Size and salinity of lakes, and the ocean(s) II

This cluttered plot is the annotated analog of a more straightforward version show in Part I of this pair.

- **Saline Lakes**: Saline lakes are conventionally defined as those lakes with salinity greater than 3 ppt. Thus any lake visibly plotting above the horizontal gray dashed line at the bottom of this plot is a saline lake.

- **Caspian Sea**: The Caspian Sea is arguably an ocean, in that it is a remnant of the Mesozoic Tethys Seaway and has some oceanic, or oceanic-like, crust. If it is an ocean, Earth has two oceans, the Caspian and the much larger body of water that covers 71% of Earth's surface.

- **Dead Sea**: Despite its comparatively small salinity at 13 ppt, the Caspian Sea's exceptional size among lakes means that it contains more than 85% of the salt collectively held by Earth's saline lakes.

- **Great Salt Lake**: The lakes of great salinity are all endorheic lakes (lakes from which there is no outflow), presumably because outflow would allow loss of salt and thus would preclude accumulation of great salinity.

- **Black Sea**: The Black Sea is generally considered a part of the global ocean, but it is a strange part. It is connected to the Mediterranean Sea, itself only a restricted part of the global ocean, by the Bosporus and Dardanelles straits. The Bosporus at its narrowest is only 700 meters wide and at its shallowest only 36 meters deep. The result is such a restricted part of the ocean that inflow from eastern European rivers makes the Black Sea's salinity less than two-thirds that of the global ocean.

- **Lake Maracaibo**: As a lake, the Caspian Sea has an area that is more than 13% of the area of all the world's lakes. The Caspian is generally considered a large endorheic lake, but it does drain into the smaller Kara Bogaz - hence its indeterminant status here. Despite its comparatively small salinity at 13 ppt, the Caspian Sea's exceptional size among lakes means that it contains more than 85% of the salt collectively held by Earth's saline lakes.

Data and information are from Meybeck, in Lerman, Imboden, & Gat (1995), Livingstone (1964), and Wikipedia. Regarding the floor of the Caspian Sea, begin with Allen et al. (2002) *Geology*, v. 30, p. 775-778.