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Shoreface sandy bodies stranded within upper Quaternary Transgressive Systems Tracts; examples from the Salerno Bay, (Tyrrhenian Sea, South Italy)

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This study is based on the interpretation of about 200 km of very-high resolution single-channel seismic profiles (sub-bottom CHIRP) acquired on the continental shelf of Salerno offshore, Eastern Tyrrhenian Sea.

Stratigraphic reconstruction and mapping of the Late-Quaternary sequence in the study area allowed for recognition of thickness and stacking patterns of latest Pleistocene-Holocene stratigraphic units and associated erosional – depositional features which record the relative sea level variation between ca.100 ky BP and the present day.

In the Salerno bay are recognised stacking transgressive units and progradational paralic deposits arranged as elongated prisms, locally preserved at morphological steps below the transgressive ravinement surface; these stratigraphic architectures were formed during the rapid sea level rise that occurred between ca. 18 ky BP and 7-5 ky BP. These bars are mostly represented as sandy bodies deposed along all the studied continental shelf during the still standing phase of coast line shift landward.