## An Idiot's Guide to the Economics of (Ultra) Deepwater Oil and Gas in Two Slides

By Robin Sherbourne 14 August 2025



US\$	Fir	nal I	nves	tme	nt _	5	5% F	: Oil Roya	lty			itial	Inve	estm	ent	Rec	oup	ed -	35%	% <b>Pe</b>	trole	eum	Inco	ome	Tax		+ AP	т ]	
		Decis	sion	(FID	)	1	1.5%	6 Exp	ort	Levy	/		Ī																
	+D	esig	n Ap	prov	/al							_																	
									,				7	7															
											R	ever	iue (	150,	,000	bop	d @	US				= US	\$4.1	billi	ion p	oa /			
																/						\ \s:	\$2/						
				,																									
		ratio sal a								Pro	duc	tion	(OpE	Ex) L	JS\$2	50 n	nillic	n pe	er ye	ar +	dec	omm	nissi	onin	g tru	ıst f	und		Dec
	ъ.,																												20
	Des	sign			De	velo	pme	ent																					$\supset$
	Des	sign				velo \$15																							mmi
	Des	sign			(US PSC	\$15	billi S, S	on) URF,	,																				missio
	Des	sign			(US PSC	\$15 ), SP	billi S, S	on) URF,	,																				missi
	Des	sign			(US PSC	\$15 ), SP	billi S, S	on) URF,	,																				missionin
'22	'23	ign '24	<b>'25</b>		(US PSC	\$15 ), SP	billi S, S	on) URF,	<b>'31</b>	<b>'32</b>	<b>'33</b>	<b></b>	<b>'35</b>	<b></b>	<b>.</b>	<b>'38</b>	<b>.</b>	·40	·41	·42	<b></b>	<b>'44</b>	<b>'45</b>	<b>'46</b>	<b>'47</b>	<b>'48</b>	<b>'49</b>	<b>'50</b>	missionin

## Do Interests Align?

Governm
Gov

Profit maximiser but price taker

Information asymmetry

Exploration expenditure undertaken at risk

Target IRR (higher than other available projects)

Recoup investment as quickly as possible

GOR and geology determine design

Cannot easily stop and start production

Gas reinjection integral to design

No routine flaring

Safety critical

Maximise local content (commercial sense)

Sell out at a later stage to junior

Regulator and also active participant (via Namcor)

Information asymmetry (expertise)

"Maintain at least 30% state carry" (SMIP)

Maximise tax revenue and profits (Namcor)

Recoup investment as quickly as possible

Needs to approve design

Minimise uncertainty wherever possible

Gas used for reinjection rather than sold

No routine flaring (Petroleum Act)

Safety critical

Maximise local content

Maximise reserve depletion