PRELIMINARY STRUCTURE MAP OF THE GORDA "PLATE" FROM MULTIBEAM BATHYMETRY, SIDESCAN SONAR, AND SEISMIC REFLECTION DATA

CHAYTOR, Jason D.1, GOLDFINGER, Chris1, and DZIAK, Robert P.2, (1) College of Oceanic & Atmospheric Sciences, Oregon State Univ, 104 Ocean Administration Building, Corvallis, OR 97331-5503, jchaytor@coas.oregonstate.edu, (2) OSU-CIMRS/NOAA, Hatfield Marine Science Center, 2115 SE OSU Drive, Newport, OR 97365

Preliminary structural mapping of the Gorda plate offshore southern Oregon and northern California using multibeam bathymetry, sidescan sonar and seismic reflection data reveals the presence of a substantial number of strike-slip and reactivated spreading-center normal faults. The northern part of the plate is dominated by long, NNE-trending reactivated spreading fabric normal faults that offset Gorda basin sediments. A number of these basement fabric faults also appear to be drag folded adjacent to "pseudofaults" which may also be active as tectonic structures. In addition, numerous small sinistral strike-slip faults are present in the northern part of the plate that offset the NNE-trending spreading fabric faults. In the central and southern part of the plate, NE to NNE-trending spreading fabric and strike-slip faults are the dominant structural features present. A number of these strike-slip faults show apparent sinistral horizontal offsets, with a major strike-slip fault in the center of the plate displaying up to an estimated 10 km of displacement. Fault types and orientations within the plate correlate well with the NE-trending nodal plane of moment-tensor solutions from reasonably well located earthquakes in the region (after removal of a systematic 15-20° clockwise rotation error from the solutions). Preliminary estimates of slip-rate on a major sinistral strike-slip fault, calculated from approximate offsets observed on the multibeam data and using basement as the maximum age of fault movement, suggests that between 0.5-2 mm/yr of slip may be occurring on structures in the center of the plate. This estimate represents a first-order determination and may or may not represent either the historical or current slip rate. Analysis of the multibeam data also indicate the presence of two NW-trending linear basins in the central part of the plate, which may represent large wavelength folds that cut across basement fabric.

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