Discoveries from 3D controlled source imaging offshore New Zealand (NZ3D)

Andrew Gase, Nathan Bangs, Shuoshuo Han, Demian Saffer, Ryuta Arai, Rebecca Bell, Stuart Henrys, et al.



Imperial College London



Northern Hikurangi margin notable for shallow slow slip, tsunami earthquakes, and subducting seamounts





Laura Wallace, 2020

≥50 mm SSE slip

179°E

3D reflection and seismic velocity data can expand our scientific possibilities



Barnes et al., 2020

NZ3D data acquired in early 2018 with R/V Langseth – simultaneous OBS and 3D streamer acquisition with the help of R/V Tangaroa



- 97 JAMSTEC short-period OBS successfully recovered
- Good S/N to ~20 km offset



Arai et al., 2020

NZ3D data acquired in early 2018 with R/V Langseth – simultaneous OBS and 3D streamer acquisition



Arai et al., 2020



- 15 x 60 km² seismic reflection data volume
- 4 x 6 km streamers
- Near IODP drilling sites

Data processed by CGG-Singapore



Figure 7: CGG 2020 new PSDM processing data in depth with final velocity (Subline 502)

Figure 4: CGG 2020 new processing data in depth with final velocity (Subline 502)

Processing Highlights:

- 1. Source/receiver/ghost designature
- 2. 3D multiple suppression
- 3. 3D acoustic full-waveform inversion and reflection tomography (TTI anisotropy)
- 4. 3D pre-stack depth migration



Huge imaging improvement from 2D to 3D

2D data along drilling transect



Huge imaging improvement from 2D to 3D

2D data along drilling transect



NZ3D provides new opportunity to understand nature of subducting crust



IODP Exp. 372B/375 drilled seamount volcaniclastic fan and peak



- Volcaniclastics are altered to water-rich clay.
- Maybe a way to subduct more water?



Barnes et al., 2020

3D reflection and velocity volume reveal low velocity volcanic upper crust



Volcanic cones underlain by cuspate sills and layered intra-crustal reflections



Key structural features: Volcanic ridges (VRs) an incoming plate

Bathymetry from seafloor reflection

Top of volcanic upper crust



Key structural features: Volcanic upper crust is slow outboard of deformation front

Average P-wave velocity in upper 1 km of volcanic crust





Key structural features: Broad low velocity zones disappear upon subduction

Average P-wave velocity in upper 1 km of volcanic crust





V_P vertical function of incoming crust

Normal oceanic crust bounds from Acquisto et al., (2022)

Estimate water content from P-wave velocity



Barnes et al. 2020

Not possible to separate porosity from mineral-bound water with P-wave velocity



Thick volcaniclastics allow for extreme water delivery to subduction zone

Average H₂O vol. in the upper 1 km of volcanic crust H₂O vol. (%) -50 600 40 Inline 400 10 km R 200 2500 Б S • 0 2000 1500 Crossline 1000 0 500



H₂O vertical function of incoming crust

~half of water in upper crust is lost within first 15 km of subduction



Where does the rest of the water go?

- 1. Through upper plate and faults?
- 2. Through subducting plate?







NZ3D – new insights into effects of seamount collision on accretionary wedge





- Long-offset Papaku fault trails ~2 km high seamount
- More even fault development ~10 km south of seamount

Bangs et al. 2023

Seamount collision results in weak-consolidation of trailing sediments



Bangs et al. 2023.



- Low-velocity sediment lens forms in wake of past seamount collision
- Long-lasting low velocities zones

Ample fluid sources in upper and lower plates – may influence aseismic transients



Bangs et al. 2023



NZ3D – lots of opportunities for discovery and integration with other projects

 Joint 3D acquisition of OBS and streamer data highly successful

 Analysis and integration with other datasets ongoing – much more to come

