

January 2024  
Volume 64 No. 7

# NCGS LOG

HAPPY

*new year*

2024

## On the Cover

### *Kenai Fjords National Park, Alaska*

Located approximately 130 miles south of Anchorage, Kenai Fjords National Park contains some of the most beautiful fjords and glaciers in the world. The area includes one of the largest accretionary complexes in the world. The mountainous region is actually subsiding due to subduction of the Pacific plate under the North American plate, bringing glaciers closer to sea level.



[Image Source \(Cover\)](#)

## *From the Editor...*

Greetings Everyone,

Happy New Year, everyone! I can't believe another year has come and gone already. This month marks the halfway point of of this year's NOGS Board, and I can say it's truly been a pleasure and honor to participate in the publication of our monthly newsletter. Our President, Mark Wojna, and I have been working to implement some new features for the Log, and we hope you've been enjoying what's been brought so far! We've run into a few hiccups along the way, but it's been such a valuable learning experience.

The only goals I have set for myself this year is to cook at home and travel more often. I have yet to cook a meal at home, but I did book an international trip in April for the first time since before the pandemic. What are your goals for this year?

As always, if you have any suggestions about content or would like to contribute to the Log, please reach out to me at [editor@nog.org](mailto:editor@nog.org)!



*Brittany*

**Brittany George**  
**2023/2024 NOGS Log Editor**

# JANUARY 2024

## MEETING

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Zea Northshore

11:30 am Networking

12:00 pm Presentation

## WIRELINING IN COMPLEX WELLS - KEEPING WL ON THE TABLE

In this presentation, we'll look at how extending a systematic approach to quantify wireline (WL) conveyance risk can uncover unseen operational hazards. Additionally, we discuss how this approach can keep WL on the table by alleviating unjustified fears associated with well design. The discussion will focus on Gaia's risk assessment process, covering the 3 G's of conveyance: Geology, Geometry, & Gusto...and will offer practical guidance for optimal well design from the perspective of wireline acquisition.



**Lee Hyson**  
Gaia Earth Group

# NOGS MEETING

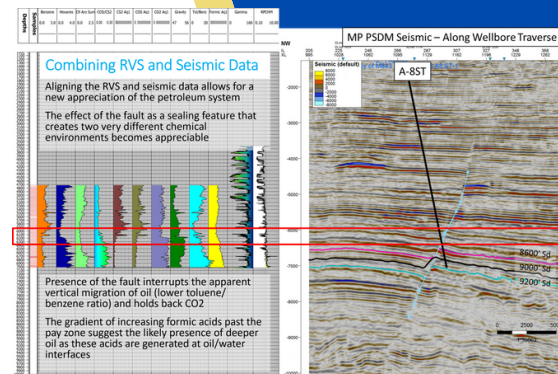
## CHRISTOPHER SMITH

**EVALUATING VOLATILES ENTRAINED IN LEGACY UNPRESERVED CUTTINGS FROM THE GULF OF MEXICO AND TRINIDAD TO UNDERSTAND THE SUBSURFACE MOVEMENT OF OIL AND GAS, COMPARTMENTS/SEALS/BAFFLES, AND NEIGHBORING PROSPECTS**

Rock volatiles stratigraphy (RVS) was pioneered and developed since 2010 by Advanced Hydrocarbon Stratigraphy to provide actionable information for oil and gas operators by detailed analysis of volatile subsurface fluids entrained in geological samples, typically cuttings and core (which can be decades old); since expanding to helium, geothermal, and CCS applications. RVS work in the Gulf and the Caribbean is principally oil and gas though applications like offshore CCS and evaluating the paleo environment across the K-T boundary are ongoing. With direct measurements of 40+ compounds and rock properties RVS offers unique insights, especially when working with unpreserved cuttings for unplanned postmortems. Two wells, Cantium's OCS-G4903 A8ST1 drilled 2018, shallow GOM and Touchstone Exploration's Cascadura Deep-1 drilled 2020 onshore Trinidad are discussed. In both cases RVS was run on unpreserved cuttings and assessed how HC resources moved in the subsurface, where compartments/baffles/seals were/weren't encountered, and the prospects for neighboring payzones/accumulations.



WEDNESDAY  
**7**  
**FEBRUARY**





**MARK WOJNA**

# **A MESSAGE FROM THE 2023/2024 NOGS PRESIDENT**

Wishing all of our NOGS membership a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. I hope that everyone had a nice relaxing holiday with their family and friends and is looking forward to the coming year.

It's hard to believe that I have reached the midpoint of my term as NOGS President. It has been a very enjoyable and fulfilling experience so far. Even though I have been an active member in NOGS since 1985, I never volunteered for any leadership positions in our professional society. I don't have an excuse for why I waited this long. I'm fortunate to be a part of a dedicated diverse group of individuals helping NOGS to continue to grow and provide professional development opportunities for our membership. Being on the NOGS board has also given me the chance to work with other talented geologists in our community that I didn't know and to develop friendships and professional relationships with a wonderful group of people. Working with our board members and NOGS has also opened my eyes to other exciting geologic opportunities going on within the state of Louisiana outside of the oil and gas industry that need to be publicized. Since our current board is at the midpoint of our term, I'd like to put out a request for other members young and old to step forward and help NOGS grow. For young geologists, the NOGS Board will provide opportunities to grow and develop professional relationships. For older, more experienced members who have not stepped forward in the past, you know who you are, this is an opportunity to provide your leadership, experience and vision to our society and be a part of the NOGS legacy. I'm certain you'll find that a position on the NOGS board as fulfilling as I have.

I'd like to commend our NOGS technical committee, consisting of Emmitt Lockard, Christy Himel, Charles Miller and Jared Bullock, that has been working on improving our remote luncheon presentations to provide a more professional experience. We will be incorporating some new technology at the January luncheon meeting that will hopefully improve the online experience. At last month's board meeting, a new committee chaired by Chris McLindon was formed to focus on a new NOGS publication creating a Surface Fault Atlas for South Louisiana. Chris shared a vision for this project in our September 2023 NOGS Log. It's worth a read if you didn't see it. Several members of our local academic community have volunteered to be a part of this project along with several members of the oil and gas industry and state agencies. As more resources are being devoted to coastal Louisiana, NOGS has an opportunity to provide some relevant scientific information to the discussion. Please let us know if you'd like to be a part of this project.

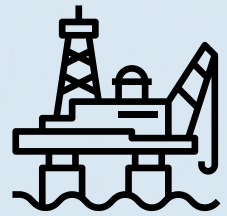
The Deep Water Technical Symposium (DWTS) held every year in New Orleans is a significant event for NOGS both professionally and financially. This year's DWTS NOGS Geoscience Co-Chairs are board member Emmitt Lockard and NOGS member Dawn Herrington. Registration and information for the event will be coming out in early January. Along with other NOGS members, Emmitt and Dawn have been working very hard to provide another exciting conference.

Finally I'd like to acknowledge the Editor of the NOGS LOG. It's a very challenging position to compile all of the information for our monthly publication and publish an informative newsletter to our membership. Our current editor is Brittany George. She is one of the younger board members I mentioned earlier who have brought a fresh approach to our organization. I hope everyone is enjoying her work as much as I am. The expression imitation is the sincerest form of flattery applies to last year's editor David Reiter. In last year's January issue, David's New Year's resolutions suggestions for NOGS members were to attend more NOGS luncheon meetings, to participate in NOGS educational events such as SuperSaurus Saturday at the Louisiana Children's Museum, participate in the spring NOGS Golf Tourney, serve on the NOGS board and donate money to the NOGS Memorial Foundation for annual scholarships. Well said David!

Mark Wojna

# DRILL BITS

## OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES BY AL BAKER



During November 2023, the **Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)** approved 74 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) drilling permits. Nine of the permits were for shelf wells, and the remaining 65 permits were for deepwater wells. There were 3 new well permits issued in deepwater.

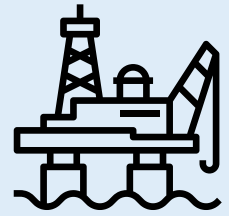
The deepwater new well permits were for 3 exploration wells. **Anadarko Petroleum** received an exploratory well permit for their Keathley Canyon 919 #11 well (Lucius Field). **Chevron U.S.A.** obtained 2 exploratory well permits for their Green Canyon 806 #BP-3 well (Anchor Field) and their Mississippi Canyon 607 #BP-1 (Ballymore Field).

On December 1st, **S&P Global Petrodata** indicated that the GoM mobile offshore rig supply stood at 49, which is 1 less than last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 36 rigs, of which 29 were under contract. The marketed rig supply is 1 less than last month, and the contracted rig supply 2 less than last month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate stood at 73.5%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stood at 80.6%. By comparison, the November 2022 total fleet utilization rate stood at 73.9% with 34 rigs under contract out of the 46 rigs in the fleet.

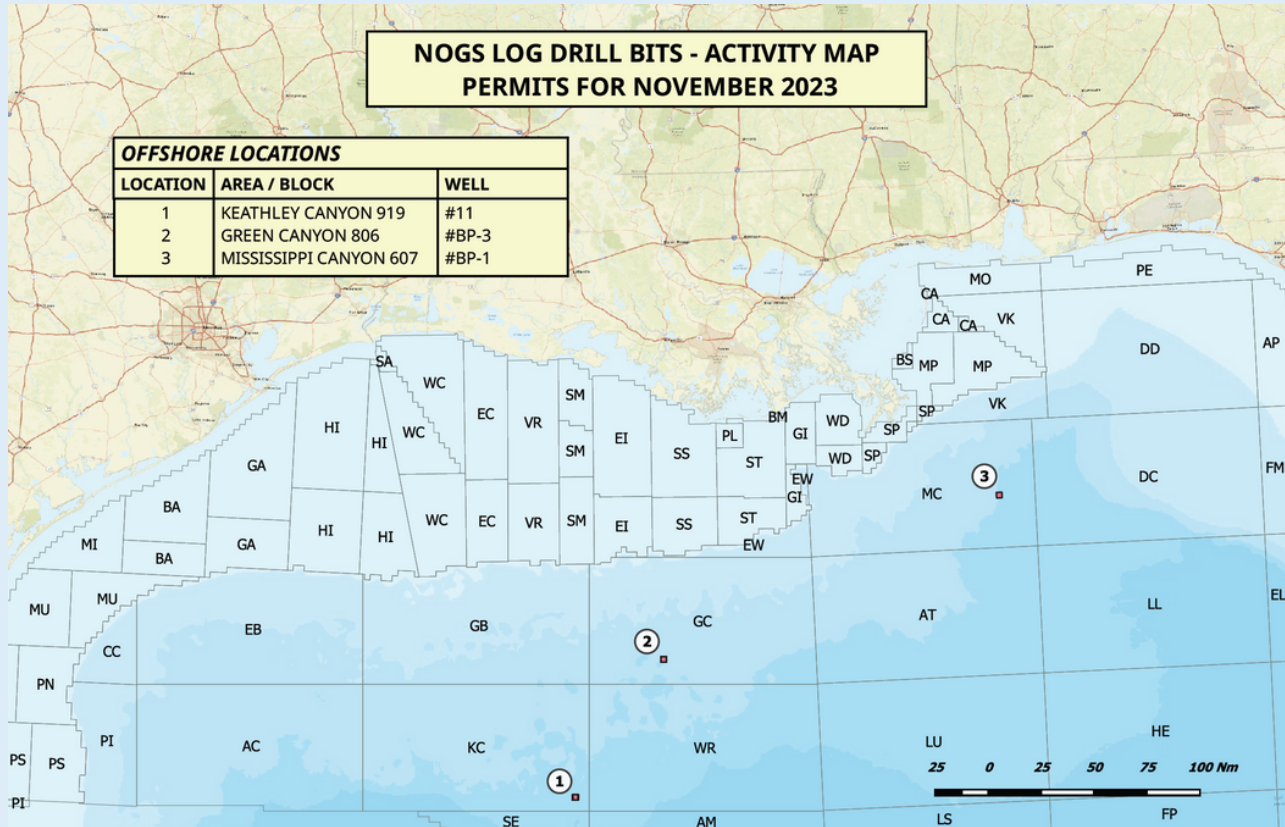
On December 1st, **Baker Hughes** reported that there are 19 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which is 3 less than last month and 65.5% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. Currently, 2 rigs are drilling on the shelf, and 17 rigs are drilling in deepwater. The shelf rigs are located in the Eugene Island Area and the South Timbalier Area. The deepwater rigs include 7 rigs in the Mississippi Canyon Area, 4 rigs in the Green Canyon Area, 2 rigs in the Alaminos Canyon Area, and 1 rig each in the Walker Ridge, Atwater Valley, Ewing Bank and Garden Banks Areas.

On December 1st, the **Baker Hughes** total U.S. rig count stood at 625 rigs, which is the same as reported at the end of October 2023. Of the 625 rigs, 505 (80.8%) are oil rigs and 116 (18.6%) are gas rigs. Four rigs are listed as miscellaneous. A year ago, there were 784 rigs working in the U.S., inferring that the 159 rig decline represents a 20.3% decrease in rigs year over year. As usual, Texas continues to have the largest number of rigs with 306, which is 49% of the total number of rigs in the U. S. Louisiana currently has a total of 41 rigs, which is 1 less than last month. Louisiana ranks third behind New Mexico, which has 106 rigs.

# DRILL BITS



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



# Recent Energy Headlines

## December 2023 Recap

**12/11/2023 - Op-Ed: The World Needs U.S. Offshore Energy** - As the price of gas continues to seemingly hold steady at around three dollars a gallon, the pocketbooks of Americans continue to suffer. Regretfully, due to global conflict and the outbreak of wars across Europe and the Middle East, oil prices are continuing to climb upwards, troubled by geopolitical conflict and fears of a potential shutdown of international oil and gas fields. [Read Full Article](#)

**12/11/2023 - Cassidy, Daines, Colleagues Introduce Bill Mandating Offshore, Onshore Oil and Gas Lease Sales** - U.S. Senators Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA), Steve Daines (R-MT), and seven Republican colleagues introduced the Supporting Made in America Energy Act to ensure that the United States maintains and grows its energy independence by supporting Made in America energy. The bill bolsters energy independence by requiring the DOI to hold 4 onshore lease sales. [Read Full Article](#)

**12/12/2023 - Shell to boost production at Perdido's oil project in US Gulf of Mexico** - Shell PLC on Tuesday said it has made a final investment decision (FID) to boost production at the Perdido oil project in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, starting in April 2025. The company, which operates the platform, said it will add three wells that are expected to produce up to 22,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day (boepd) at peak rates. Perdido has a production capacity of 125,000 boepd at peak rates. [Read Full Article](#)

**12/13/2023 - COP28 Agreement Underscores the Need for American Offshore Energy** - "The goals set by COP28 underscore the pivotal role of the American offshore industry in achieving the objectives of mitigating climate change while enhancing global living conditions. "As global energy demand continues to rise, the reality is the necessity for all energy sources to remain into the foreseeable future in order to effectively meet the energy security needs of a growing global society. [Read Full Article](#)

**12/13/2023 - Shell takes over 100% of US Gulf of Mexico's Kaikias field** - Shell said on Wednesday said it had acquired the remaining 20% working interest in the Kaikias field in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico from MOEX North America (MOEX), a unit of Mitsui & Co. [Read Full Article](#)

**12/15/2023 - API: Final five-year offshore program is 'step in wrong direction' for U.S. energy security** - The American Petroleum Institute (API) released the following statement on Dec. 15 from the Vice President of Upstream Policy Holly Hopkins on the Biden administration's approval of a five-year program for federal offshore leasing. "Simply put, this final five-year program fails to meet the energy needs of the American people and could threaten to increase reliance on foreign energy sources." [Read Full Article](#)

**12/20/2023 - GOM Oil and Gas Lease Sale 261 Results Announced** - As required by the Inflation Reduction Act, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) today held Gulf of Mexico Oil and Gas Lease Sale 261. The sale generated \$382,168,507 in high bids for 311 tracts covering 1.7 million acres in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. A total of 26 companies participated in the lease sale, submitting 352 bids totaling \$441,896,332. [Read Full Article](#)





**AAPG**



## Calling for donations for the upcoming **AAPG Caughey-Zimmermann Energy Library**

LSU AAPG is developing a library that will provide a **wealth of valuable resources** to students. Our goal is to foster a **collaborative environment** where students can **explore** topics in petroleum geology, **empowering** them to **pursue careers** in the energy sector... ***BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!***

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# **CALL FOR SPEAKERS!**

**Have a great topic that you  
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Members at a Monthly  
Meeting?**

**Submit your topic and  
presentation for our Program  
Committee to review**

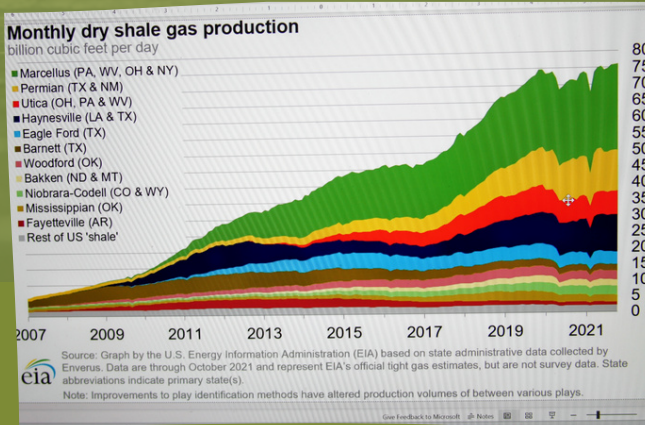
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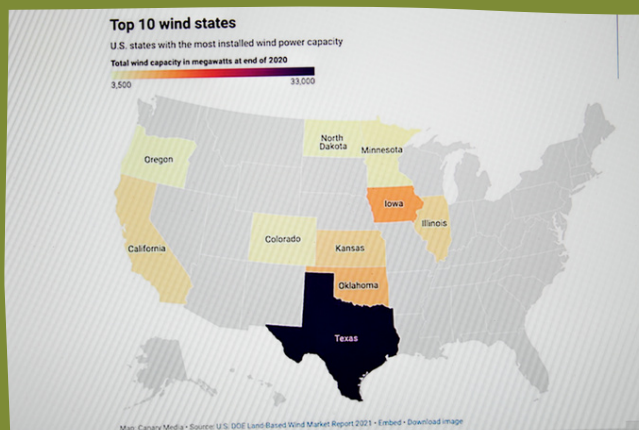
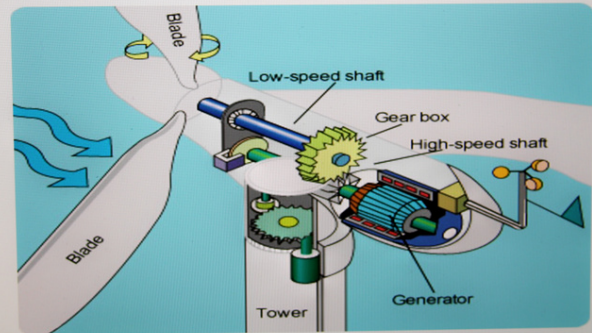
# NOGS December Luncheon

## Photo Recap

with Eric Ney Smith of Tulane Energy Institute on “Prospects for Offshore Wind in the Gulf of Mexico”



### Wind Electrical Generation





Norris Conference Center



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  - Caribbean, Mexico
- Critical Minerals
- AI/Data Science and its Future with Geosciences
- Environmental Geology and Engineering
- Carbon Capture and Sequestration
- Seismic Imaging and Data Analytics
- Hydrology
- Geothermal

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| <b>Platinum</b> | 15,000+ | Portrait full page, bleed, color         | 3  | 2   |                                      |   |   | Listed as "PLATINUM"   |
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# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS!

Link to submit on [www.geogulf2024.org](http://www.geogulf2024.org)

**Deadline December 15, 2023**



**Win Dr. Shaley's Squier Guitar!!!**

To enter you must submit an abstract by Dec. 15th and if it's accepted you will be included in a drawing at the 73rd annual GCAGS GCSSEPM Geogulf 2024 Conference themed, "SCHOOL OF ROCK, Expert Geology with a Soundtrack" in San Antonio on Friday afternoon on April 12! (Must attend and be present to win) We look forward to seeing everyone at our premier professional research and networking event. Good luck!

# GEOGULF2024

SAN ANTONIO  
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CALLING ALL  
"ROCK STARS"

Proposed Sessions



## SCHOOL OF ROCK

EXPERT GEOSCIENCE WITH A SOUNDTRACK



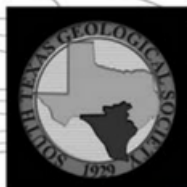
Deep-water prospects of the onshore  
New things to old fields in deep-water stratigraphic intervals  
ML and AI to accelerate Gulf Coast development  
Session hosted by the Pet. Structure and Geomechanics Div. (AAPG)  
Eagleford and the Austin Chalk: Gifts that keep on giving!

Geologic carbon storage on the Gulf Coast (BEG GCCC)  
Critical metals (and Lithium) exploration value chain  
Session hosted by the Energy Mineral Division (AAPG)  
East Texas petroleum exploration  
University-industry collaboration, hydrology, geothermal,  
"The Business of Petroleum", and many others!

**Abstract Submissions:** Abstract submission closes December 15, 2023. Visit [geogulf2024.org](http://geogulf2024.org) to learn more about where to submit abstracts, guidelines, and attending **GeoGulf2024**.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

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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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HELLO  
JANUARY



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