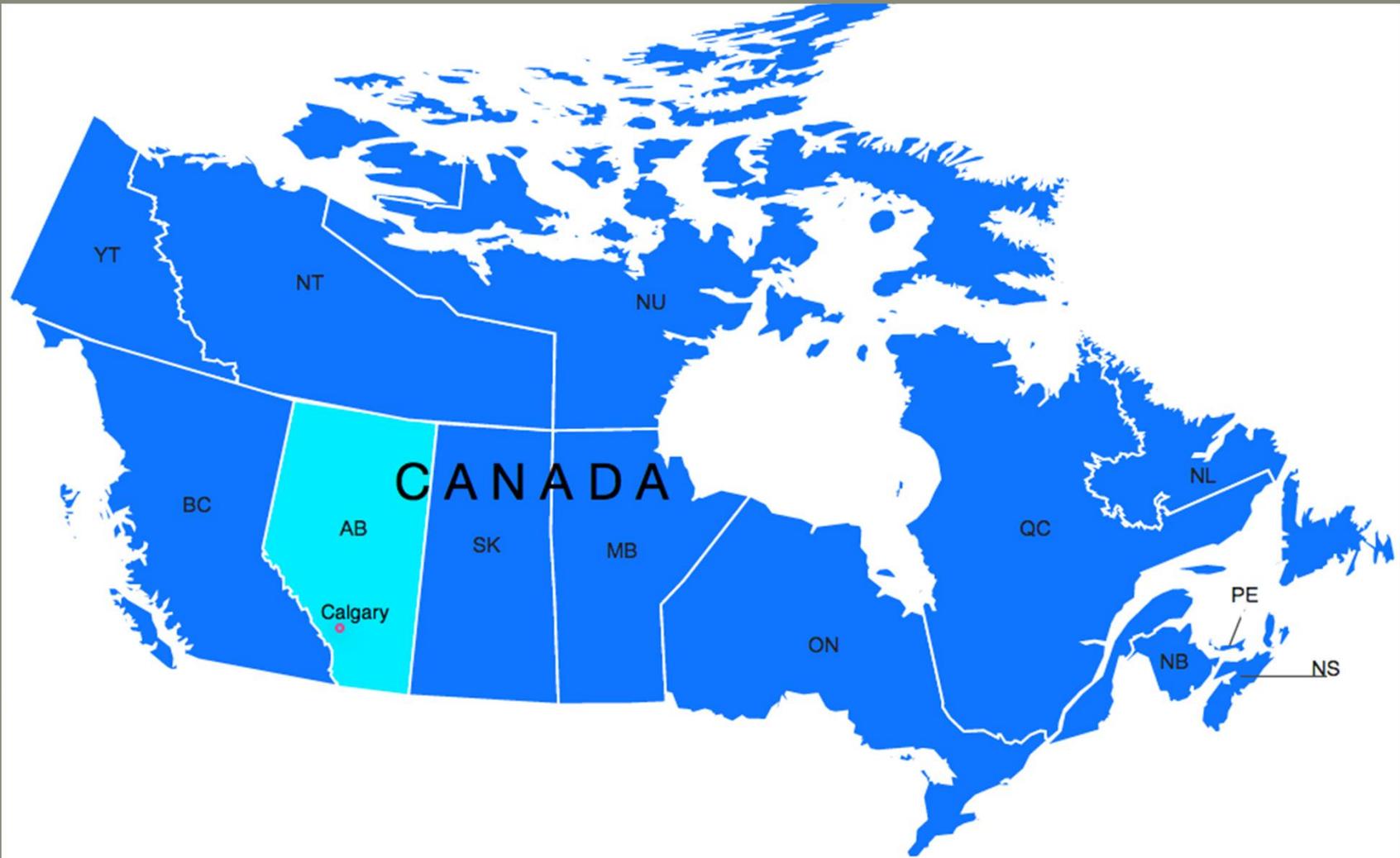


# When a Christmas tree is not really a Christmas tree

Terminology in the  
Oil and Gas industry

By Patricia B. McGrory, C.Tr.







# Importance of technical translation

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- 90% of the world's total translation output each year
- Texts into different languages due to international and regional laws, directives, and regulations

# Misconceptions

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- Not as exciting or attractive
- An exercise in specialized terminology

# Misconceptions

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- “All about terminology”
  - know the text structures in the different languages
  - know the LSP
  - know the subject area

# Translator's expertise and skills

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- ◉ subject knowledge
- ◉ writing skills
- ◉ research skills
- ◉ knowledge of text types

# Subject knowledge and terminology

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The Oil and Gas Industry

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“Go check the mud weight at the possum belly and write it on the report on top of the knowledge box in the doghouse”

# The basics

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Oil, petroleum, natural gas, hydrocarbons  
and crude

# Hydrocarbons

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- ◉ Combine to form many different compounds

# Petroleum

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- Extracted hydrocarbons from rocks within the earth (from Latin "rock oil")
- Consists of hydrocarbons (hydrogen and carbon) of various molecular weights and other organic compounds; sulphur
- "Crude oil" : the oil that comes out of the ground and it is in unrefined state

# Petroleum

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- Versatile and powerful source of energy
- Non-renewable
- Fuel for internal combustion engine (Karl Benz in 1885-86)
- Fuels the machines of our industrialized society
- Raw material for plastics, paints, fertilizers, detergents, cosmetics, insecticides

# The Oil and Gas Industry

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- Upstream
- Midstream
- Downstream

# Upstream

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- Exploration and production (E&P)

# Midstream

---

- Processing, storage, marketing and transportation of commodities such as crude oil, natural gas, natural gas liquids (NGLs, mainly ethane, propane and butane) and sulphur

# Downstream

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- Oil refineries, petrochemical plants, petroleum products distributors, retail outlets and natural gas distribution companies

# Where do we find oil?

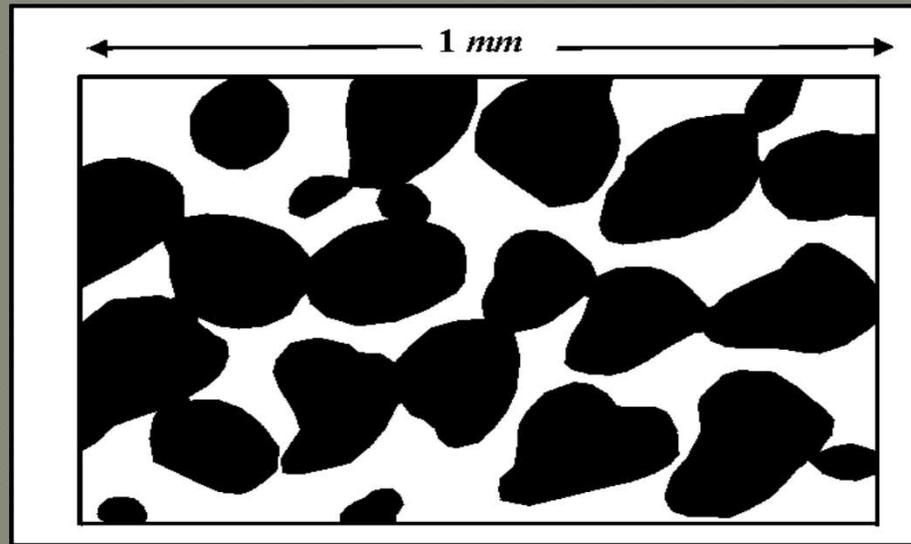
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- Subsurface
- First, three types of rocks
  - Igneous
  - Metamorphic
  - Sedimentary

# Where do we find oil?

- Sedimentary rocks

- Porosity
- In pore spaces between the grains of porous sedimentary rocks



# Where do we find oil?

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- Geologic structures become hydrocarbon traps
- Geologists and geophysicists find these geologic structures which are potential hydrocarbon traps and thereby recommend drilling locations.

# How do we know there is oil?

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- Contour maps
- Surface mapping
- Seismic surveys
  - Doodlebugger
  - Jugs

# Before drilling

## Doodlebugger



<https://i.pinimg.com>

# Before drilling

A jug or geophone



<http://www.sercel.com>

# Before drilling

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- ◉ Access to land
- ◉ Landmen
- ◉ Negotiations

---

The lucky guess game of finding oil begins  
with:

Drilling a wildcat



# Drilling

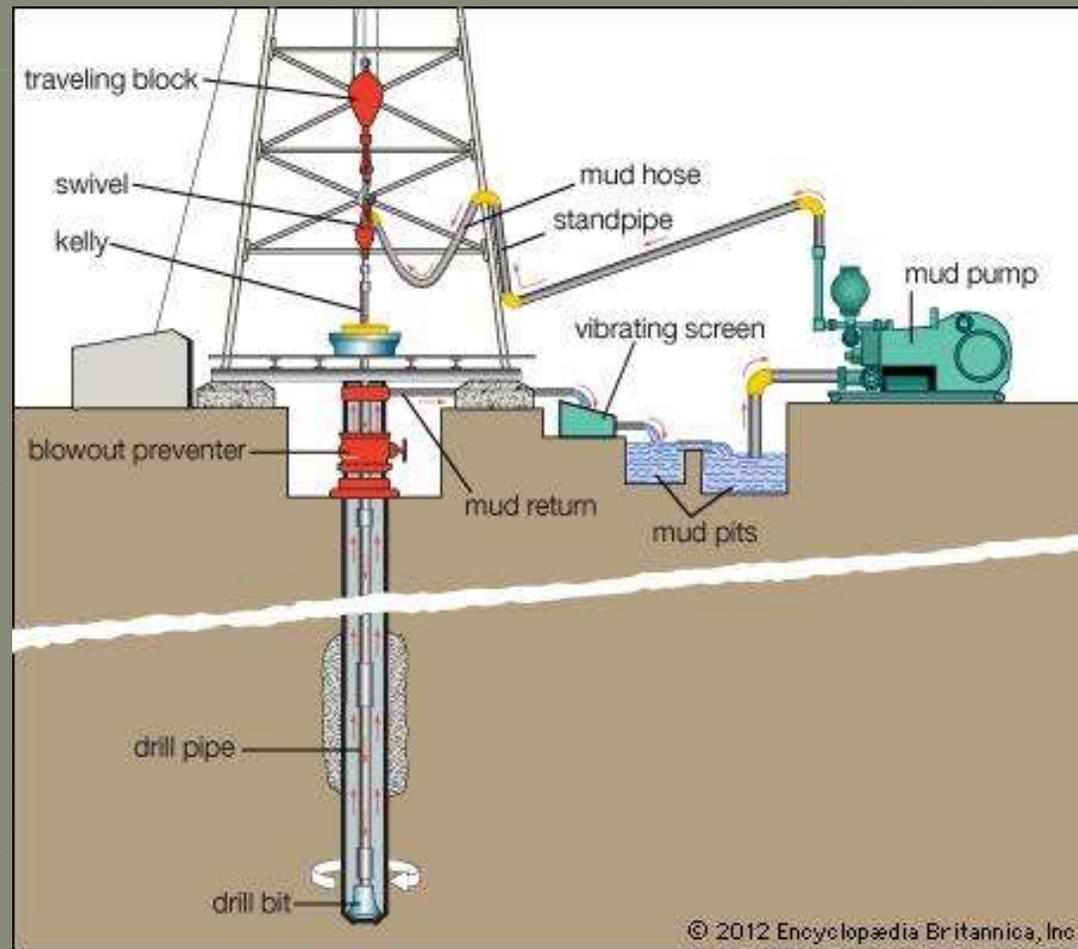
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- A wildcat well is also known as an exploration well.
- When more wells need to be drilled...they are called  
Delineation wells

# Drilling

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- ◉ Bore a hole (well bore) into the ground
- ◉ Spudding
- ◉ Surface casing
- ◉ Get to a target rock formation
- ◉ Installing a BOP



<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/171655/drilling-mud>

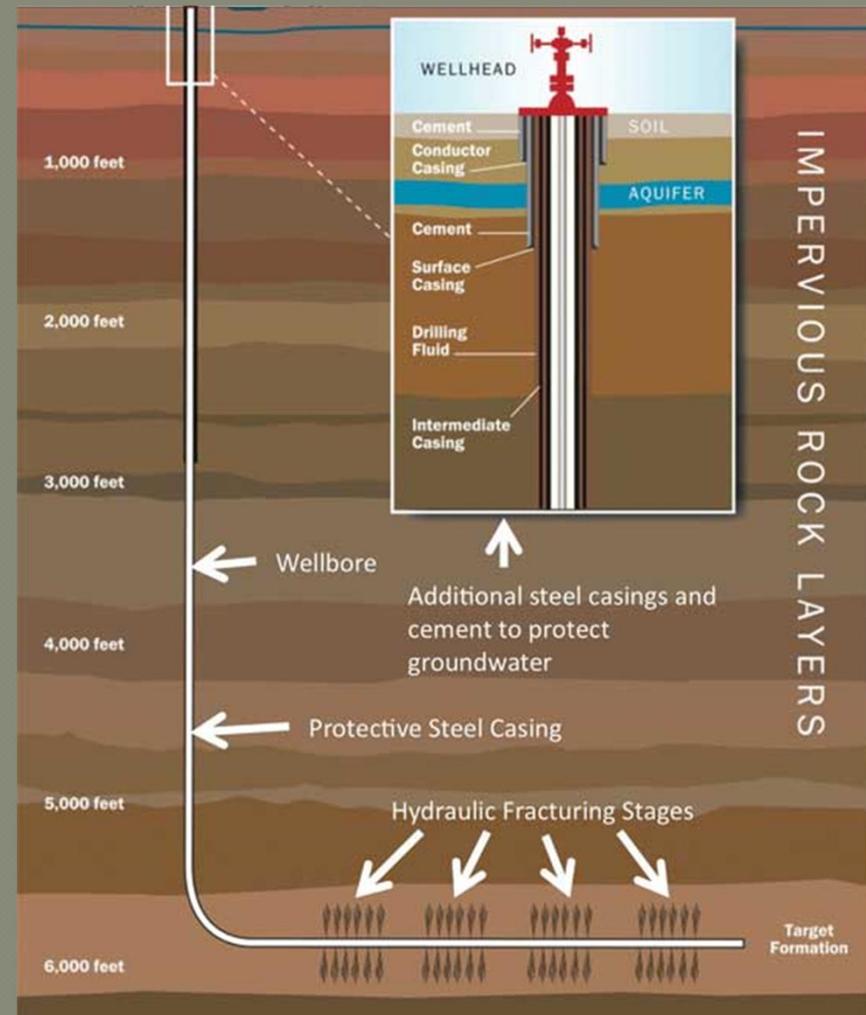
# Drilling

- Installing surface casing



# Drilling

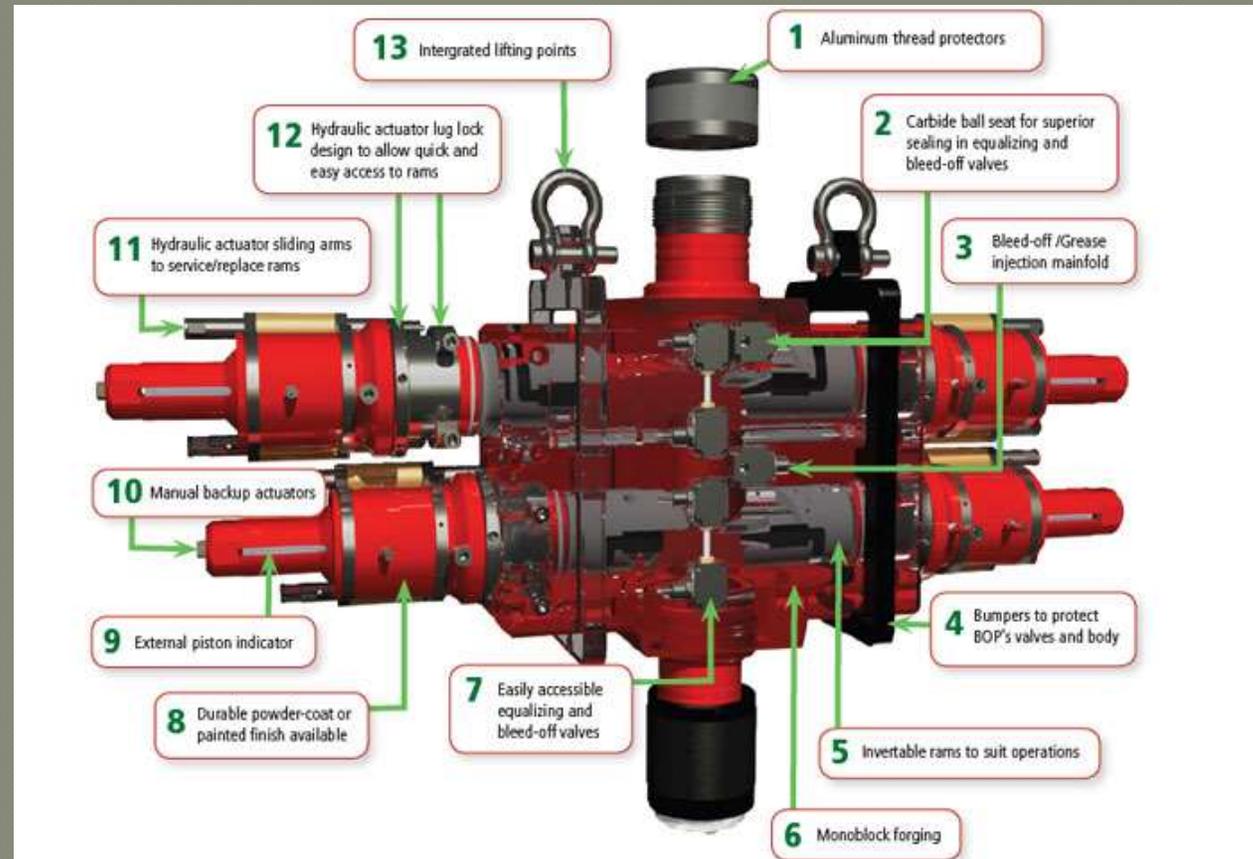
- Targeting a rock formation



<http://www.kgs.ku.edu>

# Drilling

## BOP



<http://www.leespecialties.com/product/hydraulic-blowout-preventers/>

# Drilling

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- ◉ Installing a BOP prevents...

# Drilling

## Blowouts!



<http://www.energyindustryphotos.com>

# Jargon on the drilling rig

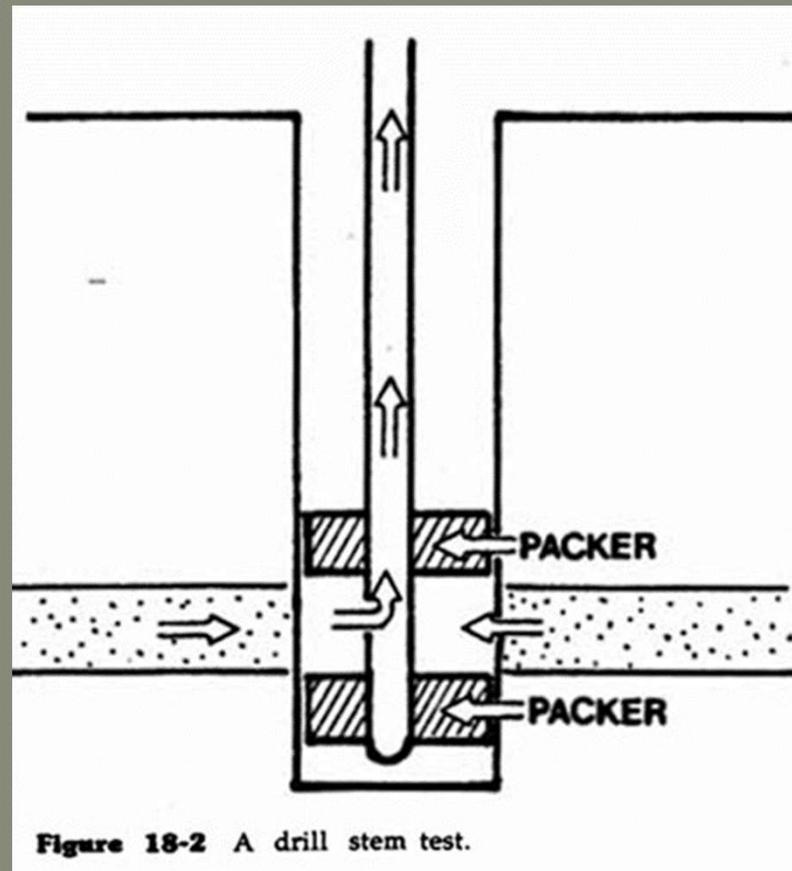
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- DST or Drill Stem Test

- Determines:

- flow capacity and
- type of fluids (oil, natural gas, water) in the formation

# DST



# Jargon on the drilling rig

## Fishing

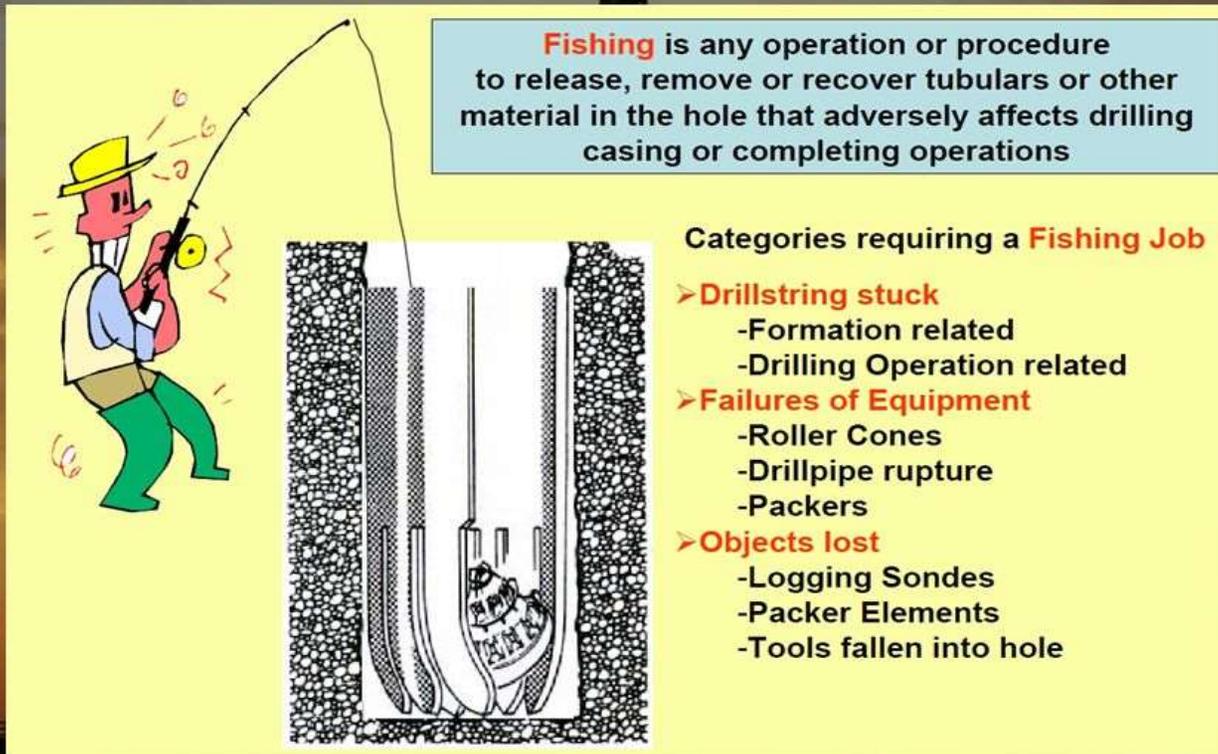
Not this...



# Jargon on the drilling rig

## Causes for Fishing Operations

**Fishing** is any operation or procedure to release, remove or recover tubulars or other material in the hole that adversely affects drilling casing or completing operations



### Categories requiring a **Fishing Job**

- **Drillstring stuck**
  - Formation related
  - Drilling Operation related
- **Failures of Equipment**
  - Roller Cones
  - Drillpipe rupture
  - Packers
- **Objects lost**
  - Logging Sondes
  - Packer Elements
  - Tools fallen into hole

# Jargon on the drilling rig

But this...

## Fishing Tools Wireline Spear

Is a junk retrieval tool designed to retrieve wireline and wire rope from the wellbore.

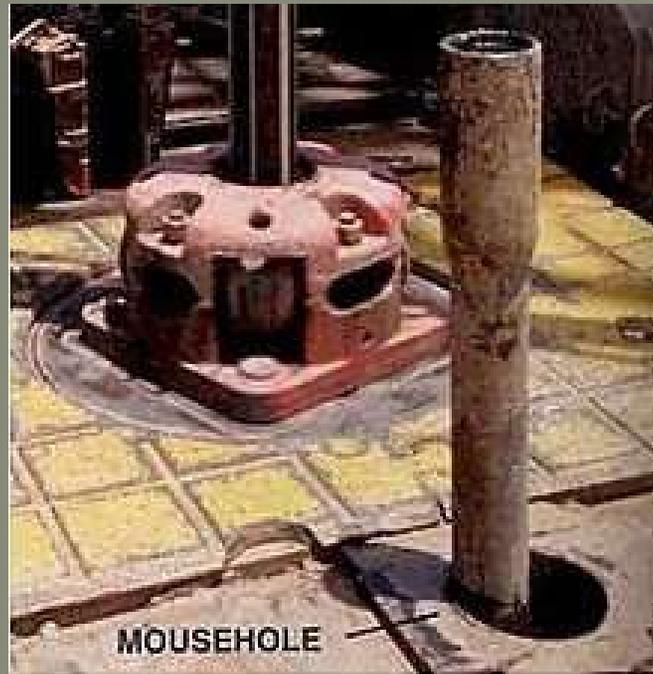
The spear is made up and run in hole, upon reaching the wire to be retrieved the spear is lowered slowly allowing the barbs to engage the wire. The spear is then lifted out of the hole.



# Jargon on the drilling rig



## ● Mousehole



<https://en.wikipedia.org>

# Jargon on the drilling rig

- But don't confuse it with a



# Jargon on the drilling rig

- A rathole is a hole in the rig floor, 30 to 35 feet deep, lined with casing that projects above the floor, into which the kelly is placed when hoisting operations are in progress.



<https://www.osha.gov>

# Jargon on the drilling rig

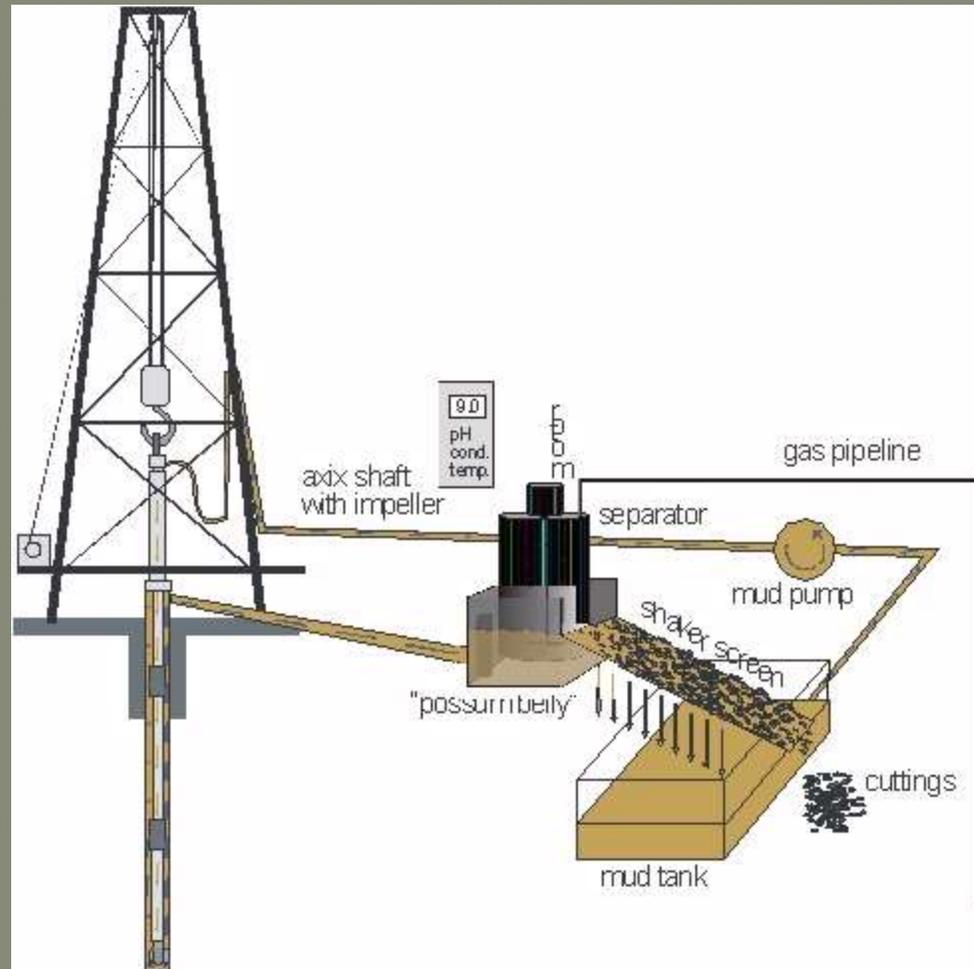
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“Go check the mud weight at the **possum belly** and write it on the report on top of the knowledge box in the **doghouse**”



# Jargon on the drilling rig

- Possum belly



# Jargon on the drilling rig

- ◉ Doghouse



<http://www.aogr.com>

# Jargon on the drilling rig

- ◉ Doghouse



<http://fuelfix.com/>

# Drilling- Rig hierarchy



<https://blog.trinidaddrilling.com>

# Drilling- Rig hierarchy

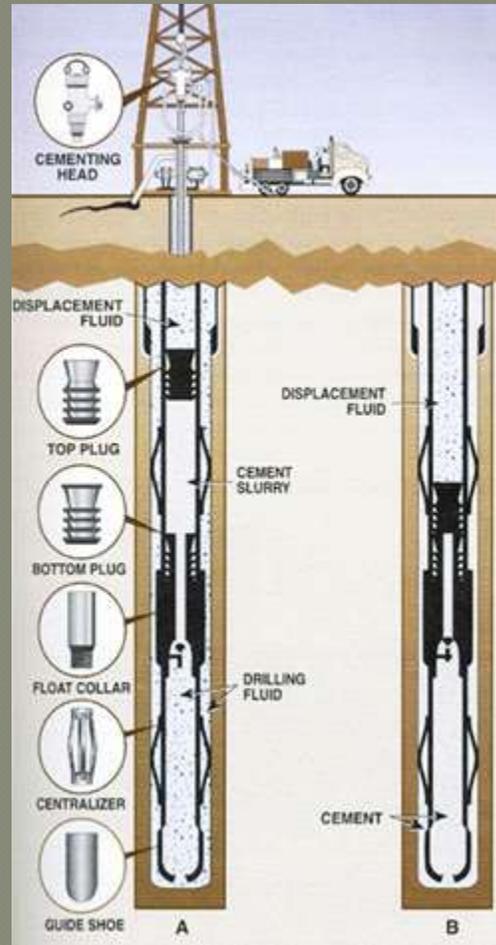
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- Driller
- Derrickman
- Roughneck
- Roustabout

# Completion

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- Casing
- Cementing
- Perforating



<http://www.rigzone.com>

# Completion

- Christmas tree



# Completion

- Christmas tree is not the wellhead

Christmas Tree



Wellhead

<https://www.croftsystems.net>

# Works Consulted

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# Glossaries

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- Schlumberger Oilfield Glossary
  - <http://glossary.oilfield.slb.com/>
- Glossary of Energy and Financial Terms
  - <http://www.chevron.com/documents>
- Geology.com
- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
  - <http://www.capp.ca/library/glossary>

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*Thank you*  
for your time  
and attention!

