



November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

9<sup>th</sup> Dutch Exploration Day



# Seismic Data Processing of the Southern North Sea's first OBN survey

Technical challenges & achievements

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# Part 2. Seismic Processing – Presentation Content



- Seismic Processing
  - Pre-processing
  - Velocity Model building and FWI
  - Imaging
- Summary

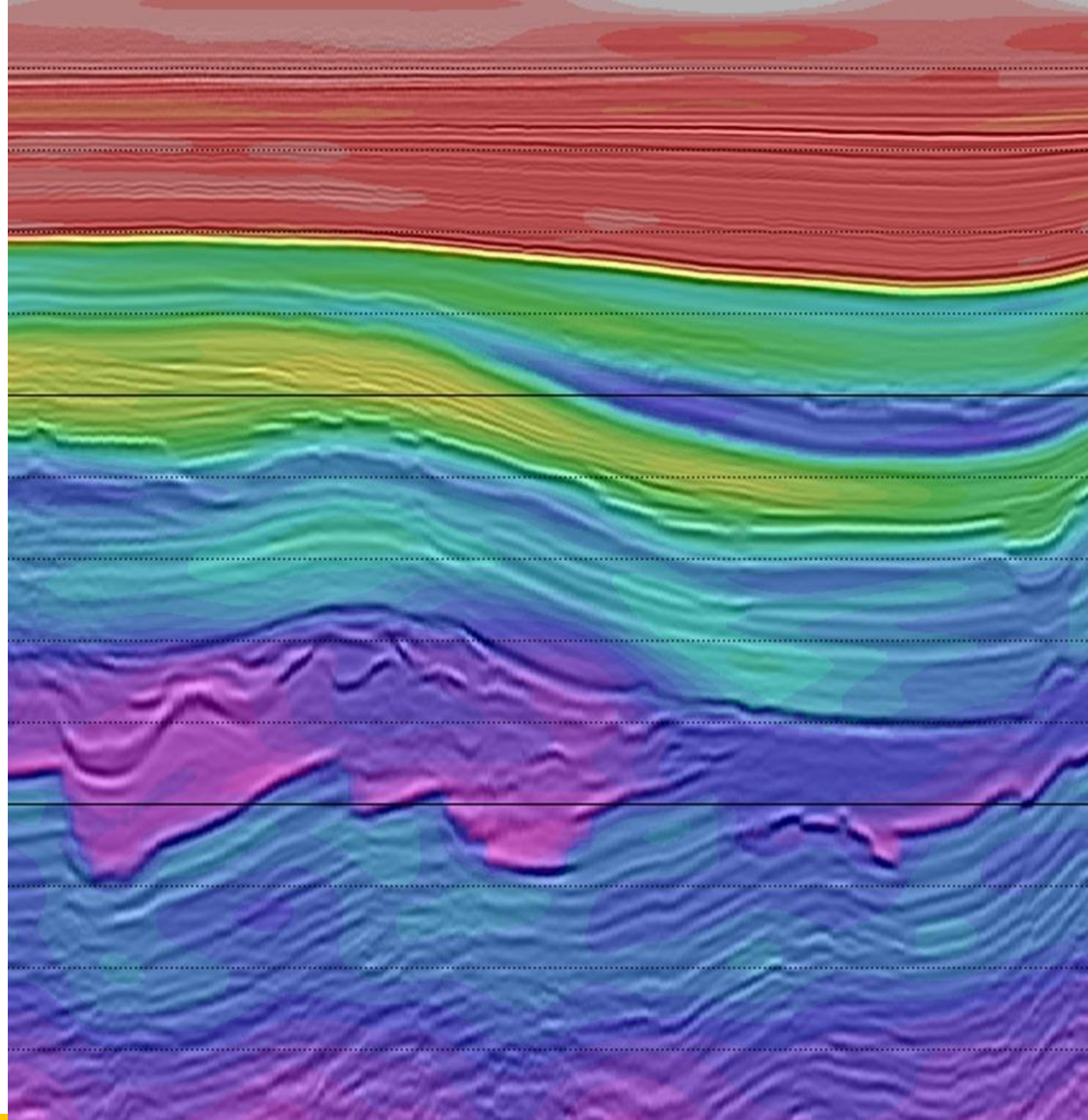


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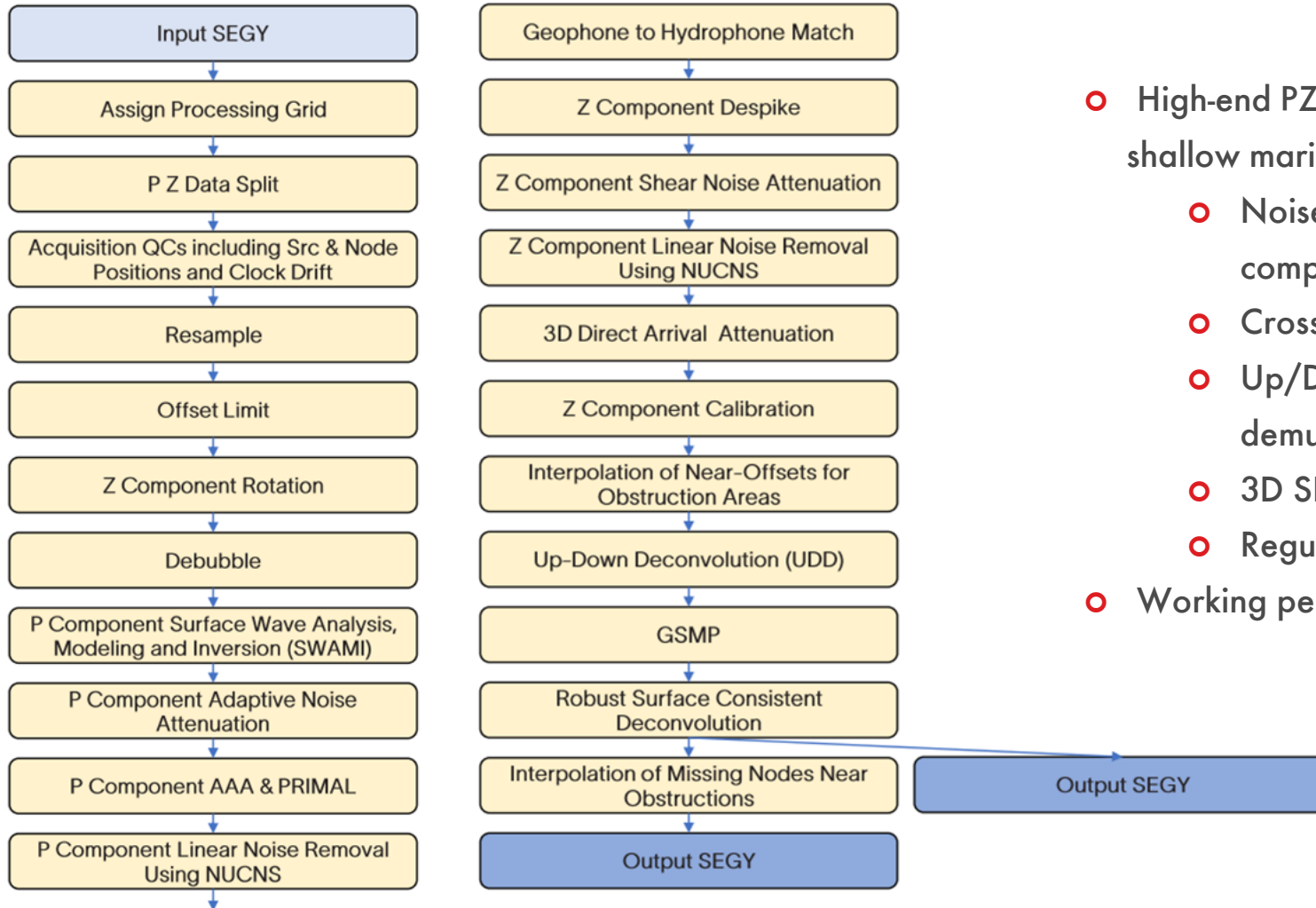
# Processing

Pre-processing, velocity-model building and imaging





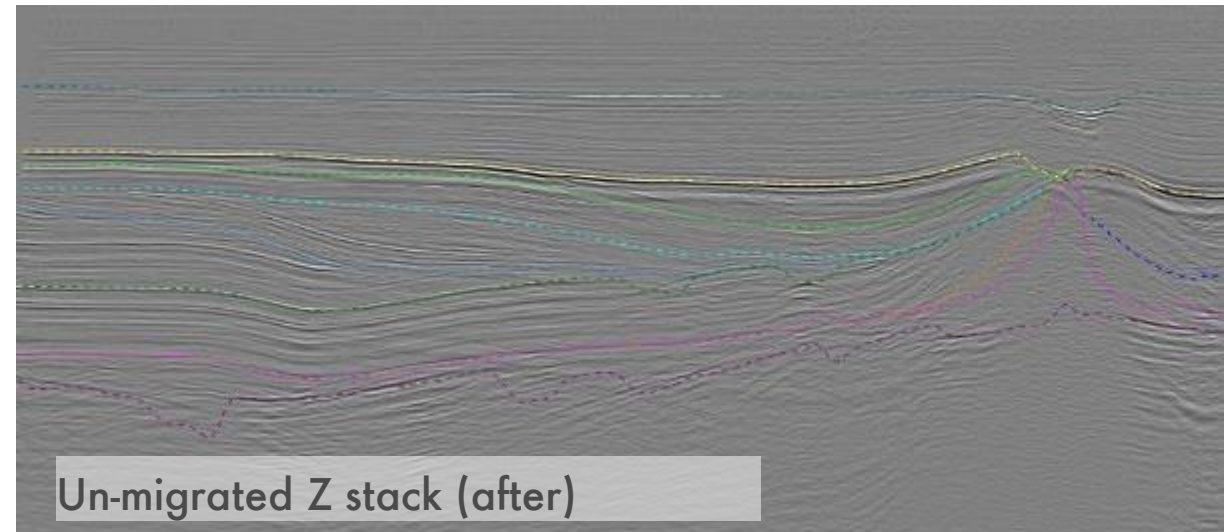
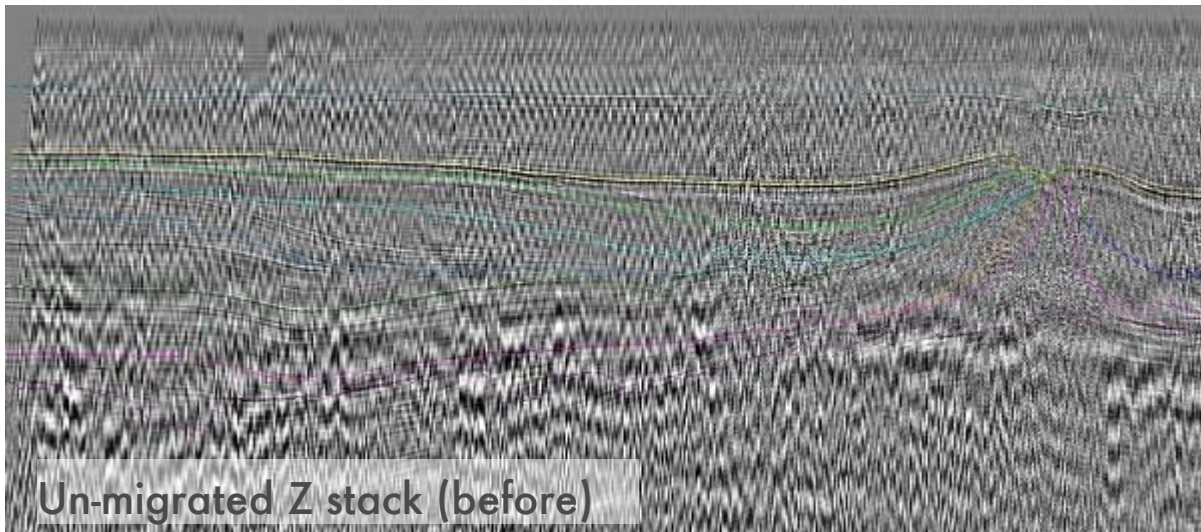
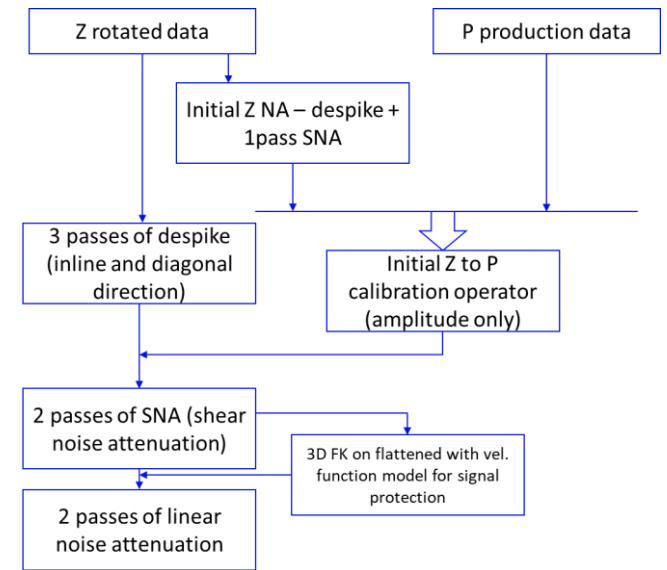
# Pre-processing by SLB, London



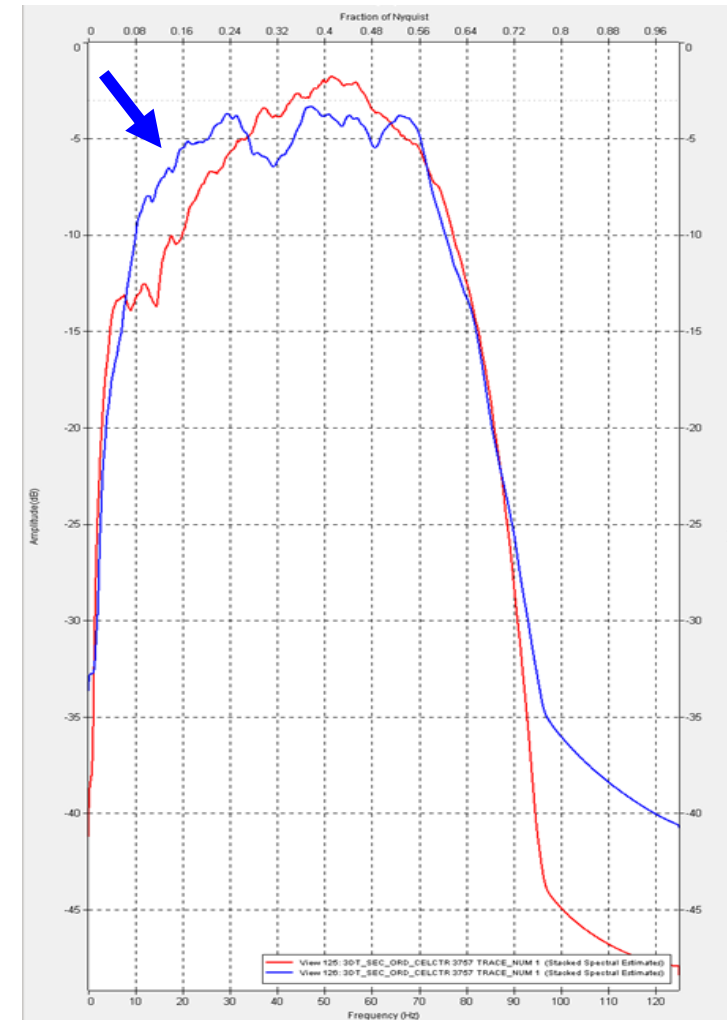
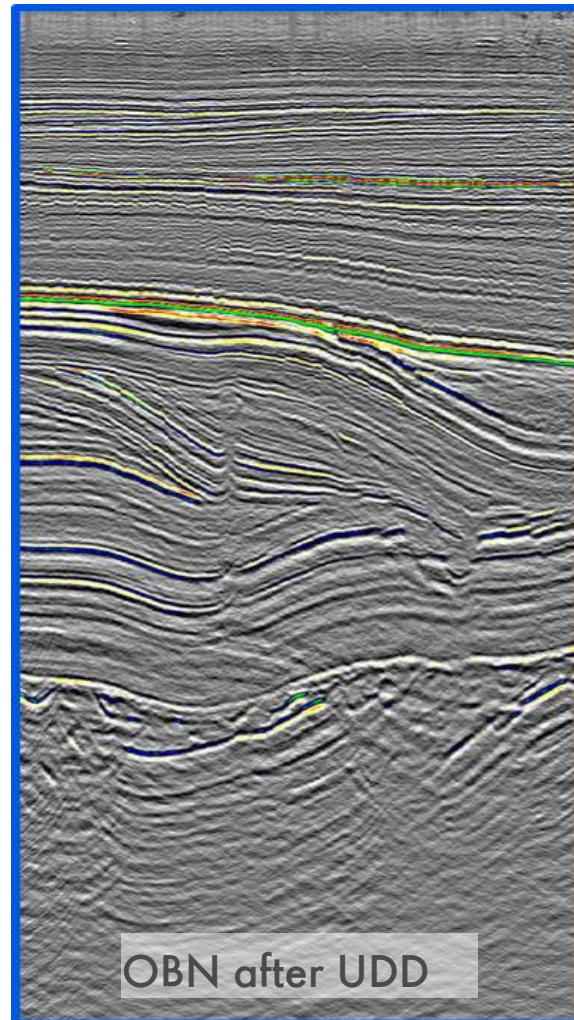
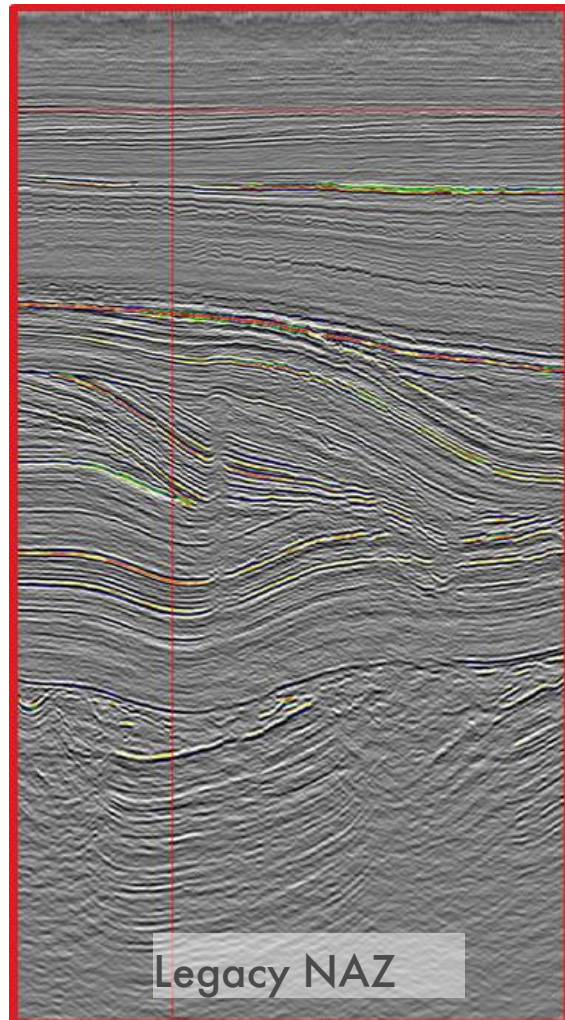
- High-end PZ summation processing workflow designed for shallow marine setting and broadband processing
  - Noise removal (mud-roll + shear noise) from Z component
  - Cross-Ghosting for optimal PZ calibration
  - Up/Down Decon for deghosting and short period demultiple (UDD)
  - 3D SRME for long period demultiple (GSMP)
  - Regularization to reduce impact of gaps in coverage
- Working period: Dec. 2022 – Dec. 2023

# Noise removal from Z component

- Up/Down Decon (UDD) is the most critical part of the pre-processing and handles zero-phasing, deghosting and short-period demultiple.
- However this requires the Z component to be denoised and matched to the P component, which is technically challenging.
- The final workflow makes heavy use of SLB's SNA process, which uses the denoised P component as a reference to identify signal on the Z.



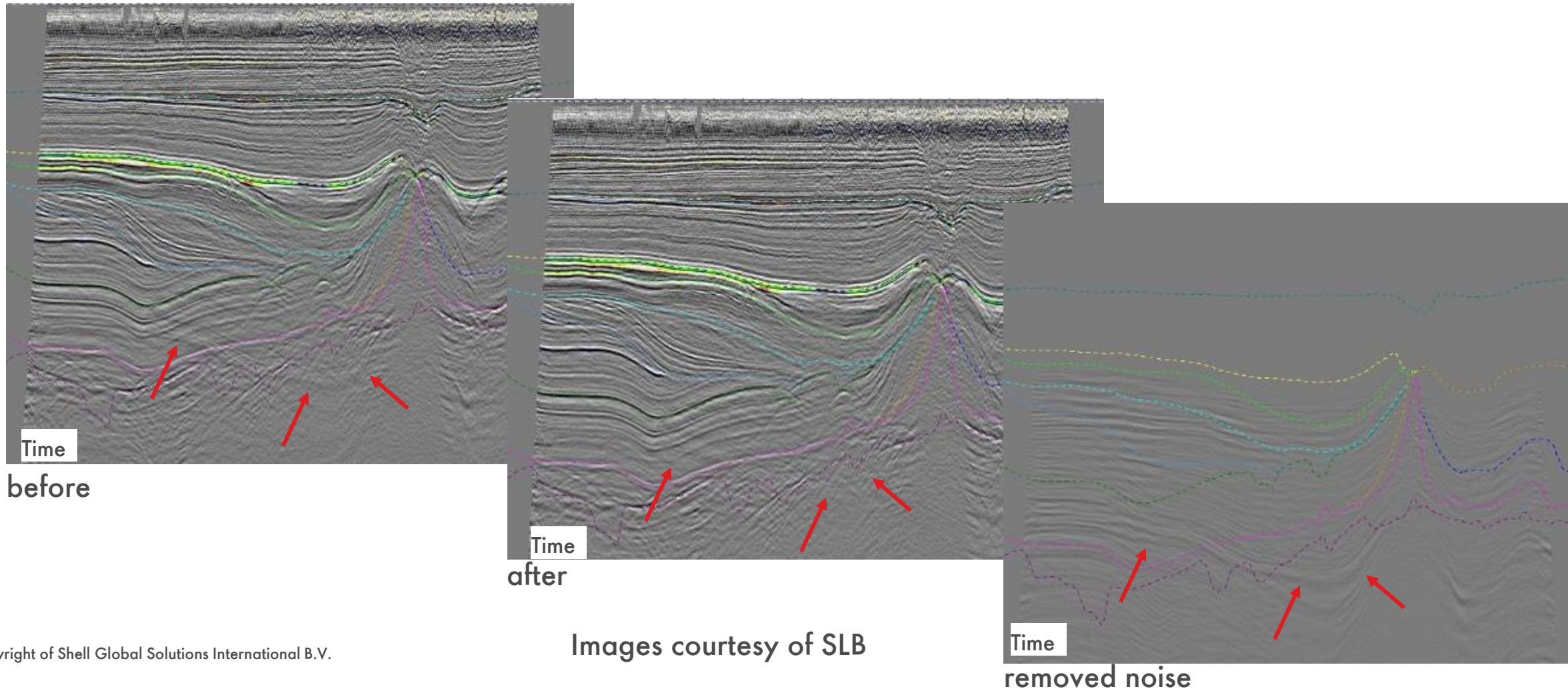
# OBN broadband processing: rich in low and high frequencies





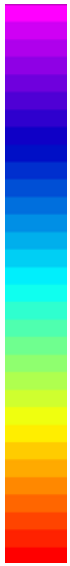
# 3D SRME: E-W line, PZ stack before migration

UDD effectively removes short period multiple but SRME is required for longer period multiples.

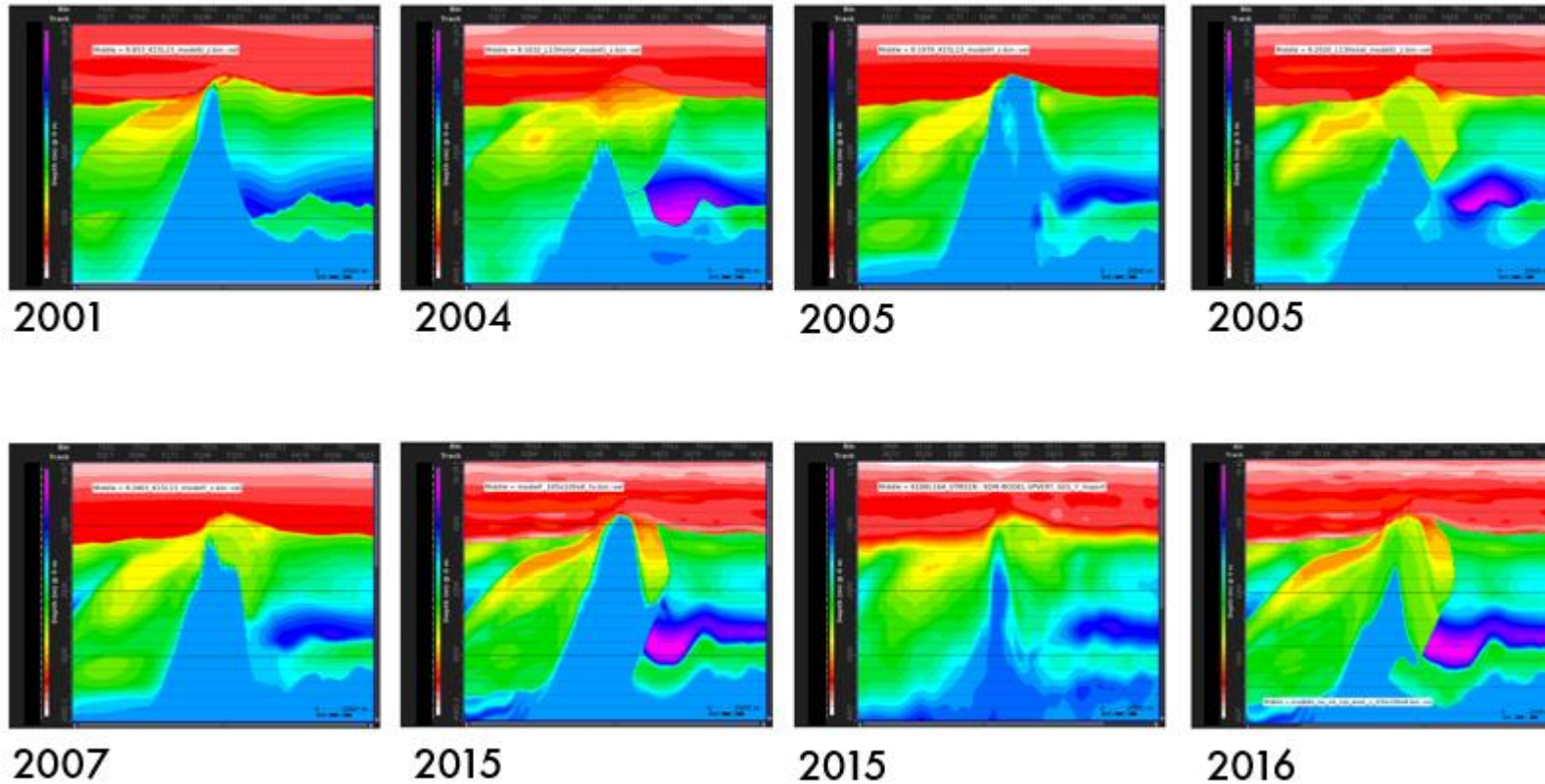


# 20+ years of 3D NAZ-based seismic velocity model building

High velocity

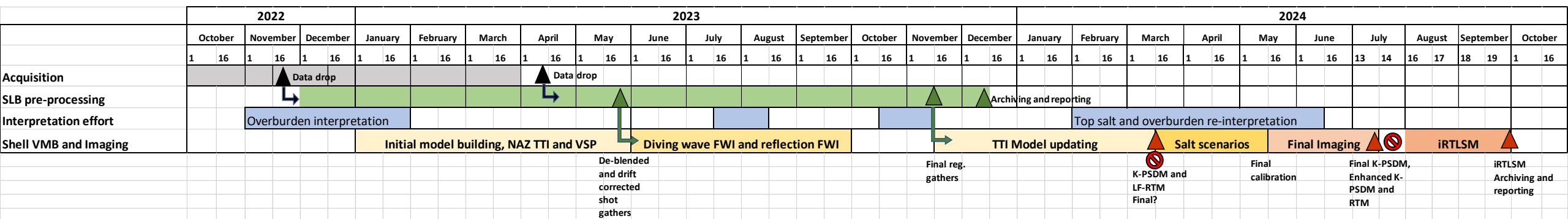


Low velocity



- 20+ years of seismic imaging efforts using many NAZ streamer surveys
- Uncertainty of Chalk, Salt and Anhydrite geometries + velocities impact the Imaging, illumination and Time to Depth conversion of the reservoir sands

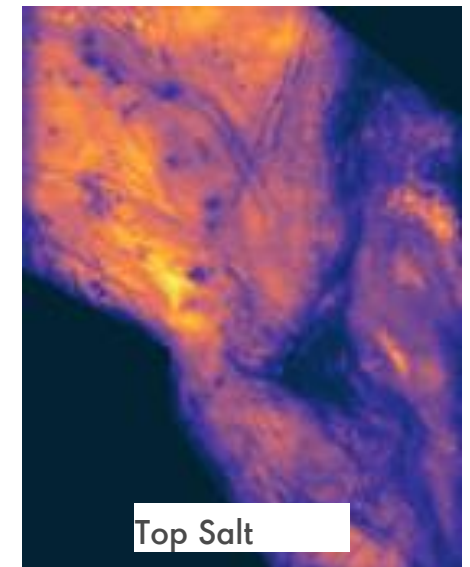
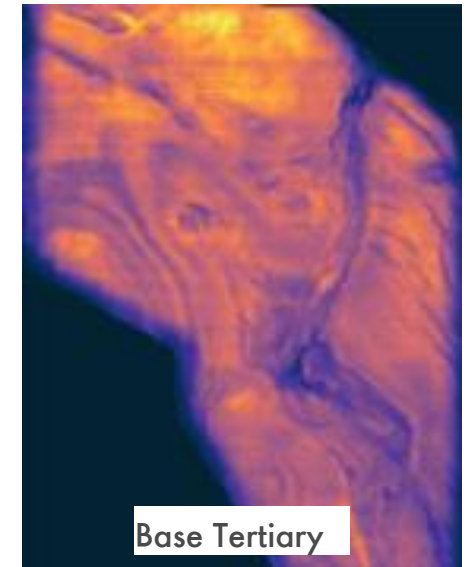
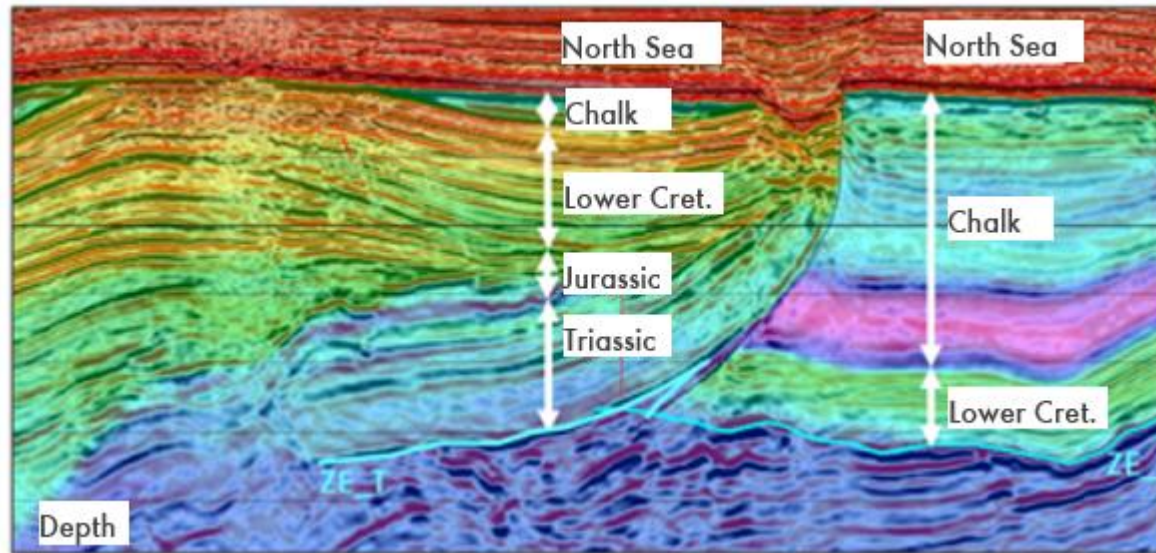
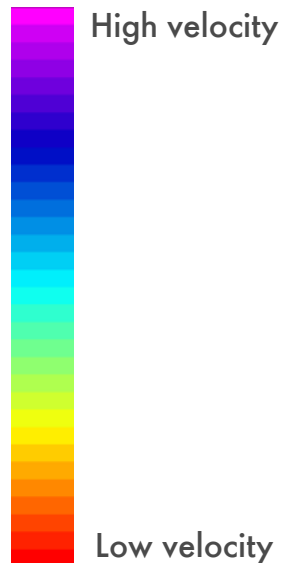
# Velocity model building & imaging workflows: key components



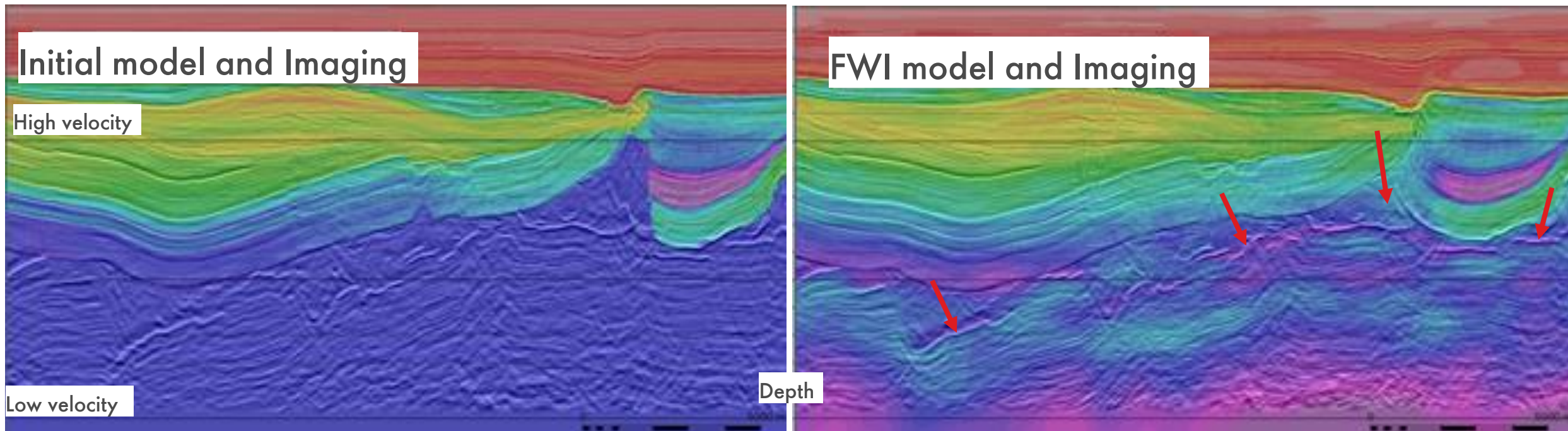
- Initial (calibrated) model building using merged horizons, well markers and 80+ sonic logs
- Close collaboration between WINZ, EBN and NAM to drive the initial model building and re-calibration efforts
- Interpretation of multiple events and QC against well-tops
- Multi-azimuth based Travel Time Tomography inversion of the available NAZ streamer datasets to prepare the model for FWI
- Diving wave FWI and reflection FWI utilizing the long offsets and very low frequencies
- WAZ based Travel Time Tomography Inversions to update the overburden sediments and reduce the overall residual move-out
- Interpretative driven Salt scenario flooding to achieve the optimal Top Salt accompanied by iterative Base Chalk Interpretations
- Re-calibration of final model
- Imaging: RTM, Enhanced Kirchhoff, 45Hz Iterative Least Squares RTM

# Complex geology driving the model building choices

- East/West geological differences separated by a North-South Salt ridge/thrust
- Salt domes, 'salt wall' and overhangs
- Very high velocity chalk build-ups east of the salt thrust
- Unconformities and pinch-outs

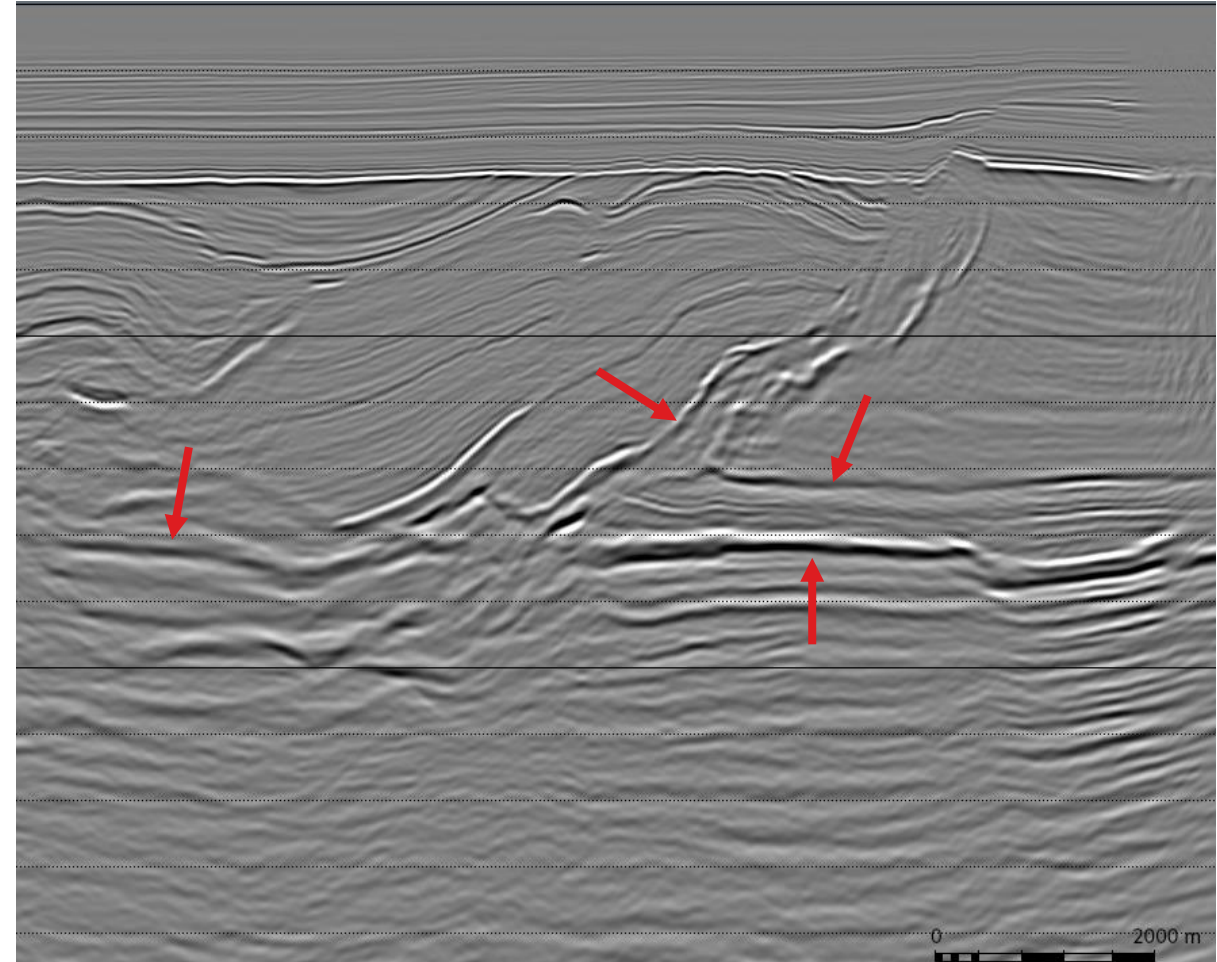
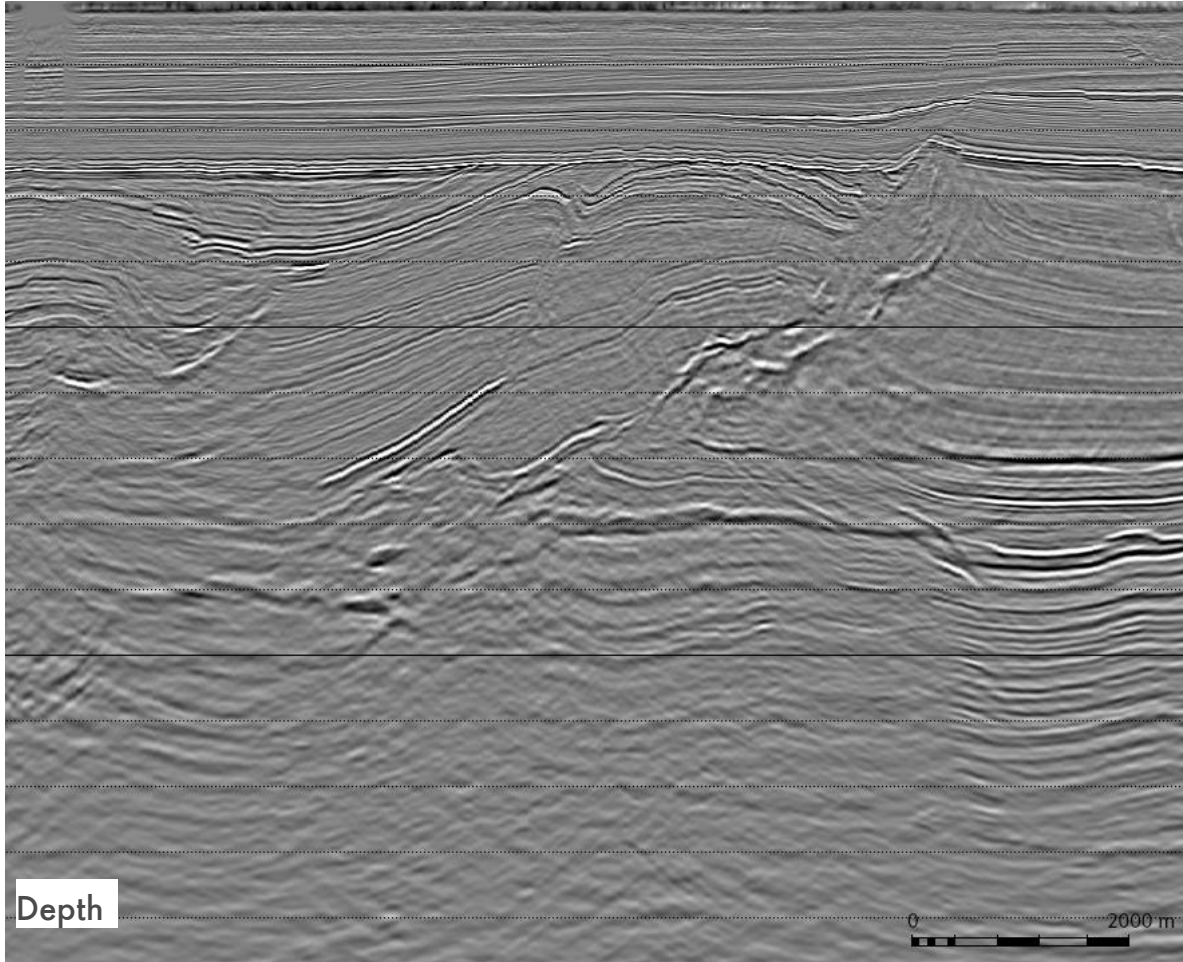


# Diving wave FWI and reflection FWI resulting in deep velocity updates



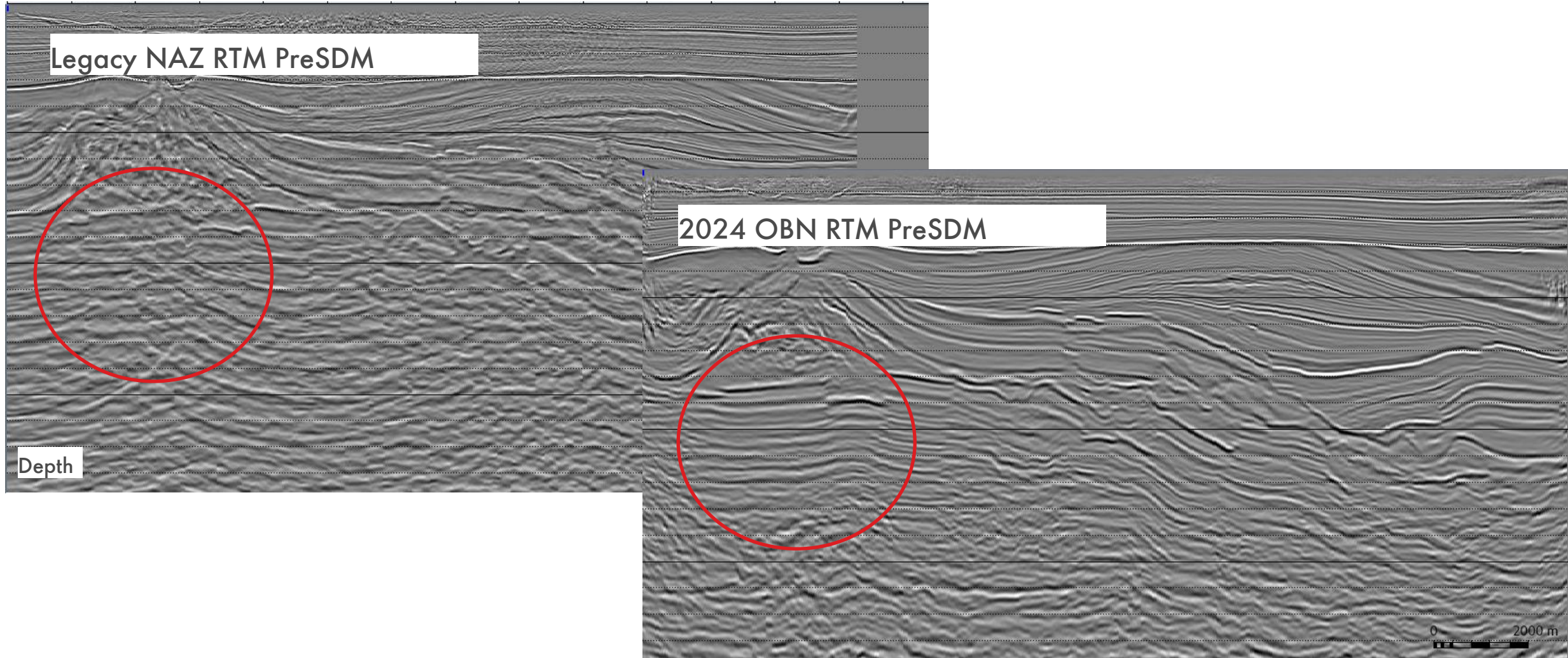
- Available FWI offsets  $> 9000\text{m}$  + very low frequencies ( $\sim 2\text{Hz}$ ) allows for deep velocity model updates
- FWI: normal streamer acquisitions can only update to Base North Sea due to limited maximum offset

# Legacy NAZ Kirchhoff PreSDM (left) versus 2024 OBN RTM PreSDM (right)

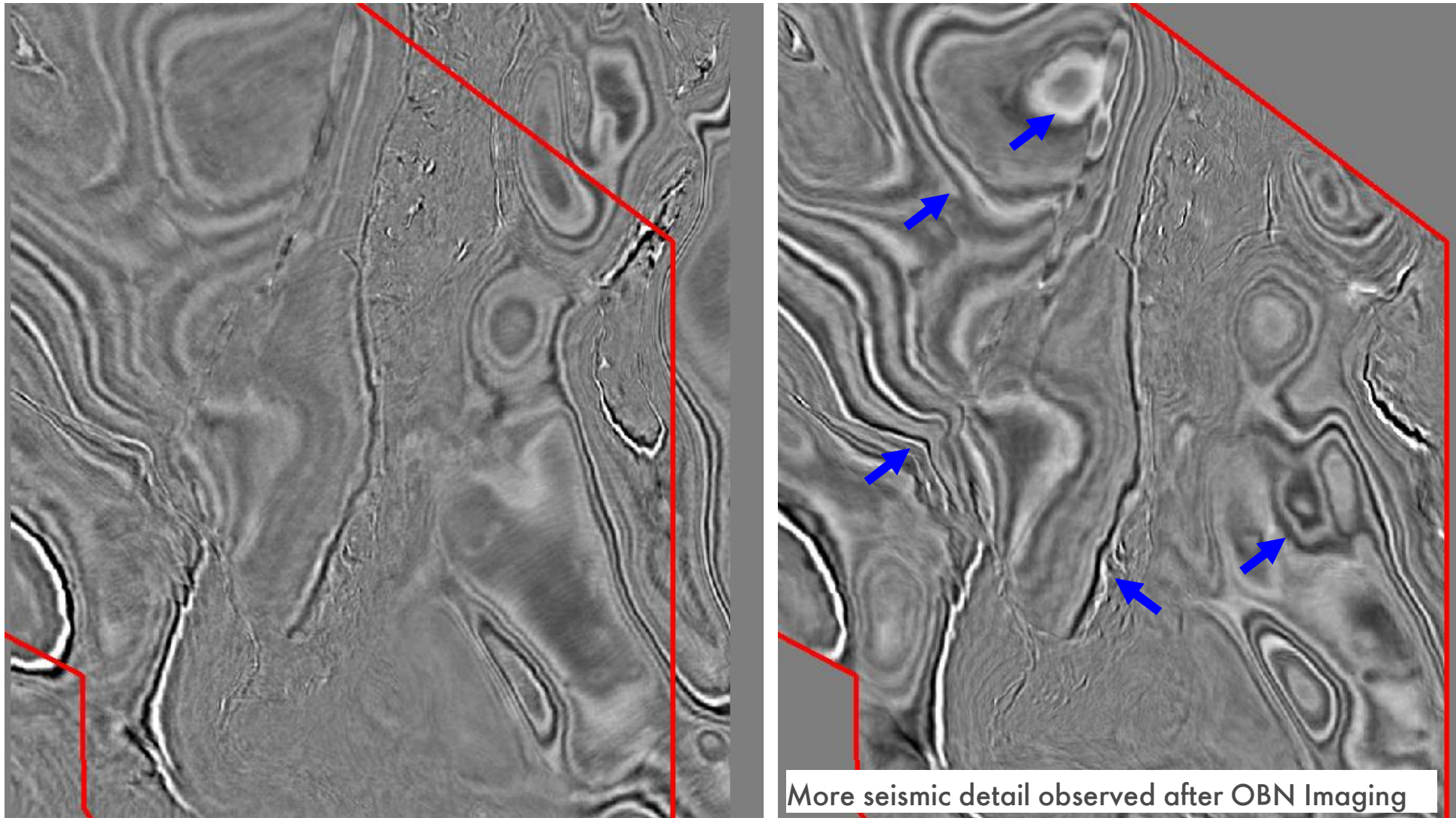


Impact of low frequencies for deep Imaging of the thrust and below

# Improved Imaging below Salt

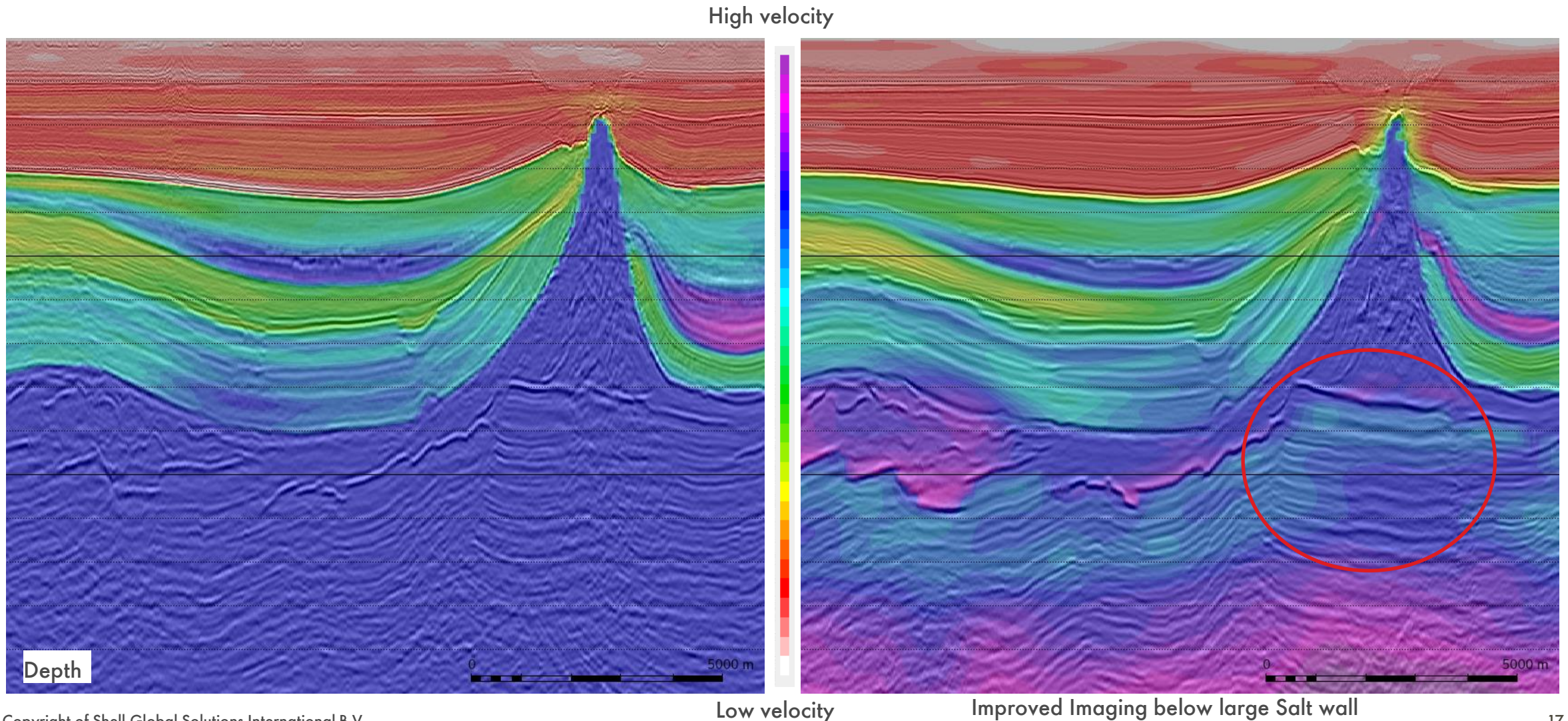


# Legacy RTM PreSDM (left) versus 2024 OBN RTM PreSDM (right): 3700m

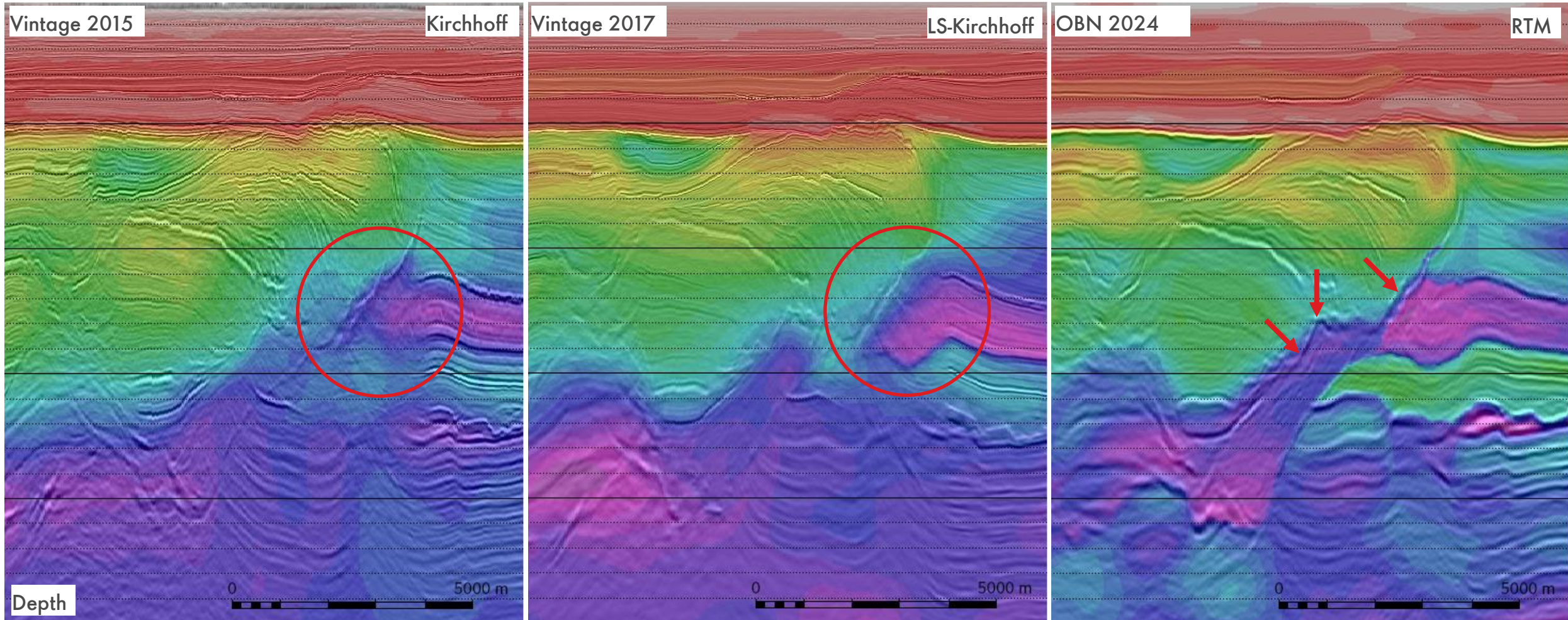




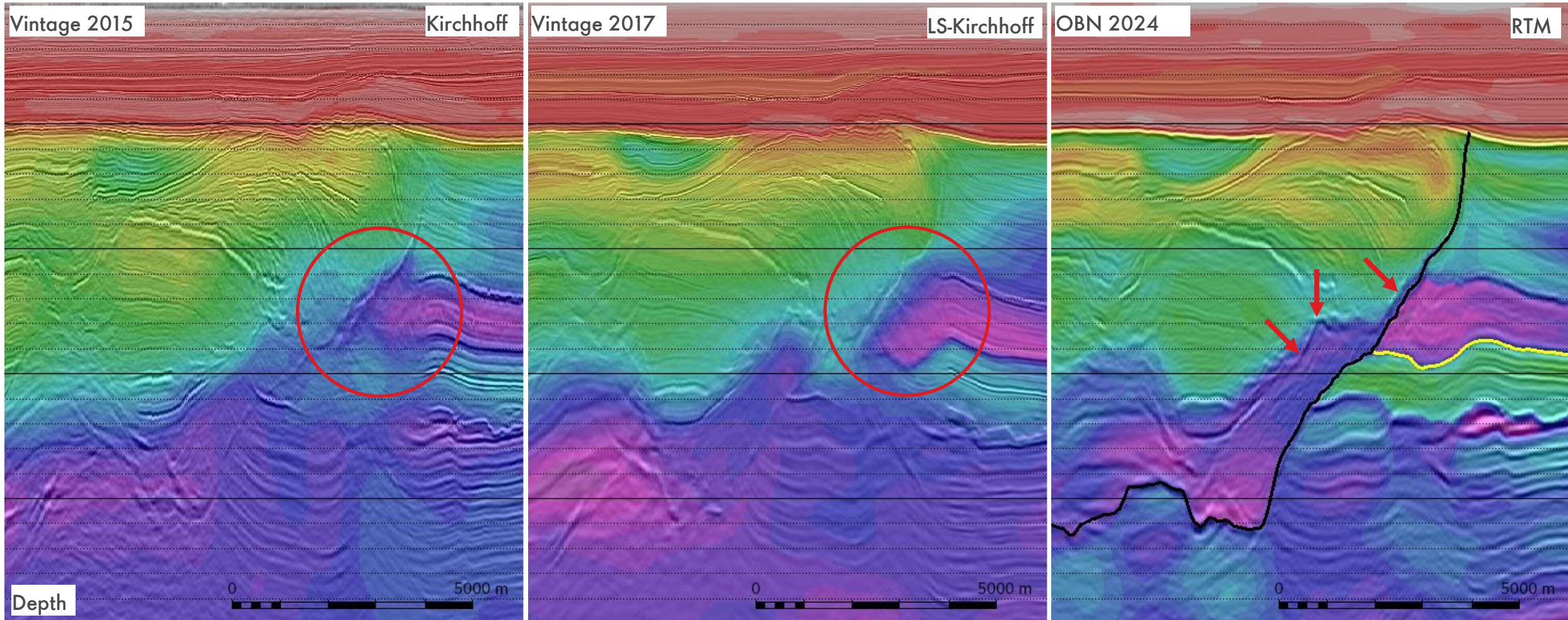
# Legacy NAZ RTM PreSDM (left) versus 2024 OBN LSRTM PreSDM (right)



# Legacy versus OBN: fast chalk and salt (geometric) velocity differences impacting imaging underneath and T2D



# Legacy versus OBN: fast chalk and salt (geometric) velocity differences impacting imaging underneath and T2D



# Summary

- The OBN acquisition successfully delivered broadband, WAZ, high fold and long offset data
- Focus on maintaining data integrity and highest HSSE standards in the face of operational challenges (principally due to the requirement of shooting seismic outside the summer season)
- Successful specific OBN pre-processing resulted in (multiple-free) broadband signal and excellent base for model building and Imaging
- Improved Imaging and T2D compared to vintage processing work due to:
  - Diving FWI and Reflection FWI given the available long offsets and low frequencies
  - Traveltime Tomography Inversion and Interpretative driven Top salt scenario Imaging
  - Velocity model calibration
  - High. freq. intermediate RTM's and LSRTM Imaging
  - More reliable amplitudes due to iterative LSRTM – potential to produce seismically-derived reservoir properties
- Key for success was the efficient collaboration between Wintershall, EBN, NAM and Shell

# Acknowledgments: EBN, NAM, Wintershall, Rock-Rose Energy, One-Dyas, Shell, Shearwater Geoservices & SLB

Sabine Korevaar	EBN
Johannes Rehling	EBN
Bas van der Es	EBN
Cees Van Eden	Shell
Jeroen Goudswaard	Shell
Xander Campman	Shell
Dhwajal Chavan	Shell
Dan Bright	Shell
Frans Smit	Shell
Jeroen Beishuizen	Shell
Juan Pi Alperin	Shell
Martin Dvorak	Shell
Ron Verrijp	Shell
Yuriy Aleksakhin	Wintershall
Marc Beller	Wintershall
SWGS marine crew and office support	Shearwater GeoServices
Galina Miasnikova, Federico Sokolowski and the SLB dedicated processing team for Shell	SLB
Katherine Ryan and subsea team	NAM
Klaas Bos	NAM
Sjouke de Boer	NAM
Hans Ardesch	NAM
Karel Bokhorst	NAM
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Abdullah Hamood	NAM
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