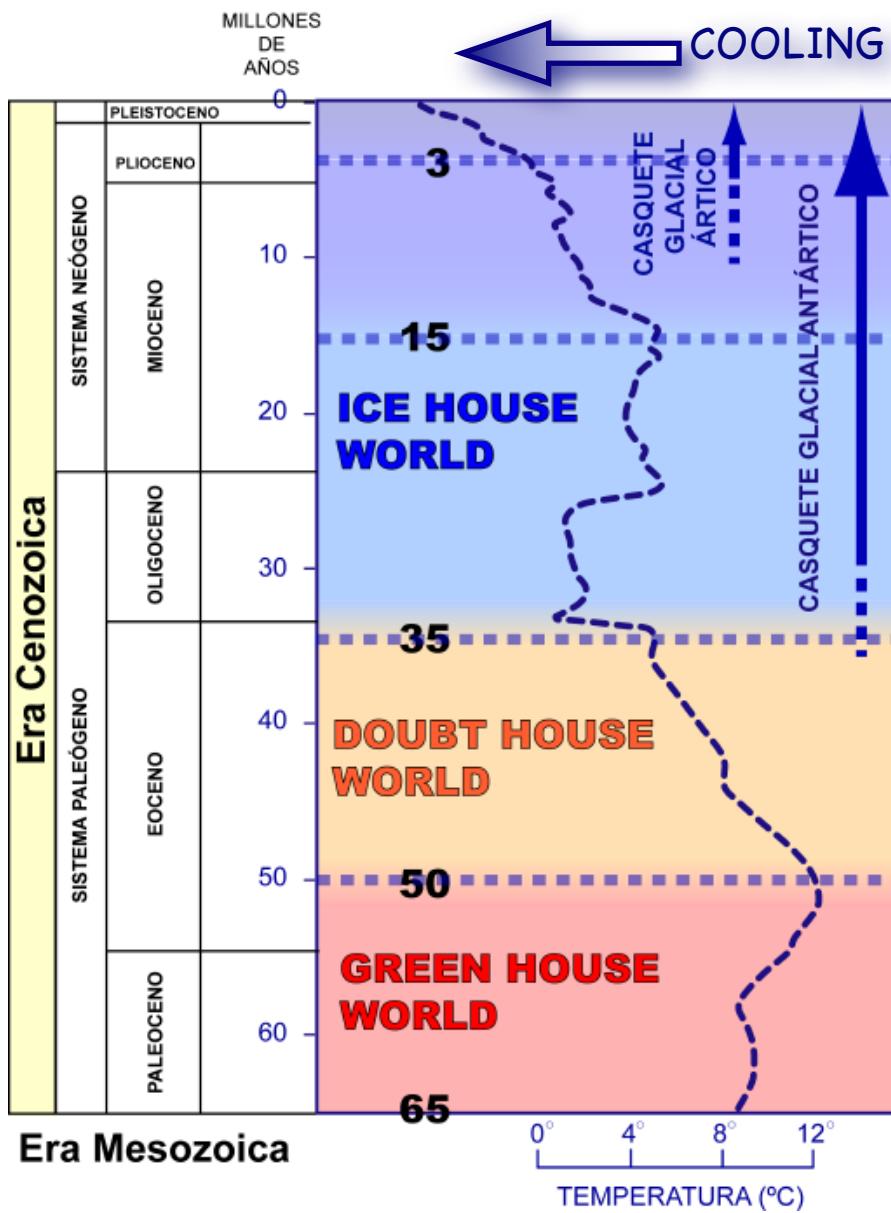
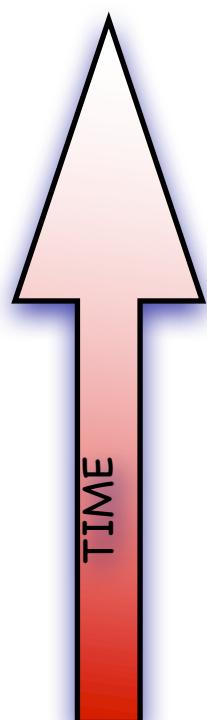
Head convergence of former Haldane Ice Stream northwest of Great Bear Lake, Canada (Winsborrow et al., 2004).

Onshore and offshore Evidence of ice streams



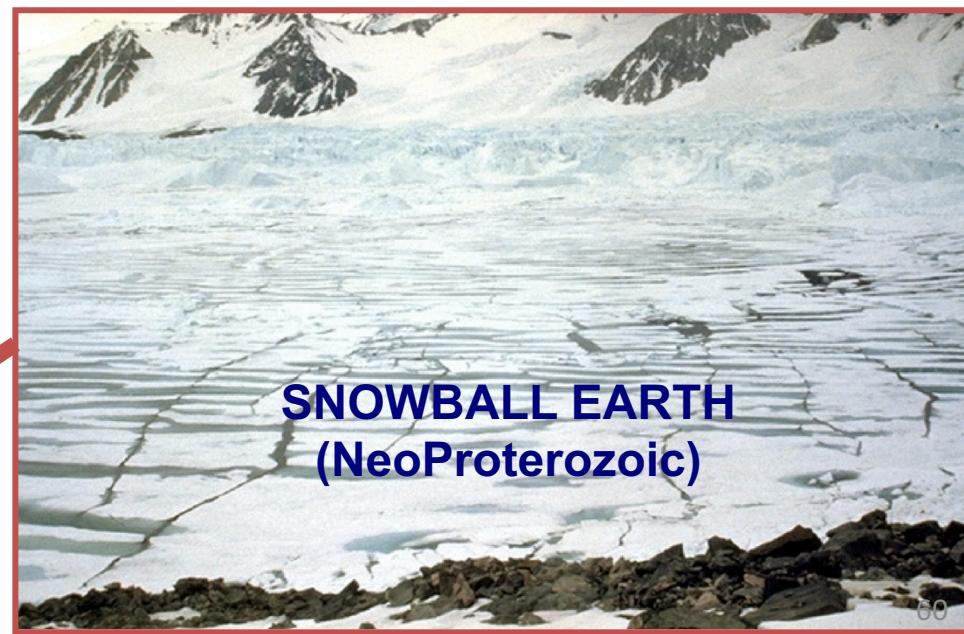
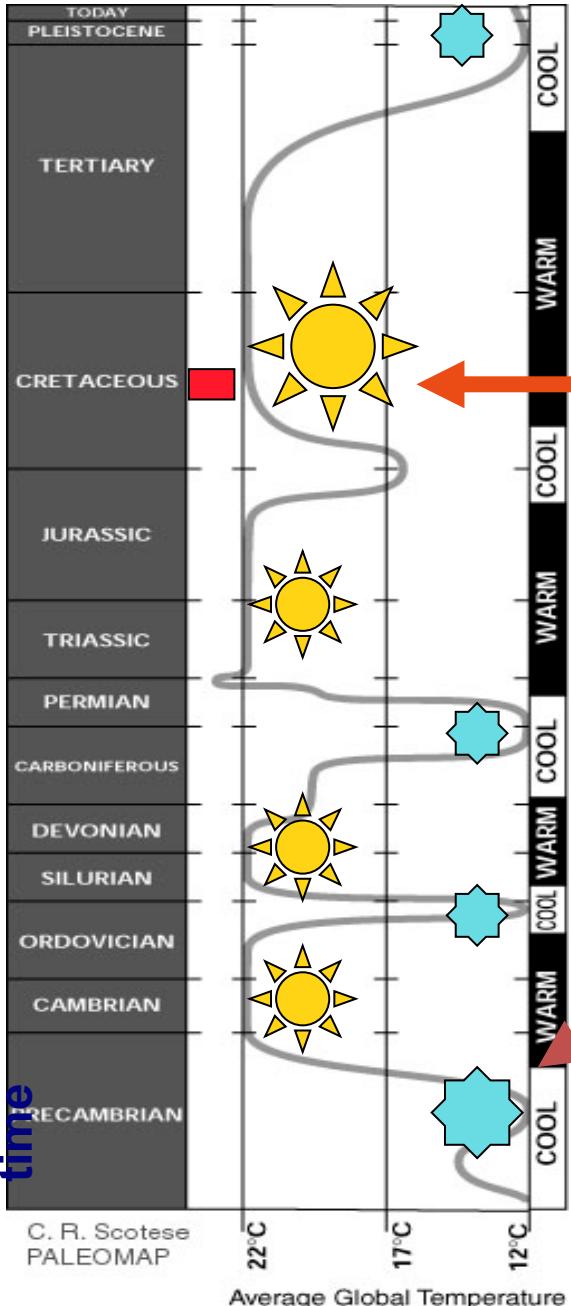


Global cooling in the last 50 million years approximately



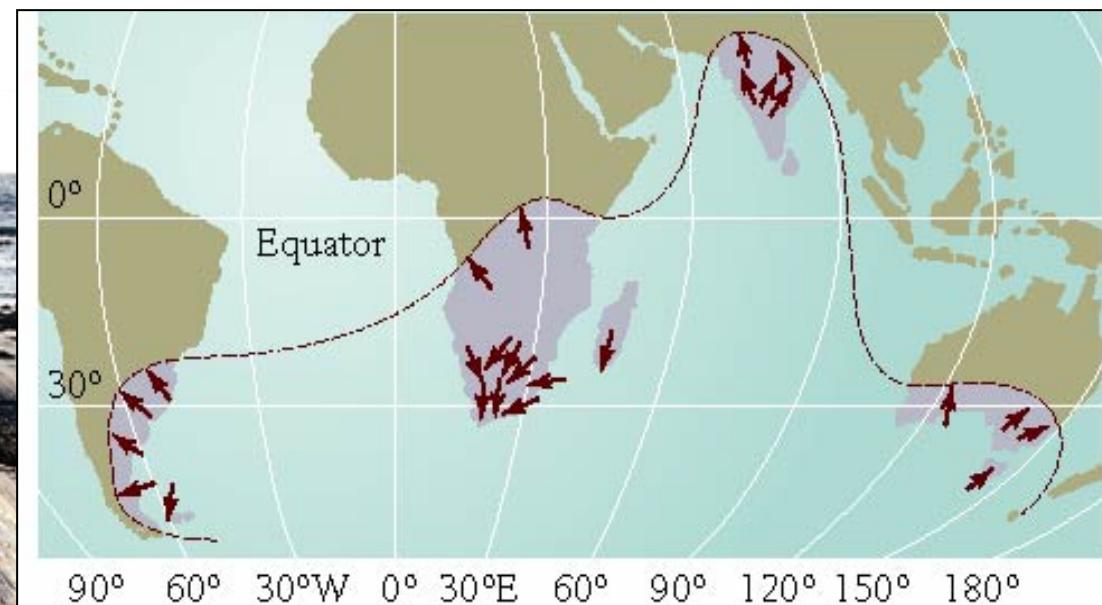
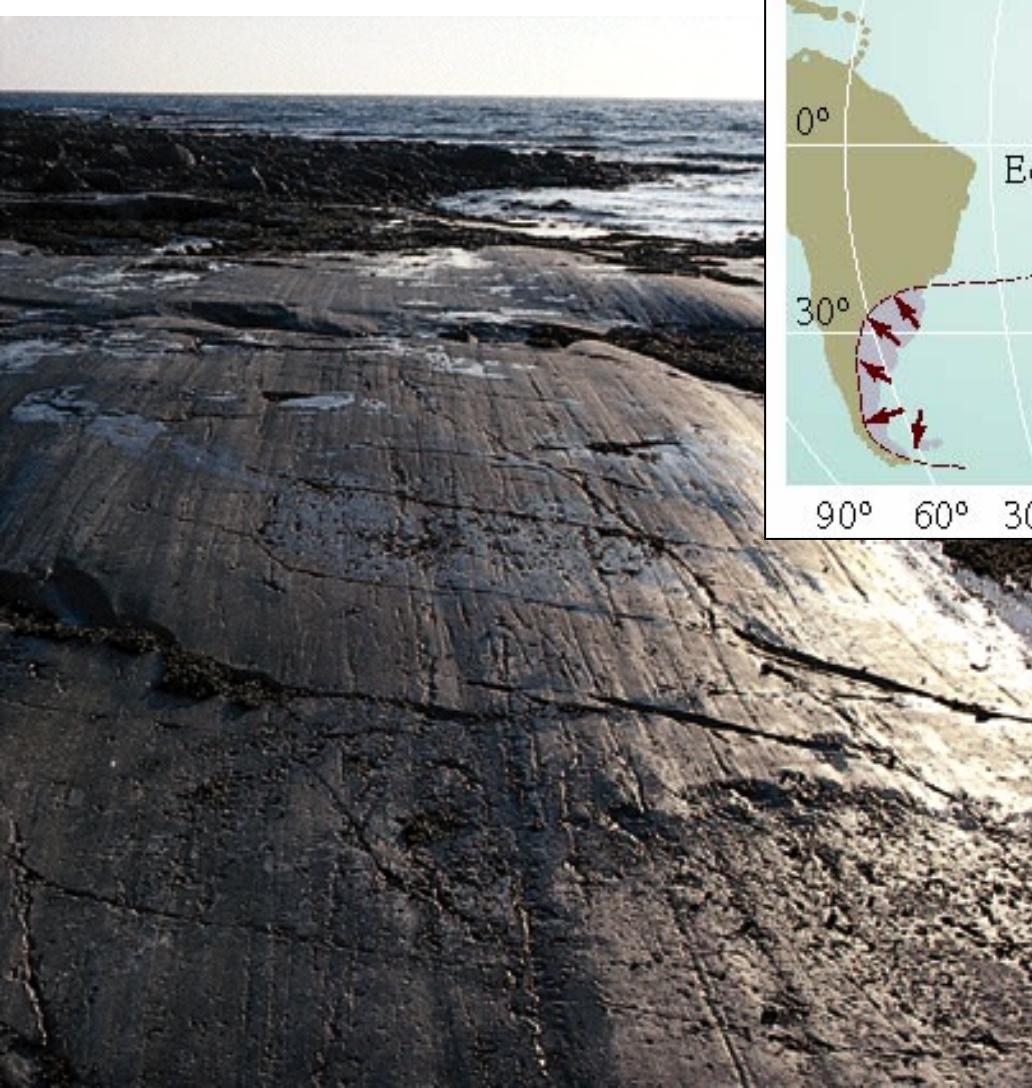


Extreme climates throughout the geological time





Evidence of Continental Drift



- **Stratigraphic Evidence**
 - Glaciers
 - Orientation of glacial markings on all continents suggest they were linked



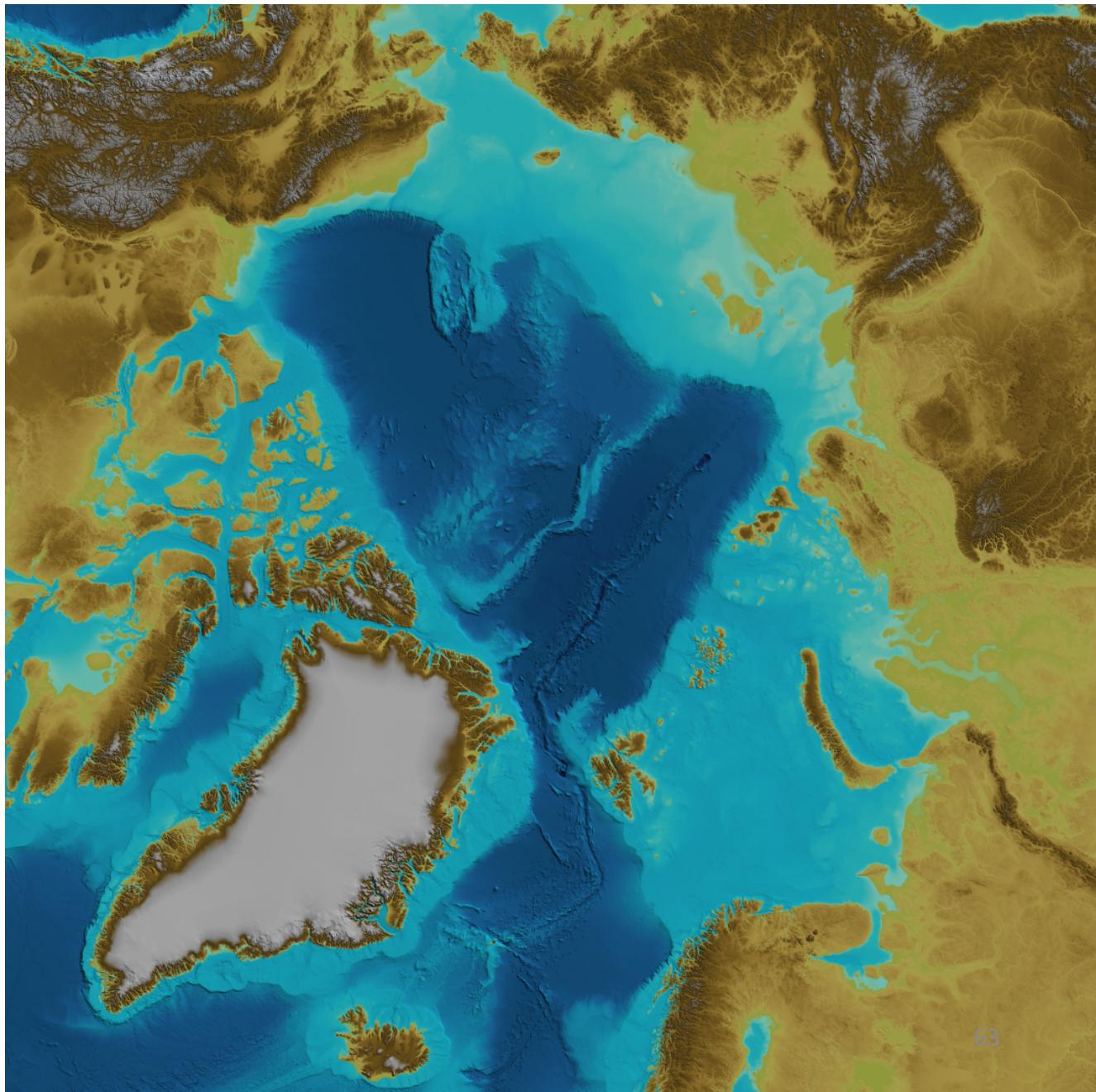
ICE SHEET-DOMINATED SEDIMENTARY SYSTEMS

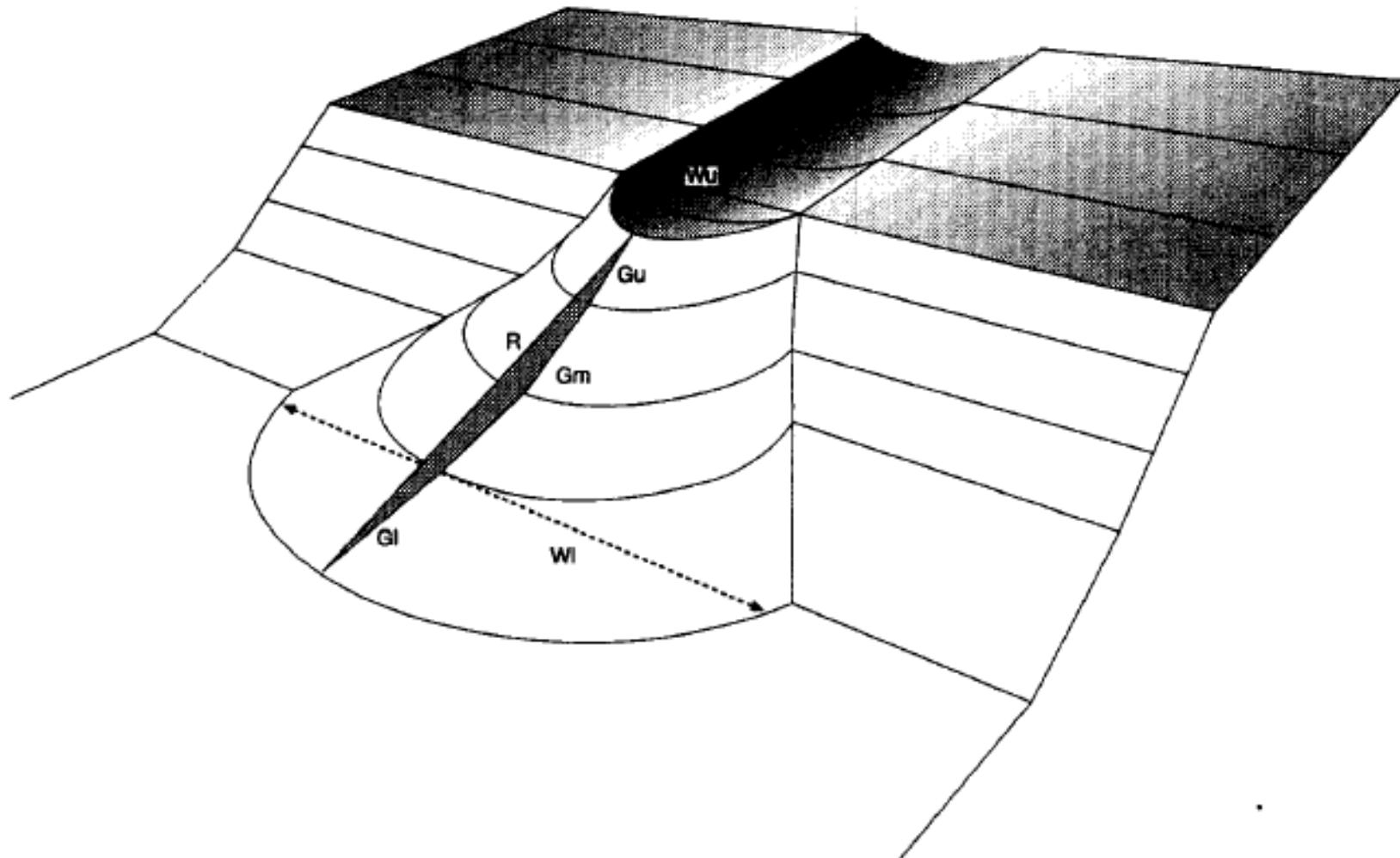
TROUGHS-MOUTH FANS



TOPOGRAPHY

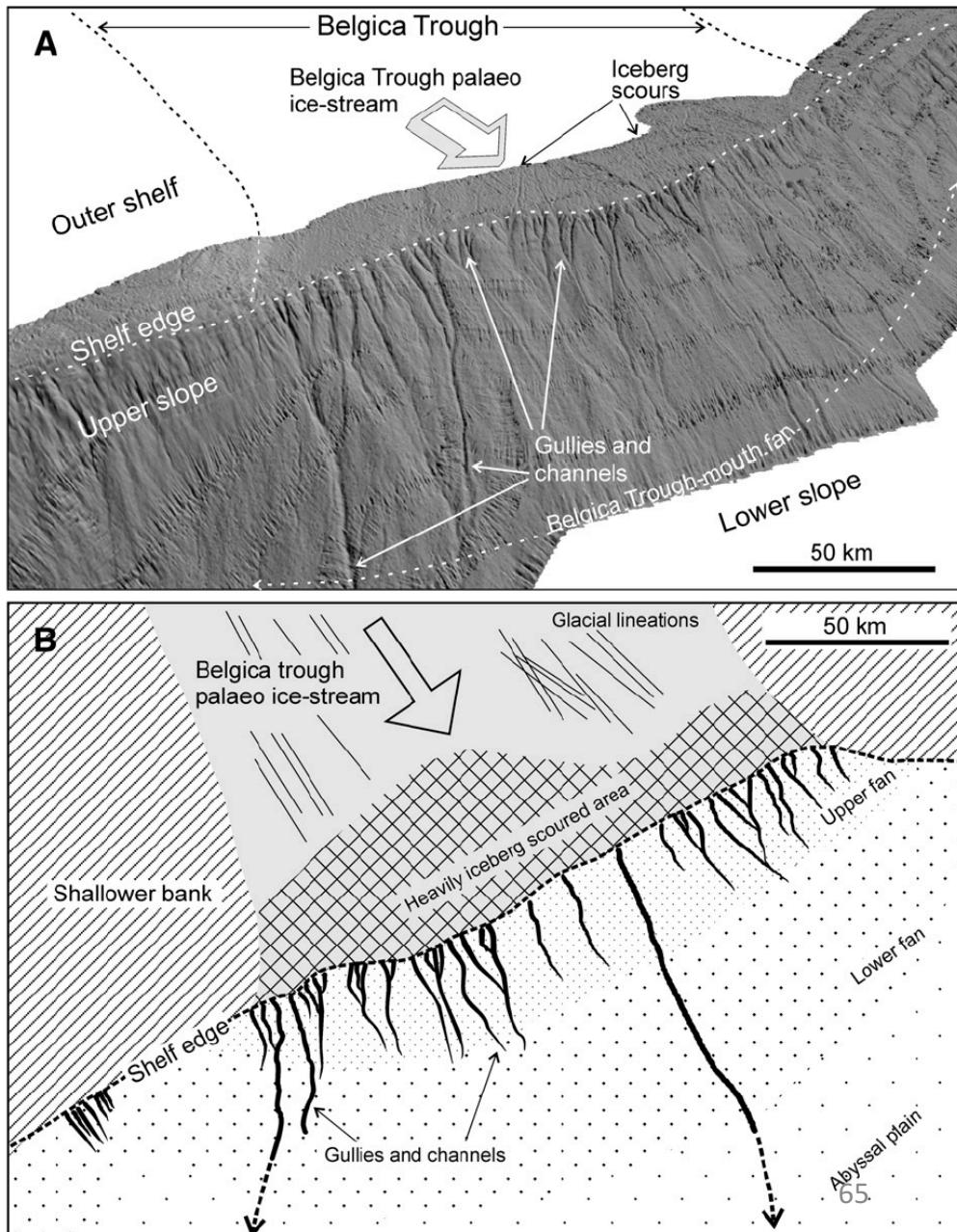
Note presence of TMF
on Arctic and
northern Atlantic
margins



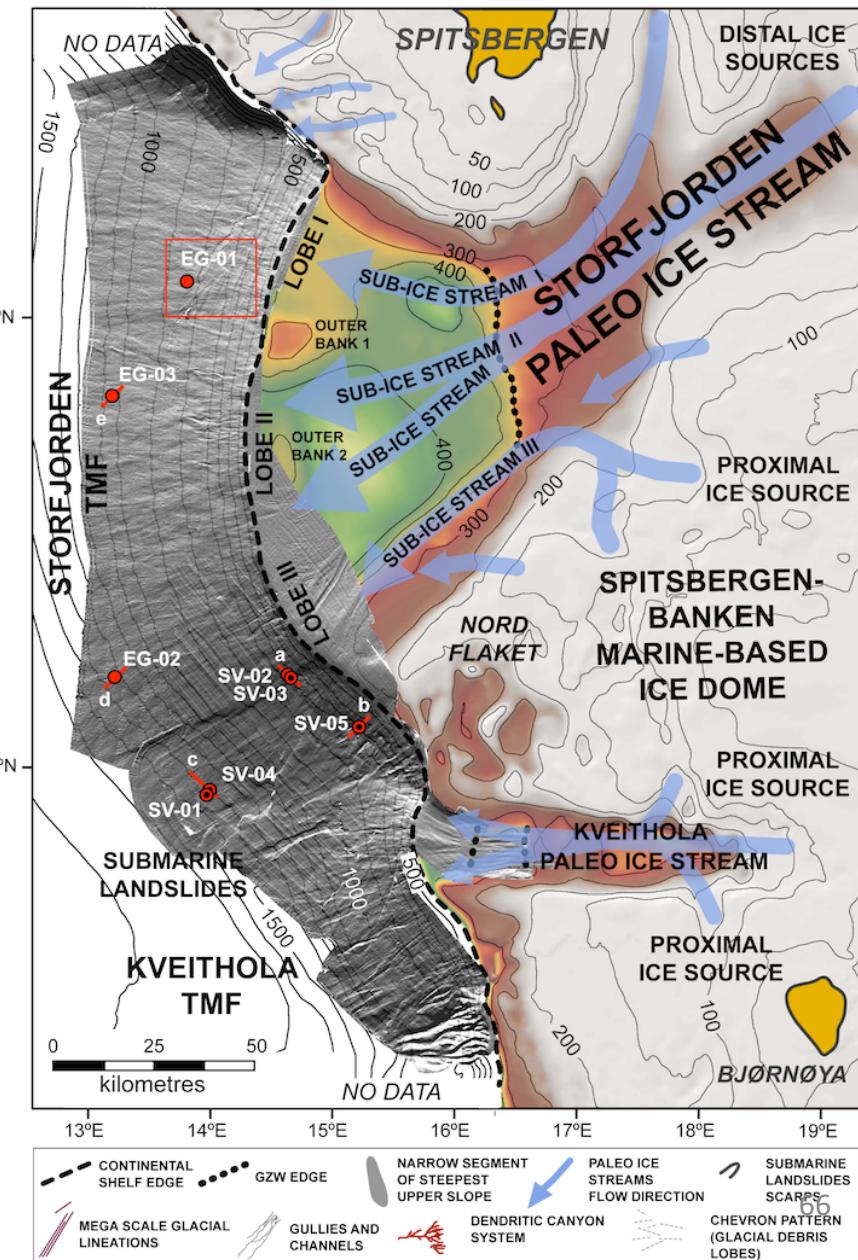
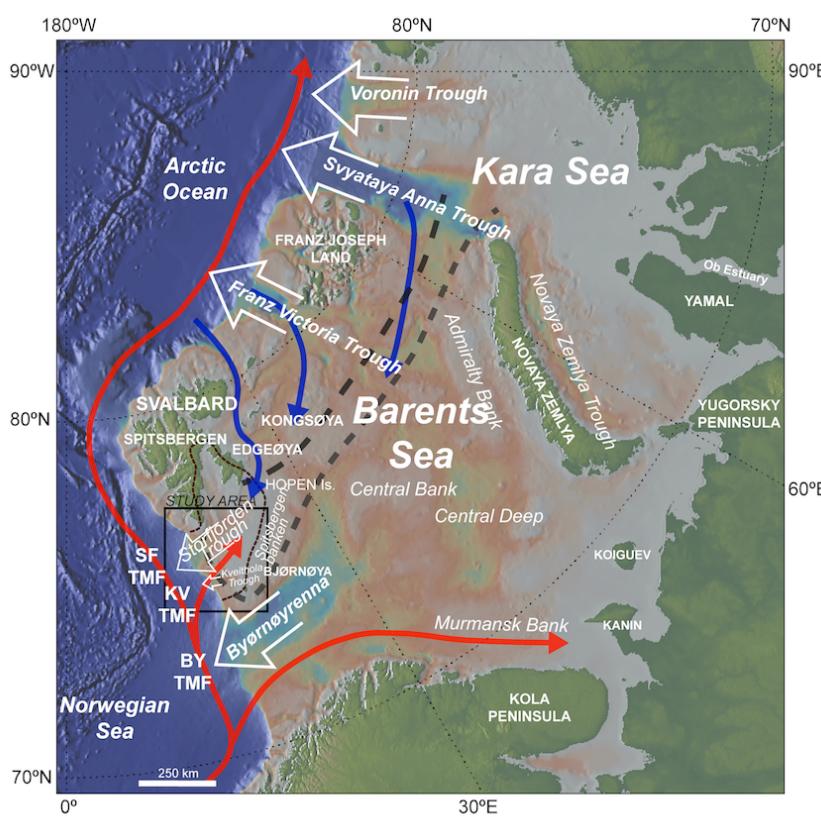


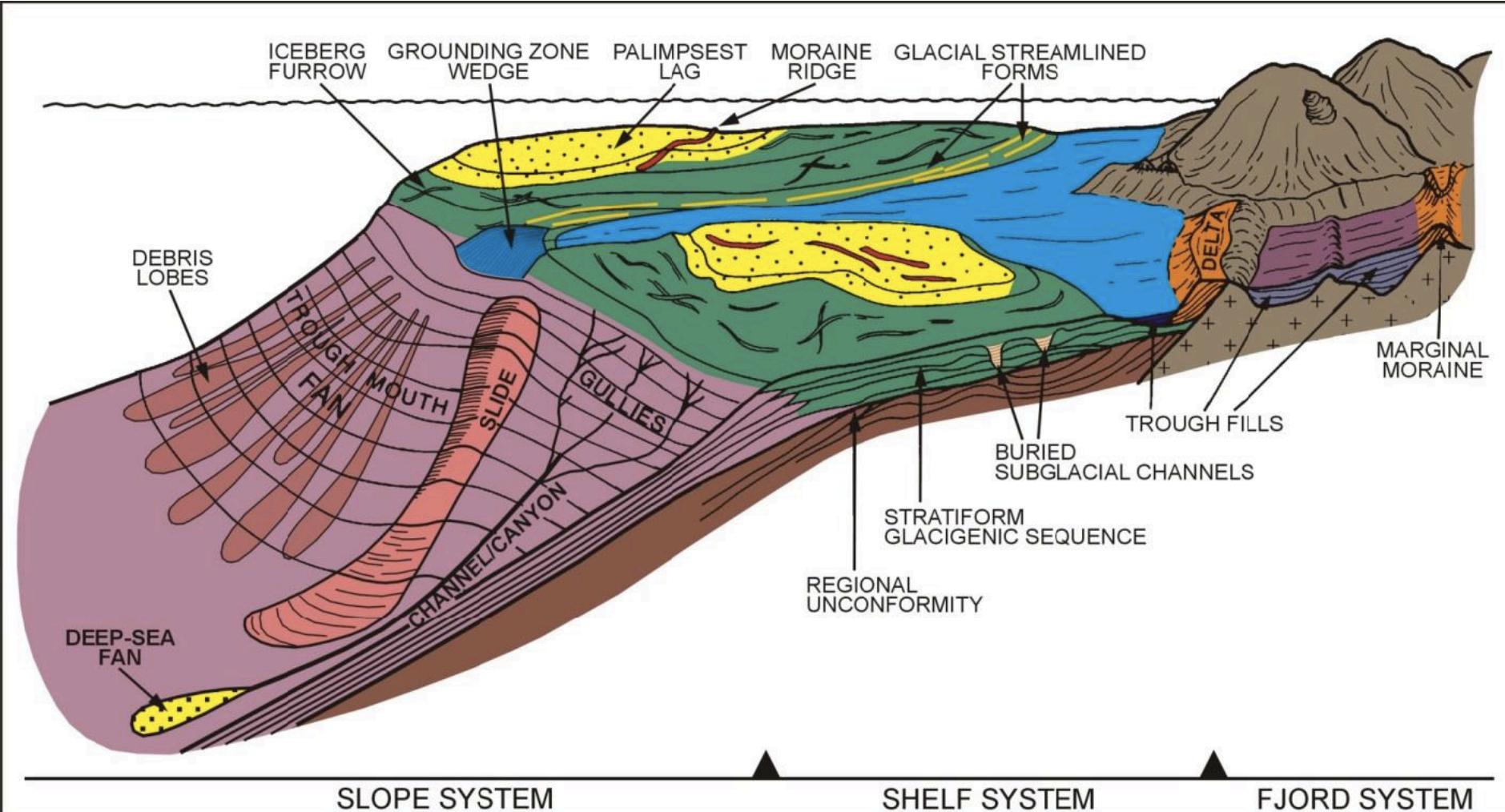


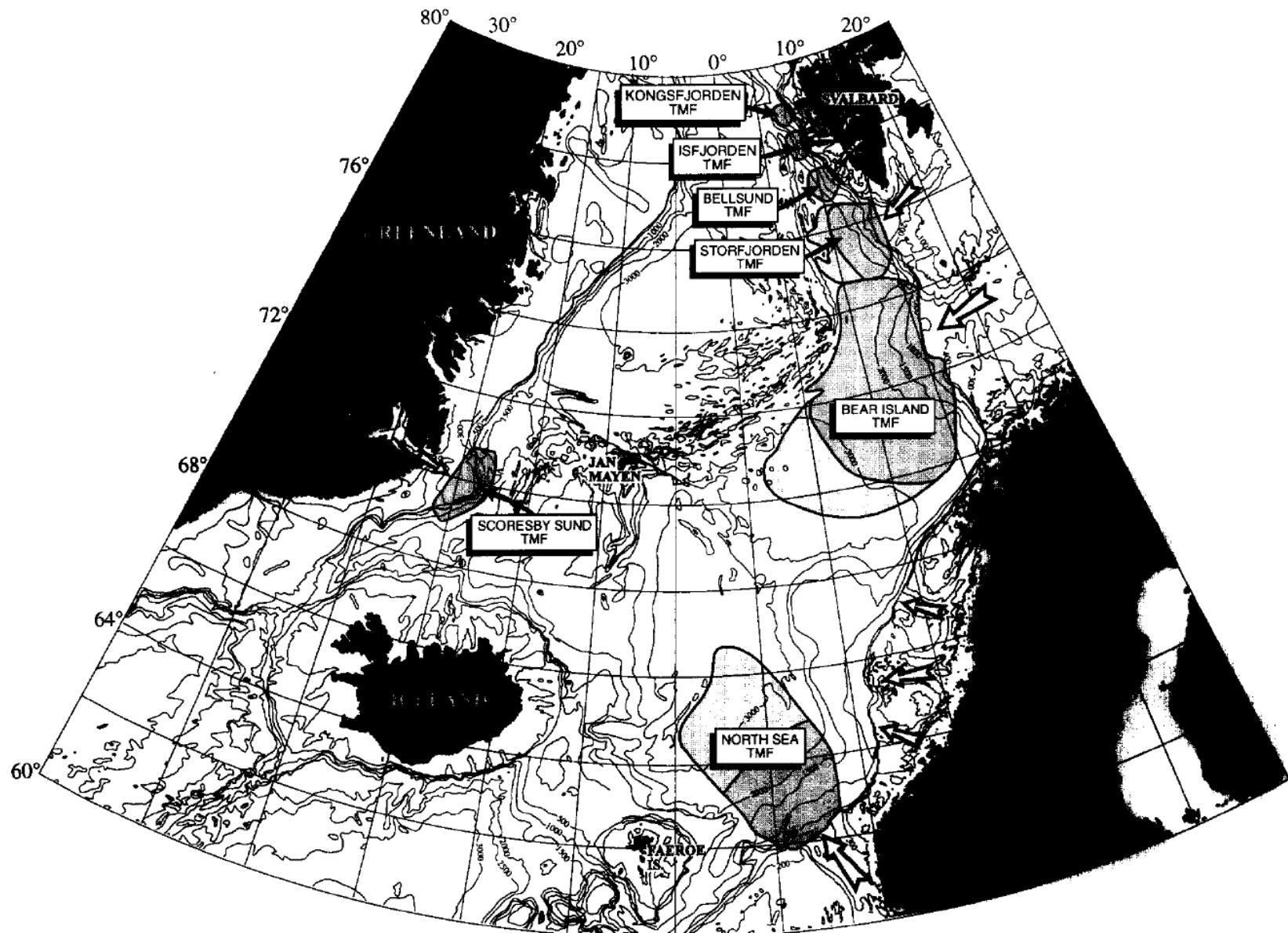
Bellingshausen Sea, West Antarctica: The Belgica Fan



STORFJORDEN TMF NW BARENTS SEA







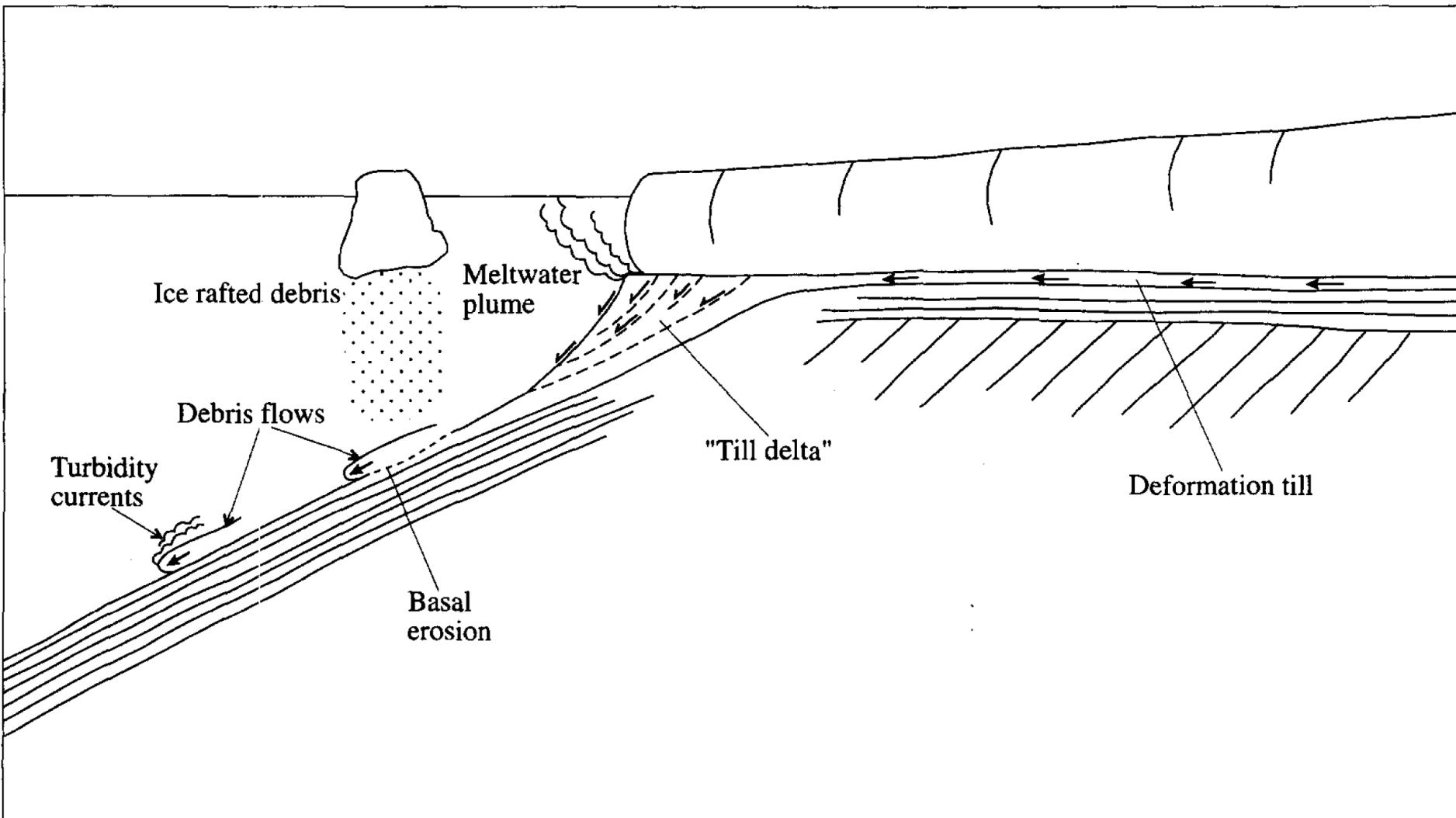


ICE SHEET-DOMINATED SEDIMENTARY SYSTEMS

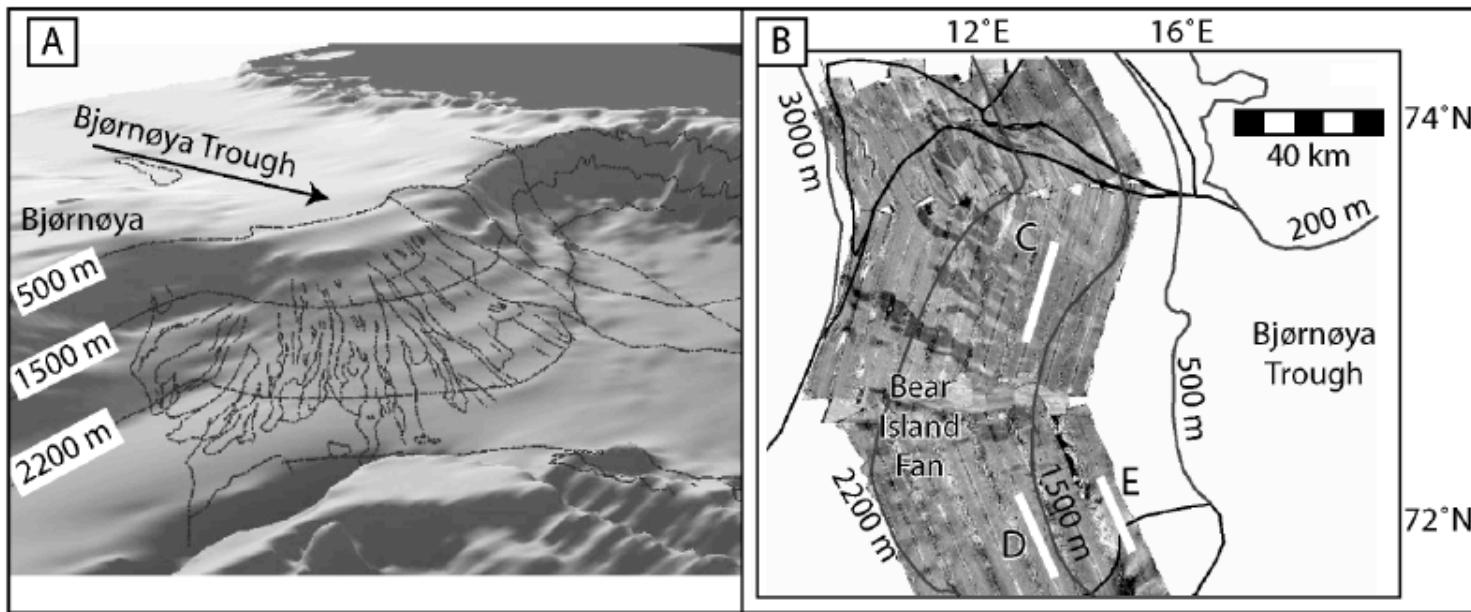
TWO MAIN SEDIMENTARY AGENTS

ICE STREAM PUSH: GLACIAL MAXIMA DEBRIS FLOWS



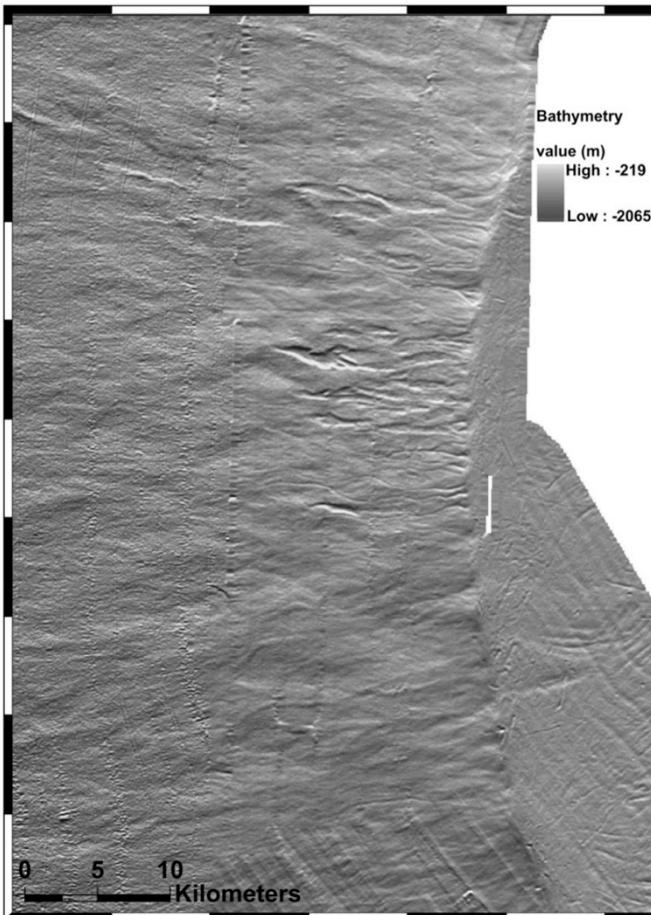


Evidence of subglacially derived debris flow deposits in acoustic back-scatter data



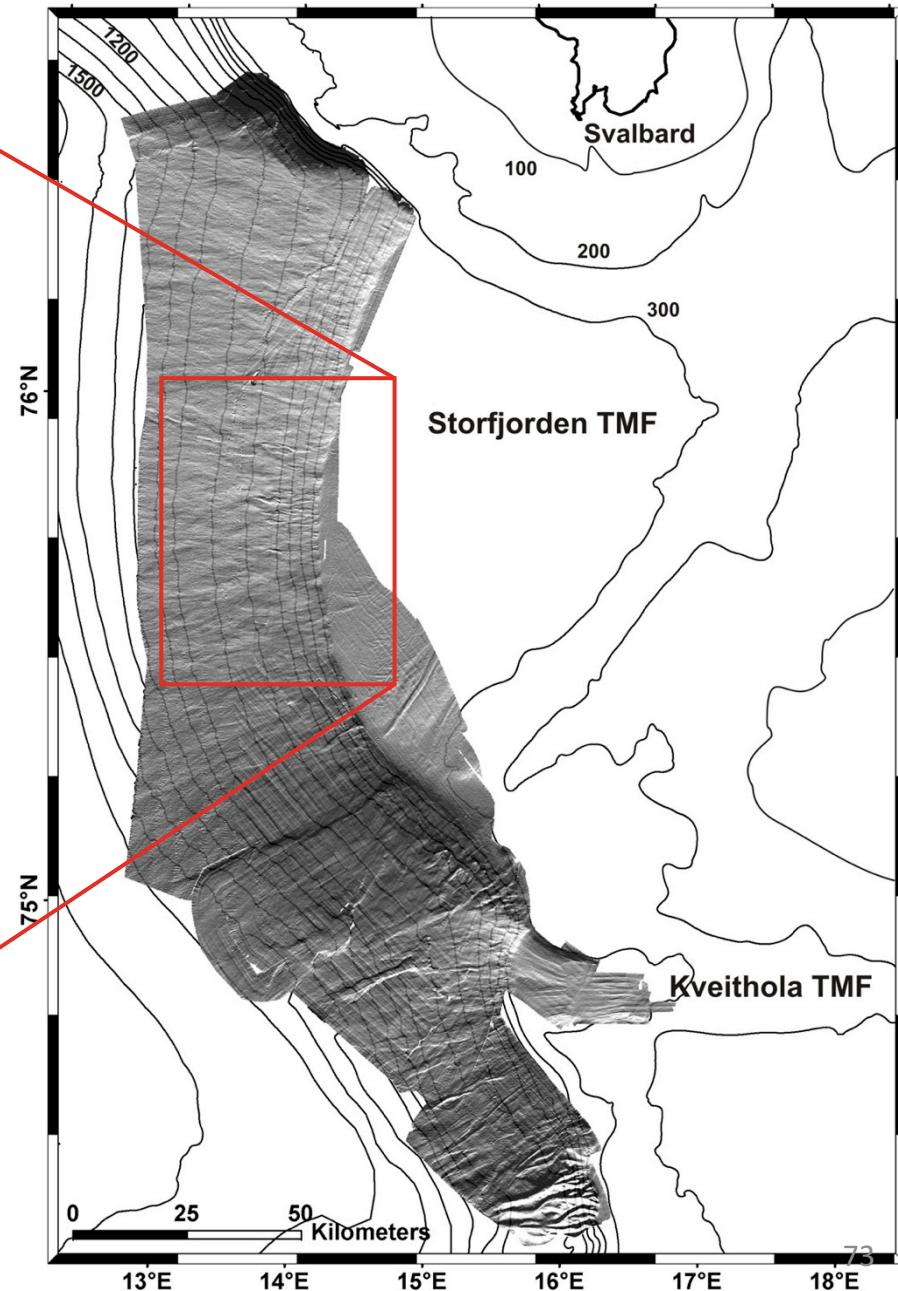
O'Cofaigh et al. , 2003, Boreas

Continental margin morphology



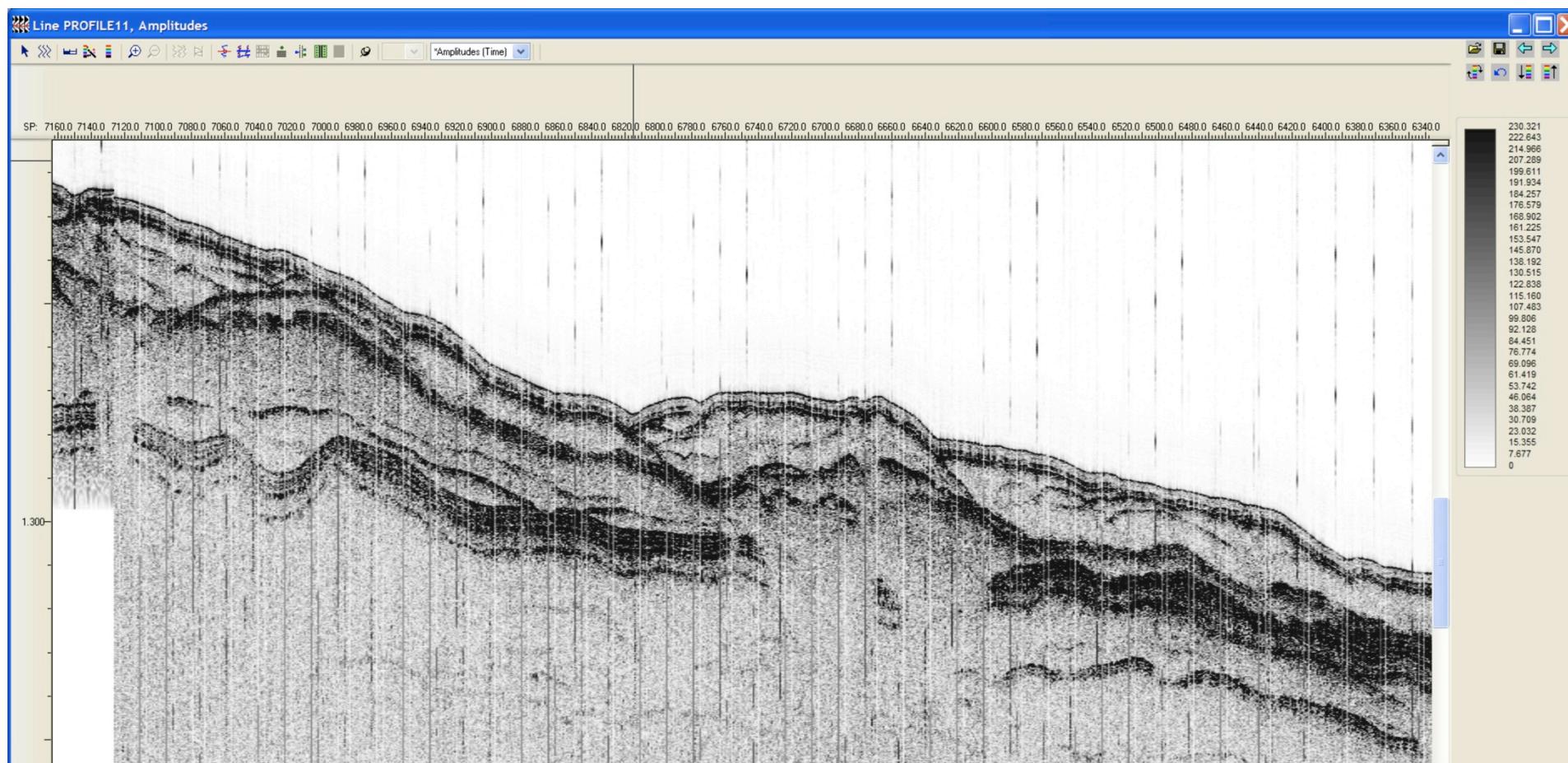
On the shelf

- Three main depositional lobes
 - Glacial lineations
 - Iceberg ploughmarks
- ### On the slope
- Gullies
 - Channels
 - Debris mounds
 - Landslides

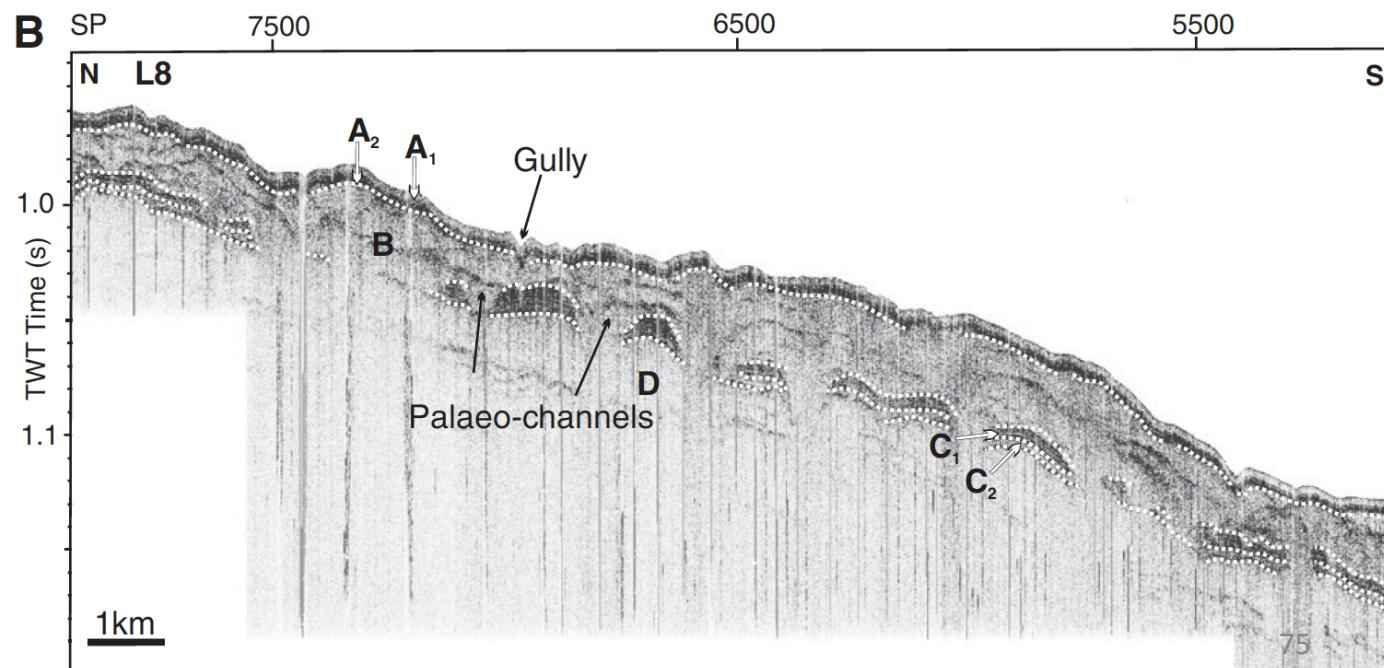
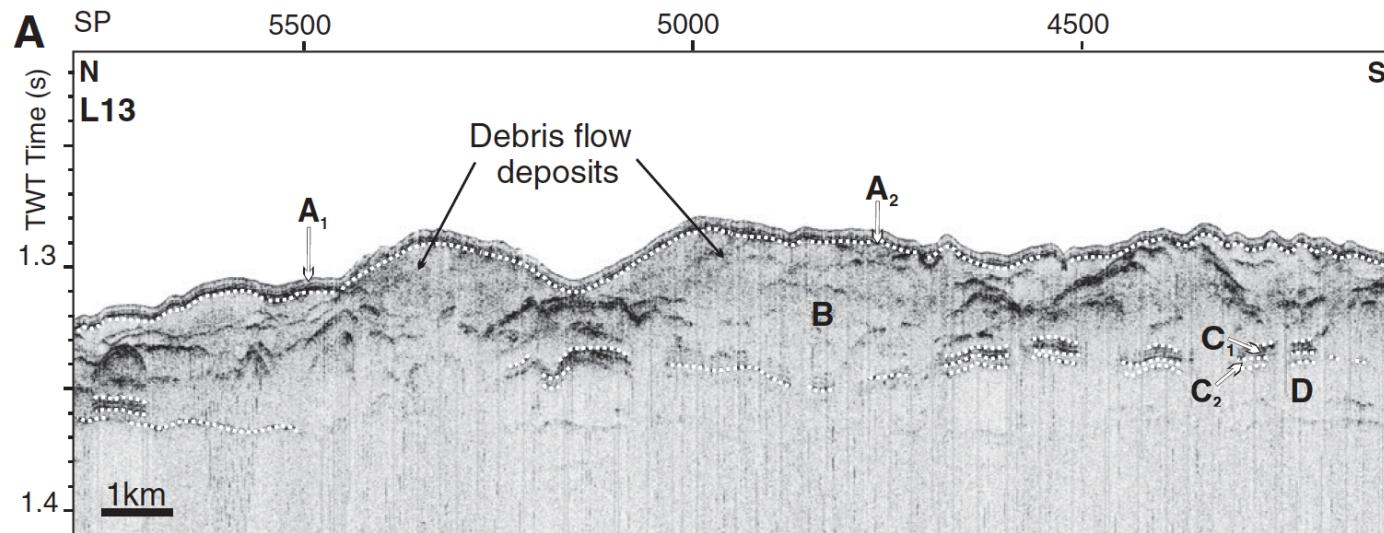




Evidence of subglacially derived debris flow deposits in seismic reflection

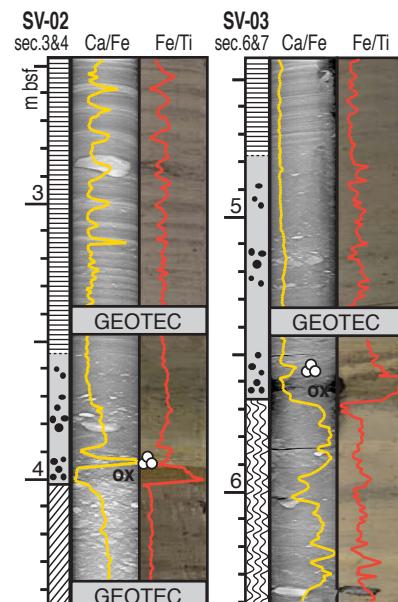
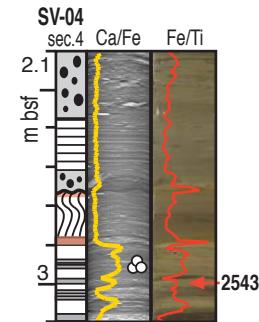
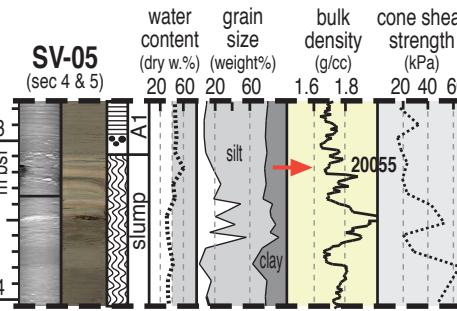
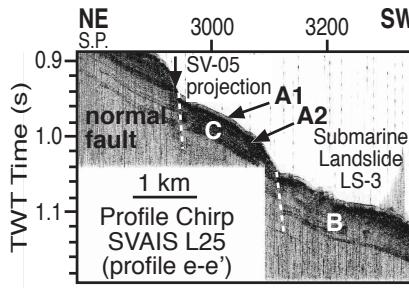


Glacial Debris Flows In sub-bottom Profiler record, Stofjorden TMF (NW Barents Sea)



SEDIMENT LITHOFACIES

Lithofacies	HEAVILY BIOTURBATED	CRUDELY LAYERED	INTERLAMINATED laminated mud and sandy layers	STRUCTURELESS WITH IRD	MASSIVE DIAMICTON
X-radiograph					
colour	light brown	light gray	MUD olive gray SAND olive gray	grayish brown/olive grey	very-dark grey
water content (wet weight %)	55-60% (129-150%)*	55-60% (129-150%)*	33% (41%)*	29% (49%)*	30-40% (40-70%)*
bulk sediment density (g cc ⁻¹)	very low 1.4-1.5	very low 1.5-1.6	mid-low 1.7-1.8	high 2	moderate 1.8
mean grain size	7.7 ø F-silt	7.8 ø F-silt	7.5 ø F-silt	6.5 ø M-silt	U.slope 6.9 ø M-silt M.slope 7.8 ø F-silt & cm-thick pebbles matrix 6.5 ø M-silt
undrained shear strength	2-4 kPa	2-8 kPa	4-12 kPa	20 kPa	up to 44 kPa
magnetic susceptibility	20-30 SI	30 SI	15-20 SI up to 40 SI	15-30 SI	13 SI
Corg (%)	0.83	0.80	1.14	1.19	1.37
Org. Matter (%)	1.50	1.44	2.06	2.14	2.47
Corg/Ntot (OM provenance)	6-8 marine	6-8 marine	>12 continental	>12 continental	>12 continental
CaCO ₃ content (%)	10-23	3-10	2-3	3	2-3
bioclasts	calcareus and siliceus	mainly siliceus	barren	almost barren	rare reworked bioclasts

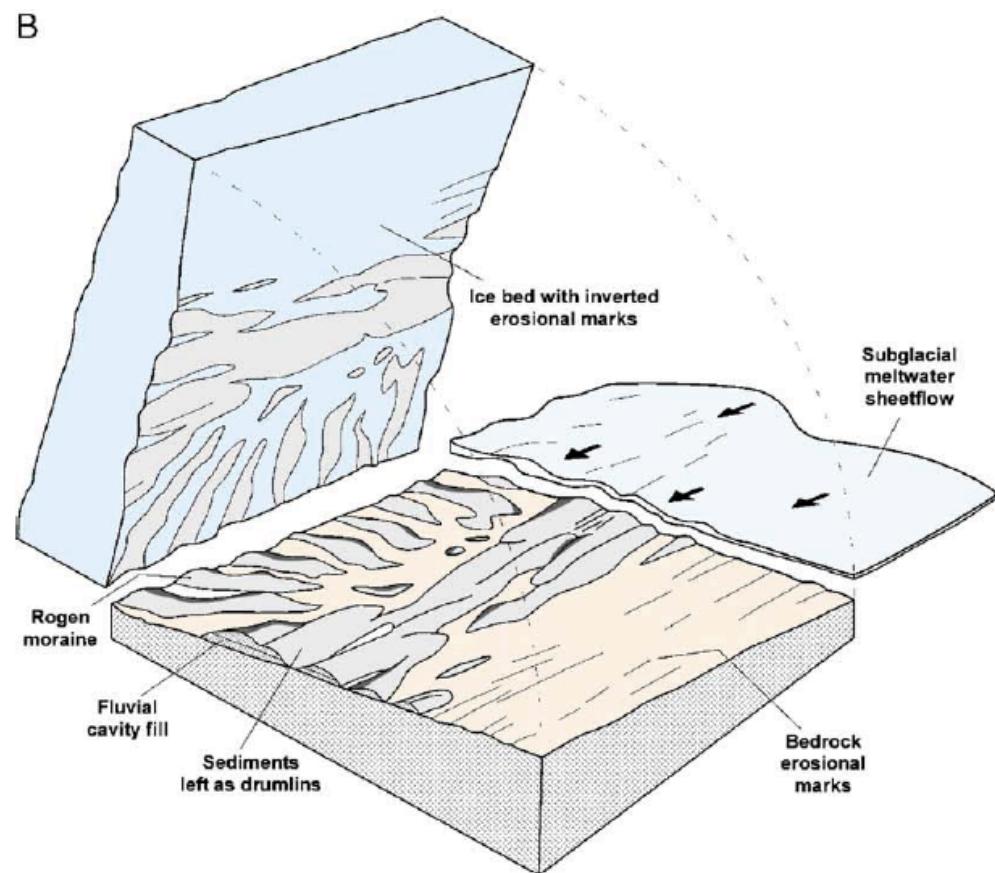
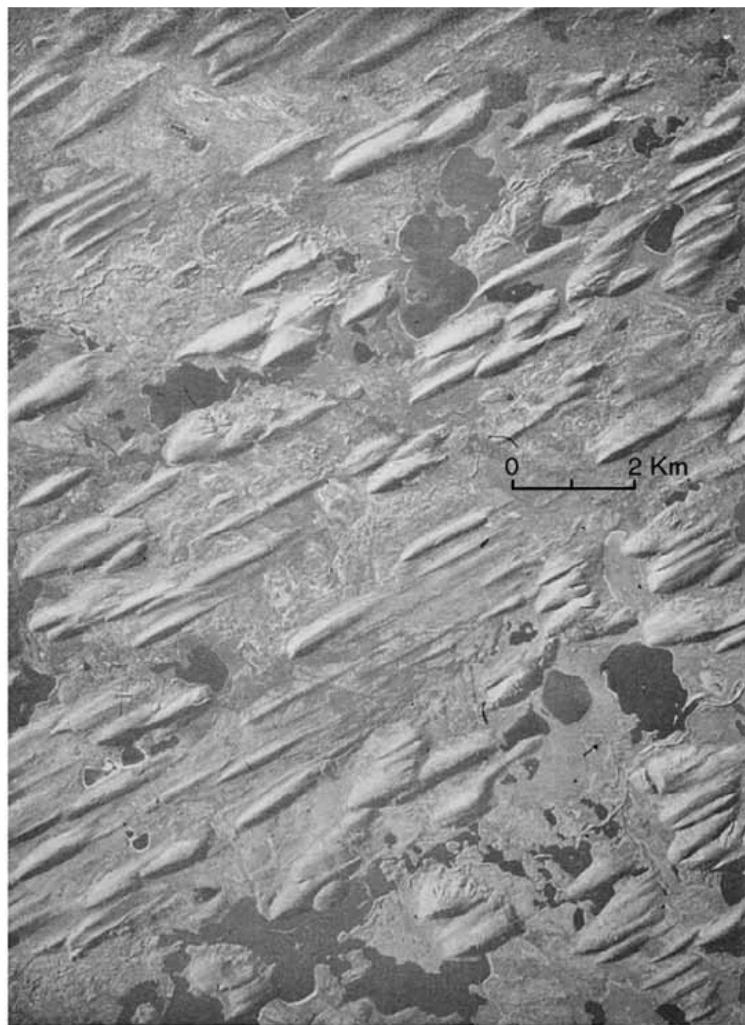


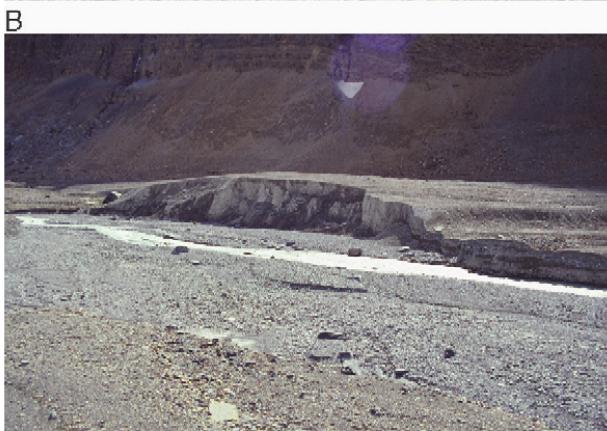


ICE SHEET-DOMINATED SEDIMENTARY SYSTEMS

TWO MAIN SEDIMENTARY
AGENTS:

MELTWATER





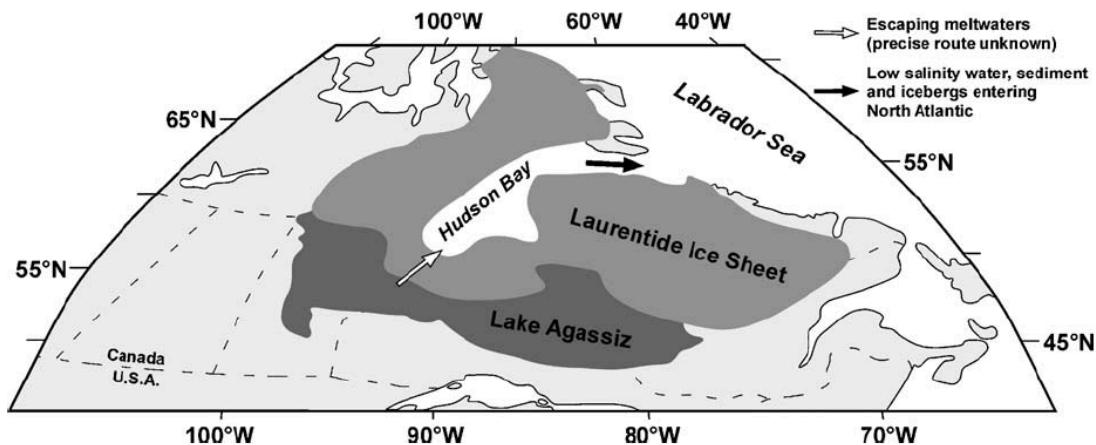
Large flute (A) and
drumlin (B) Saskatchewan
Glacier, Alberta

Eyles, 2006

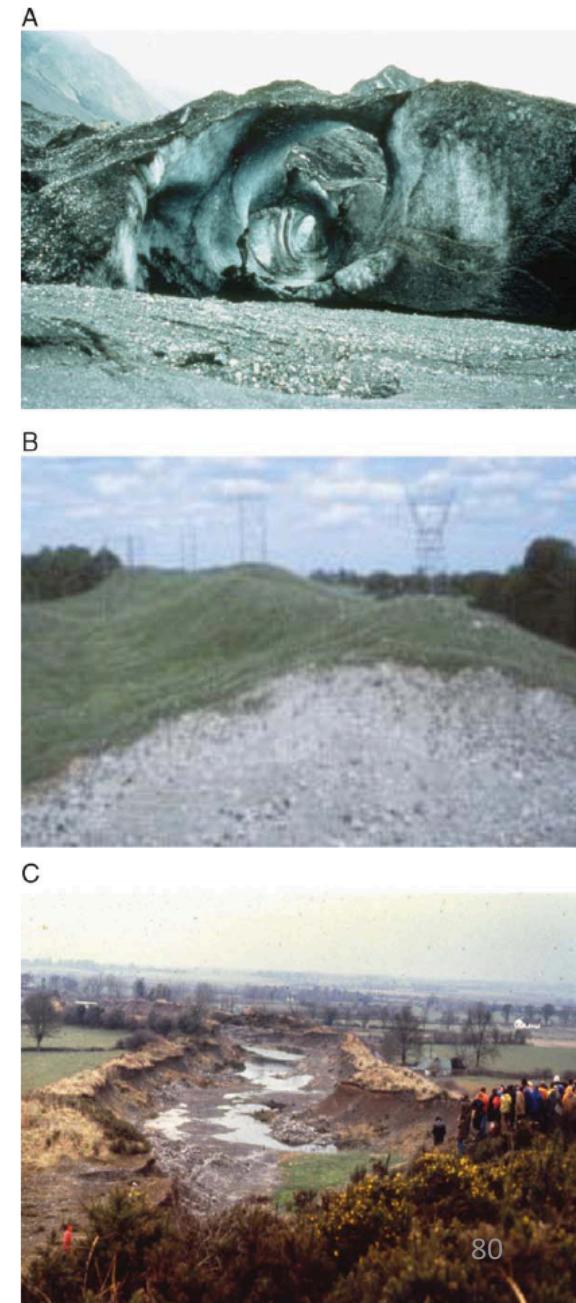


- (A) Glacially sculpted bedrock surface at Sudbury, Ontario.
- (B) Ouimet Canyon, near Thunder Bay, Ontario, cut by meltwaters. The canyon is 500 m wide and 70 m deep.

Catastrophic meltwater discharge



(A) Englacial conduit at Kviarjokull Glacier, Iceland, figure for scale. Eskers are the sediment-plugged remains of conduits (#3, Fig. 2) and form sinuous ridges built of fluvioglacial sands and gravels (B); in C an esker has been completely excavated for aggregate exhuming the lower part of the conduit floor on which it was deposited.



(MEGA-FLOODS EVENTS Missoula glacial lake breakout)

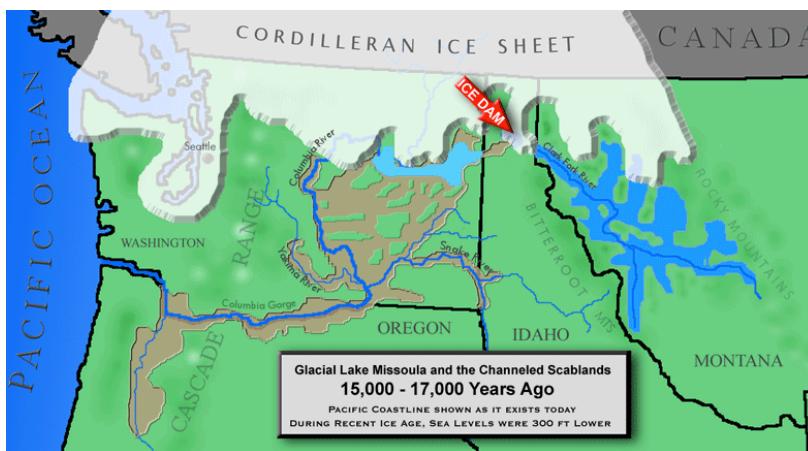


Figure 39—Aerial view to north of north rim of Camas Prairie Basin showing two sublake notches. ad, antidunes; eb, expansion bar; GCRs, giant current ripples; k, kolk pits; lg, lee gravels; pp, 'plunge pool'; wb, washover bar.

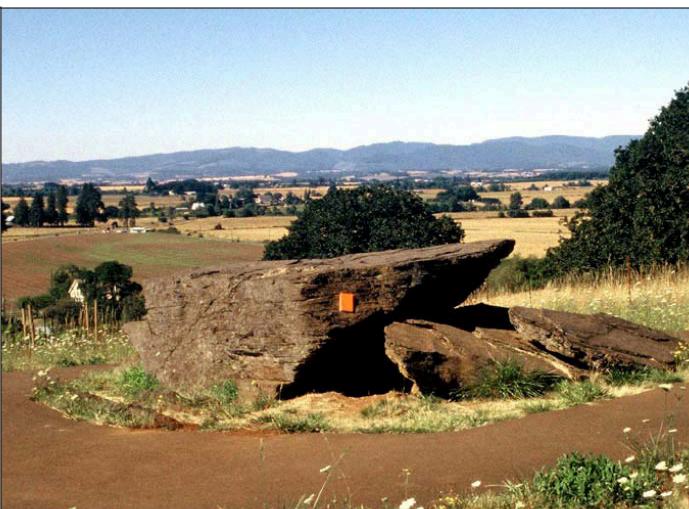


Figure 56—The Bellevue Erratic in the Willamette Valley, OR. The 160-ton block of Belt argillite was rafted across four states in a huge chunk of glacier torn from the ice dam.

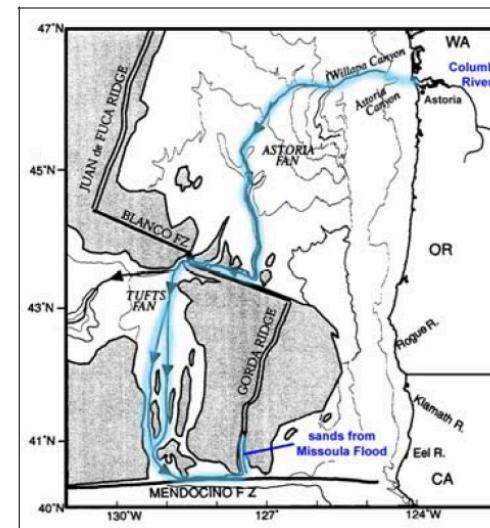


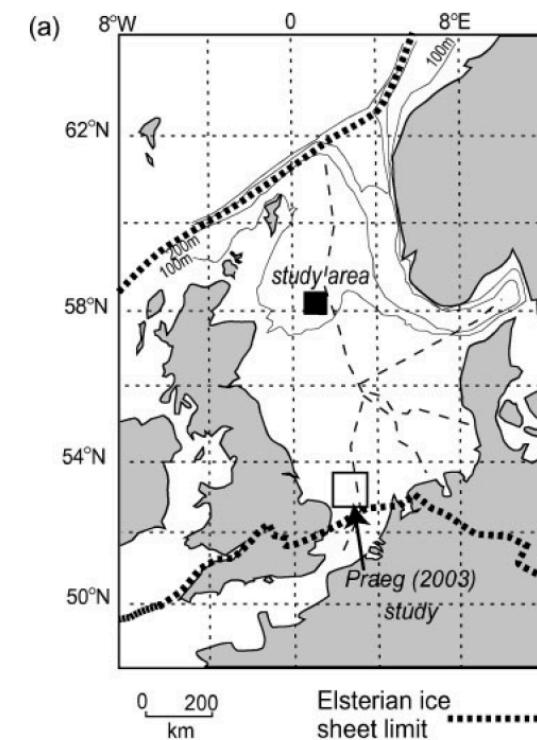
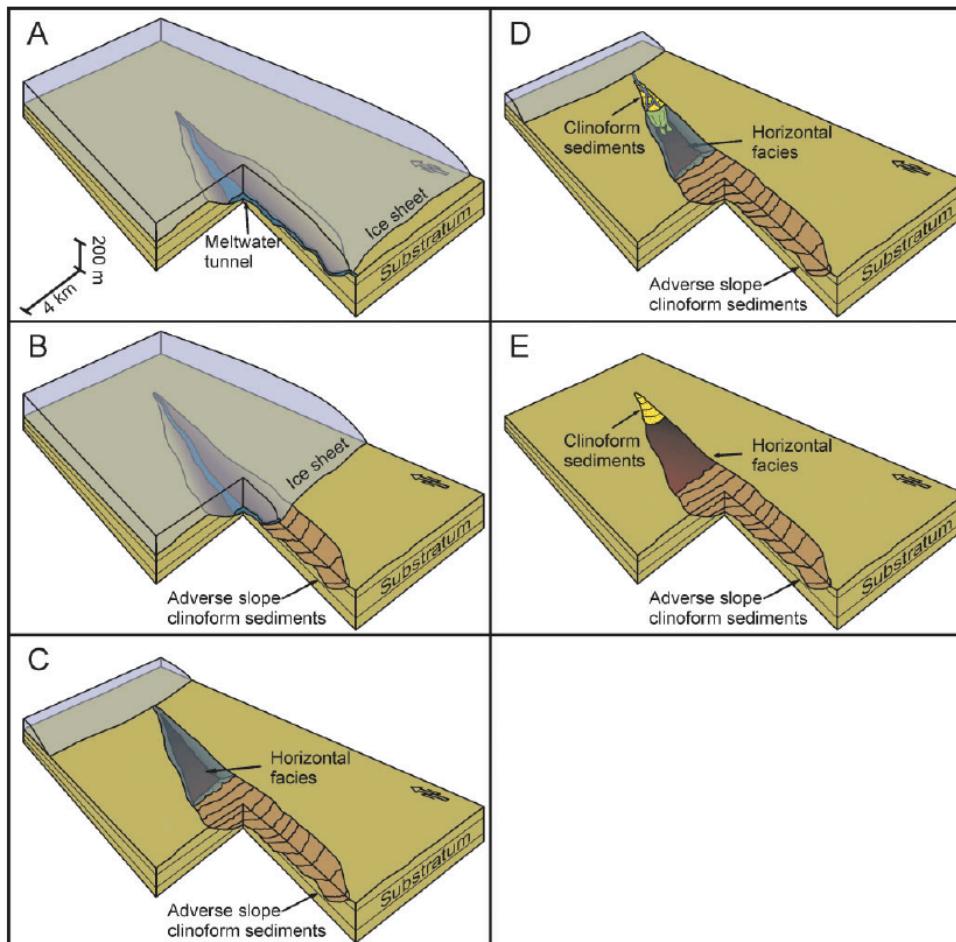
Figure 57—Floodwaters and entrained sediments created turbid currents that swept across the Pacific Ocean floor for 700 miles [1100 km] [Zuffa and others, 2000].

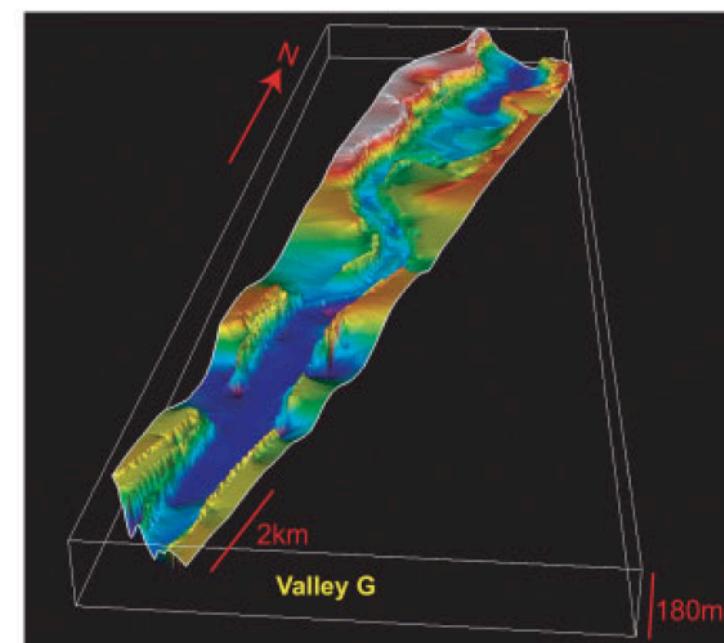
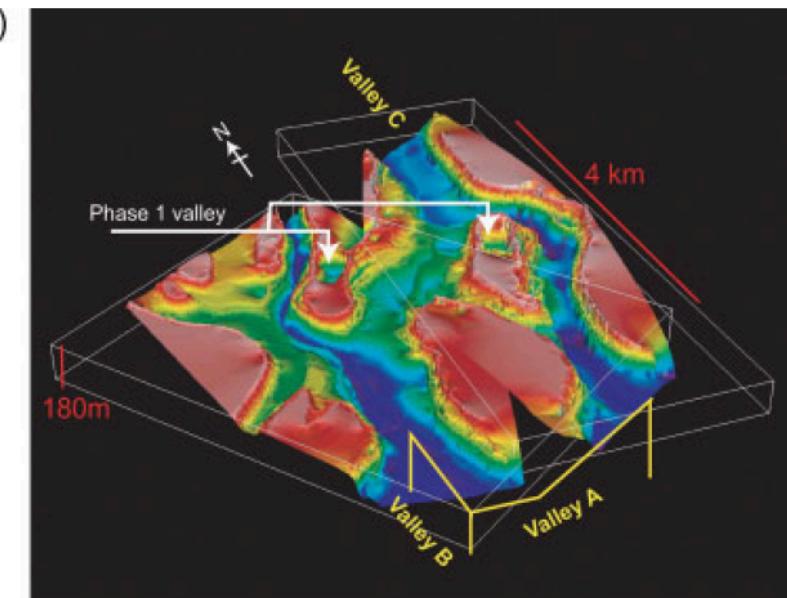
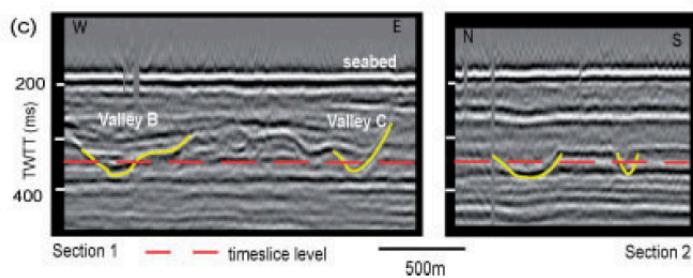
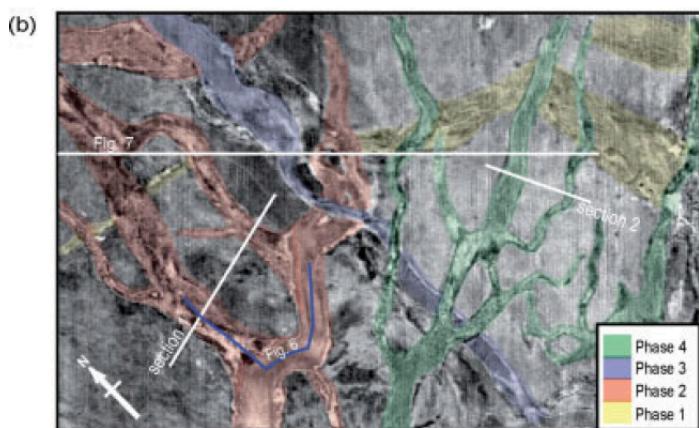
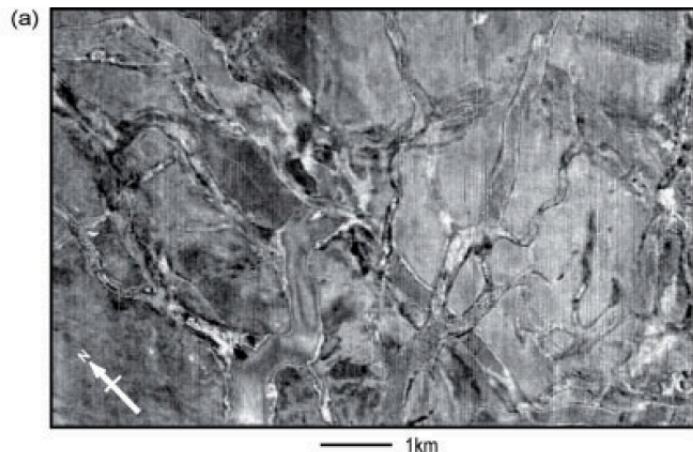


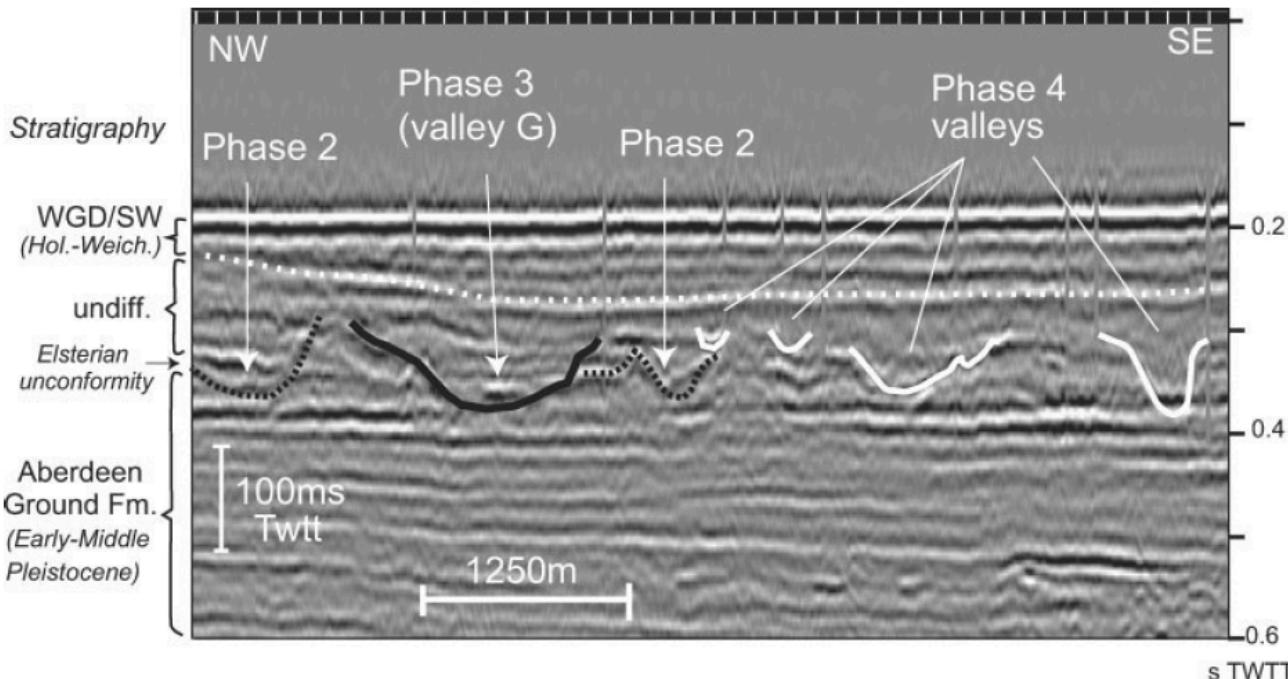
MELTWATER

TUNNEL VALLEYS

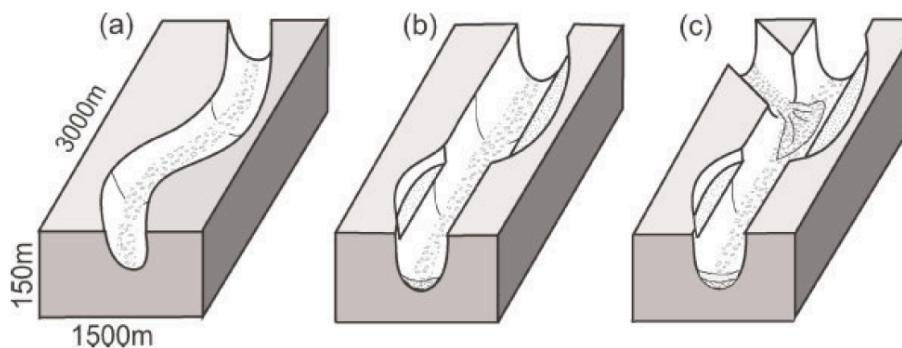
Pleistocene subglacial tunnel valleys in the central North Sea basin: 3-D morphology and evolution





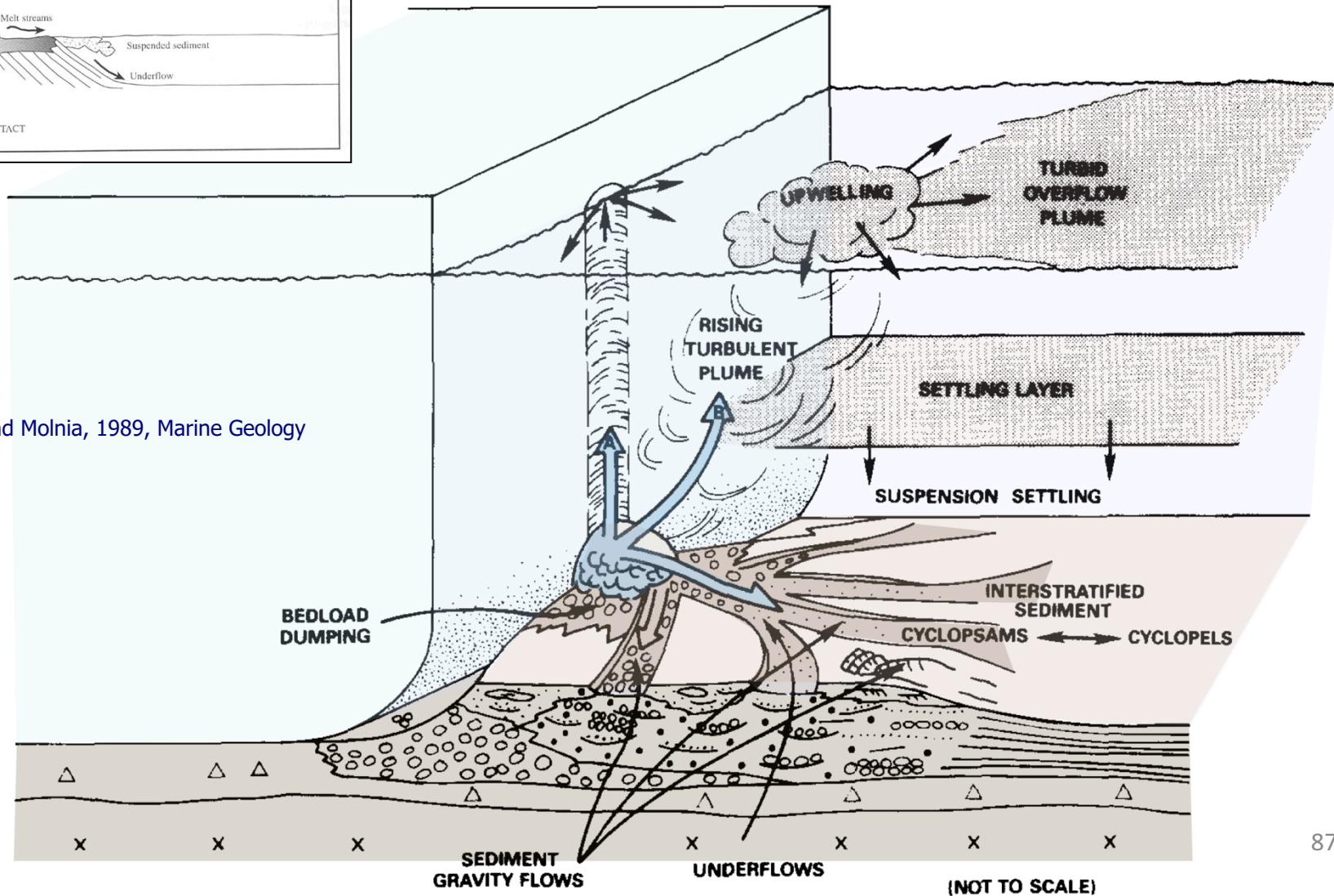
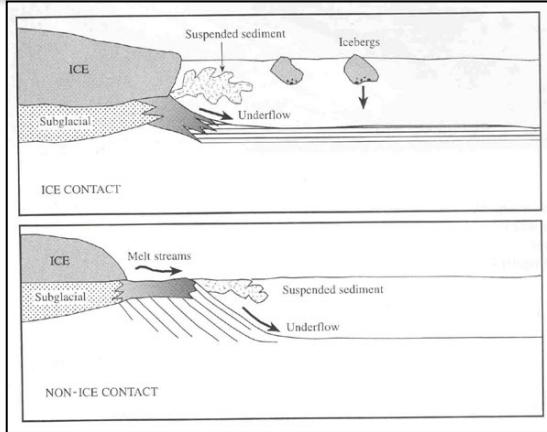


Sand fill





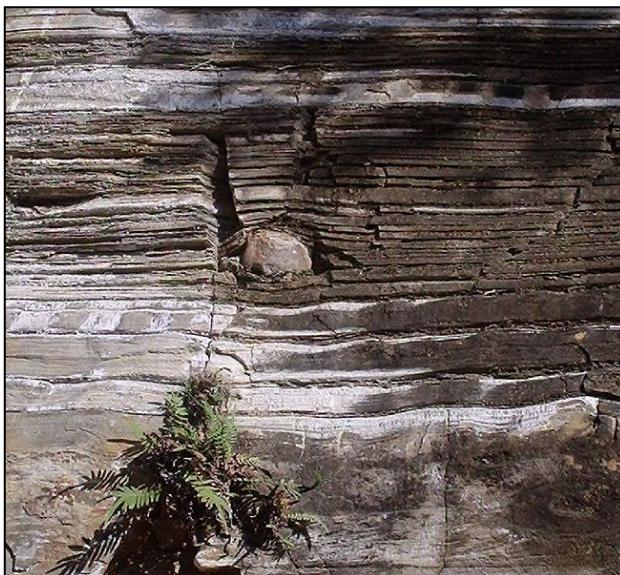
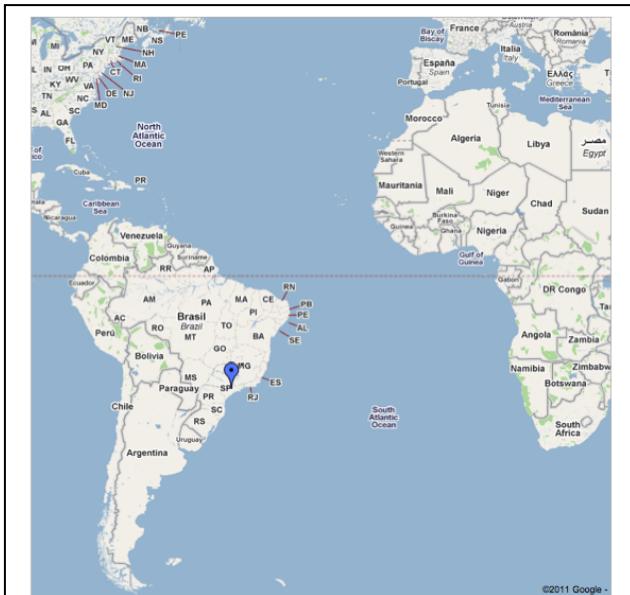
MELTWATER PLUMES and PLUMITES

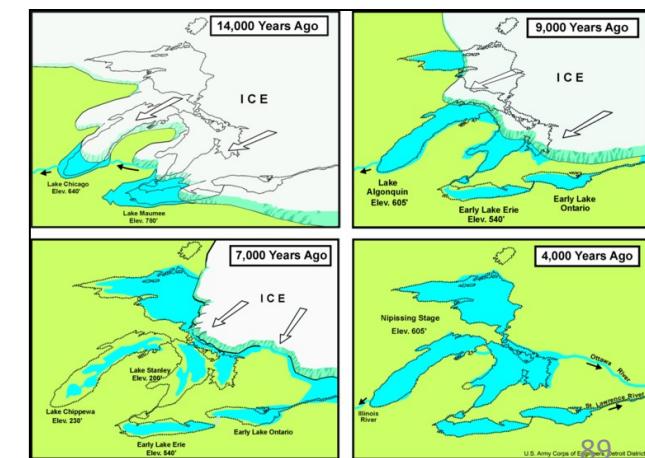


Powell and Molnia, 1989, Marine Geology



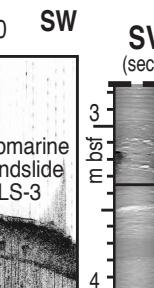
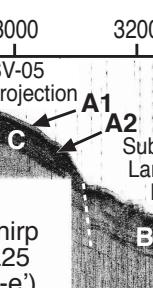
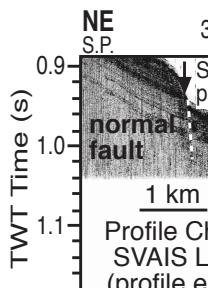
Itú, Brasil - Parque do Varvito



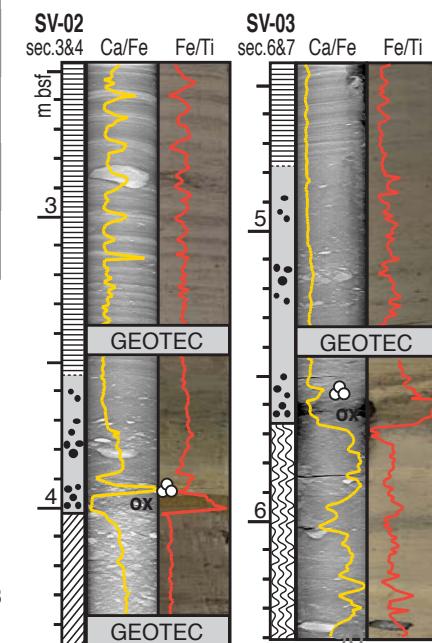


SEDIMENT LITHOFACIES

Lithofacies	HEAVILY BIOTURBATED	CRUDELY LAYERED	INTERLAMINATED laminated mud and sandy layers		STRUCTURELESS WITH IRD	MASSIVE DIAMICTON
X-radiograph						
colour	light brown	light gray	MUD	SAND olive gray	grayish brown/ olive grey	very-dark grey
water content (wet weight %)	55-60% (129-150%)*	55-60% (129-150%)*	33% (41%)*	29% (49%)*	30-40% (40-70%)*	<20% (<24%)*
bulk sediment density (g cc ⁻¹)	very low 1.4-1.5	very low 1.5-1.6	mid-low 1.7-1.8	high 2	moderate 1.8	high 2.2
mean grain size	7.7 ø F-silt	7.8 ø F-silt	7.5 ø F-silt	6.5 ø M-silt	U.slope 6.9ø M-silt M.slope 7.8 ø F-silt	matrix 6.5 ø M-silt & cm-thick pebbles
undrained shear strength	2-4 kPa	2-8 kPa	4-12 kPa		20 kPa	up to 44 kPa
magnetic susceptibility	20-30 SI	30 SI	15-20 SI	up to 40 SI	15-30 SI	13 SI
Corg (%) Org. Matter (%)	0.83 1.50	0.80 1.44	1.14 2.06		1.19 2.14	1.37 2.47
Corg/Ntot (OM provenance)	6-8 marine	6-8 marine	>12 continental		>12 continental	>12 continental
CaCO ₃ content (%)	10-23	3-10	2-3	3	2-3	4-5
bioclasts	calcareus and siliceus	mainly siliceus	barren		almost barren	rare reworked bioclasts

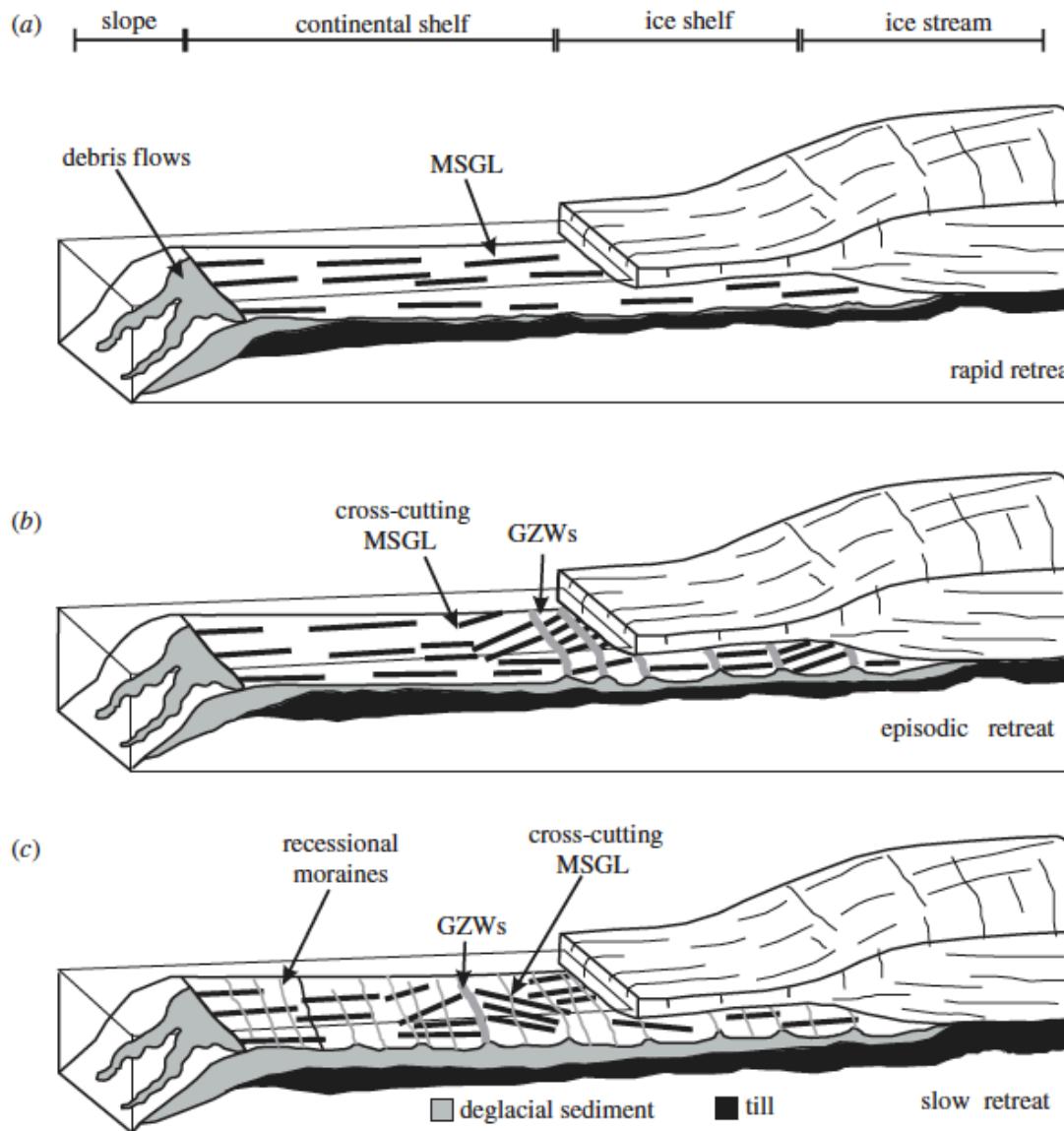


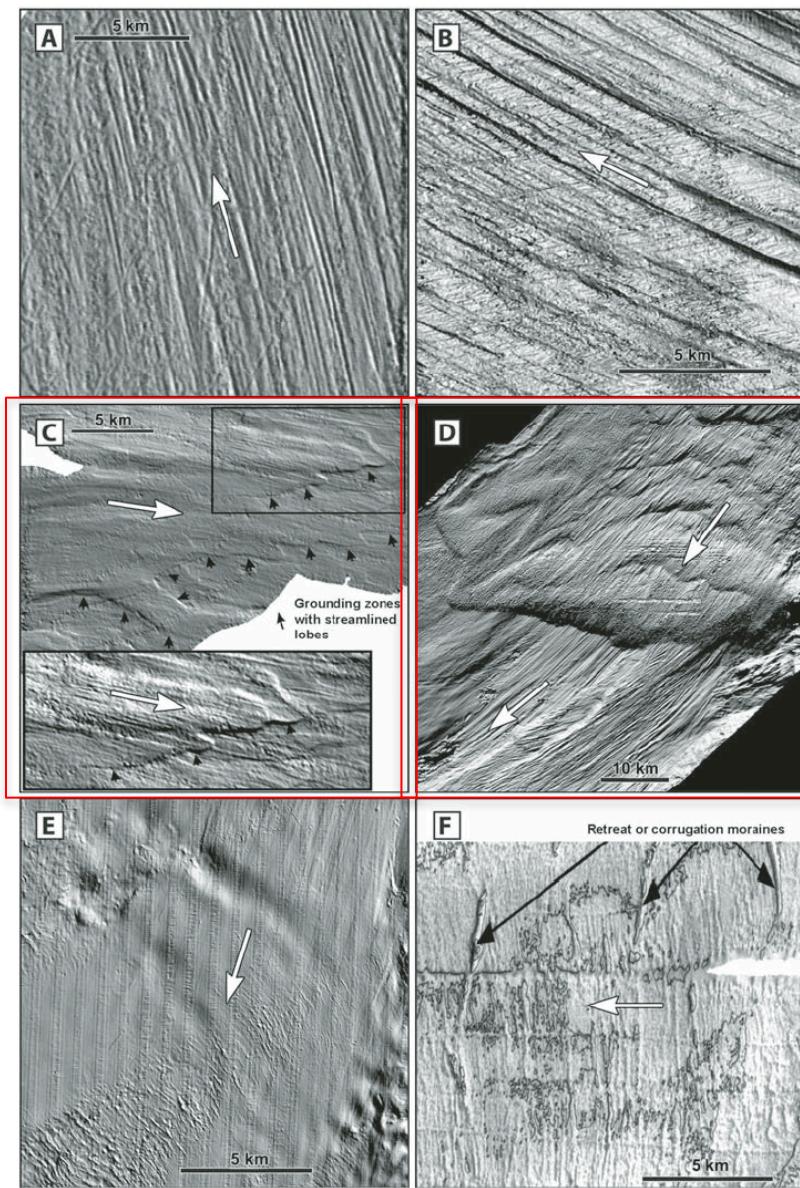
**EVIDENCE OF
MELTWATER
OUTBURST EVENTS
IN THE MARIEN
SEDIMENTARY
RECORD (see case-
study by Lucchi)**



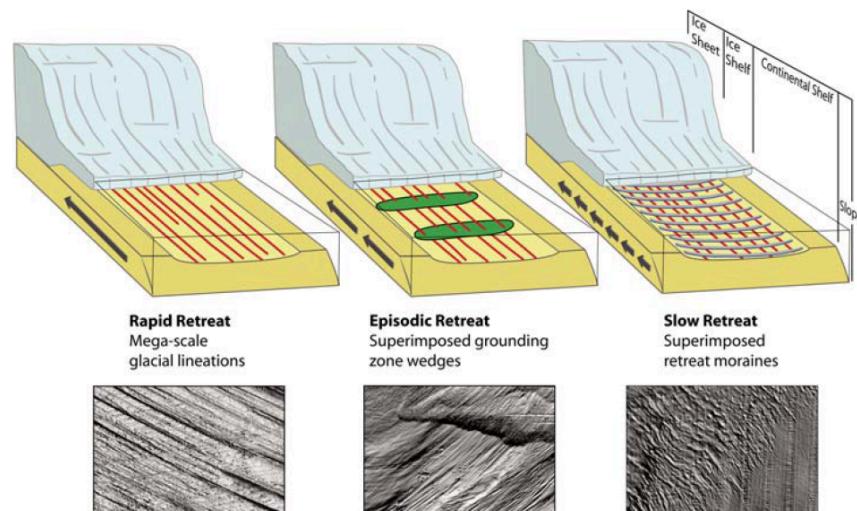
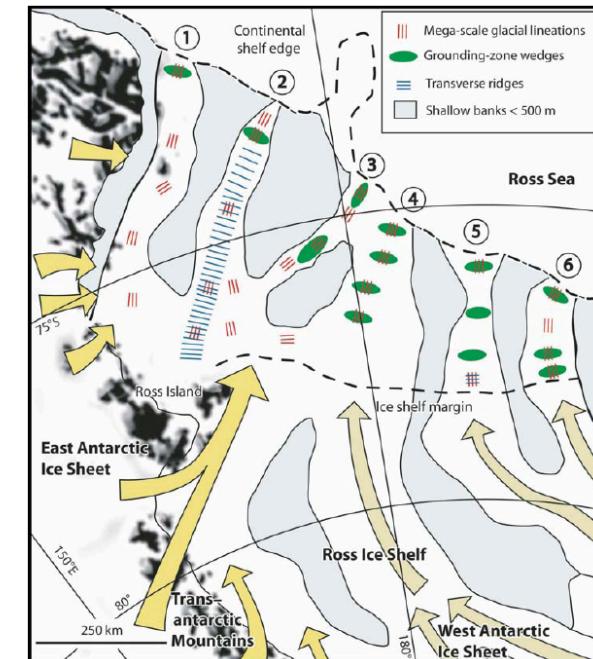


GROUNDING-ZONE WEDGES



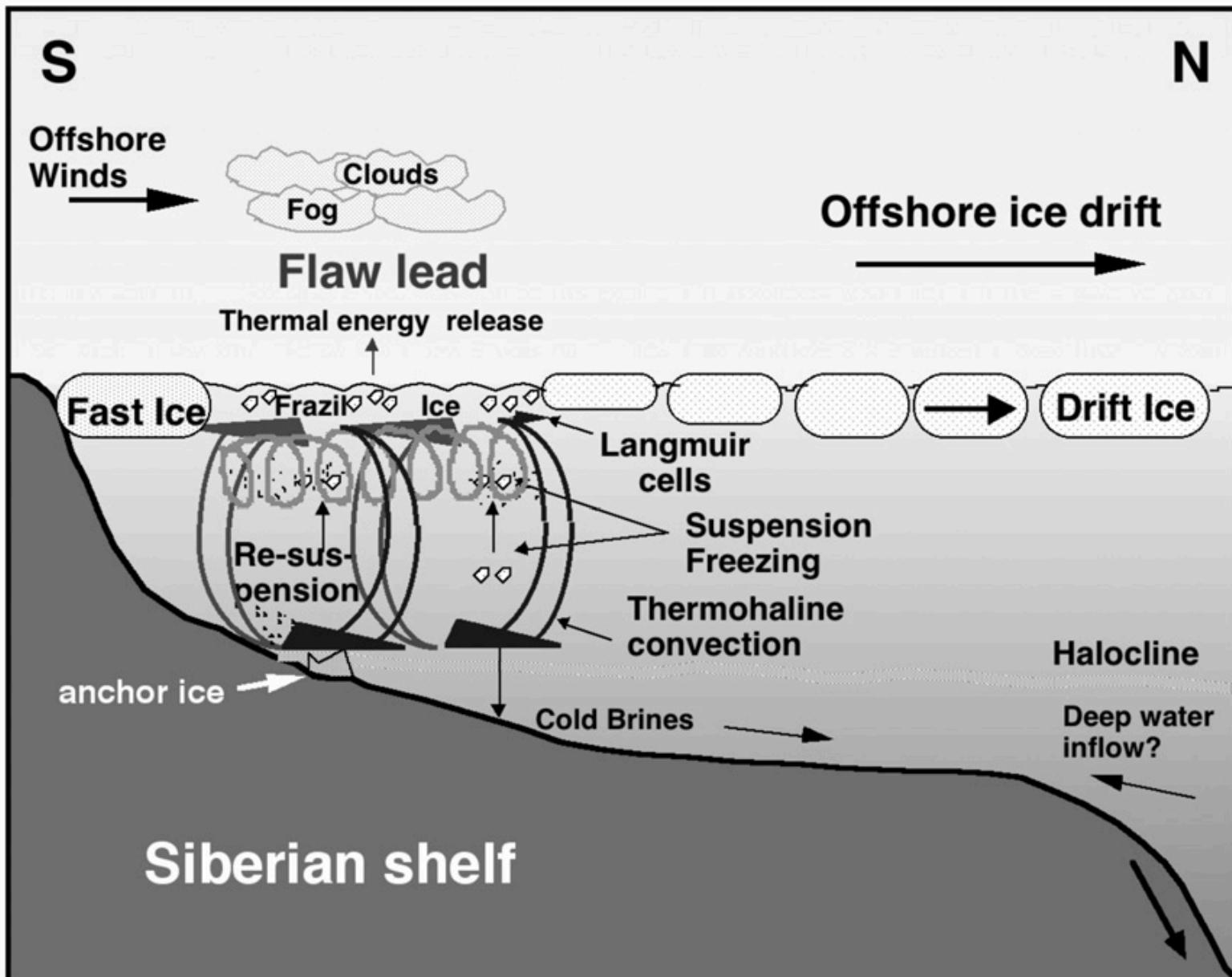


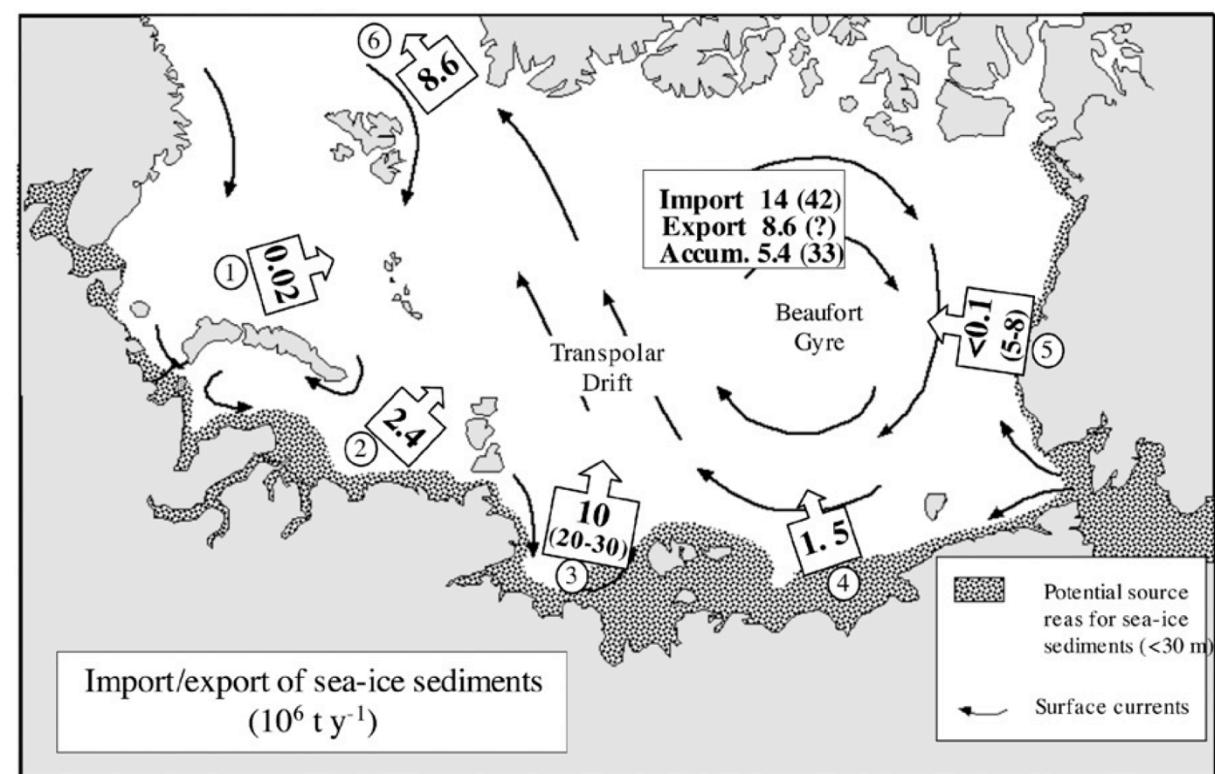
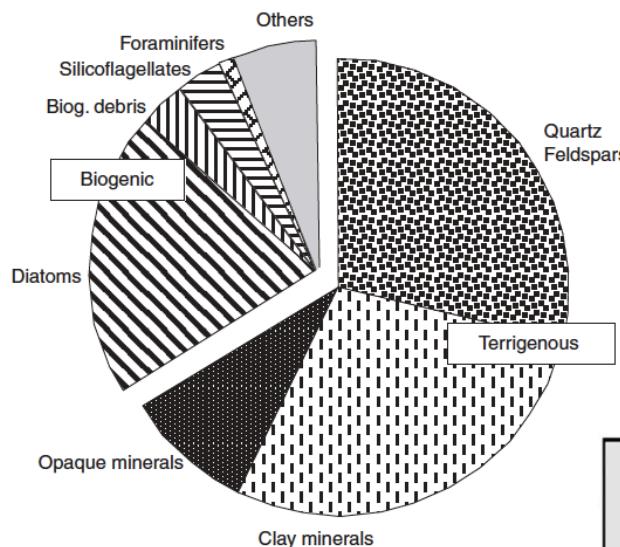
SEE CASE
STUDY BY
Rebesco)





SEA ICE SEDIMENT TRANSPORT



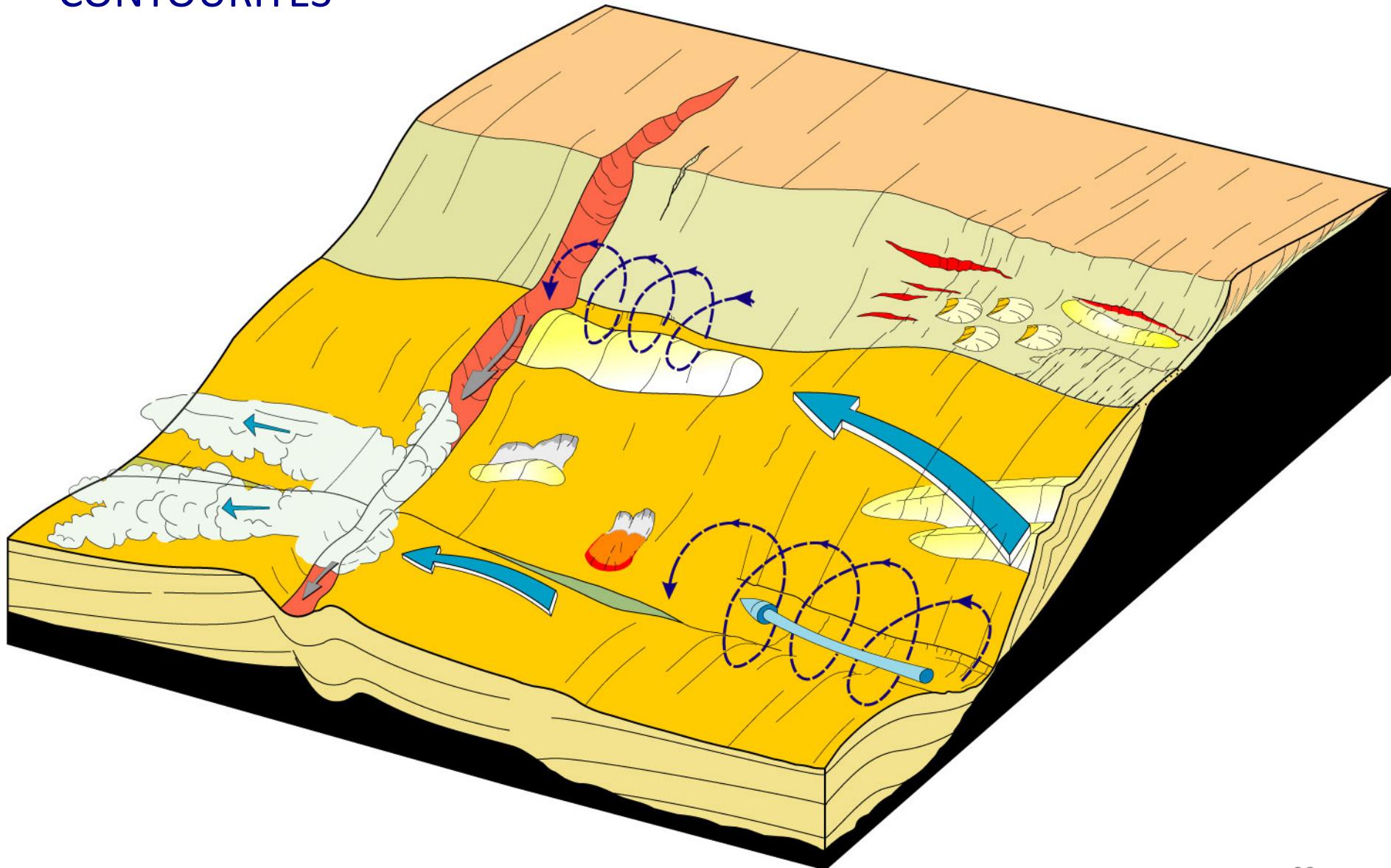




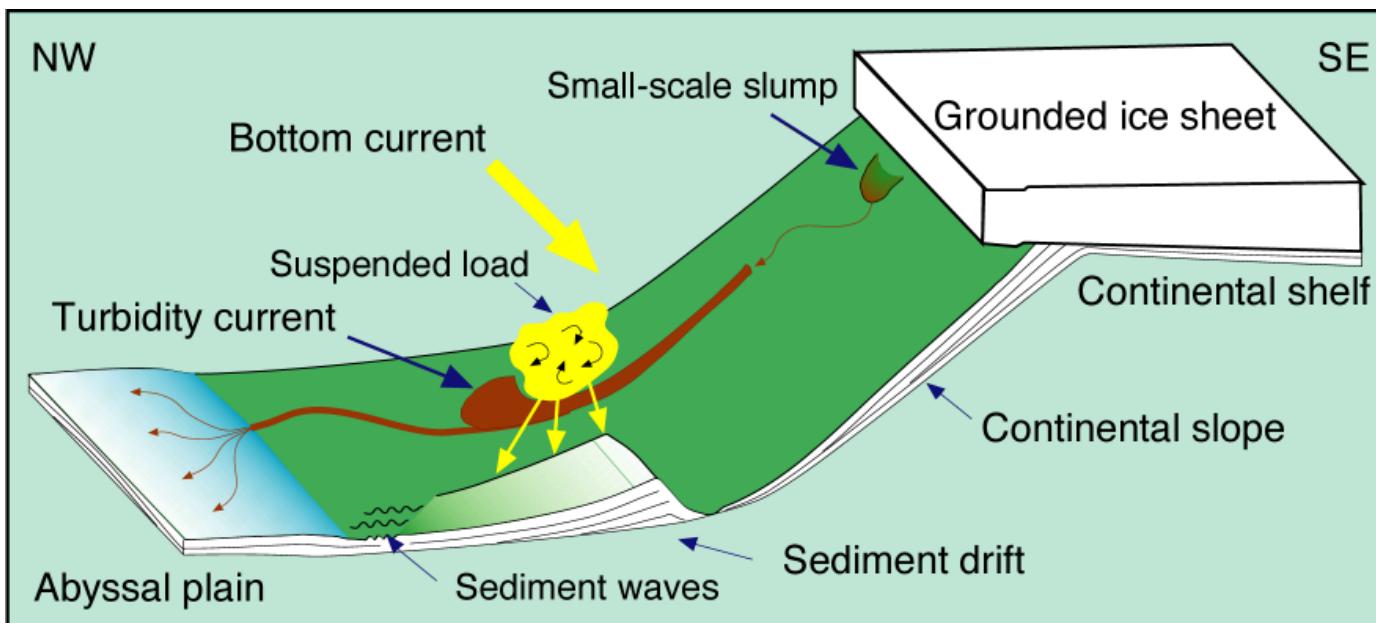
CONTOURITES

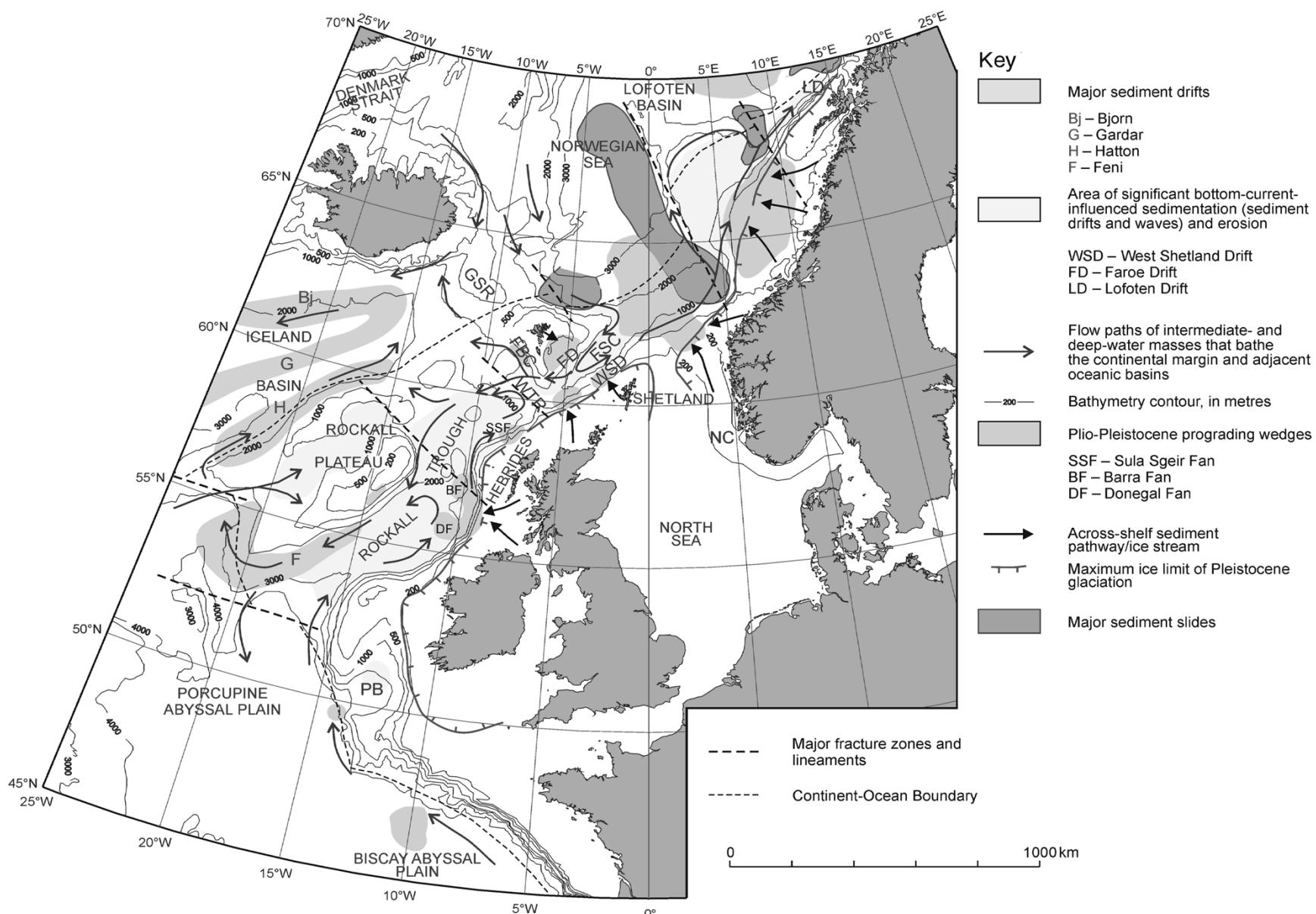


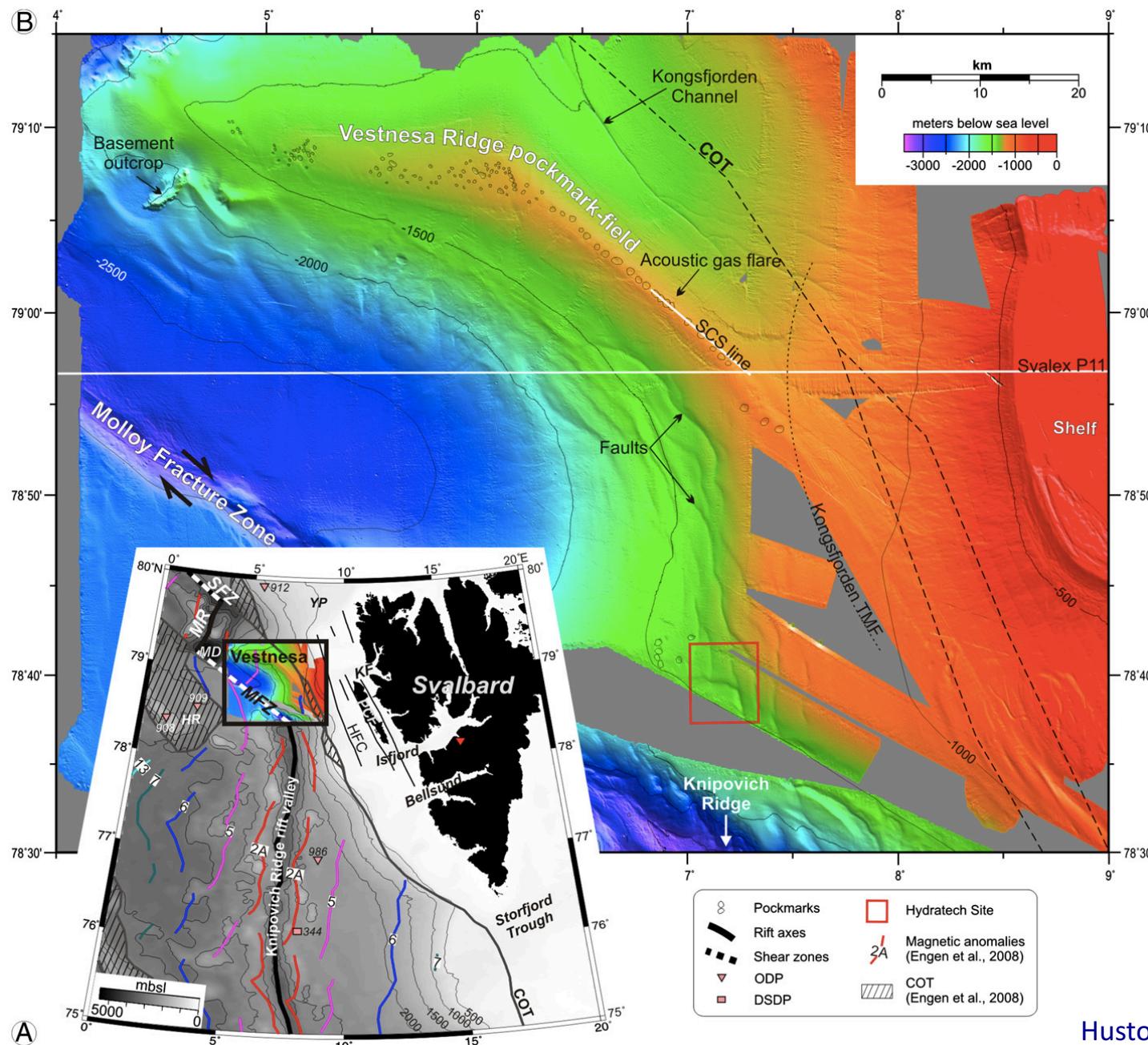
CONTOURITES

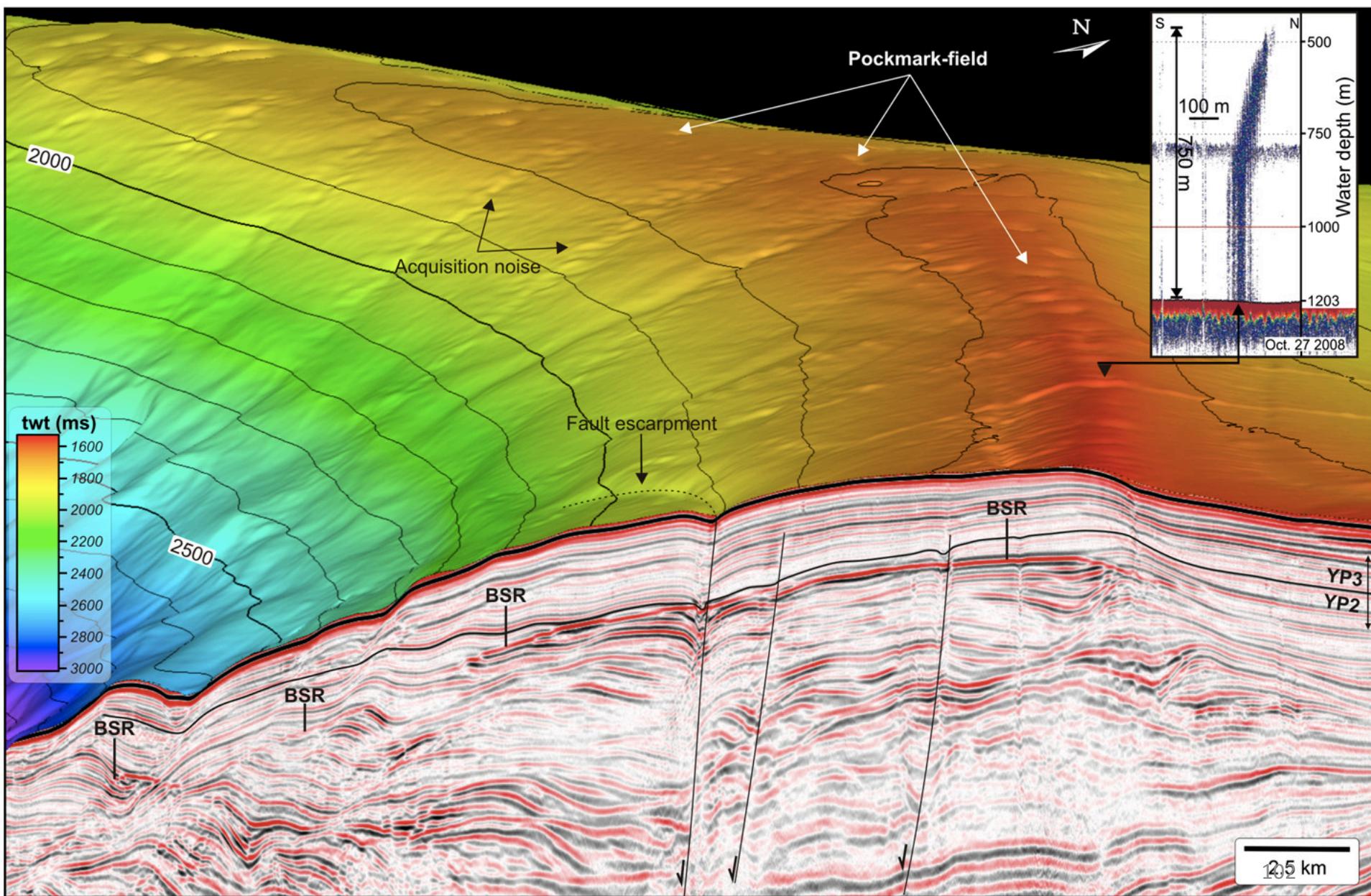


Model of glacial sedimentation on continental slope and rise on the Antarctic Margin



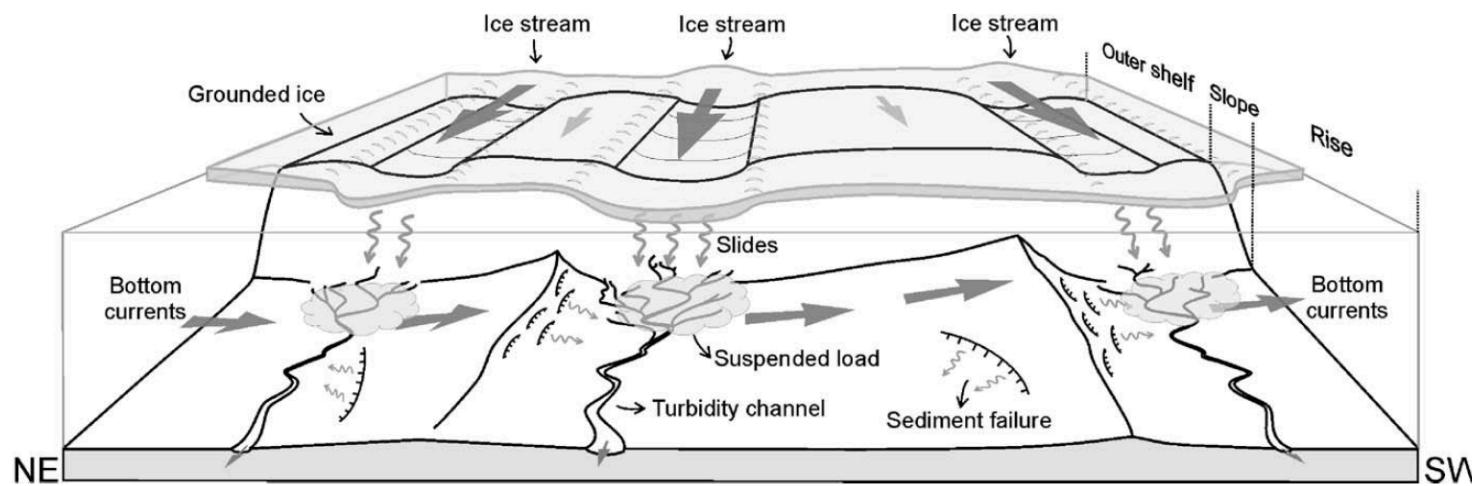
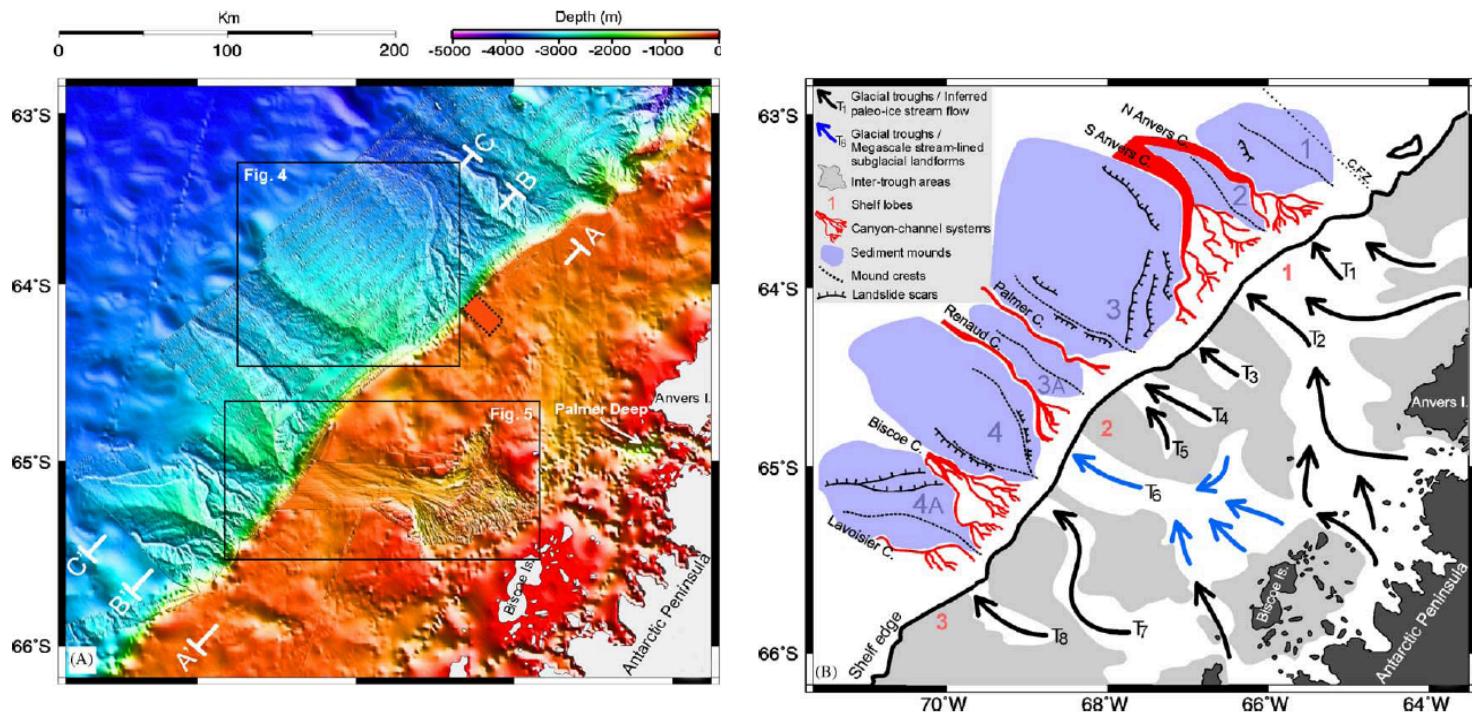


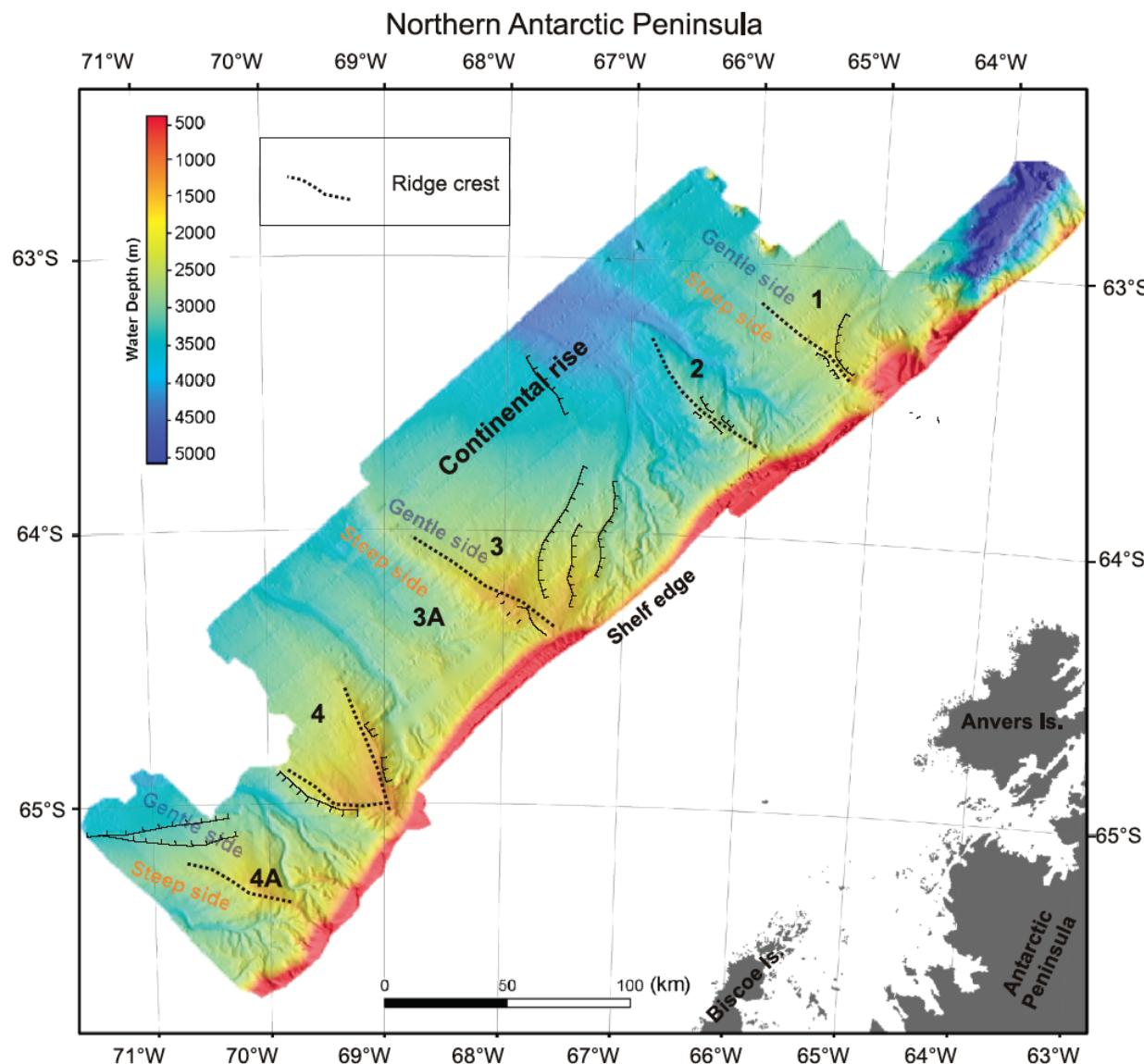


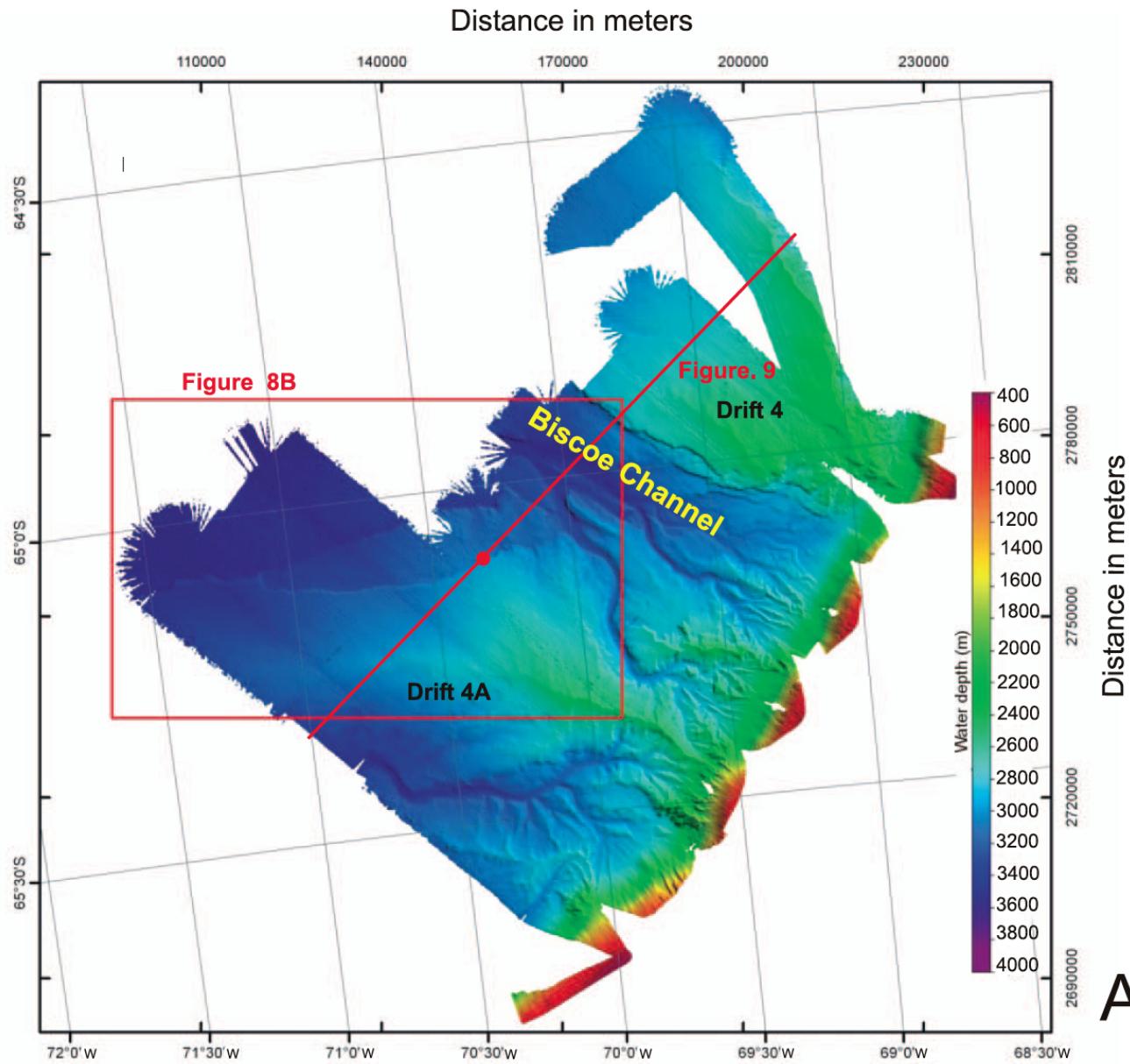




TURBIDITES



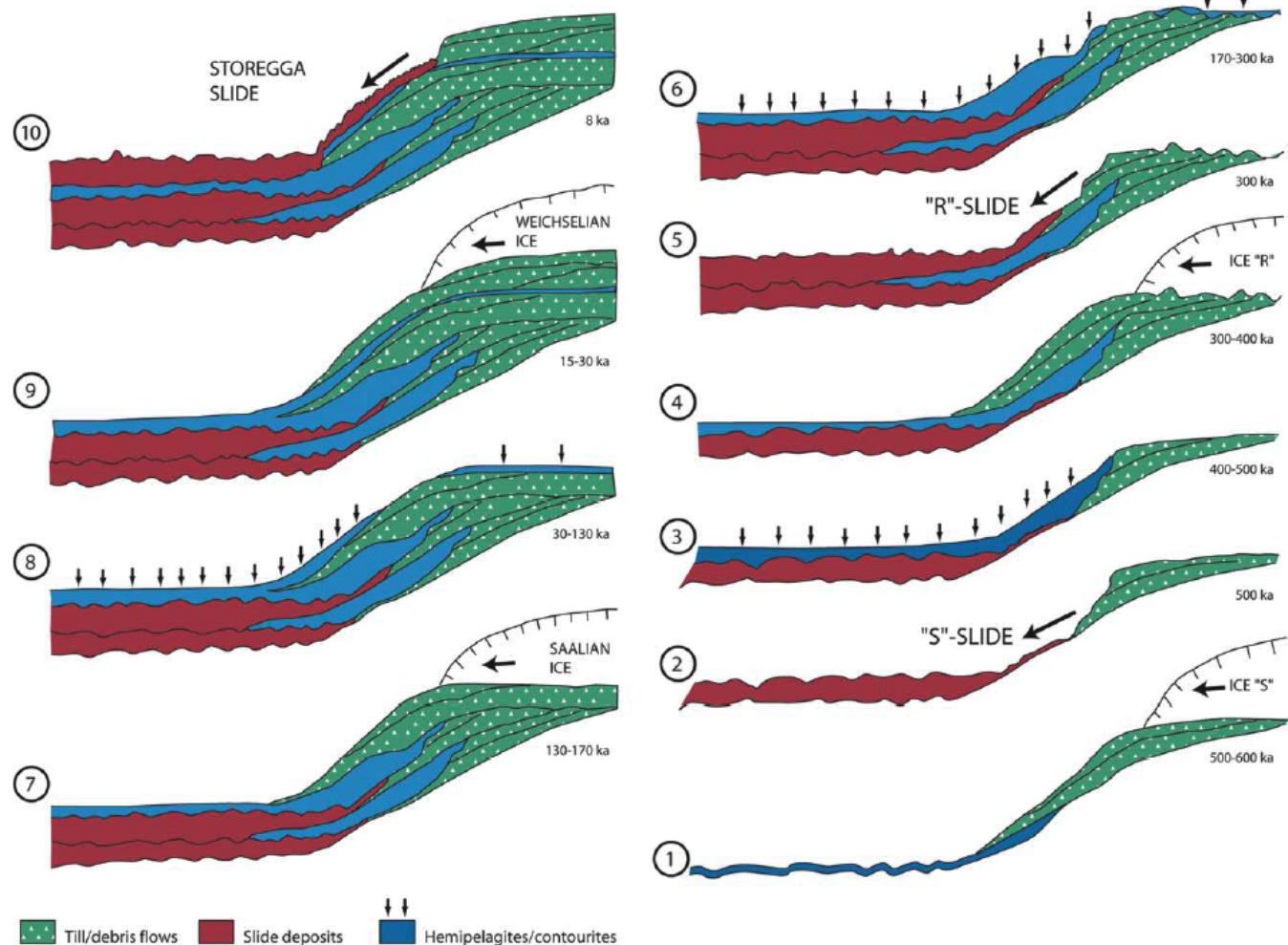






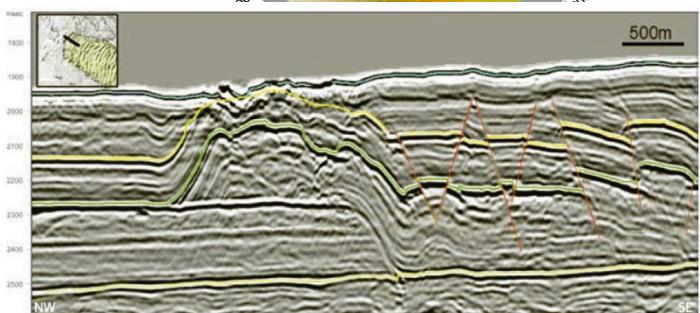
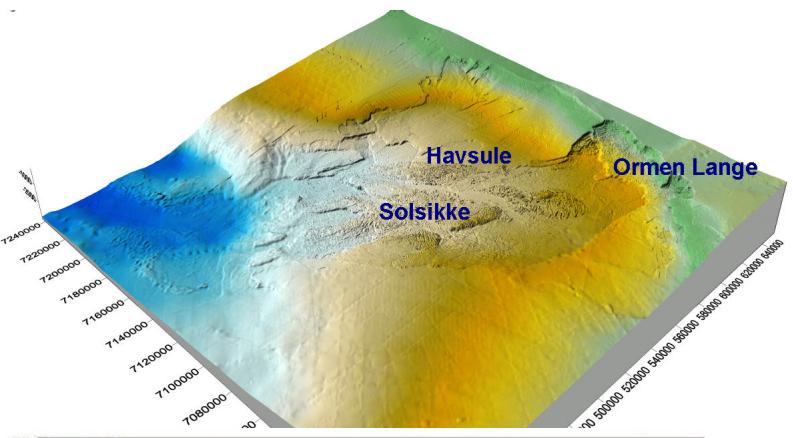
MASS TRANSPORT DEPOSITS

Alternation of interglacial, high water content sediment and dense glacial maximum debris flow deposits: preconditioning for slope instability

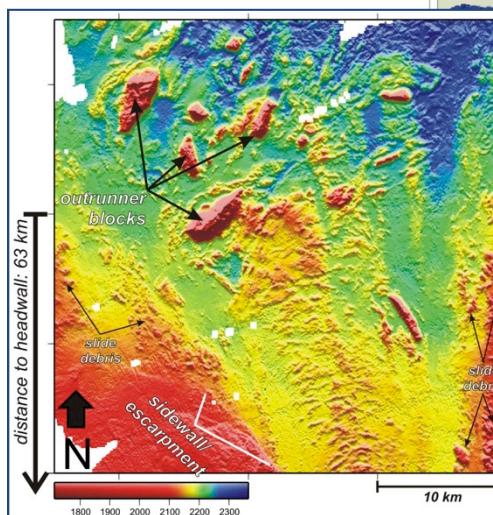


HINLOPEN/ YERMAK SLIDE North of Svalbard

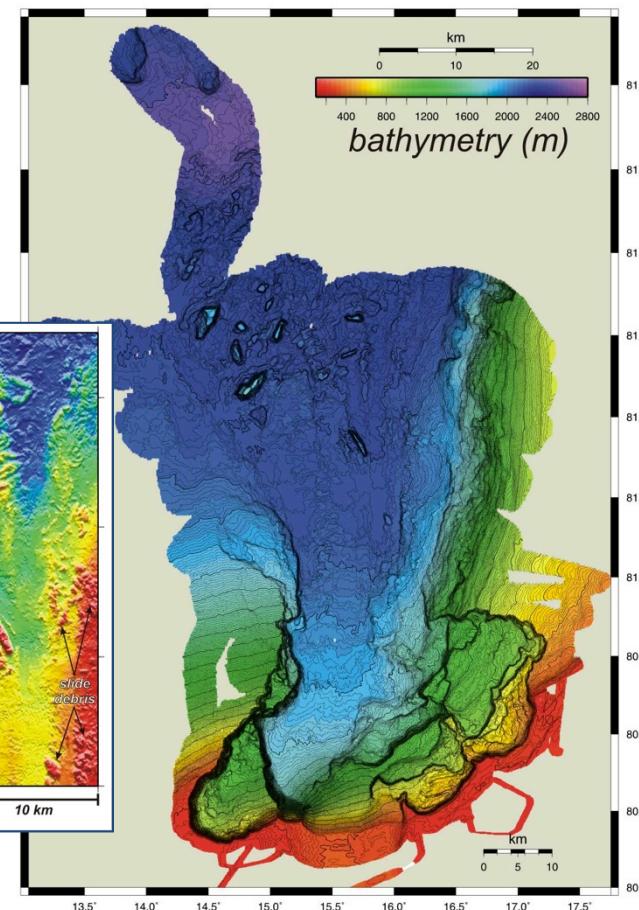
STOREGGA SLIDE Norwegian margin



Færseth & Bjørn Helge Sætersmoen, 2008,
Norwegian J. of Geology

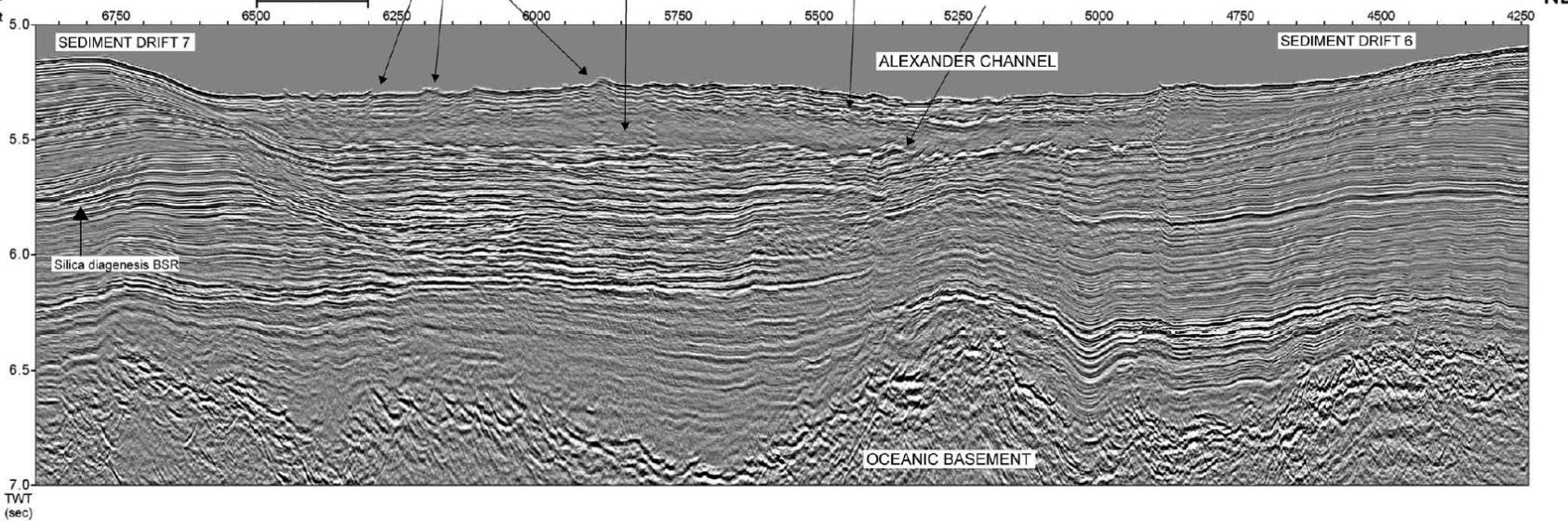


Vanneste et al., 2006, EPSL
Winkelmann et al., 2006, G³



(a)

SW

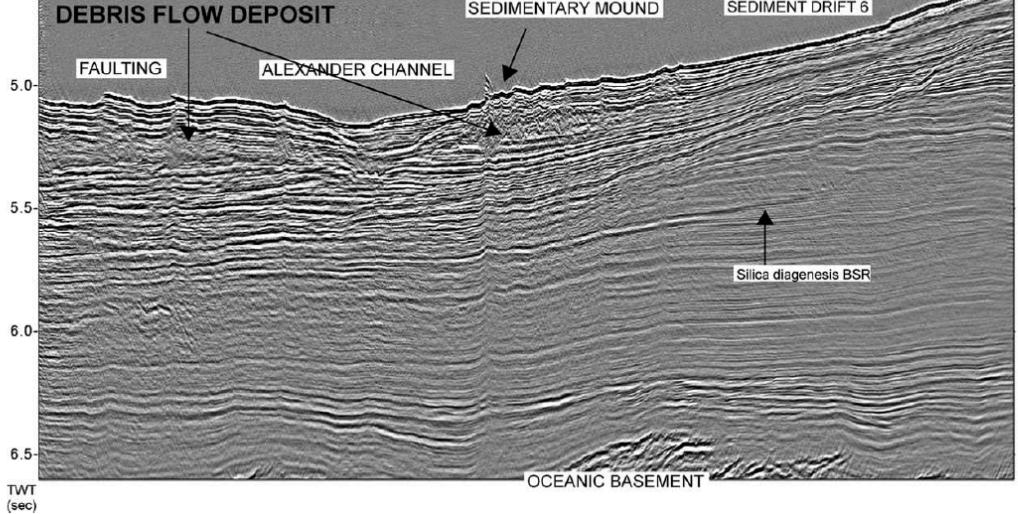
ODP Site 1095
Shot

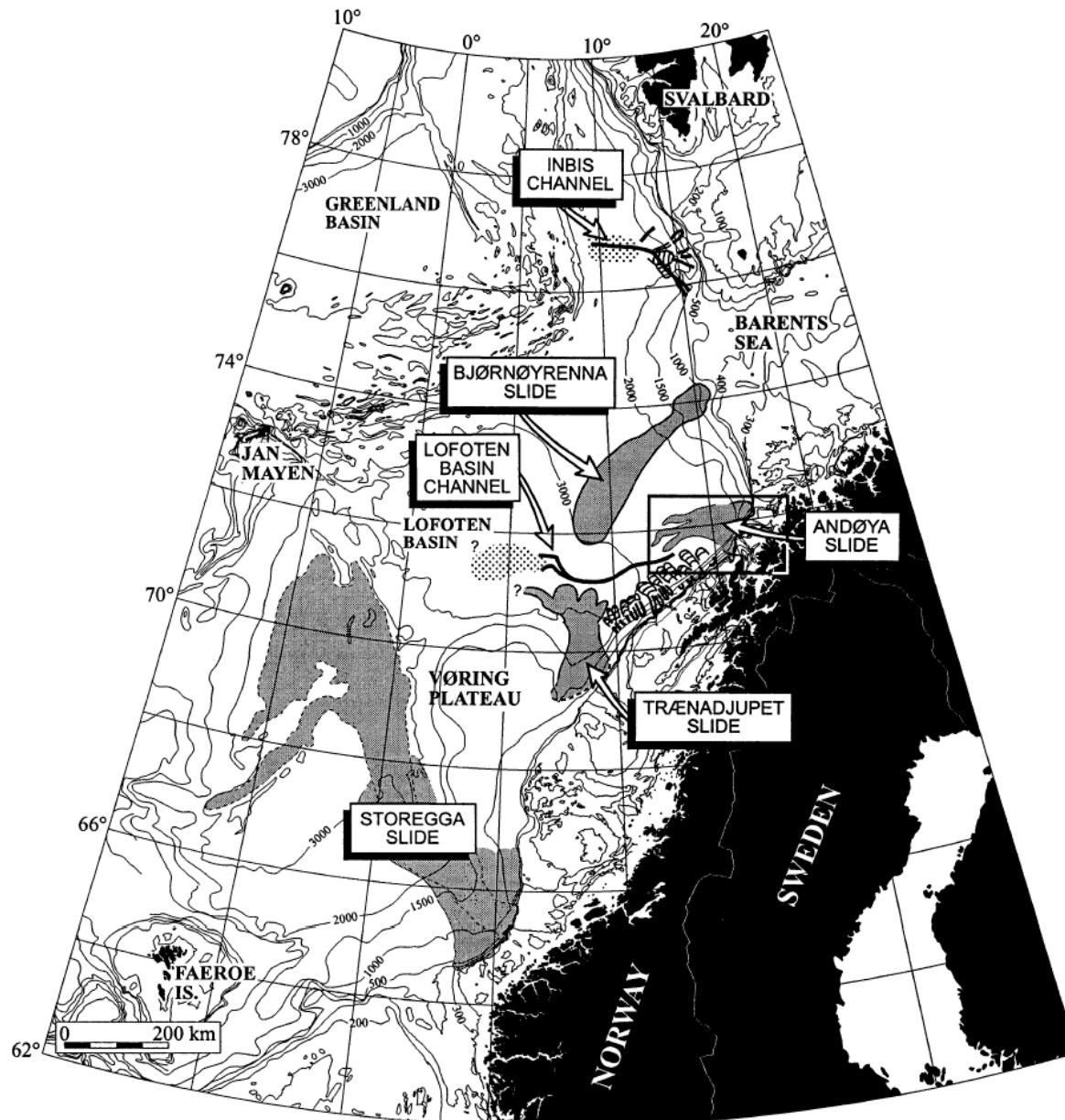
(b)

SW

Shot

5000 m







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