



# **Carbonate Reservoirs: Chapter 7. Evaporative Marine Diagenetic Environment (Developments in Sedimentology)**

*Clyde H. Moore, William J. Wade*

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Two marine evaporative settings are presented in detail: the sabkha and the evaporative lagoon/salina. In each, diagenetic pathways affect porosity evolution in associated marine carbonate sequences, with common dolomitization being a principal factor. Dolomitization is favored where hypersaline waters possess high Mg/Ca ratios (postprecipitation of Ca-bearing evaporites) and potential for hydrologic drive (high fluid densities). Surficial dolomites in modern environments are poorly ordered “protodolomites”. Modern marginal marine sabkha diagenetic environments are thin (<5m), narrow (<15km) settings transitional between marine and continental conditions; pore fluids within the sabkha have complex derivations. Partially dolomitized sabkha carbonate sediments are muddy, with limited reservoir porosity and permeability potential. Ancient dolomitic sabkha reservoirs in the Ordovician Red River (Williston Basin, USA) and Ellenburger (west Texas) are presented. Red River reservoirs' most attractive feature is vertical stacking of 20–30 sabkha cycles, offsetting the modest productivity from each. Ellenburger sabkha reservoirs possess “sweet spots” where porosity and permeability were enhanced by evaporite dissolution and/or natural fracturing. In contrast, reflux dolomitization adjacent to evaporative lagoons can impact large volumes of grainy carbonates, with superior petrophysical parameters. The following examples of ancient reflux dolomitization are presented: Guadalupian of the Permian Basin (west Texas) and Upper Jurassic Smackover Formation (east Texas). Additional examples of ancient evaporative lagoons and salinas linked to important reservoirs (dolomitized or not) are discussed, including the Elk Point Basin (western Canada), Michigan Basin, and Arab Formation giant reservoirs of the Middle East.

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