

SEPTEMBER 2022  
Volume 63 No. 3

# NCS LOG

*Happy*  
**LABOR**  
*Day!*

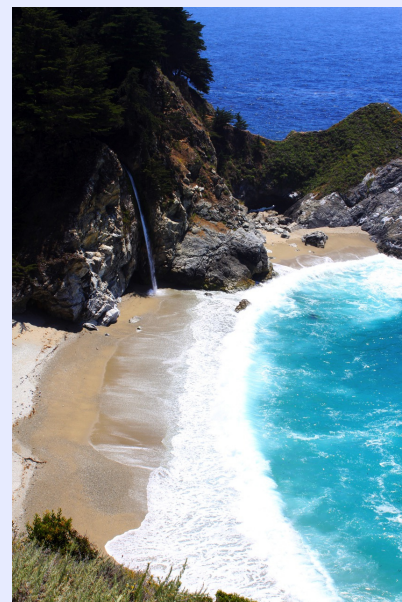


## On the Cover

Big Sur is a rugged stretch of California's central coast between Carmel and San Simeon. Bordered to the east by the Santa Lucia Mountains and the west by the Pacific Ocean, it's traversed by narrow, 2-lane State Route 1, known for winding turns, seaside cliffs and views of the often-misty coastline. The sparsely populated region has numerous state parks for hiking, camping and beachcombing.

California's Big Sur coast is characterized by several rock types, which greatly influence rates of coastal erosion. Important rock types include granitic rocks, sedimentary rocks, and melange (a jumbled mixture of tectonically broken and crushed rocks).

It was formed by the boundary between these two plates then became a transform boundary. As these plates started to slide past each other, a piece of the Sierra Nevada (which contained lots of igneous and metamorphic rocks) was carried up the fault and deposited in Big Sur.



## *From the Editor...*

Hello Everyone

As I write this month's note, it is August 29th, a date that will live in infamy for many in the greater New Orleans area. Last year Hurricane Ida slammed into southern Louisiana and devastated a wide swath of the river parishes from the coast all the way to the Louisiana/Mississippi border. Thousands of people are still trying to recover from this storm, one of the strongest to ever hit the Louisiana coast. But this date is also well-known as the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina 17 years ago that flooded New Orleans and changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of residents forever. Several of our fellow NOGS members were completely wiped out and had to start all over again. Another momentous occasion happened 41 years ago when my wife and I entered into blissful matrimony. So, every year at this time we wonder whether we will be celebrating our anniversary by evacuating for an impending hurricane (Katrina) or hunkering down in our house hoping a hurricane won't shift its path over our house (Ida). Thankfully, no storm this year, but the hurricane season is still young. Let's all hope for the best this fall.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave".



**David Reiter**  
**2022/2023 NOGS LOG Editor**



# **A MESSAGE FROM 2022/2023 NOGS PRESIDENT**

**DOUGLAS BRADFORD**

**To all members and friends of the New Orleans Geologic Society:**

In August NOGS hosted the Geology Seminar at the Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Technical Symposium. The all-day seminar, held at the New Orleans Marriott, was presented by Dr. John Snedden, Director, Gulf Basin Depositional Synthesis Project Institute for Geophysics, University of Texas Austin. Dr. Snedden presented a very informative overview of the depositional evolution and petroleum applications in the Gulf of Mexico. All the information in his presentation is included in the hardcover book “The Gulf of Mexico Sedimentary Basin” by John W. Snedden and William E. Galloway that was given to all seminar attendees.

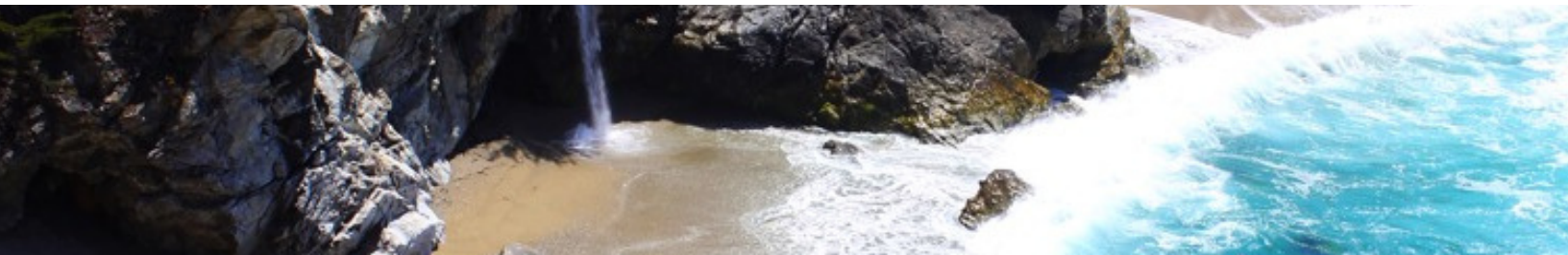
The virtual field trip of Louisiana Salt Mines that was to be held at the Symposium was postponed due to technical issues, but will be rescheduled for a future date that will be announced. The virtual field trip will be a three hour event presented by speakers from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. Attendees will be eligible to earn CEUs.

Our September meeting will be held September 12th on the north shore at Zea’s Rotisserie in Covington. The speaker will be David Schneider, a reservoir engineer with LLOG Exploration, who will give a presentation on Connectivity and Completion Strategy for a Multi-well Subsea Tieback in the Deep Water Gulf of Mexico Spruance Field.

As always, a reminder of dues renewal if you haven’t already done so, \$35.00 for Regular membership and \$15 for Student membership. 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.

Thanks everyone, stay safe and well!

**Best regards,  
Doug Bradford  
2022-2023 NOGS President**

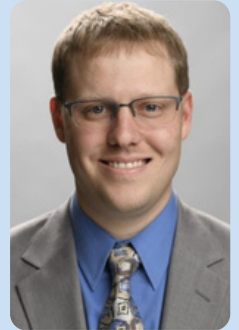




# NOGS SEPTEMBER NORTH SHORE MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022  
11:30 AM - ZEA'S ROTISserie  
110 LAKE DRIVE, COVINGTON, LA

## CONNECTIVITY AND COMPLETION STRATEGY FOR A MULTI-WELL SUBSEA TIEBACK IN THE DEEP WATER SPRUANCE FIELD



***Presented by:  
David Schneider***

**ABSTRACT:** The Spruance Field (EW 877/921) was discovered by LLOG and its partners in mid-2019 via a subsalt exploratory well and was further delineated in late 2020. Each of the wells logged three high quality Miocene-aged oil sands, most of which were completed in early 2022. The field was then brought online in April 2022 via a 14-mile subsea tieback to the Enven-operated Lobster platform in EW 873.

This presentation will focus on how reservoir connectivity and mechanical constraints impacted the final depletion plan recommendation. As is typical for subsea tieback developments, decisions were made without the benefit of production data and therefore relied heavily on well log and geologic interpretation while balancing the mechanical risk and rate impacts of different completion strategies.

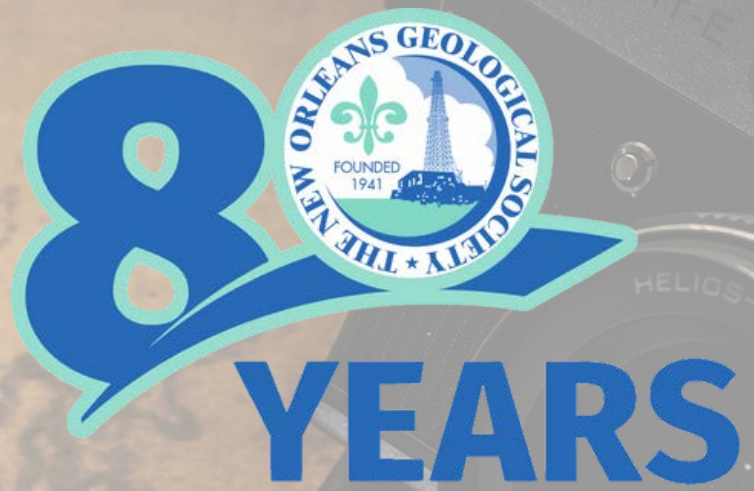
With the wells now online, real-world performance data has provided the basis for a lookback on the decisions made during the design phase of the project.

**BIOGRAPHY:** David Schneider is a Reservoir Engineer at LLOG Exploration and is responsible for multiple subsea tieback projects in the Deepwater Gulf of Mexico. Prior to joining LLOG in 2018, he held multiple technical positions at Stone Energy Corporation and Eni Petroleum. David graduated with a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (2007), and a MBA from Tulane University (2017).

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# PICTURE FROM THE PAST



**Julia Bland, Executive Director of the Louisiana Children's Museum, addresses a large audience at the groundbreaking ceremonies in City Park on May 20, 2017. NOGS has been a huge supporter of the museum for decades and made a significant donation for the new museum.**

***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](http://nogs.org).

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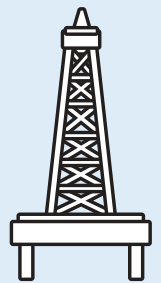


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# DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND  
DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES  
BY AL BAKER



During July 2022, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement -(BSEE) approved 61 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) drilling permits. Twelve of the permits were for shelf wells, and the remaining 49 permits were for deepwater wells. There was 1 new well permit issued in deepwater.

The single deepwater new well permit was for a development well. BHP Billiton Petroleum (GOM) received the permit for their Green Canyon 609 #SN-102 well located in their Shenzi Field.

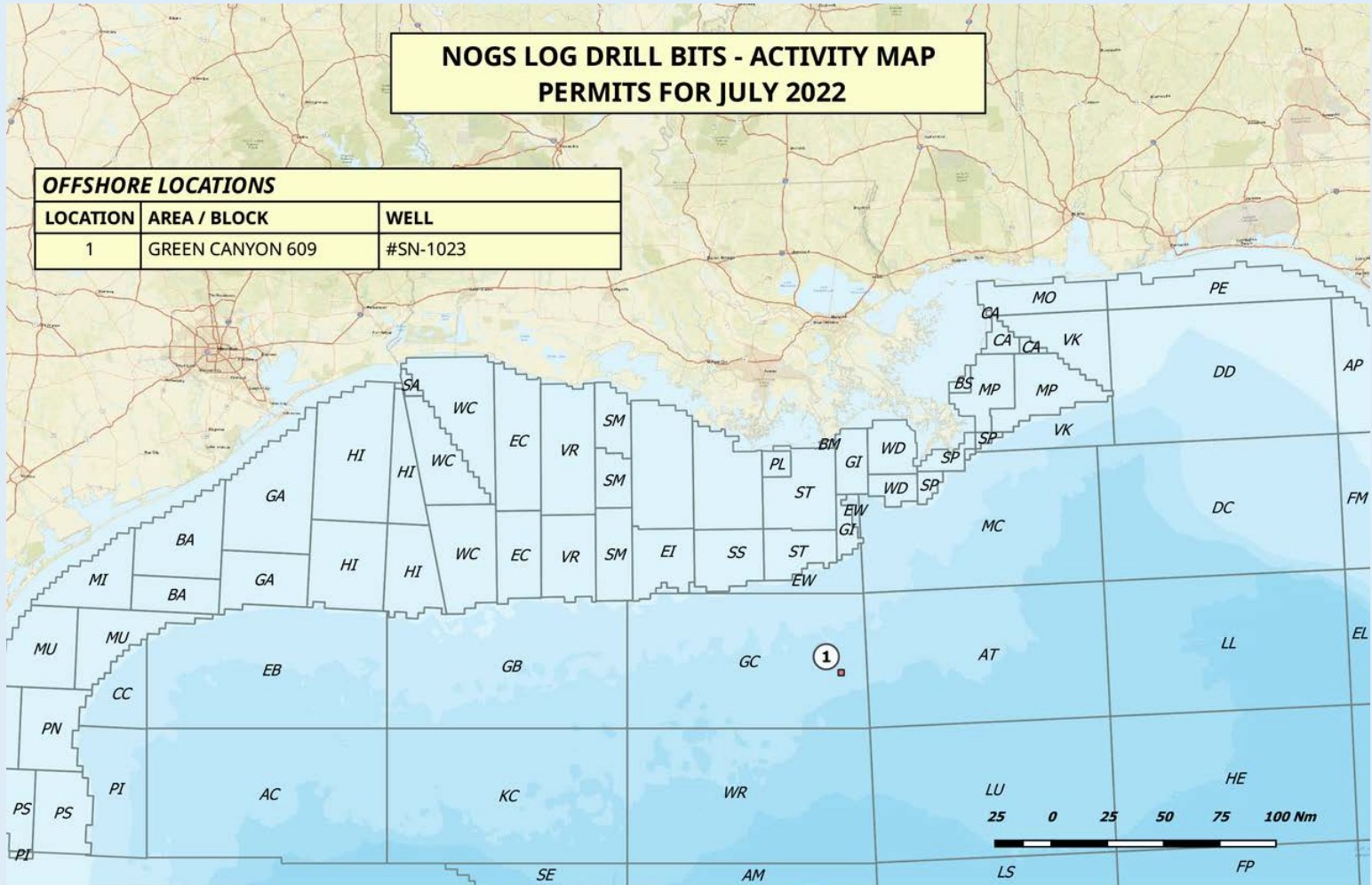
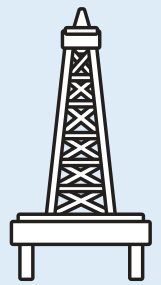
On July 29th, IHS-Petrodata indicated that the GoM mobile offshore rig supply stood at 46, which is 1 more than last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 34 rigs, of which 28 were under contract. The marketed rig supply and the contracted rig supply number were also 1 more than last month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate remained at 73.9%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stayed at 82.8%. By comparison, the July 2021 total fleet utilization rate stood at 56.4% with 31 rigs under contract out of the 55 rigs in the fleet.

On July 29th, Baker Hughes reported that there are 15 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which is the same as last month and 53.6% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. Currently, 1 rig is drilling on the shelf, and 14 rigs are drilling in deepwater. They include 7 rigs in the Mississippi Canyon Area, 5 rigs in the Green Canyon Area and 1 rig each in the Garden Banks, Walker Ridge and Eugene Island Areas.

On July 29th, the Baker Hughes total U.S. rig count stood at 767 rigs, which are 14 more rigs than reported at the end of June 2022. Of the 767 rigs, 605 (78.9%) are oil rigs and 157 (20.5%) are gas rigs. Five rigs are listed as miscellaneous. A year ago, there were 488 rigs working in the U.S. inferring that the current rig figure represents an 57.2% increase in rigs year over year. Presently, Texas continues to have the largest number of rigs with 371, which is 48.4% of the total number of rigs in the U. S. Louisiana currently has a total of 65 rigs, which are 2 more than last month. Louisiana is ranked third behind New Mexico, which currently has 110 rigs.

# DRILL BITS

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





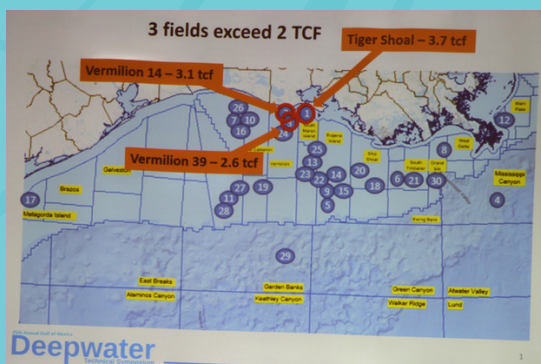
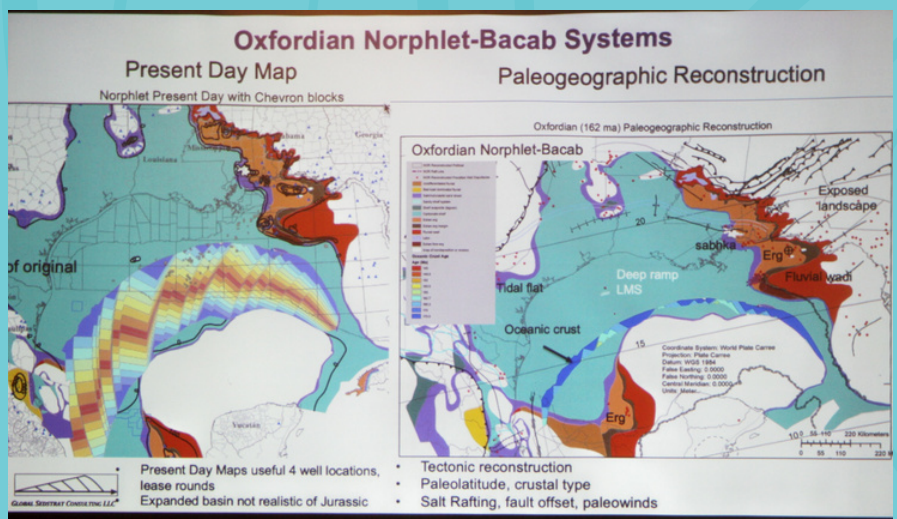
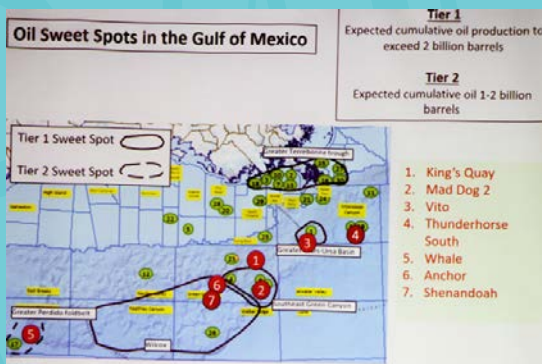
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# Opening Geoscience Seminar Monday, August 22, 2022

## THE GULF OF MEXICO SEDIMENTARY BASIN: DEPOSITIONAL EVOLUTION AND PETROLEUM APPLICATIONS

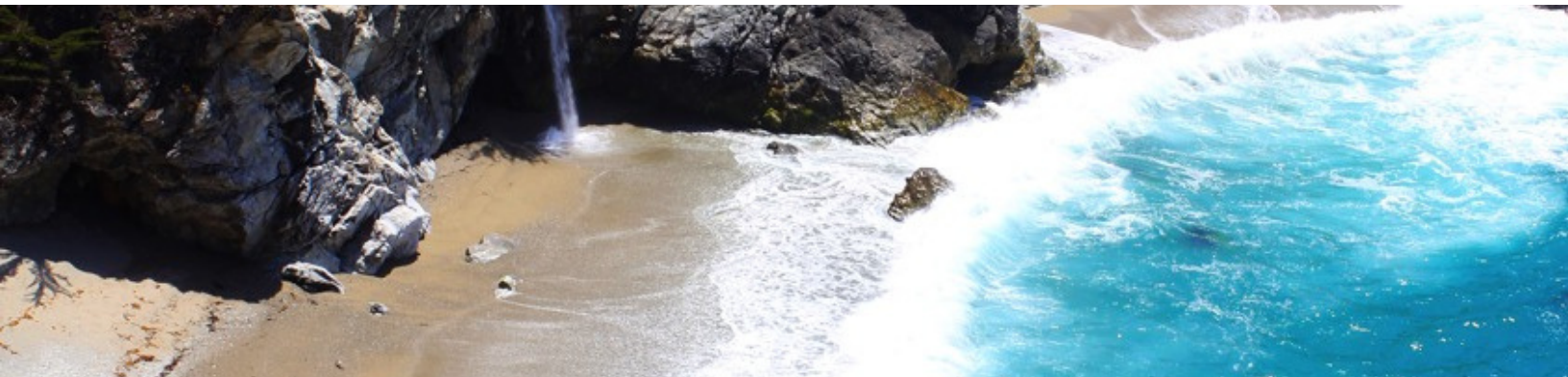


**Dr. John W. Snedden**  
UT-Austin GBDS





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# Recent Energy Headlines .....August 2022 Recap

**8/31/2022 - Federal Court Partly Reverses 2018 Gulf of Mexico Lease Sales** - A federal appeals court in Washington on Aug. 30 partly reversed a lower court's decision that had found that two 2018 Gulf of Mexico oil and gas lease sales by the U.S. Interior Department to energy companies were valid. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected two arguments by environmental groups, although it agreed the agency had "sidestepped" a report that contained "some evidence" that asserted potential risks. [Read Full Article](#)

**8/29/2022 - Melting Greenland ice sheet could cause devastating sea level rise of nearly a foot** - The melting of the Greenland ice sheet could cause a devastating sea level rise of nearly a foot, according to a new study. The study, published Monday in the journal Nature Climate Change, found that an inevitable 3.3% loss in ice sheet volume would lead to a contemporary sea level rise of around 11 inches "regardless of 21st-century climate pathways." [Read Full Article](#)

**8/28/2022 - AAPL President: Energy Awakening** - Complex path to a lower carbon footprint requires an 'all-of-the-above' approach - With all the events that have transpired over the last year — and even more so in the last six months — true illumination has been shed upon the underlying basis of our real global energy needs. While many countries around the world have set aspirational goals to achieve a lower carbon or zero carbon footprint, it has become quite apparent that achieving those goals is incredibly more complicated than originally thought or forecast. Current shortages and cost escalations in our overall power grid point to the lack of reliability for ongoing delivery of our global energy needs. [Read Full Article](#)

**8/15/2022 - Jamie Dimon says US energy industry is not against climate change** - JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon believes that climate change can be addressed even if America decides to boost production of natural gas and oil. JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon, in a recent client call, insisted that boosting natural gas production in the United States was not at odds with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. "We should focus on climate. The problem with that is because of high oil and gas prices, the world is turning back on their coal plants. It is dirtier," Yahoo Finance reported of Dimon's call last week. [Read Full Article](#)

**8/7/2022 - Murphy Oil stepping up its Gulf of Mexico plans** - A two-well exploration program is planned for next year. Murphy Oil is bulking up its US Gulf of Mexico portfolio with larger stakes in existing fields and making deals for both operated and non-operated wells to be drilled this year and in 2023, according to a recent S&P Global report. [Read Full Article](#)

**8/1/2022 - Deepwater oil and gas can still be favored even in a low-carbon world** - Oil and gas companies find themselves caught in a politically volatile gray area: scrutinized by climate-minded investors, demonized by consumers, pulled in different directions by policymakers, and whiplashed by sudden boom-or-bust prices. Today, economies across the globe are torn between short-term energy demands and long-term carbon reduction ambitions. However, deepwater opportunities are positioned to straddle both imperatives — for the right companies that have identified possible plays already. [Read Full Article](#)



# 40 YEARS AGO

**Pan Am Flight 759 was a regularly scheduled domestic passenger flight from Miami to San Diego, with enroute stops in New Orleans and Las Vegas. On July 9, 1982, the Boeing 727 flying this route crashed in the New Orleans suburb of Kenner after being forced down by a microburst-induced wind shear shortly after takeoff. The aircraft then struck several trees and crashed into the nearby neighborhood. All 145 on board and 8 people on the ground were killed. NOGS members, Marion and Steve Millendorf, were among those passengers on their way to a vacation in Las Vegas. The memorial is located at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Kenner.**



# 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

## **Do it for YOURSELF!**

It's all about YOU! NOGS' educational, networking, and career planning programs will take you where you want to go!





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