

**Lithofacies fence diagram of the Upper Mesozoic, Alaska Peninsula**

Mesozoic sedimentary rocks are exposed along 600 kilometers of the Alaska Peninsula. These rocks have been investigated recently as part of the Alaska Mineral Resource Assessment Program (AMRAP). A typical study of the Upper Mesozoic Upper Cretaceous and Lower Cretaceous 1 square was conducted at the same time as part of the AMRAP. The study was conducted in the same manner as the study over 20 stratigraphic sections of upper Mesozoic rocks were measured and studied in detail in order to determine the distribution of the stratigraphic source areas and depositional environment. These studies directly benefit the study of the rocks and of the paleogeography of the Alaska Peninsula. The data are of use to mineral exploration on the Alaska Peninsula where the upper Mesozoic strata are the host rocks for mineralization at many localities.

A lithofacies fence diagram of the upper Mesozoic strata for the entire length of the Alaska Peninsula is presented here on these sheets. The diagram includes most of the measured sections and details from several of the sections that are drilled through the upper Mesozoic sequence. Many of the sections are not complete owing to erosion, lack of exposure, or in some cases, poor weather and time limitations.

The upper Mesozoic as used here includes the Naknek Formation (Upper Cretaceous), the Chignik, Hoodoo, and Kopyov Formations (Lower Cretaceous), the Chignik Conglomerate, Northeast Creek Sandstone, Sheg Harbor Siltstone, Indecision Creek Sandstone, and Chignik Conglomerate. The northeast Creek Sandstone, Indecision Creek Sandstone, and Chignik Conglomerate along with the Naknek Formation are new names, and there are some changes in the designations for other units. These additions and changes are documented in Detterman and others (in press).

The measured sections and borehole sections are represented as vertical points on the diagram, each assigned a letter code corresponding to that used on the index map (fig. 1). Lithology and faunal biozones shown are as measured at the localities or as interpolated from numerous field observations in areas between measured sections. Some interpretation of possible lithology between points is included. The fauna listed are made biozones that include other points in addition to those named. The upper Cretaceous zones are from Jones (1983), and the lower Cretaceous zones are from Miller and Detterman (1981).

The paleogeographic setting is strongly influenced, but not restricted to, the paleogeographic setting of the Alaska Peninsula. The paleogeographic setting of the Alaska Peninsula is a progressive change in facies preference with time and a consequent increase in number and size of individuals. The oldest facies on the Alaska Peninsula, Buchia concentrica and B. rugosa, are generally found in fine grained clastic rocks, mainly siltstone and shale. The environment of deposition is interpreted as being moderately deep water, probably on the order of several hundred meters. By late Cretaceous time (upper Cretaceous), the paleogeographic setting had moved to a shallower, restricted, and shallower water environment, and the paleogeographic setting had moved to a shallower, restricted, and shallower water environment. The paleogeographic setting of the Alaska Peninsula is a progressive change in facies preference with time and a consequent increase in number and size of individuals. The oldest facies on the Alaska Peninsula, Buchia concentrica and B. rugosa, are generally found in fine grained clastic rocks, mainly siltstone and shale. The environment of deposition is interpreted as being moderately deep water, probably on the order of several hundred meters. By late Cretaceous time (upper Cretaceous), the paleogeographic setting had moved to a shallower, restricted, and shallower water environment, and the paleogeographic setting had moved to a shallower, restricted, and shallower water environment.

The biozones used in the biozonation on the Alaska Peninsula are the time restricted biozones that do not appear to be in their proper order, while other structural complications in the section. The older form of Buchia has one preference for or can tolerate a fine clastic facies, mainly B. concentrica, B. rugosa, and to a lesser extent B. mosquensis, cross member contact (B. rugosa) or (B. concentrica) on the face diagram. The contacts are arbitrarily drawn on lithology and do not indicate the biozones are time transgressive.

Reference cited

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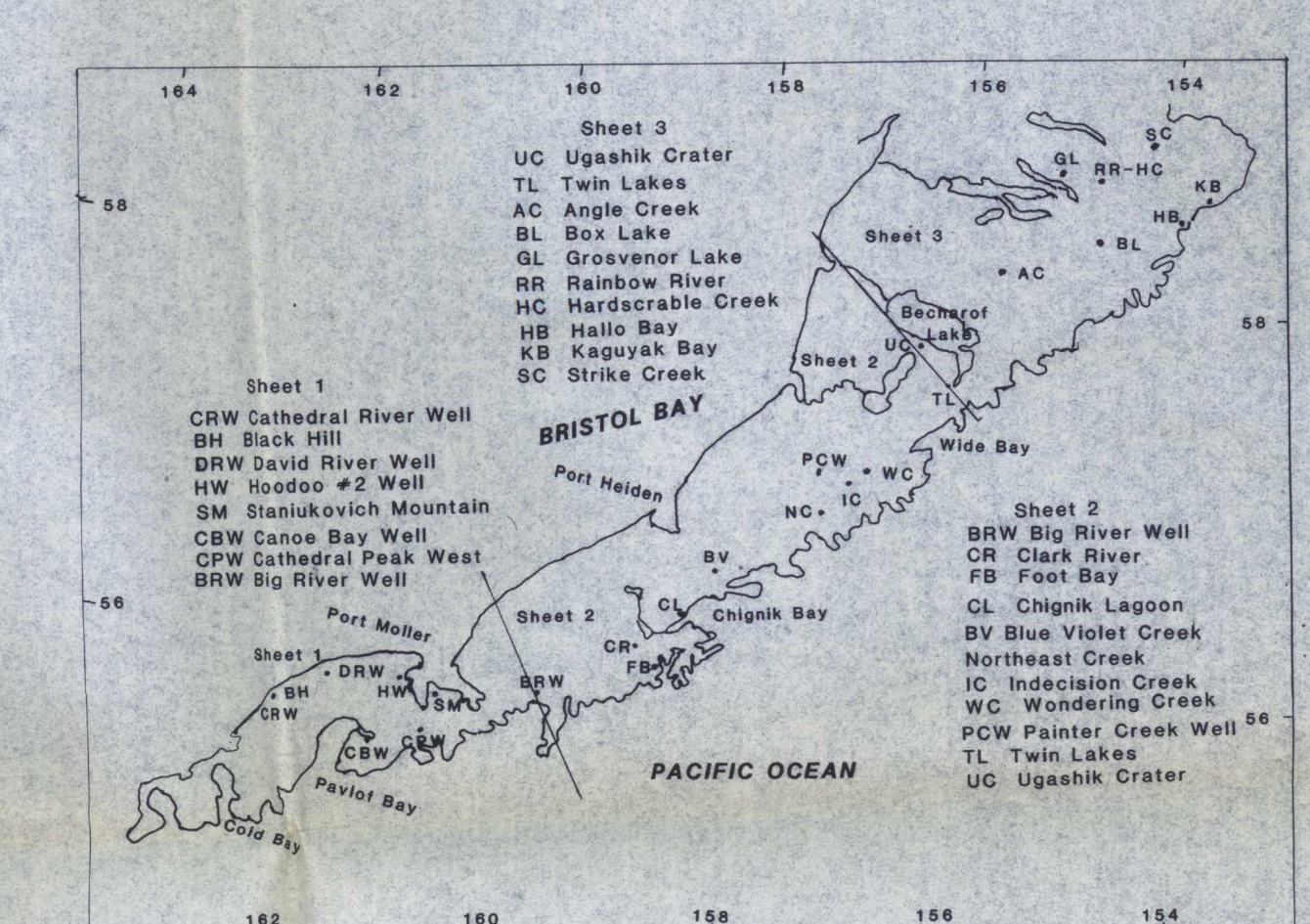
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CENTRAL PART  
LITHOFACIES FENCE DIAGRAM OF THE UPPER MESOZOIC, ALASKA PENINSULA

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This report is preliminary and has not been reviewed for conformity with U.S. Geological Survey editorial standards and stratigraphic nomenclature.