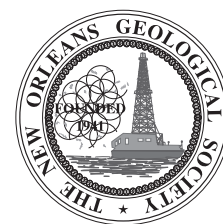


# NOGS LOG

WWW.NOGS.ORG



Official Publication of the New Orleans Geological Society, Inc.

October 2006

Volume 47, Number 4

## OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

### NOGS Events

#### October 9 - NOGS Luncheon

Dr. Roy Dokka, of the Center for Geoinformatics, Louisiana State University, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, will present "Subsidence of South Louisiana: Measurement, Causes, and Human Implications."

(See Page 7 for Abstract and Biography)

#### LE PAVILLON HOTEL

Check with concierge or  
desk for location

Lunch served at 11:30am

#### ADMISSION:

with reservation ..... \$25.00

without reservation ..... \$30.00

Student Member with reservation ..... Free

#### November 4 - NOGS Fall Field Trip

"Hurricane Katrina – What Happened?" tour by Dr. Stephen Nelson, of Tulane University

See announcement on page 17

#### November 6 - NOGS Luncheon

Dr. Tim Matava, a consultant, will present on the need of regional studies as related to developing the Barnett Shale.

## NOGS Announces Website Contest

Sharpen your investigative skills by finding the hidden NOGS question on our website, [www.nogs.org](http://www.nogs.org), and correctly answering the question to win a special NOGS prize pack! You must be a member to play, and the first three members answering correctly will win. Look for this graphic to help you find the question for this month. Happy surfing, and good luck!



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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GCAGS Call for Papers .....	Page 15
N.O.G.S. Fall 2006 Field Trip Announcement .....	Page 17



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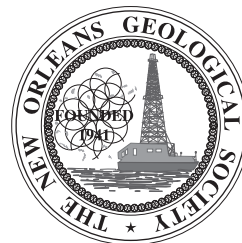
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E-mail: [info@nogs.org](mailto:info@nogs.org) • Website: [www.nogs.org](http://www.nogs.org)

The office is located at Suite 300, 810 Union Street, New Orleans, LA 70112.

Correspondence and all luncheon reservations should be sent to the above address.

Sent to press on September 18, 2006.

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*from the President*

## “Membership”

There is no NOGS without its members. When the hurricane party planned for the West Bank failed, we promised you some demographics on membership. This is very important. Therefore, it's my pleasure to turn over the President's column this month to Membership Chairman Penne Rappold who will present some new and surprising data. Thanks Penne! *Michael Fein*

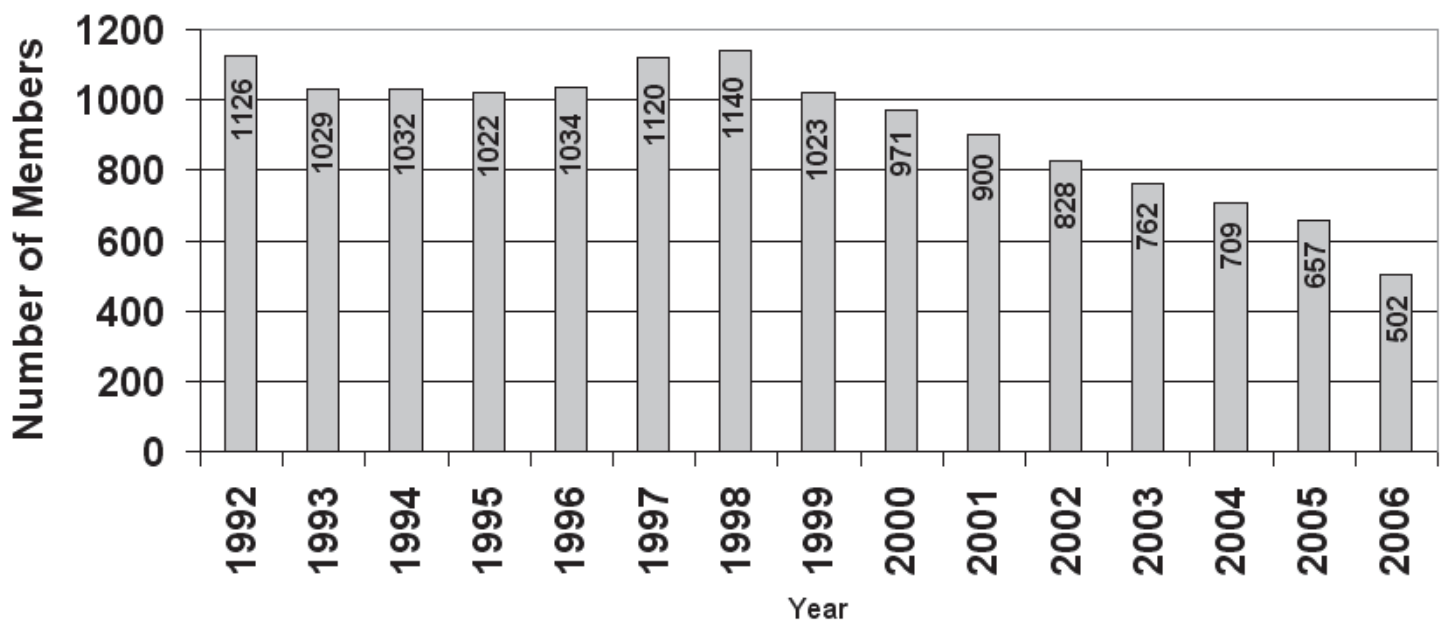
A society of any type is only as good as its members, and through the years NOGS has definitely been one of the best. However, recent trends in membership, no doubt caused by many factors out of our control, have resulted in a dramatic decrease in enrollment in the society. The following chart is a historical look at membership since 1992. The society reached a recent peak enrollment in 1998 with 1140 members and has seen a steady decline

since that time with the largest decrease in membership in the past year. Our current membership of 502 (as of 8/28/2006) is a 24% decrease or 155 fewer members from 2005 and less than half what it was just eight years ago.

Several major industry events over the past eight years have had an adverse impact on NOGS membership, such as BP-Amoco merger in 1998, Exxon-Mobil merger in 1999, Chevron buyout of Texaco in 2001, Exxon move to Houston in 2003 and most recently Hurricane Katrina in 2005. There are always factors out of our control, but we all have a stake in the future of NOGS and we are the only ones who can reverse or at least stabilize this downward trend. Have you renewed your membership? Are there co-workers or colleagues that you come across in the course of normal business that you could invite to join NOGS? An active and thriving geologic society benefits us all.

-- continued on page 8 --

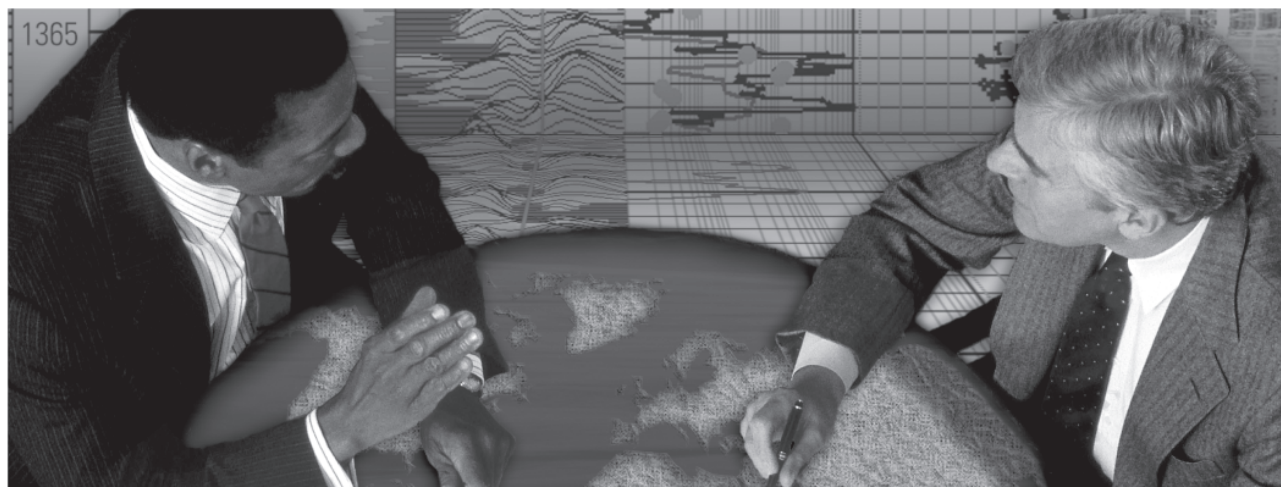
## NOGS Membership by Year



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## October 9 Luncheon Presentation

### Subsidence of South Louisiana: Measurement, Causes, and Human Implications

presented by

**Dr. Roy K. Dokka**

Louisiana State University

#### ABSTRACT

It is well known that the modern Mississippi River delta has formed over the last ~8,000 yrs. The landscape is due to the interplay between subsidence, accretion, and global sea level rise. Flooding builds land by sediment deposition and stimulates wetland biologic processes. The delta is composed of lobes that formed as the river shifted position with time. As a lobe was abandoned, accretion ceased yet continued to subside. Over time, the lobe is slowly eroded and inundated by the Gulf. Although deltas generally do not grow much above sea level, the surface of the MRD has accreted sufficiently over the past several thousand years to maintain its position with respect to a slowly sea level. Thus, periodic river flooding of the delta region is an essential component in maintaining this landscape. Enter large numbers of Homo sapiens beginning in the 1600s. Because such a landscape is not favorable for human habitation, river levees were built. Current levees were built by order of Congress to benefit the entire USA. Levees prevent flooding, but have the unintended consequence of stopping accretion. Today, subsidence and slow eustatic rise continue. It is, therefore critical that subsidence be correctly measured and its origins be understood.

Highly precise and accurate geodetic measurements demonstrate that land areas and coastal wetlands of the northern Gulf of Mexico basin are sinking at rates unanticipated by

conventional geological methods that record change over 100s to 1000s of years. Modern subsidence of south Louisiana is due to the integrated effect of multiple natural and anthropomorphic processes. The processes include flexure of the crust and regional mantle outflow produced by loads of the MRD, Mississippi alluvial valley, and water loads from rising sea levels since the late Pleistocene, faulting, compaction, oil, gas, and groundwater extraction, oxidation and drying of organic soils due to levee and drainage projects, and probably the motions of subsurface salt. Although heralded by USGS as a primary cause of subsidence, data do not support oil and gas extraction as a substantial contributor, even at type areas.

What about the near future of coastal Louisiana? Because subsidence and eustatic rise will continue, much of the coast will eventually be inundated. Because of their low elevation, the wetlands will be first to be lost, followed in time by the coastal land where people live and work. Long before the latter happens, however, the increasing vulnerability to hurricane flooding will cause people and businesses to abandon the coast for safer ground. Official mitigation plans to save Louisiana's coast need to be overhauled that includes a more realistic landscape evolution model based on accurate measurements of subsidence.

#### BIOGRAPHY

**Dr. Roy K. Dokka** received his Ph. D. from the University of Southern California in 1980. He joined Louisiana State University as a structural geologist and was the Adolphe G. Gueymard Professor of Geology until 2001. After turning to the "dark side", Dr. Dokka was named the Fruehan Endowed Professor of Engineering at LSU. He also serves as Executive Director, Center for GeoInformatics and is Director, Louisiana Spatial Center

(LSRC). The LSRC is a partnership with the National Geodetic Survey-NOAA focused on creating a state-of-the-art positional infrastructure for the region.

Dr. Dokka is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and was awarded a lifetime honorary membership in Alpha Lambda Delta, the National Freshman Honor Society.

**THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 4, SO CALL THE NOGS OFFICE - TODAY!**

#### “And Looking Ahead...”

The next luncheon will be November 6. Dr. Tim Matava, a consultant, will present on the need of regional studies as related to developing the Barnett Shale. Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980 or use the e-link on the NOGS website ([www.nogs.org](http://www.nogs.org)) to make your reservation.

Taking a closer look at the demographics of the current 2006 membership rolls, the following charts show the geographic locations where NOGS members work and live.

Looking at these charts, the largest single group of members both live and work outside the greater New Orleans area, but have maintained their support for NOGS. Most members in the greater metropolitan area still work in or near downtown New Orleans, with the second largest number working in Jefferson Parish. However, more members make Metairie/Kenner their home than New Orleans with the Northshore region coming in a close third. With shifting demographics, the society needs to recognize and serve the needs of its members where they both work and live. With that in mind, future society functions should be balanced between these geographic areas to give the largest number of members the opportunity to participate. How that will happen is up to the Board and society members to decide, but one idea might be to rotate the luncheon meetings and social functions between New Orleans, Metairie/Kenner and the Northshore.

Finally, recognition is due the following members for their dedication to NOGS. Did you know that NOGS has been fortunate enough to have 32 members with 50 or more years of continuous membership? The following individuals are the latest additions to the 50+ years club:

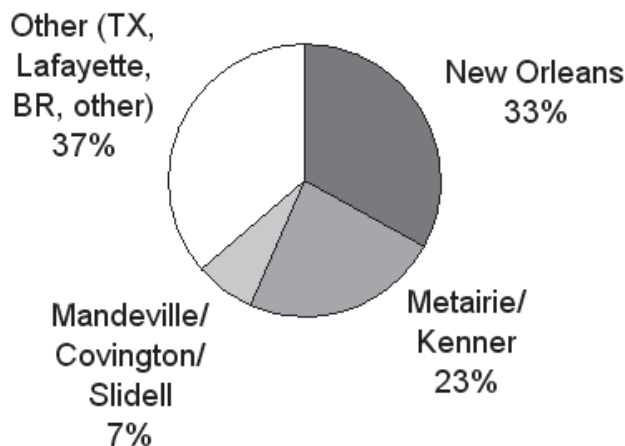
John Dekker	Owen Brown
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Even more noteworthy is NOGS member, Lawrence Eustis, who has maintained his membership in NOGS since 1940. What an accomplishment!!

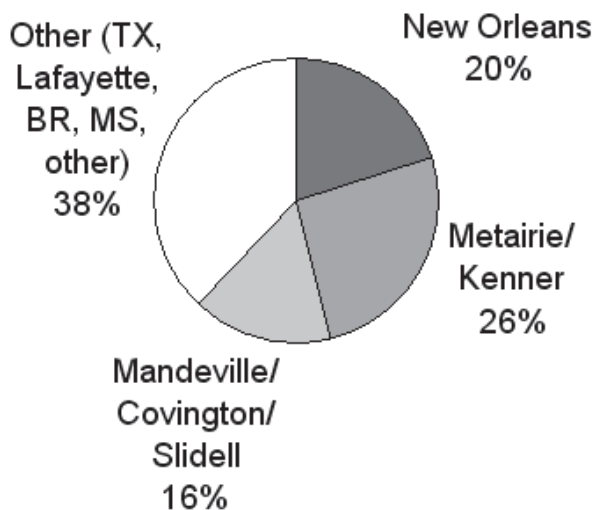
Congratulations and thank you to all these individuals for their continued dedication to NOGS. It is members like these that have ensured the health and vitality of NOGS over the years. Members like them and all of you make participation in NOGS a privilege and a real pleasure.

Penne M. Rappold  
NOGS Membership Committee

## Where NOGS Members Work



## Where NOGS Members Live

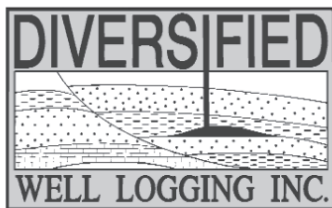






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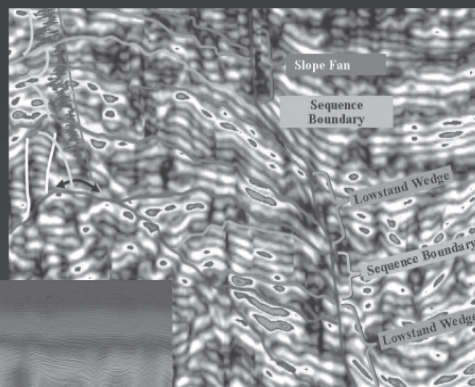
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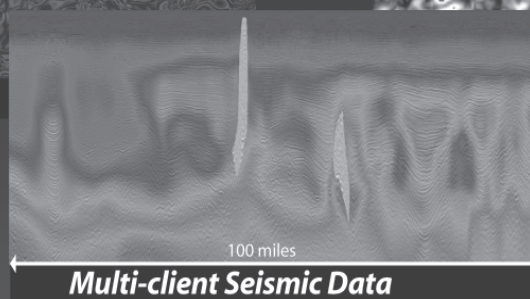
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# BLAST FROM NOGS PAST

With NOGS in the midst of membership push, this month we will recall some past membership news and notes.

10 Years Ago (Oct. 1996): Al Baker's initial President's column announced a membership drive after noting that NOGS membership had dropped from 1500 to 1000 in the previous ten years. However, optimism abounded in his observation that "the positive signs we are now seeing in the Petroleum Industry suggest there is no better time than the present for the Society to attract new members to our rolls."

20 Years Ago (Oct. 1986): The state of the industry at the time may make this understandable in retrospect, but Richard A. Edmund lamented the lack of participation by the Membership in all events in his President's column. "In spite of great speakers and good food, our luncheons attract 10% or less of the membership. A recent field trip to the Gulf coast couldn't even fill one bus for a one-day trip. Social functions only attract about 5% of the members in spite of a lot of hard work by the committee and sales staff."

30 Years Ago (Oct. 1976): The President of the Saxony Restaurant issued a sincere apology letter for the "mishap" at the September 1976 NOGS meeting. "Regrettable mistakes can occur with food suppliers or ourselves. I can assure you that every possible precaution has been taken to prevent a reoccurrence of such an unfortunate incident in the future."

65 Years Ago (Oct. 1941): The New Orleans Geological Society was founded. HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

-Tim Piwowar



---

## NOGS CONTACT LIST

--- continued from page 3 ---

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2009	William Whiting	Consultant	504-947-8495	bootscon@aol.com
2009(a)	Nancye Dawers	Tulane University	504-862-3200	ndawers@tulane.edu
2009(a)	David Cooke	MMS	504-736-2609	david.cooke@mms.gov

✎ **Pluto Marginalized:** The following is my opinion.....Much talk in the press lately regarding the reclassification of Pluto as an asteroid did not sit well with me. How can you tell me Pluto is no longer a planet? Since first hearing of the demotion, I had a sense that something very un-American was going on. In the space.com website my suspicions were confirmed. As it turns out, Catherine Cesarsky, the president of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) presided over the coup. The controversy seems to be rooted in the dilemma over 2003 UB313, an object larger than Pluto which orbits the sun that was well on its way to becoming the 10th planet. The Astronomical community recognized a potential problem if additional objects are discovered that require planetary status - where does it end? In her own words "We knew in advance that no matter how this decision would come out, a part of the astronomical community would be disagreeing. The intense debate at the 2006 General Assembly was very healthy and exactly intended to make as large a fraction of the community as possible, agree with the decision. In this we succeeded." So there you go. Pluto - victim of globalization. I just think it should have stayed a planet. I mean since I was a kid Pluto held a certain symbolism that there is eternal hope for the underdog, and maybe validation that the American spirit is not just an earthly fad, but instead a divine order of nature based the strength of individuality, exemplified by the little rocky guy out there beyond the orbit of the great gaseous giants - not just a moon, but a planet...with its own moons. The least they could have done is keep Pluto's planetary status in tact as the type-representative of all Kuiper-related large planetary-like objects. 75 years as a planet is hard to erase. Of course this will probably breed a whole subculture of Plutonians - soldiers of the lost cause, refusing to let it go.

✎ **Largest Earthquake in Louisiana** - Near Napoleonville, Assumption Parish, Louisiana, 1930 10 19 12:17 UTC, Magnitude 4.20, Intensity VI. "The earthquake damaged chimneys and broke windows at Napoleonville and cracked plaster at White Castle, northwest of Napoleonville. Many people in the area rushed into the streets."

Abridged from Seismicity of the United States, 1568-1989 (Revised), by Carl W. Stover and Jerry L. Coffman, U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 1527, United States Government Printing Office, Washington: 1993.

Source: [http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/states/events/1930\\_10\\_19.php](http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/states/events/1930_10_19.php)

✎ **Most Recent Earthquake in the Gulf Coast** - Summarized from an article published on the USGS website by Diana Noserale on September 11, 2006, entitled Did You Feel Yesterday's Earthquake?

A strong magnitude 6.0 earthquake located offshore Florida (about 250 miles south-southwest of Apalachicola, FL) occurred on September 10, 2006. It was widely felt from Texas to Florida, and as far north as North Carolina with reports into the USGS from 5,000 people from about 1,000 zip codes. The earthquake, which was centered beneath the Gulf of Mexico, was classified as a "mid-plate" quake since it was located away from active plate boundaries, and probably represented the release of long-term tectonic stresses. This type of earthquake is not well understood since it cannot be associated with a specific fault system. In regards to tsunamis: the waters of the Gulf of Mexico are relatively shallow and not ideal for generation of such waves, and the broad shelf acts as a break to long-period tsunami waves according to the article published on the USGS website.

Source: <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=1552>

**Robert Rooney**





# SOCIETY FOR EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

## 30<sup>th</sup> Annual

# MINERAL AUCTION



### ***When and Where?***

**-Friday, October 20, 2006-**

**-Barbeque starts at 5:00 p.m.-**

**-Live Auction starts at 6:30 p.m.-**

**-The yard between the Geology and Engineering buildings.-**



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- ▶ Use forms inserted in the Annual Meeting Announcement
- ▶ Contact SEG Business Office, and we will fax the forms to you

▶ Advance Registration ..... Opens – 6 July 2006

▶ Housing Reservations .... Opens – 1 July 2006

### TECHNICAL LUNCHEONS AND MEETINGS

All 2006 Annual Meeting registrants are welcome to attend the Technical Luncheons and Receptions held at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Seating is limited.

#### Tuesday, 3 October:

##### GRAVITY AND MAGNETICS LUNCHEON

Speaker: Dr. Anthony D. Socci Topic: Near-Term and Long-Term Effects of Climate Change

##### NEAR-SURFACE GEOPHYSICS SECTION MEETING AND RECEPTION

#### Wednesday, 4 October:

##### DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION LUNCHEON

Speaker: Nader C. Dutta Topic: Natural Gas Hydrates: Detection and Quantification of This Potential Hydrocarbon Resource and Drilling Hazard

##### MINING AND GEOTHERMAL LUNCHEON

Speaker: Mike Doggett Topic: The Economics of Mineral Discovery in the Early 21st Century



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### VISUALIZATION THEATRE

This year SEG will feature an 80-seat Open Visualization Theatre located in the Exhibit Hall. This open-theatre concept will provide attendees to the conference with three days of presentations covering most visualization solutions that are currently available to the E&P industry.



### WORKSHOPS

Convention Workshops are offered after the Technical Sessions close on Thursday and continue through Friday. Entry into any or all workshops is available for only US\$60 with advance registration. Students are admitted free with their "Student" badge.

#### Thursday, 5 October:

- SQUID Technology for Geophysical Exploration
- Integration of Seismic and Electromagnetic Measurements
- Modern Acoustic Logs: What Are We Measuring?
- The 10 Feb 2006, Magnitude 5.2 Gulf of Mexico Earthquake: Insights and Implications

#### Friday, 6 October:

- Geophysics of Heavy Oil
- The Value of Borehole Seismic to Reservoir Characterization
- Stress Effects on Velocities
- How Inaccurate Is My Interpretation? A Workshop on Uncertainty
- Geophysical Methods and Techniques Applied to Uranium Exploration
- The University Partnership: Healthy or Not?



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# CALL FOR PAPERS



## Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies and Gulf Coast Section of SEPM

**57<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, Corpus Christi, Texas  
October 21-23, 2007**

**HOST: CORPUS CHRISTI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

With our presence on the sparkling Gulf Coast of Texas, the Corpus Christi Geological Society has set the theme of the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of GCAGS as EXPLORING THE THIRD COAST. Better product pricing has sparked a tremendous growth in our industry. We anticipate papers that will reflect aspects of today's exploration and exploitation and will stand as a legacy to those just entering our profession. In keeping with our recent publication, *Wooden Rigs, Iron Men – History of South Texas Oil and Gas*, we would like to create a SPECIAL SESSION specifically for historical purposes – “INDUSTRY HISTORIES.” This is the time for all you old-timers to record your memories of significant discoveries, drillers, drilling, blowouts or darn good stories. But please, keep those excellent papers on geology, sedimentology, etc., coming as well.

### TOPICS MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

**Back to Basics – Geology Integrated With 3-D  
Old Plays New Ideas  
Application of New Technologies  
Sequence Stratigraphy  
Environmental Geology  
Hurricanes & Coastal Impacts**

**Case Histories  
Salt Plays / Offshore Plays  
Industry Histories – SPECIAL SESSION  
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Coastal Aquifers & Ground Water  
Modern Depositional Processes**

Prepare Abstracts in Microsoft Word using AAPG guidelines (see [www.gcags2007.com](http://www.gcags2007.com)), and include specific applications to Gulf Coast area geology. Include with your abstract your full mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, email address, and whether you are submitting for an **oral** or a **poster** presentation. If **either** presentation mode is acceptable, which allows greater flexibility for the technical program committee, please indicate that with your abstract submission.

### Submit abstracts by **January 12, 2007** to:

#### **GCAGS abstracts:**

Frank G Cornish – Technical Program Chair  
361-882-2883 361-882-2980 fax  
[fcornish@interconnect.net](mailto:fcornish@interconnect.net)  
(Include **GCAGS** in subject or it goes in the trash.)

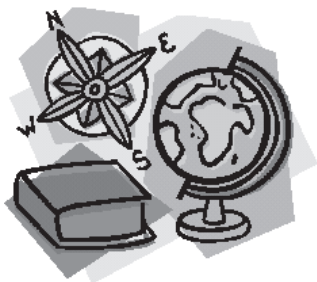
#### **SEPM abstracts:**

Dr Jennifer Smith-Engle – Technical Program Chair  
361-825-2436  
[jennifer.smith-engle@tamucc.edu](mailto:jennifer.smith-engle@tamucc.edu)  
(Include **SEPM** in subject or it may go anywhere!)

**We will notify of acceptance by Feb 20, 2007.** All accepted authors are expected to submit a paper of 10-12 pages (as published in the *Transactions*) or an extended abstract of 2-4 pages. **Completed papers are due by April 2, 2007.**



# ACADEMIC ABSTRACTS



## Fault Related Subsidence and Land Loss near Empire, Louisiana

Emily Martin<sup>1</sup>, Nancye Dawers<sup>1</sup>, Kathy Haggar<sup>2</sup>, Sherwood Gagliano<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

<sup>2</sup>Riparian, Inc., Baton Rouge, LA

<sup>3</sup>Coastal Environments Inc., Baton Rouge, LA

Quaternary subsidence of south Louisiana has long been recognized based on geomorphic and archeological evidence. More recent geodetic studies have confirmed that subsidence continues up to the present day. While a number of natural and anthropogenic feedbacks are likely contributors to subsidence, active geological faulting in this region has, over the last several years, been recognized as a potentially important but poorly understood process in coastal subsidence and land loss.

This study examines the relationship between previously recognized normal faults and recent subsidence near Empire, Louisiana. Large areas of marsh loss (since 1971) forming linear patterns near both Bastian Bay and the town of Empire in lower Plaquemines Parish, southeast Louisiana, suggest en echelon fault segments (Figure 1). Empire lies east of the complex Golden Meadow fault, which also exhibits evidence of fault-bounded recent subsidence. Other significant faults in this area include the Bastian Bay fault.

Using a McCauley auger we obtained a series of shallow cores across and along the linear marsh break west of Empire. Radiocarbon dates were obtained to bracket the age of the near-surface sediments, and bathymetric profiles were taken to record any pattern of subsidence that

might be indicative of faulting. Based on offsets of correlative Holocene markers (including a recent marsh root-mat and a distinctive clay layer underlain by silt), this marsh break is consistent with recent normal faulting that has resulted in up to 1 m displacement of sediments <1000 AD. The fieldwork confirms that the marsh loss in the recently formed "No Man's Land" west of Empire is fault related subsidence.

Lateral variation in the surficial displacement suggests that this south-dipping normal fault array is likely to continue eastward, beyond where the marsh breaks end. To test this, we undertook a correlation of industry well logs in the region west of the Mississippi River, along a roughly north-south swath crossing the Empire and Bastian Bay faults; we also obtained several proprietary seismic sections running roughly parallel to the well log cross-section. East of the river, we interpreted a 2d grid of proprietary offshore data and marked observations of faults interpreted to extend up to the seafloor (Figure 1). The subsurface investigation indicates that fault segments responsible for the recent marsh loss are genetically related to a large fault system that overall shows 2 distinct phases of activity, first in the Miocene and then again in the Pleistocene - present.



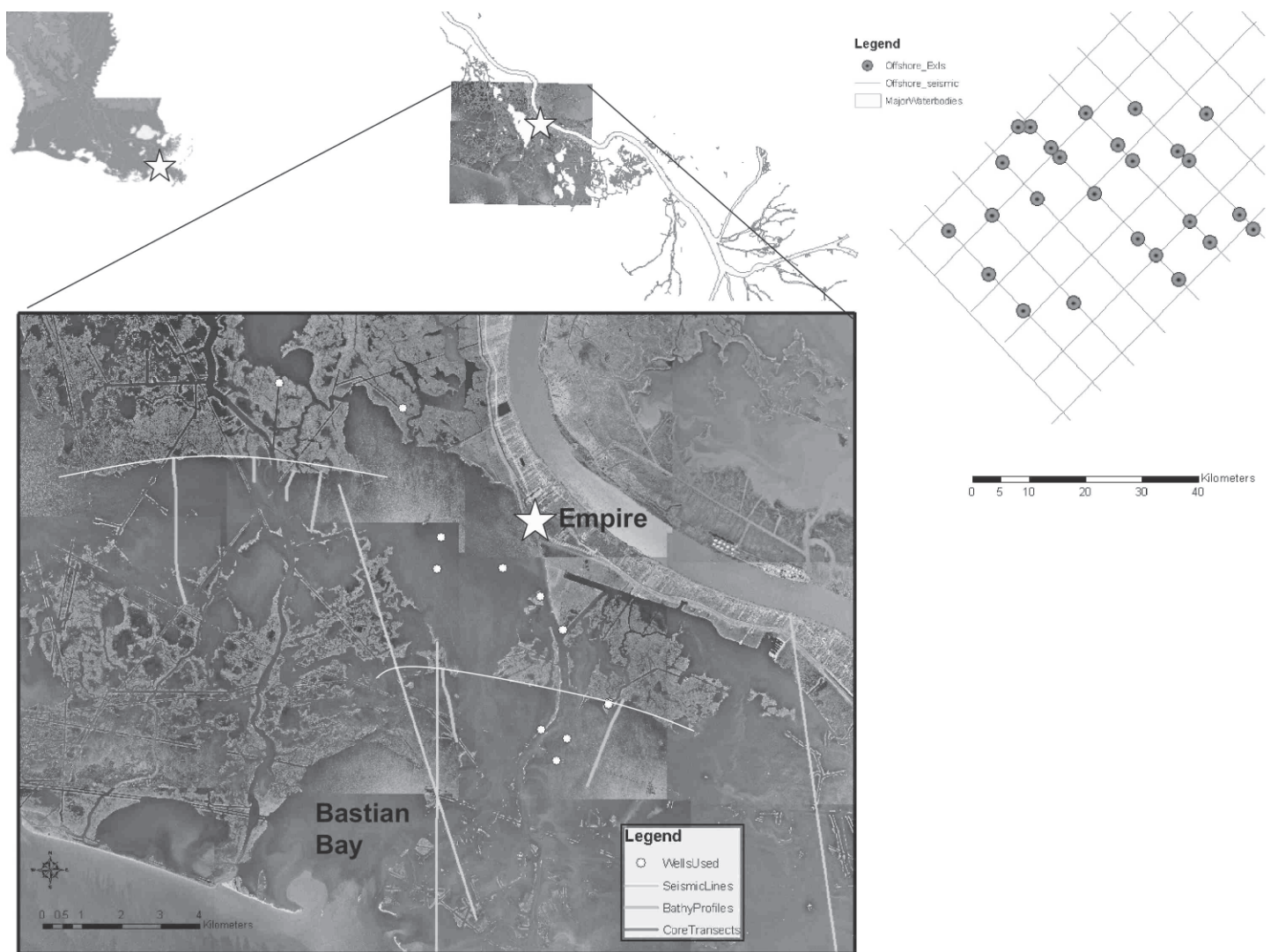


Figure 1. Study area showing the locations of cores, bathymetric profiles and subsurface (onshore and offshore seismic, and well log) data used. The red dots in the offshore seismic grid mark large south-dipping faults that extend up to or near the seafloor. Yellow lines mark fault-related marsh breaks. Both of these faults likely continue East across the Mississippi River.

# University of New Orleans

## Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

To: Mike Fein and NOGS  
From: Shea Penland  
EES, Chair  
PIES, Director  
Subject: EES & NOGS Partnership

First I must thank you and the membership of NOGS for their kind donation to EES and the UNO community. The year of 2005 saw many changes to New Orleans and our university. After the impact of Hurricane Katrina the Louisiana Board of Regents approved the restructuring of the former Department of Geology and Geophysics into a new innovative Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences. The EES structure as approved allows us the opportunity reinvigorate the geosciences at UNO to meet the practical needs of our profession. Key to our success will be a strong geosciences core.

EES will be offering university degrees in the Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and a Doctor of Philosophy. The cornerstone of the undergraduate program is a strong science core and a concentration in Geology. In addressing the current needs of our State EES will offer new programs in Coastal Science and Restoration, Environmental Science and Policy, and Petroleum Geology. We are very excited by these changes. We have the opportunity to hire new faculty to support these changes. Yet, EES is resource limited in the aftermath of Katrina. In moving offices repeatedly in order to conduct the business of our department I have had the opportunity to read old faculty reports, departmental evaluations, old correspondence and more importantly I read about the history between NOGS and UNO. This was a very humbling experience. In the aftermath of Katrina we have the opportunity to restart our NOGS and UNO relationship. I am convinced and committed to doing this. The *Bill Craig Geoscience Era* at UNO exemplified the importance of a strong relationship between a university earth science department and a professional organization of practicing geoscientists.

In a letter dated August 21, 2006 NOGS outlined a proposed program to begin a new era in the relationship with EES/UNO. The offer of NOGS assistance permeated throughout the UNO community with great enthusiasm. The faculty of EES plans a retreat for September 22, 2006 to discuss the implementation of our new academic and research programs. Prior to this retreat I would like to meet with NOGS to define a plan of action to take to the EES retreat. UNO is committed and excited about the opportunities ahead us through our collaboration.



(Photo courtesy Parker Drilling)

### **GCSSEPM Foundation 26th Annual Bob F. Perkins Research Conference**

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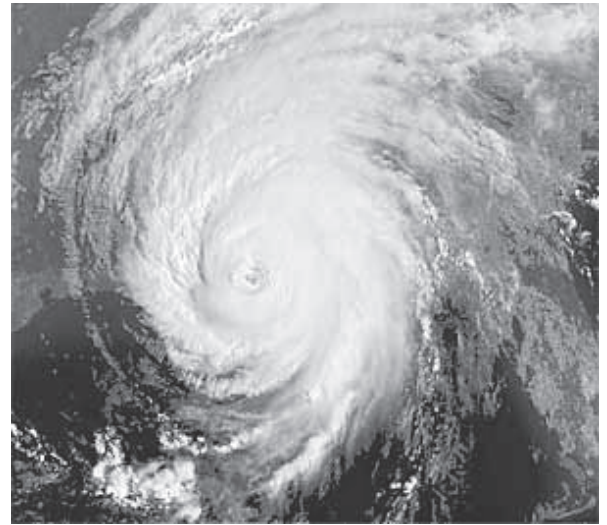
**[www.gcssepm.org](http://www.gcssepm.org)**



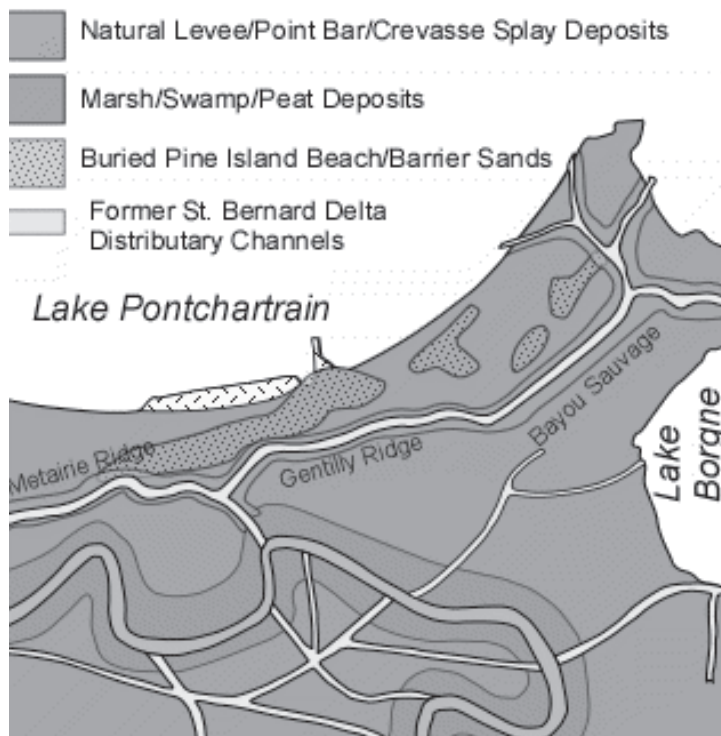
# N.O.G.S. Fall 2006 Field Trip Announcement

## “Hurricane Katrina – What Happened?” Saturday November 4, 2006 8:30am – approx. 2pm

Tour Guide: **Dr. Stephen Nelson**, Tulane  
University



Take a geological tour of the devastated areas of New Orleans. Learn and analyze what happened from a geological point of view. The land on which New Orleans is built has origins that began about 4,000 years ago. As sea level was rising after the last glacial maximum, a series of barrier islands was built outward from the coast of Mississippi across what is now the southeastern edge of Lake Pontchartrain. Then, the Mississippi River began to build delta complex and associated distributary channels that are now the Metairie Ridge and Gentilly Ridge. The natural levee deposits built high areas and the channels eventually filled in with sediment. Between the distributary channels, the low areas became swamps. The city of New Orleans was built in these low areas and a man-made levy system was created to protect the city's low-lying areas from hurricanes and other natural disasters. This system failed when Hurricane Katrina made its landfall as a Category 3 storm on the morning of August 29 in southeast Louisiana.



Dr. Nelson has graciously agreed to do this trip at no charge to N.O.G.S. members. A field guide and other relevant material can be viewed and downloaded from Steve's website (<http://www.tulane.edu/~sanelson/Katrina>). Volunteer drivers are needed to ensure the group moves efficiently between stops.

The trip will depart at 8:30am from the horseshoe drive in front of Tulane University on St. Charles Ave. and end at approximately 2pm near the 17<sup>th</sup> Street canal levee breach. Tentative plans then are for those interested to proceed to nearby Bucktown for eats and refreshments.

To enroll, get more information and to volunteer to drive, please contact David Garner at 504-728-6154 and [david.garner@shell.com](mailto:david.garner@shell.com).



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Or write to: Publications Sales Bureau of Economic Geology, The University of Texas at Austin, Box X, University Station, Austin, TX 78713-8924. All orders must be prepaid, by credit card or check payable to "UTBEG"; please contact the Bureau for current prices and handling charges.

**Exploration and Exploitation of Coastal Salt Basin Diapiric Structures in the Lower Pliocene through Eocene Trends: Geology and Techniques**, by T.G. Fails, G. D. O'Brien, and J. A. Hartman [In cooperation with the Houston Geological Society] 1995, 179 p., 121 figs., 9 tables. **NOGS 01, \$28.00**

**Productive Low Resistivity Well Logs of the Offshore Gulf of Mexico** [In cooperation with the Houston Geological Society] Dwight "Clint" Moore, Editor. 1993, 206 p. **NOGS 03, \$25.00**

**Introduction to Central Gulf Coast Geology**, Duncan Goldthwaite, editor (1991, 232 p., 18 articles). **NOGS 04, \$20.00**

## CONVENTION SHORT COURSE NOTES AND GUIDE BOOKS

**Introduction to Ground-Water Hydrology**, D. H. Easley (1993, 52 p.). **NOGS 06, \$10.00**

**Northeastern Gulf Coastal Plain Revisited: Neogene & Quaternary Units and Events: Old and New Concepts**, Erwin G. Otvos, (Guidebook, 1997, 143 p., 54 figures, with bibliography. **NOGS 08, \$15.00**

**Tour of Salt Dome Caprock Features, Winn Rock Quarry, Winn Parish, LA**, J. R. Kyle and M. R. Ulrich (1993, 48 p.). **NOGS 09, \$10.00**

**Geological and Cultural Excursion, Jackson to Natchez, MS**, Maureen K. Corcoran, D. Harrelson, P. Albertson, and R. T. Saucier (1993, 61 p., road log). **NOGS 10, \$10.00**

**Geology of the Ouachita Core Area, Vicinity of East Shore, Lake Ouachita, Garland Co., AR**, W. W. Craig, J. K. Bellis, D. A. Danielson, Jr., J. Bessler (1993, 39 p., geol. map). **NOGS 11, \$10.00**

**Meander Belt Deposition, Plaquemine Point, Mississippi River**, J. M. Coleman and H. H. Roberts, (1988, 28 p.). **NOGS 12, \$5.00**

**Tertiary and Upper Cretaceous Depositional Environments of Central Mississippi**, E. R. Adams (1985, 31 p., road log). **NOGS 14, \$5.00**

**A Tour of Selected Tertiary and Quaternary Localities and Landscapes of the Jackson-Vicksburg-Natchez-Old River Areas, MS-LA**, R. T. Saucier and M. L. Smith (1985, 26 p., road log). **NOGS 15, \$5.00**

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

**Offshore Louisiana Oil and Gas Fields, Vol. 2**, 1988, 248 p., 23 fields. **NOGS 16, \$35.00**

**Oil and Gas Fields of Southeast Louisiana**, Vols. 1 and 2, bound together (reprinted 1990, 384 pages, 57 fields). **NOGS 17, \$30.00**

**Vol. 3**, (1983, 225 pages, 43 fields). **NOGS 18, \$30.00**

**Vol. 3 Supplement** (1987, 81 pages, 10 fields). **NOGS 19, \$15.00**

**Salt Domes of South Louisiana**

**Vol. 2** (1962, 107 pp., 53 domes). **NOGS 21, \$18.00**

**Vol. 3** (1983, 131 pages, 46 domes, plus articles). **NOGS 23, \$18.00**

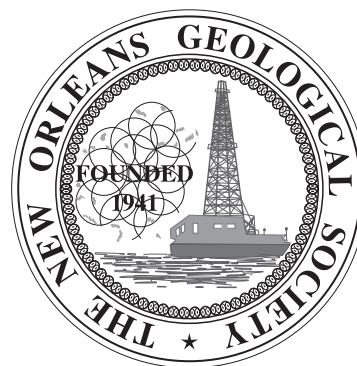
**Tuscaloosa Trend of South Louisiana**, D. B. Steward, editor (1981, 19 fields and other articles). **NOGS 24, \$23.00**

**A Tour Guide to the Building Stones of New Orleans**, Edward Slagle (1982, 58 p.). **NOGS 25, \$5.00**

**Science and Evolution vs. Creationism and Louisiana Act 685 "Balanced Treatment For Evolution-Science And Creation Science In Public School Instruction"** (1981, 4-p. pamphlet). **NOGS 27, \$1.00**

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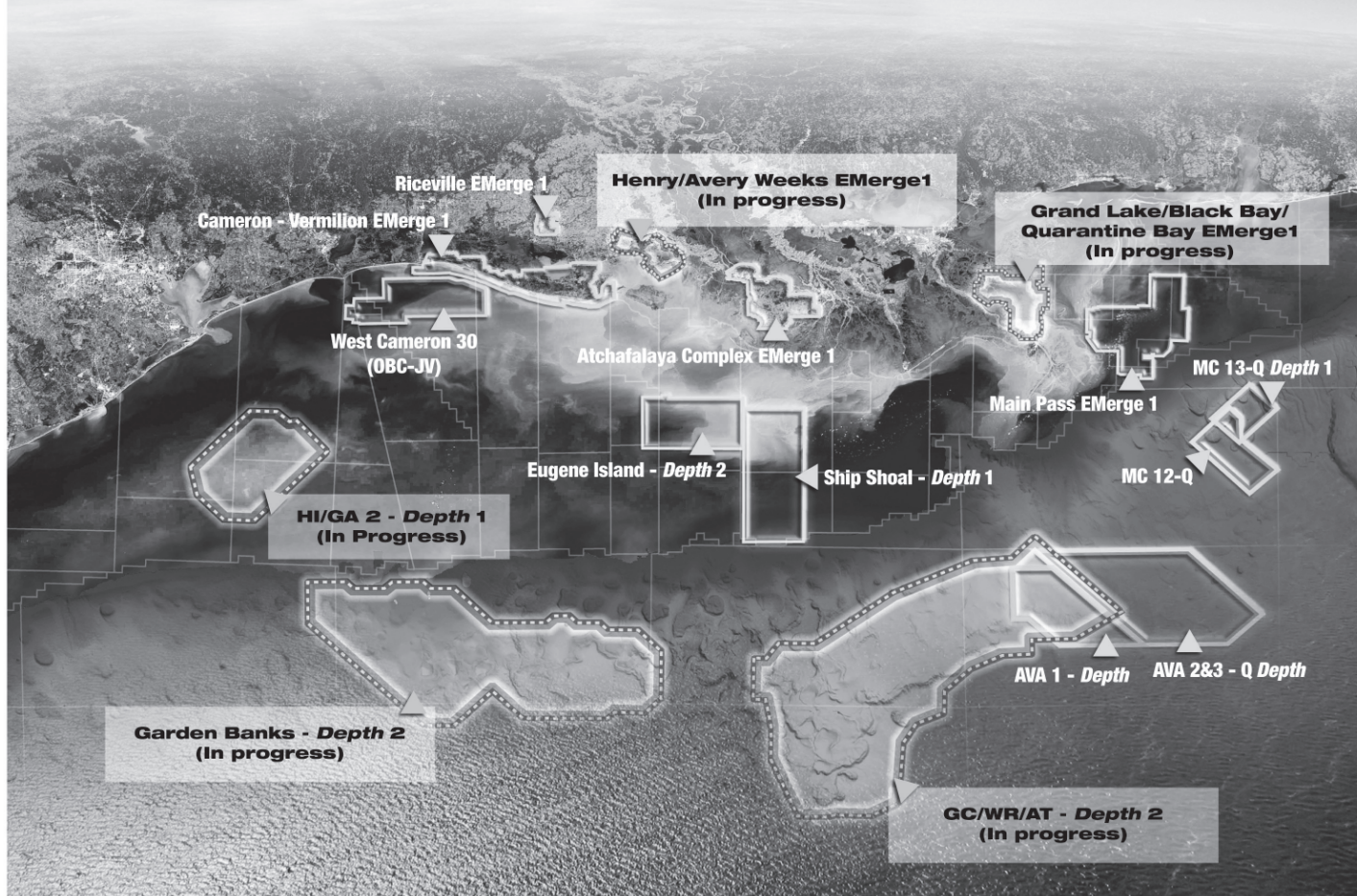
The initial CD "Atlas of Oil and Gas Fields of the New Orleans Geological Society" is available separately. Price is \$50.00, plus \$4.95 for shipping and handling.

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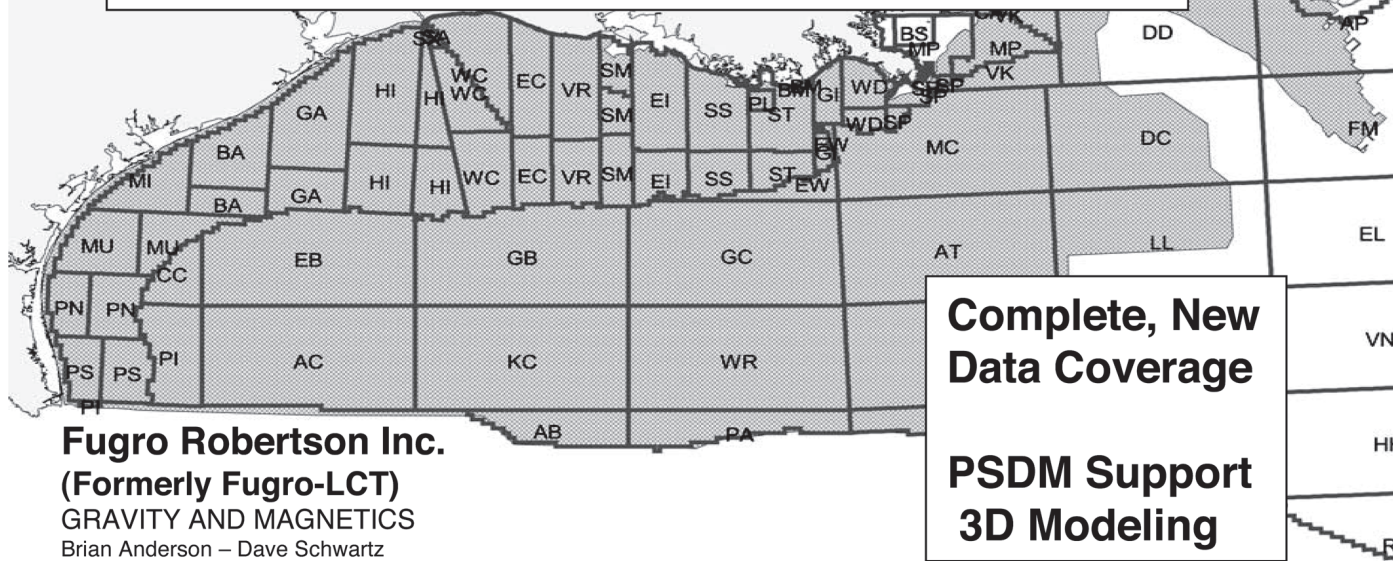
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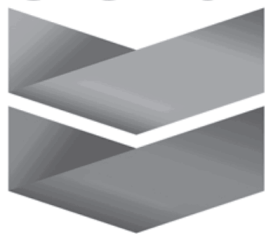
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*This is your page. We would like to fill it with your news. In addition to professional news from our members; e.g., promotions, transfers, moves, new employer, etc., we also welcome your success stories. Please e-mail items to [log@nogs.org](mailto:log@nogs.org).*

### New NOGS Members August 2006

**International Exposition and Seventy-Sixth Annual Meeting  
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*The SEG is seeking  
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meeting in New Orleans  
Wednesday, 4 October —  
Friday, 6 October.*

To volunteer or for more information, contact:

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<http://meeting.seg.org/volunteer> to sign up!

**Areas of help include:**

- Bag stuffing
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- International Showcase



### Tulane University Geology Homecoming Alumni Party

**Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**

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## South Louisiana and Offshore Exploration and Production Activity

- **Anadarko** announced July 28 that drilling had been completed on the Kaskida prospect at Keathley Canyon (KC) 292, in the evolving Paleogene play, and the results were "under evaluation." The original wellbore reportedly encountered drilling problems above 18,000 feet resulting in a bypass. Reportedly the MTD is ~32,500 feet. Water depth at Kaskida #1 is ~5,900 feet. The block was acquired by BP (66.67% and operator) and Anadarko at OCS Sale 187 in August, 2003 for \$373,373. South-adjacent KC 336 was acquired by BP at Sale 168 in August 1997 for \$193,527. BP also acquired west-adjacent KC 291 and 335 for bids of \$193,527 and \$321,421 respectively at OCS Sales 168 (1997) and 161 (1996). Partners in the well are BP (55% and operator), Anadarko (25%), and Devon (20%). Anadarko acknowledged receiving the production tests from the Jack well.
- As part of their 2nd Quarter Earnings Report, **Devon Energy Corporation** announced August 2 that the closely watched production test of the Jack (WR 759) prospect, a Paleogene discovery had been completed and that the test results were being evaluated and will be announced later this year. Partners in Jack are Chevron (50% and operator), Devon (25%) and Statoil (25%). In the press announcement of the discovery, Chevron stated that the Jack #1 well, located in approximately 7,000 feet of water had been drilled to a total depth of 29,000 feet and encountered more than 350 feet of net pay oil sands. According to Devon Energy CEO Larry Nichols, speaking at the May UBS Global Oil & Gas Conference in Austin, Texas; the Jack test is "... highly valued by industry ... In fact, we are selling the information from that test to other interested parties for significant sums of money."
- **Nexen** announced August 3 that drilling and logging operations on the Ringo prospect, Mississippi Canyon (MC) Block 546, had concluded at a TD of 12,808 feet with the well encountering approximately 150 feet of net gas pay. Conventional cores were taken throughout the productive intervals, and the analysis indicates good quality reservoir sands. The discovery well is located in 2,500 feet of water. Nexen (50% and operator) and ENI S.P.A. (50%) are the partners. MC 546 was acquired by Nexen in March 2003 at OCS Sale 1845 for a bid of \$3,285,888. The tract had previously been leased to Amoco (BP) and ExxonMobil from 1984 through 1994 for a bid of \$2,313,000. In 1994, Shell acquired the lease for \$ 323,100. MC 546 had been designated a part of Leo Field by MMS in 1986 as a result of drilling by Amoco (BP) and ExxonMobil. The resource range for Ringo is estimated to be within Nexen's pre-drill estimates of 60-170 BCFG, and will be confirmed with additional drilling.
- **Petrobras America Inc.** and **Devon Energy Corporation** announced August 15 that they had increased their ownership in the 23,000 acre Cascade Unit consisting of Walker Ridge (WR) 205, 206, 249, and 250 by purchasing BHP Billiton's working interest in the unit. The MMS approved the Cascade Unit Agreement and a Suspension of Production (SOP) for the unit on July 31, 2006. The SOP protects the unit from lease expiration and authorizes commercial development of Cascade. Devon and Petrobras each now have a 50% interest in the unit, with Petrobras being the operator.

Cascade was the first discovery of the Paleogene in WR in 2002. The discovery well, WR 206 #1, was drilled to a MTD of 26,710 feet in 8,143 feet of water in 2002 and encountered more than 450 net feet of oil pay. It was the second Paleogene discovery well in



the ultra-deepwater GoM, ~275 miles northeast of the play opening Trident discovery in the Perdido Fold Belt. The Cascade discovery was followed by two delineation wells in 2005 that reportedly encountered 200 net feet and 500 net feet of pay, respectively. The four blocks comprising Cascade, WR 205, 206, 249, and 250 were acquired by Amoco and BHP Billiton in 1996 for a total bonus of \$2,310,724.

Future plans for Cascade include drilling a fourth well as part of a phased-development plan. Petrobras anticipates utilizing a floating production, storage and offloading unit (FPSO). First production from two wells is anticipated in late 2009.

"Our extensive knowledge of the lower Tertiary play, growing confidence in the performance of the reservoir and our partnership with one of the leading producers in deepwater developments encouraged us to increase our share of Cascade and move the project ahead quickly," said Stephen J. Hadden, Devon's Senior Vice President of Exploration and Production.

Petrobras America Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Petróleo Brasileiro SA, announced August 15 that in addition to acquiring BHP Billiton's interest in Cascade, it had acquired BHP Billiton's 26.67% interest in Chinook (WR 425, 426, 468, 469, and 470) and also agreed to buy up to the 15% interest that Hess holds in Chinook. Upon completion of these transactions Petrobras will own 50% in Cascade, and up to 71.67% in the Chinook discoveries, and will be the operator of the two field developments. The remaining participants in Cascade are Devon Energy Corp. (see above), and in Chinook, Total E&P USA, Inc. BHP Billiton acquired the four leases comprising Chinook in 1996 for a total bonus of \$2,560,500. Only one well has been drilled at Chinook, the discovery well, WR 469 #1 in 2002. The well was drilled in 8,831 feet of water to a MTD of 27,652 feet. According to the BHP Billiton press release, the well encountered "...a gross hydrocarbon column of 620 feet ... with 260 feet ... of net oil pay." Subsequent appraisal wells confirmed the extension of the Cascade oil reservoirs, while an appraisal well is being planned for Chinook in the near future.

Both Cascade and Chinook fields will be developed using a Floating Production Storage and Offloading facility (FPSO), a development concept so far never deployed in the U.S. GoM. FPSO technology is extensively used by Petrobras in its operations offshore Brazil. Given the technological and operational challenges that producing oil from depths of around 27,000 feet from Paleogene reservoirs in Cascade and Chinook pose; Petrobras will pursue a fast-track, phased-development approach, with first oil scheduled for 2009. Initially, two Cascade wells and at least one Chinook well will be completed and brought on-stream through a FPSO. Subsequent wells and facilities will be designed in accordance with the initial production results. Water depths for Cascade and Chinook range from 7,000 to 9,000 feet.

In order to deliver this program, Petrobras recently contracted for a drilling rig capable of operating in water depths of up to 10,000 feet, and is in negotiations for another rig - both to be allocated to Petrobras GoM operations. In addition to these two field developments Petrobras is conducting a very aggressive exploration campaign in the GOM, including the acquisition of additional acreage and participation in wells being drilled or planned for the near future. This campaign includes promising areas in the deep gas shelf play, in the Garden Banks and the Corpus Christi protraction areas, and in ultra-deepwater regions of Gulf of Mexico; e.g., Keathley Canyon.

- One of the most closely watched wells drilled on the GoM shelf in years has been temporarily abandoned. **Newfield Exploration** announced on August 16 that the Blackbeard West #1 well, located at South Timbalier (ST) 168 in 70 feet of water, was drilled to a MTD of 30,067 feet, and encountered a thin, gas-bearing sand below 30,000 feet. The well failed to reach its primary targets because of higher than expected pressures. The prospect covered blocks in the ST and Ship Shoal areas offshore Louisiana. Spudded February 9, 2005, the well was drilled by the Rowan Scooter Yeargain, a Tarzan-class jack-up initially contracted to ExxonMobil for a day rate in the low \$80,000 per day range. However, in their second quarter 2006 conference call, Rowan announced that the rig's contract with ExxonMobil has been extended at \$170,000 a day.

"Although disappointed that we were unable to test our primary objectives, we have learned a great deal about drilling ultra-deep wells," said David A. Trice, Newfield Chairman, President and CEO. "This has

-- continued on pages 28-29 --



been a challenging well to test a true frontier play, but Newfield is sufficiently encouraged to continue investing in this play. We intend to use the information gathered from this well to investigate if a well can be designed which will allow us to safely test this prospect in the future."

The redesign and drilling of an exploration test of the Blackbeard West Prospect is subject to many uncertainties. The lease blocks on which the prospect is located are beyond their primary terms, and Newfield is working on plans to retain the leases. However, its success is uncertain. Newfield also is unsure whether the prospect can be safely tested in an economically feasible manner. They anticipate that it will be at least two years before drilling of a redesigned well could commence. There is no production, there are no proved reserves, and no wells have encountered commercial quantities of hydrocarbons associated with Newfield's Treasure Island play. Blackbeard West #1 was the first well drilled to test this play. As a result, ultimate commercialization of the play may never be realized because no prospects are tested, because oil or gas is not discovered or, if discovered, because the costs of exploration and development may make commercialization uneconomic.

Newfield, which had a carried working interest (apparently subject to certain conditions), reported that it had invested approximately \$25 million (net) as of August 16, 2006 in the drilling of the well. Partners in Blackbeard West #1 were ExxonMobil Corp. (25% and operator), Newfield (23%), BPE & P, Inc. (20%), Petrobras America Inc. (20%), Dominion E & P Inc. (7%) and BHP Billiton Petroleum (Deepwater) Inc. (5%).

At the UBS Oil & Gas Conference in Austin, Texas, on May 25, 2006, Mr. Trice was reportedly discussing with third parties the possibility of drilling more ultra-deep wildcat wells on prospects located near Blackbeard. Mr. Trice's comments at the UBS conference at least partially confirmed earlier statements made by Rowan, the contractor hired to drill Blackbeard. Bill Provine, Rowan's vice president of investor relations, told industry analysts in March at the A.G. Edwards Energy Conference in Boston that Blackbeard West operator ExxonMobil wanted to drill four more wells at Treasure Island, even if Blackbeard came up dry. However, during that period Rowan and ExxonMobil were renegotiating the contract for the Scooter Yeargain. In that context, ExxonMobil's comments on additional drilling may have been a negotiating ploy.

- Western Gulf of Mexico Sale 200 attracted \$462.8 million in bids, as near record oil and gas prices and increased industry interest in deepwater exploration and production led to robust bidding in the August 16 sale. The sale garnered \$340,935,514 in high bids from 62 companies with bids on 541 on 381 tracts. The total of all bids was \$462,760,912, a 38 percent increase over last year's Western Gulf Sale.

A possible contributor to the level of interest was the fact that changes are proposed for the GoM planning areas, including moving parts of some protraction from the Western to the Central GoM planning area. Affected will be the eastern parts of the Garden Banks and the Keathley Canyon protraction. If the proposed changes occur, their effective date will be July 1, 2007. Consequently, tracts in affected areas will not be in the August 2007 Western Gulf Sale. Instead, they will be offered in the March 2008 Central Gulf Sale, eighteen months from this sale. Interestingly, more than 50 percent of the tracts receiving bids in this sale were located in these protraction.

High levels of activity in Sale 200 were also sparked by the large number of newly available tracts that were offered for lease. Of the 445 newly available tracts, 130 received bids. The Garden Banks and Keathley Canyon areas accounted for 80 of the newly available tracts receiving bids.

Interest in deepwater oil and gas production continues to grow, with 67 percent of all tracts in water depths >400 meters receiving bids. The increased number of tracts receiving bids in shallow water indicates ongoing industry interest in deep gas in shallow waters, as well.

In this sale, 3,865 blocks comprising approximately 20.87 million acres offshore Texas and the deeper waters offshore Louisiana were offered.

Several companies were new first time bidders. BP submitted the highest bid, \$21,011,812, for Keathley Canyon Block 58. Petrobras America Inc., submitted the second highest bid, \$12,800,111, which went for Keathley Canyon Block 59. These blocks were previously leased to Chevron for \$157,305 and \$157,882 respectively. Both blocks expired June 14, 2006.

Top Five Companies by Number of High Bids:

Company	Total High Bids	Sum of High Bids
Petrobras America Inc.	34	\$45,483,774
BP Exploration & Production Inc.	31	\$37,469,796
Hess Corporation	30	\$16,804,661
Shell Offshore Inc.	28	\$35,420,316
Kerr-McGee Oil & Gas Corporation	27	\$17,968,470

Top Five Companies by Amount of High Bids:

Company	Total High Bids	Sum of High Bids
Petrobras America Inc.	34	\$45,483,774
BP Exploration & Production Inc.	31	\$37,469,796
Shell Offshore Inc.	28	\$35,420,316
Cobalt International Energy, L.P.	24	\$33,125,180
Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	19	\$26,152,108

Cobalt International Energy LP, capitalized by Carlyle/Riverstone and Goldman Sachs with \$500 MM, is a new entrant whose core management team consists of Joseph H. Bryant, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (former President and Chief Operating Officer of Unocal Corporation); Samuel H. Gillespie, Vice Chairman (former General Counsel of Mobil Corporation and Unocal Corporation); James H. Painter, Executive Vice President of Exploration (former Senior Vice President of Exploration at Unocal Corporation and Ocean Energy); and James W. Farnsworth (Vice President for World-Wide Exploration and Technology at BP), as President and Chief Operating Officer.

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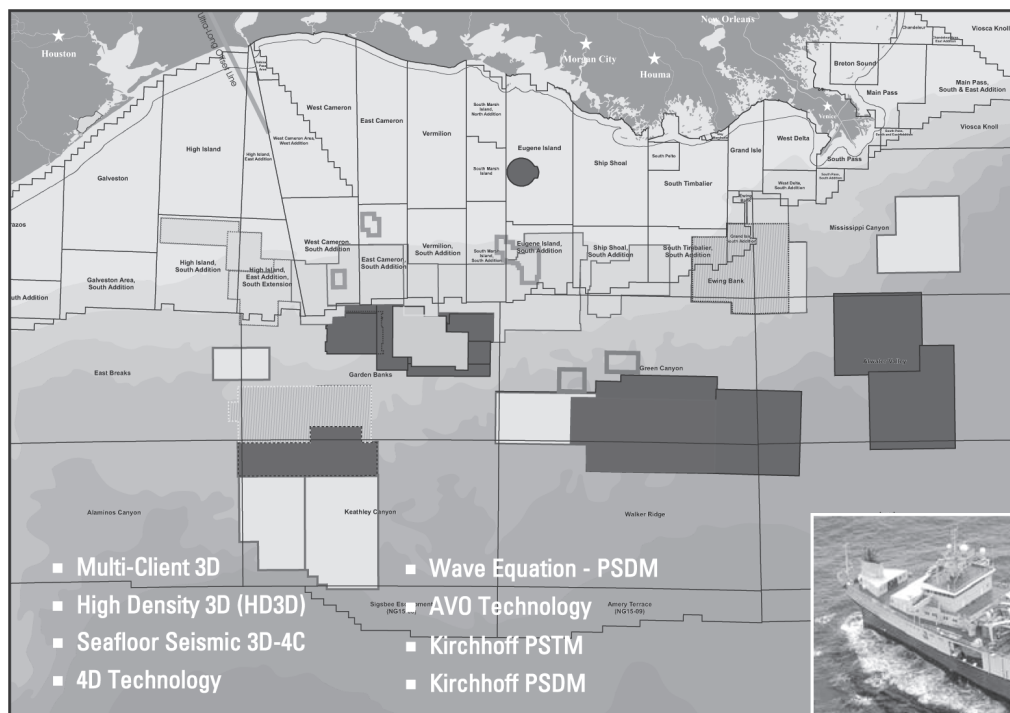


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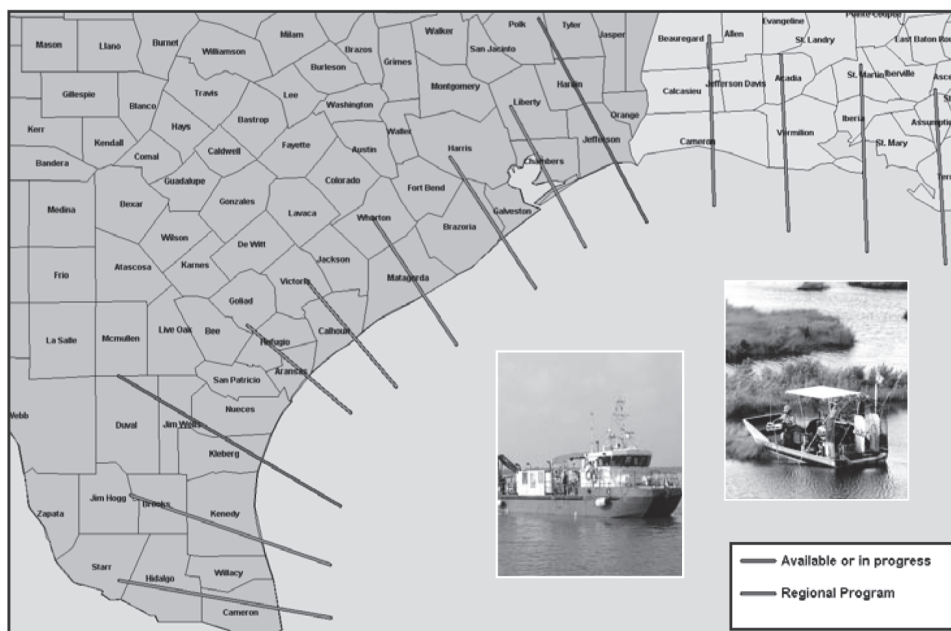
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