

NCGS LOG

SEPTEMBER 2021
Volume 62 No. 3



IN THIS ISSUE



On the Cover

Laugavegur is a hiking trail in South Iceland. It is the most popular trail in Iceland, with around eight thousand people hiking it every summer. In 2012, National Geographic listed it as one of the twenty best trails in the world.

Laugavegur runs from the hot springs area of Landmannalaugar to the glacial valley of Þórsmörk. It is noted for the wide variety of landscapes on its path. The route is typically completed over 4-days, North to South, with stops at the mountain huts of Hrafninnusker, Álftavatn, and Emstrur.



From the Editor...

I think that Hurricane Ida is a reminder of the importance that understanding Earth Systems plays in sustaining the quality of life we enjoy, our economic vitality and cultural resilience.

I am very grateful for the responses I received from last month's Editor's Notes. There are a lot great conversations taking place and I want to encourage you keep up the good work.

The earth is not alone when it comes to new information about the structure of its interior. Mars has had a recent seismic examination which led to a [revised interpretation of its interior](#).

Continuing Education is so important to our development as geoscientists. I encourage our members to pursue online training and take a look at the [courses available through the Geoscience Online Learning Initiative](#).

Thank you for sharing your information with me and let's all come together to help one another recover from Hurricane Ida.



Emmitt Lockard
2021/2022 NOGS LOG Editor



DOUG BRADFORD

A MESSAGE FROM 2021/2022 NOGS PRESIDENT

To members and friends of the New Orleans Geological Society:

The beautiful August NOGS Log cover photograph of the Hawaii volcano eruption reminded me that Iceland is having their first active volcano eruption in 800 years at the Geldingadalir site. You can see the volcanic activity thanks to a 24 hour live feed of the eruption is [available online](#). The August NOGS Log is the first done by the new editor, Emmitt Lockard, and meets the high standards of the previous editor Charlie Miller.

Oil and gas prices continue to remain strong, with WTI above \$66 per barrel, and natural gas \$3.90. Drilling activity is still strong in the US, with over 500 rigs drilling now, compared to 251 a year ago.

We were all hopeful that the COVID increase we saw in July would be declining by now. Instead, the number of new cases is still rising and has reached a new record of over 11,000 new cases per day in early August. As a result of this increase, on the second of August, Louisiana governor John Bel Edwards reinstated the Louisiana mask mandate effective immediately and continuing until the first of September. There was discussion at the last NOGS board meeting about when we could safely resume in person meetings at a time when the number of COVID cases decline. One option in use currently by some meeting groups, is to have a combination virtual and In Person meeting, with a limited number of in person attendees. The presentation would also be available to other attendees in an online virtual mode as now. An email survey will be sent out to all members to get input about the use of this type of meeting. We are hopeful that there will be a decrease in new COVID cases and that in person meetings can resume in the near future. In the meantime, the monthly NOGS presentations will continue online in the virtual mode. Thanks again to all of those who served last year and for the excellent job they did during a difficult virtual year.

As always, a reminder of dues renewal if you haven't already done so, \$35 for Regular membership and \$15 for Student membership. Please be reminded that we haven't been able to have a lot of fund raisers this year so I encourage you to pay your dues and to give consideration to adding a special donation to the Memorial Foundation to help us continue our worthwhile local community, university, and education programs.

I continue to look forward to this next year as we hopefully return to a more normal time.

Thanks everyone, stay safe and well!

Best regards, Doug Bradford



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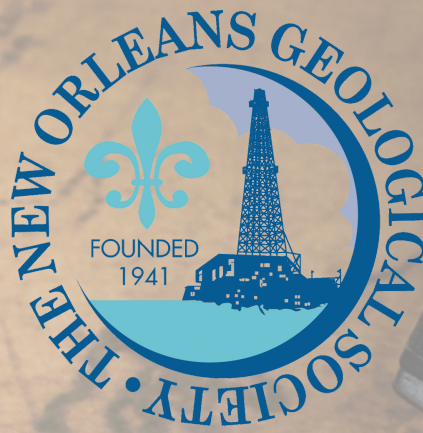
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PICTURE FROM THE PAST



1994 Kickoff Party at the New Orleans Petroleum Club – Folks anxiously await sampling the excellent menu offerings

Submitted by
Ed Picou, Chairman - Historical Committee

advertising rates

The New Orleans Geological Society was organized on October 3, 1941, as a non-profit organization for the purpose of facilitating the development of the profession and science of Geology, with specific emphasis to exploration and production of petroleum and natural gas. Secondary related objectives include the dissemination of pertinent geological and environmental technological data, and the maintenance of a high standard of professional conduct of its members. The full history of the Society can be found at nogs.org.

The NOGS LOG is now a digital magazine with live links to your site to reach NOGS Members and support your Society. Please contact Christy Himel admin@nogs.org for placement availability. Full page NOGS LOG advertisers will have their Company LOGO posted on the NOGS Website front page. All advertisers are included on the Society's monthly PowerPoint and listed on the website with a link to their home page. Please check out our website www.nogs.org

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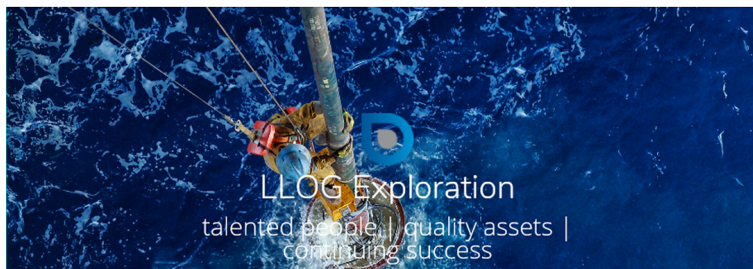
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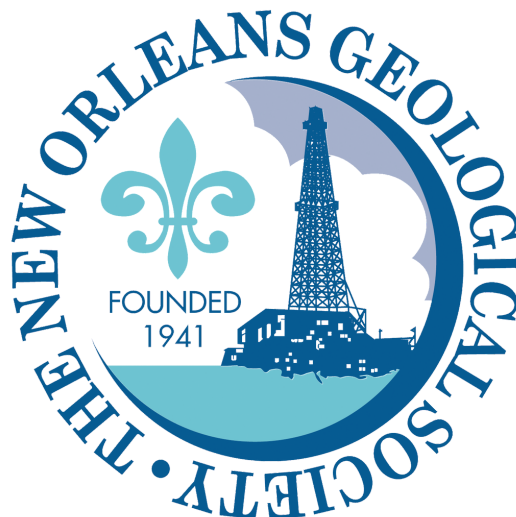
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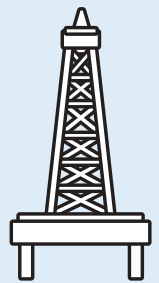
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DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND
DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES
BY AL BAKER



During July 2021, the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) approved 62 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) drilling permits. Ten of the permits were for shelf wells, and the remaining 52 permits were for deepwater wells. Of the total number of permits, there were 3 new well permits issued in deepwater, and none on the shelf.

The three deepwater new well permits were for exploration wells. Chevron U.S.A. was granted 2 permits for their Green Canyon 807 #AP-1 and #AP-2 wells within their Anchor Field. Shell Offshore was given a permit for their Alaminos Canyon 336 #1 well.

On July 30th, IHS-Petrodata indicated that the GoM mobile offshore rig supply stood at 55, which is one less than last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 31 rigs, of which 25 were under contract. The marketed rig supply and contracted rig supply numbers are same as last month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate was 56.4%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate was 80.7%. By comparison, the July 2020 total fleet utilization rate stood at 65.8% with 38 rigs under contract out of the 65 rigs in the fleet.

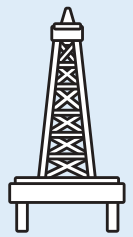
On July 30th, Baker Hughes reported that there are 14 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which is the same as last month and 56% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. Currently, 2 rigs are drilling on the shelf, and 12 rigs are drilling in deepwater. They include 8 rigs in the Mississippi Canyon Area, 2 rigs in the Green Canyon Area and 1 rig each in the Alaminos Canyon, Viosca Knoll, Eugene Island and Main Pass Areas.

On July 30th, the Baker Hughes total U.S. rig count stood at 488 rigs, which are 18 more rigs than reported at the end of June 2021. Of the 488 rigs, 385 (78.9%) are oil rigs and 103 (21.1%) are gas rigs. A year ago, there were 251 rigs working in the U.S. inferring that the current rig figure represents a 94.4% increase in rigs year over year. Presently, Texas continues to have the largest number of rigs with 230, which is 47.1% of the total number of rigs in the U. S. Louisiana currently has a total of 48 rigs, which is 4 less than last month. Nationwide, Louisiana continues to rank third in the rotary rig count. New Mexico ranks second with 74 rigs.



DRILL BITS

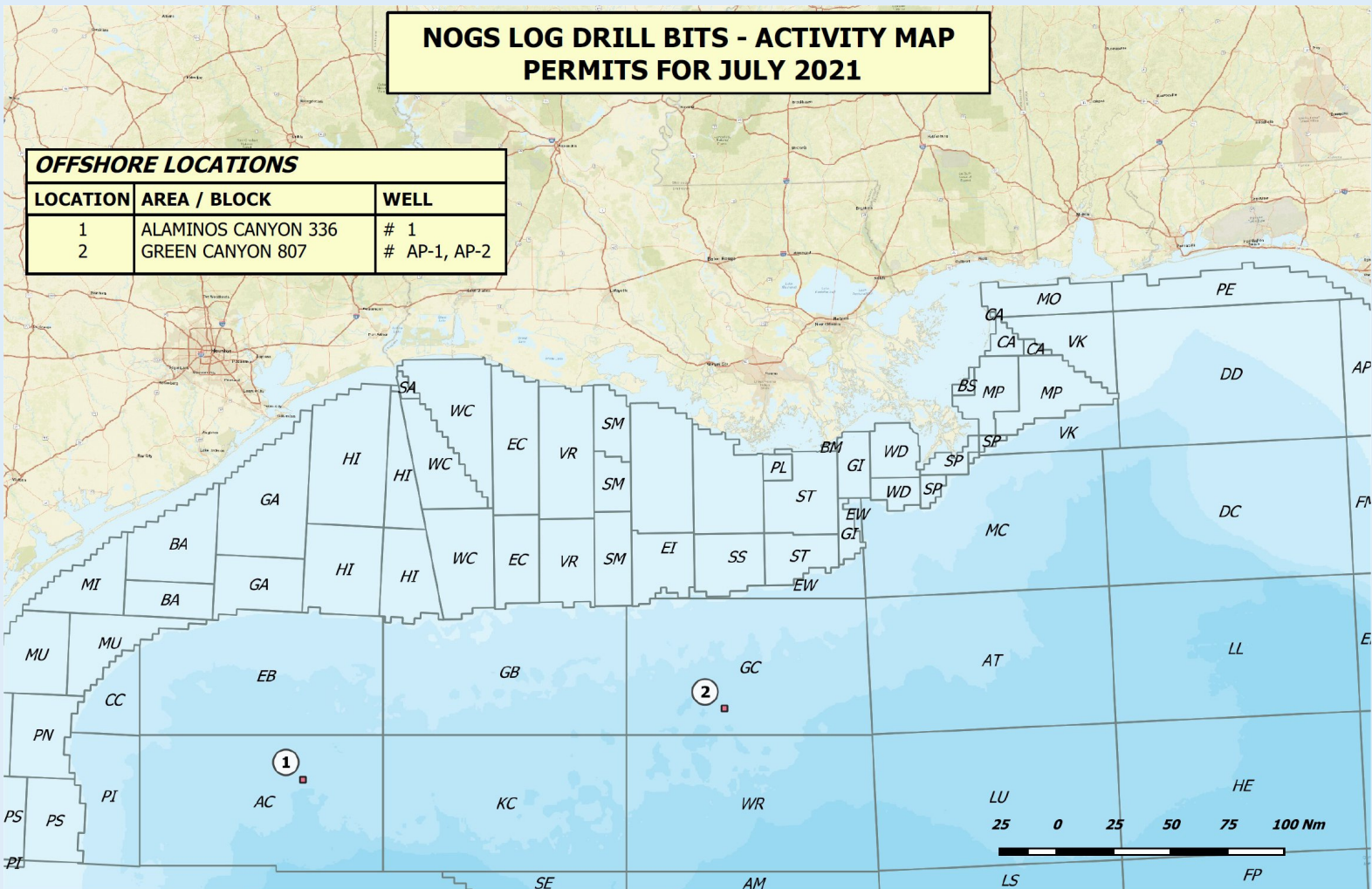
OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND
DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES
MAP BY KEVIN TROSCLAIR



NOGS LOG DRILL BITS - ACTIVITY MAP PERMITS FOR JULY 2021

OFFSHORE LOCATIONS

LOCATION	AREA / BLOCK	WELL
1	ALAMINOS CANYON 336	# 1
2	GREEN CANYON 807	# AP-1, AP-2





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Recent Oil Industry HeadlinesAugust 2021

8/18/2021 - Australia's Woodside snares BHP oil, gas business in \$28 bln merger - BHP Group has agreed to sell its petroleum business to Woodside Petroleum in a merger to create a top 10 independent oil and gas producer worth A\$38.5 billion (\$28 billion) with growth assets in Australia and the Americas. BHP's exit from petroleum, which made up just 5% of its annual earnings, speeds up its exit from fossil fuels amid pressure from environmentally conscious investors. BHP CEO Mike Henry, however, said the company remained committed to metallurgical coal used in steel making. [Read Full Article](#)

8/9/2021 - GATE Energy wins Shell's Whale commissioning project in the Gulf of Mexico - GATE Energy has been selected by Shell Offshore as the provider for facility commissioning of the Whale development. This comes at the back of the current execution scope for the provision of commissioning services for Shell's Vito facility that is currently underway. The associated scope includes commissioning planning, onshore commissioning execution, and offshore commissioning / ready-for-startup services. [Read Full Article](#)

8/9/2021 - 2021 Has Been A Blockbuster Year For Offshore Oil And Gas - For an industry in trouble, the oil and gas industry is doing pretty well in terms of discoveries and final investment decisions. So far this year, 21 new offshore projects received a final investment decision, according to Westwood Global Energy Group. At the same time, a number of discoveries were made, tapping billions in new oil reserves. [Read Full Article](#)

8/6/2021 - Williams joins Shell Offshore and Chevron in deep water Whale project - Williams has reached an agreement with Shell Offshore Inc. and Chevron U.S.A. Inc. to provide offshore natural gas gathering and crude oil transportation services as well as onshore natural gas processing services for the Whale development located approximately 10 miles from the Shell-operated Perdido host facility. The Whale development, operated by Shell which owns 60% of the project, alongside Chevron with 40%, is expected to reach peak production of around 100,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day (boed), Shell said in a statement. [Read Full Article](#)

8/1/2021 - U.S. oil, gas demand remains strong domestically, internationally - Oil and gas exports, production and prices in the United States have remained high amid rising demand this summer, according to recent reports from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). Through the first half of 2021, U.S. exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) rose 42%, or by 2.8 billion cubic feet per day, to an average of 9.6 billion cubic feet per day, from the same period in 2020. [Read Full Article](#)

TOP 10 REASONS TO JOIN NOGS

1

Proclaim your professionalism

With an 80 year history and over 300 active members, NOGS is the premier professional organization for geologists in New Orleans. Adding your name to the ranks declares your pride in the profession you have chosen.

2

Advance your career

NOGS members enjoy educational opportunities and top speakers designed to increase knowledge and keep up with the newest trends in geoscience, both on the national and local levels.

3

Advertise your integrity

NOGS has a reputation of over 75 years for upholding high standards. Align yourself with like-minded geologists and related fields.

4

Further your cause

NOGS was organized for the purpose of facilitating the development of the profession and science of Geology, at the time with a focus on production of oil and gas. Since Hurricane Katrina our objectives expanded to include the dissemination of the geological facts of flood control, engineering and environmental geoscience.

5

Network with others who do what you do

Making connections, between people and ideas, is an important part of any scientific endeavor. Meet others who can help you make those connections.

6

Advocate for your profession

Serious-minded professionals know that serving the profession means responding to calls for action from those who represent the profession. NOGS monitors trends in geoscience education, regulation, and practice standards and periodically advises members on required action.

7

Serve your profession and community

Opportunities for individuals to serve on NOGS committees that work on a variety of issues from building educational programs to sharing knowledge with others to providing scholarships to young geologists in our area.

8

Don't reinvent the wheel ... use available resources

NOGS members can provide you with the resources you need to do your job well. Long-time members remain active and are happy to share their knowledge and best practices.

9

Play a part in elevating the status of geosciences.

Your membership in NOGS and your dedication to geoscience elevates the entire profession.

10

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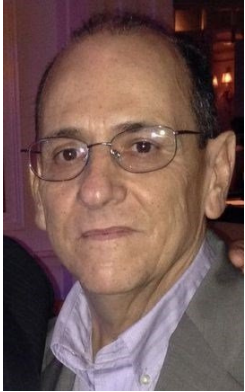
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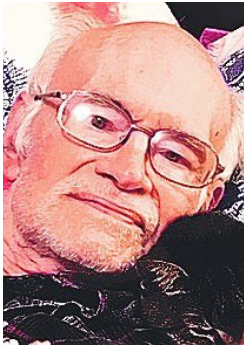


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Remembering NOGS Members...



Anthony Catalanotto, Sr., a long-time NOGS member, passed away on August 7, 2021, after several successive health issues. He was 66 years old, a native New Orleanian, who graduated from Warren Eastern High School. Anthony furthered his education by attending Delgado Community College and graduated with an Associates Degree in Drafting and Design. In 1981, he opened his own drafting company, Geo-Draft, Inc. with the motto of "A Professional Drafting Firm." For many years he ran an ad in the NOGS LOG promoting his firm's excellent work. His timing was perfect, as it coincided with the advent of computer-assisted drafting, at which he soon excelled. Owing to the large local number of small exploration firms and petroleum consultants needing his skills in making maps and other illustrations, his business flourished. He played an instrumental role with the publication of NOGS ' Oil and Gas Fields of South Louisiana, 2010. He was solely responsible for all maps, charts, and other illustrations in the publication. It is perhaps the most professional publication the Society ever produced. Anthony was also an Associate Member of the local chapter of the Society of Professional Independent Petroleum Geologists and was a frequent attendee of their monthly luncheons. Anthony is survived by his wife of 39 years, a son, three daughters and one grandchild.



Joseph E. Boudreaux, also a very long-time NOGS member, died on May 22, 2021. "Joe" as most folks called him, was 86 years old. He was born in Morse, Louisiana, in Acadia Parish, graduated from Morse High School, and immediately enlisted in the Marine Corps serving during the Korean War. After departing the Marines, Joe received a BS in Geology from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette and an MS degree in Geology from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. For some 26 years, he was a distinguished Electron Paleontologist at Texaco in New Orleans examining samples from offshore wells identifying key nannofossils for time-stratigraphic determinations. Upon his early retirement, he and several other Texaco paleontologists, formed a consultancy where they worked from home before such a practice became common. Joe was a member of several professional organizations including NOGS, AAPG, GSA, plus The American Radio Relay League. Interestingly, he communicated with people all over the world utilizing Morse Code. To quote from his published obituary: "He had a sharp, keen and scientific mind, and many interests, passions and hobbies, which most times involved him using his hands to tinker and build things." Joe also proudly received his single engine private pilot's license. He was a strong supporter for environmental and social causes, plus being a Charter Member of The National WWII Museum. His wife, Martha, predeceased him, however, he is survived by their two children, a son and daughter.

Submitted by:

**Edward B. Picou, Jr.
Chairman, Historical Committee**

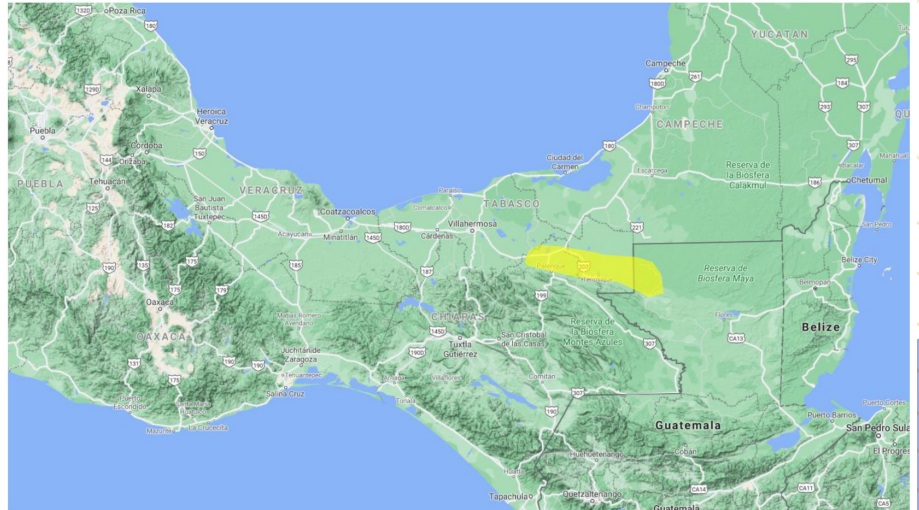
NOGS August Recap

GOM WATER COOLER TALK

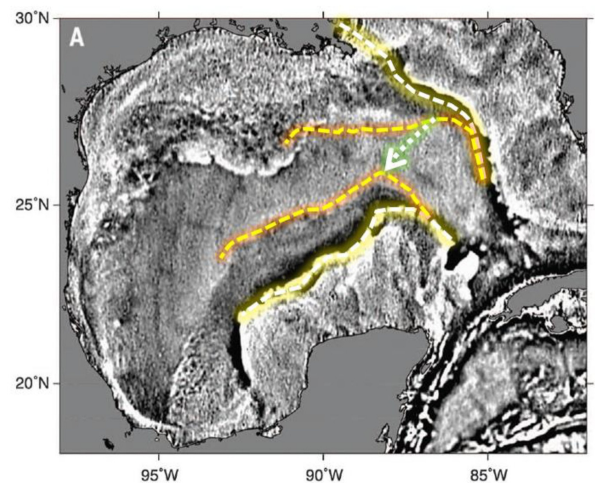


Toby Roesler

Google terrain map of the location of the Peten Basin Area in Tabasco & Chiapas Mexico and Guatemala.



Satellite gravity from Sandwell et al 2014 with the hypothetical Yucatan/Florida conjugate margin fit and separation.



USGS Physiographic/Geologic map of the Gulf of Mexico with additions of Mesozoic geologic features.

