

#### On the Cover

#### **Laughing Gull Footprints**

#### on Okaloosa Island Fort Walton Beach Florida

A Laughing Gull (Leucophaeus atricilla) left its footprints in the sand on Okaloosa Island. This barrier island in Fort Walton Beach is part Florida's famed "Emerald Coast" on the Gulf of America. Beaches in this area are known for their beautiful white sand and emerald green waters. Sourced in the Southern Appalachian Mountains and transported to the Gulf of America by the Apalachicola River this sand is well sorted, fine to medium grained and composed almost entirely of quartz; study samples range from 96% to 100 % quartz with an average of 98.8%. Carbonate skeletal remains generally do not exceed 1.5%. Mica is absent, but heavy minerals can range from 0 to 2.3%. These Holocene siliciclastic sediments on the beaches of the Florida panhandle are deposited on Late Pleistocene beach and barrier landforms of similar composition.

The Emerald Coast is a integral part of Florida's tourism industry and significant resources are applied to manage the shifting sands of a barrier island system. Besides the normal process of sand migration from tidal, waves and wind, these beaches are susceptible to significant erosion



from seasonal storms and hurricanes. Historically Okaloosa County has employed traditional approaches to beach management including utilizing fencing, dune vegetative plantings and beach nourishment (or replenishment) which is accomplished by dredging sand offshore and redepositing it on the beach. This process can be a quick fix, but it doesn't stop erosion and has to be repeated to maintain the beach. In addition, the dredged sand most often is of different composition, erodes more quickly than the naturally deposited sand. The process usually produces a beach profile with a steeper gradient which inhibits wildlife and can accelerate erosion. Fairly recently the county approved a new approach and has contracted to deploy a system classified as temporary porous groynes. The system is generally described as sand fencing consisting of lines of fine mesh installed perpendicular to the shoreline approximately 100 feet apart. Approximately 50ft. onshore and extending 100 ft. into the water. This approach is a fraction of the cost of dredging and can be reused for several deployments. It can be installed primarily in the off season minimizing the impact on wildlife and tourism and because it's temporary it is more easily permitted. The sand collected is native, naturally accreted sand transported from offshore.

Resources: Bright Beaches in Florida: https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/152091/bright-beaches-in-florida; Gulls - laridae: https://web.stanford.edu/~siegelr/birdz/gulls.html; ScienceDirect:

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0037073807002084; SEGS-Field-Trip-Guidebook: https://segs.org/wpcontent/uploads/2010/01/SEGS-Field-Trip-Guidebook-59.pdf; The Paradise Patriot:

https://theparadisepatriot.com/index.php/2021/07/08/okaloosa-county-finally-chose-a-conservative-approach-to-beach-renourishment-and-the-islanders-rejoiced/

#### From the Editor

Hello again,

Congratulations and welcome to our new New Orleans Geological Society Board of Directors! We truly appreciate board members who are continuing their positions, assuming new roles on the board, and those members that are new to the board. I am confident that the donation of your precious time and talents will contribute to the growth and health of our organization. We also wish heath and good fortune, as well as our sincere thanks, to those departing board members for their contributions to our society.

Our NOGS monthly luncheon and technical presentation will resume in September. Planning is also underway for special events during the upcoming holiday season, so STAY TUNNED!

Last month NOGS co-sponsored the highly successful 2025 Deepwater Technical Symposium and pre-symposium training classes along with the American Association of Drilling Engineers (AADE) New Orleans Chapter, and the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Delta Section. This issue of the NOGS Log features a pictorial highlighting Symposium activities. The Deepwater Technical Symposium 2026 will be held in August, again at the New Orleans Hilton Riverside. It's not too early to plan to attend, or better yet, volunteer to plan and execute next year's event!

Next year will be the 75thanniversary of The Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS). Geogulf2026 will be co-hosted by New Orleans (NOGS), Lafayette (LGS) and Baton Rouge (BRGS) Geological Societies in Baton Rouge from March 23-25, 2026. This is an excellent volunteer opportunity as we are still in need of additional committee chairs, session chairs, judges, and sponsors. Please consider volunteering some of you time and talents to make this NOGS sponsored event a success!

Lencourage professionals, academics, and graduate students to grow your network and share your research. Become an active NOGS Member, consider writing a short article in the NOGS Log or, better yet, provide a short lunchtime presentation at a monthly meeting. Volunteer to work NOGS events. Please consider offering your services as a Board Member.

Until September....

Brian Bothner 2025/2026 NOGS Log Editor



#### BRIAN DAVID

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE 2025/2026 NOGS PRESIDENT

Greetings,

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and finding ways to stay cool amid the intense heatwaves here in South Louisiana. I'd like to take a moment to sincerely thank our outgoing President, Jarod Bullock, and Director, C. Emmitt Lockard, for their tireless efforts and dedicated service to both NOGS and the Deepwater Technical Symposium (DWTS).

The 28th Annual Deepwater Technical Symposium (DWTS) was held a few weeks ago and was a great success. Attendance was strong, and the conference offered excellent opportunities for learning, networking, and professional development. Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's DWTS in August 2026—an event you won't want to miss.

We experienced a few minor delays in transitioning from the 2024–2025 to the 2025–2026 NOGS Board, I'm pleased to share that the baton has officially been passed, and we're ready to move forward. The new Board is excited to begin working on an active agenda for the upcoming year. We're planning several events we believe will strengthen our organization while keeping things exciting and fun. Our monthly luncheons will resume in September, with Mark Morford from Lumina Geophysical. We're also putting together an outstanding lineup of dynamic speakers. Mark your calendar for the Plano/NOGS/SPWLA Golf Tournament, taking place Monday, October 6th at Bayou Oaks. We hope to see many of you there! Keep in mind the 75th Annual GeoGulf happening 23rd - 25th of March 2026 in Baton Rouge.

Later in the fall, we're planning a family-oriented social in the park with a fun-filled day with food, games, and great company. Other events we're working on include a Toys for Tots drive, a geology training course, a Wilcox-focused field trip, a student poster expo, university outreach events, our spring social, and continued support of STEM education. Be on the lookout for more information on these upcoming events. We truly need your support and participation to make them successful—whether that's attending, volunteering, or spreading the word. Together, we can make this an outstanding year for NOGS.

Finally, let's extend a warm welcome to our incoming 2025–2026 NOGS Board. We're especially excited to have some first-time board members joining us—Akinbobola Akintomide and James Duncan—who deserve our sincere appreciation for stepping up to serve. We also want to recognize and thank our returning board members for their continued dedication and steadfast support of NOGS. Your commitment is what keeps our organization moving forward. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to reach out to me at 2025.26nogspres@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Brian David President, NOGS 2025–2026 Keynote Speakers

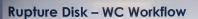
Deepwater
Technical Symposium

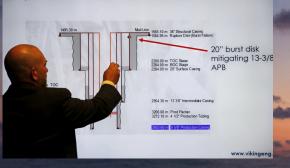
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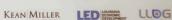








JONES WALKER







**ENERGY SERVICES** 











#### Mark Wojna



March 23 - 25, 2026

The Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) serves as the Gulf Coast Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) and consists of 13 Gulf Coast area geological societies located in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Mexico. The key event for GCAGS is the annual joint technical conference with the Gulf Coast Section of the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists (Society for Sedimentary Geology) (GCSSEPM) and hosted by various geological member societies. The annual conference has been recently rebranded as GeoGulf. Papers presented at the annual conference are published in the Transactions, which forms a valuable resource of Gulf Coast geology.

Following is the mission statement for GCAGS: "Formerly the GCAGS Annual Conference, GeoGulf is dedicated to exploring the dynamic intersection of Gulf Coast geology and energy resources. Our mission is to bring together industry leaders, researchers, and professionals to share knowledge, foster innovation, and address the region's unique geological and energy challenges. By facilitating engaging discussions, workshops, and valuable networking opportunities, GeoGulf aims to drive the advancement of geological sciences and sustainable energy solutions, ensuring a thriving future for the Gulf Coast and beyond."

Our First Annual Meeting was held in New Orleans in 1951 and now our 75th anniversary conference will be celebrated as GeoGulf 2026 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, co-hosted by the New Orleans, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge Geological Societies. The conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Executive Center Baton Rouge located at 4728 Constitution Avenue. GCAGS has always encouraged local university Earth Science programs to participate in the annual conference. GeoGulf 2025 was recently held on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX.

GeoGulf 2026 presents the opportunity to shine a light on not only general Gulf Coast geology and community but also on the dynamic geology of South Louisiana. The GCAGS's South Louisiana member societies (NOGS, LGS, and BRGS), Louisiana university Earth Science programs, Louisiana Geological Survey, and various Louisiana state regulatory departments and agencies are all expected to participate. Technical sessions are being planned for Regional Gulf Coast Geology, South Louisiana—Geopressured Deep Exploration, Salt Domes, Deepwater Geology, MAFLA Geology and Activity (Mississippi, Alabama & Florida), Lithium, Paleontology/Biostratigraphy and Environmental Geology, Coastal Processes, Diversions, and Land Restorations. A special session is being planned for Louisiana's role in Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS).

GeoGulf 2026 is an opportunity for researchers, university faculty, graduate students, and industry geologists to present and publish papers on Gulf Coast geology. Poster sessions play an important role at the conference. Industry service companies, state regulatory agencies and universities have an opportunity to promote themselves at the conference. The conference will also include short courses, field trips and a golf tournament. Sponsorship opportunities are available to support the non-profit GeoGulf 2026 Conference.





## **DRILL BITS**



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

During June 2025, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) approved 61 Gulf of America (GoA) drilling permits. Five of the permits were for a shelf wells, and the remaining 56 permits were for deepwater wells. There were 11 new well permits issued in deepwater.

The 11 new well deepwater permits were for 9 exploration wells and 2 development wells. Shell Offshore received 7 exploration well permits. Four of the permits were for their Garden Banks 959 #SP-101, #SP-102, #SP-103 and #SP-106 wells in their Sparta Field, which is a sub-salt Paleogene oil development. They also obtained permits for their Mississippi Canyon 524 #1 well, their Mississippi Canyon 854 #1 (Ursa Field) well and their Alaminos Canyon 772 #WS-304 (Whale Field) well. Chevron U.S.A. was given a permit for their Green Canyon 641 #IN-3 well. BOE Exploration & Production was granted a permit for their Mississippi Canyon 759 #ZA-2 well. The 2 development new well permits were awarded to BP Exploration & Production for their Green Canyon 743 #DC-104 and #DC-304 wells, which are in their Atlantis Field.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, S&P Global Petrodata indicated that the GoA mobile offshore rig supply stood at 43, which is the same as last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 32 rigs, of which 25 were under contract. The marketed rig supply was the same as month, and the contracted rig supply was 1 less than last month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate stood at 58.1%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stood at 78.1%. By comparison, the June 2024 total fleet utilization rate stood at 72.9% with 35 rigs in the marketed supply out of the 48 rigs in the fleet.

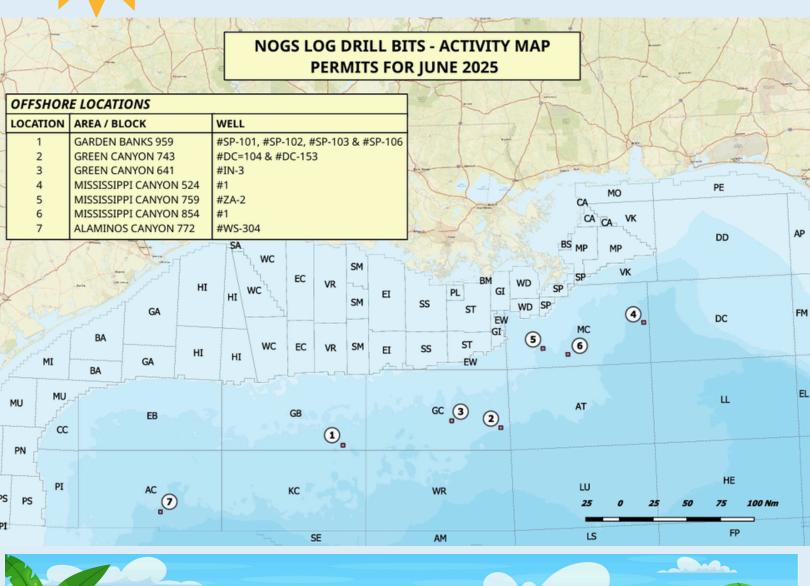
On June 27<sup>th</sup>, Baker Hughes reported that there are 10 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which is 1 more than last month and 40% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. Currently, all 10 rigs are drilling in deepwater. The deepwater rigs include 7 rigs in the Mississippi Canyon Area, 2 rigs in the Green Canyon Area and 1 rig in the Alaminos Canyon Area.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, the Baker Hughes total U.S. rig count stood at 547 rigs, which are 16 less rigs than last month. Of the 547 rigs, 432 (79%) are oil rigs and 109 (19.9%) are gas rigs. Six rigs are listed as miscellaneous. Of the 547 wells being drilled, 496 (90.7%) are horizontal and 13 (2.4%) are vertical. A year ago, there were 581 rigs working in the U.S. inferring that the current 34 rig decline corresponds to an 5.9% decrease in rigs year over year. Nationally, Texas has the largest number of rigs with 258, which is 47.2% of the total number of rigs in the U. S. Louisiana currently has a total of 30 rigs, which is the same as last month. Louisiana is ranked fourth with 31 rigs and is behind New Mexico and Oklahoma, which have 92 and 46 rigs, respectively.

### **DRILL BITS**



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





#### Recent Energy Headlines

July 2025 Recap

7/25/2025 - Beacon Offshore Kicks Off Shenandoah Production - Beacon Offshore Energy has officially started oil and gas production at its long-awaited Shenandoah field in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, the company confirmed Friday—marking a major milestone not just for Beacon, but for the ultra-deepwater Lower Tertiary Wilcox play. Phase 1 production is expected to ramp up to 100,000 barrels per day in the third quarter. The floating production system, parked off the coast of Louisiana, has a nameplate capacity of 120,000 bpd and 140 million cubic feet of gas per day. Phase 2 is scheduled to come online by mid-2026, while a third development Shenandoah South—is also now sanctioned, with first oil anticipated in 2028. Read Full Article

7/18/2025 - Chevron Completes Acquisition of Hess Corporation - Chevron Corporation (NYSE: CVX) announced today that it has completed its acquisition of Hess Corporation (NYSE: HES) following the satisfaction of all necessary closing conditions, including a favorable arbitration outcome regarding Hess' offshore Guyana asset. The combined company has one of the most advantaged and differentiated portfolios in the industry, with leading positions in critical energy markets around the world and a high cash margin production profile. In addition, on July 17, 2025, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) lifted its earlier restriction, clearing the way for John Hess to join Chevron's Board of Directors, subject to Board approval. "This merger of two great American companies brings together the best in the industry," said Chevron Chairman and CEO Mike Wirth. "The combination enhances and extends our growth profile well into the next decade, which we believe will drive greater long-term value to shareholders. Additionally, I'm pleased with the FTC's unanimous decision. John is a respected industry leader, and our Board would benefit from his experience, relationships and expertise." Read Full Article

**7/14/2025 - 'Big Beautiful Bill' expands oil and gas leasing, tax credits -** President Donald Trump's "one big beautiful bill" includes several provisions expanding federal subsidies and tax benefits for the oil and gas industry. Among its most significant energy-related provisions, the legislation mandates the resumption of quarterly onshore oil and gas lease sales under the Mineral Leasing Act, effectively repealing restrictions introduced by the Inflation Reduction Act. The Department of the Interior is required to conduct at least four lease sales per year in nine states — including Wyoming, New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma. Read Full Article

7/1/2025 - Chevron farms out interest in 40 operated US offshore blocks - With the deal, TotalEnergies gains interest in 13 blocks in the Walker Ridge area, 9 blocks in the Mississippi Canyon area, and 18 blocks in the East Breaks area, the company said. Chevron Corp. has farmed out a 25% working interest in certain US offshore exploration leases to TotalEnergies. The deal, which includes 40 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) federal leases spanning about 1,000 sq km ranging about 175-330 km from shore, was disclosed by TotalEnergies in a press release June 16. The transaction value was not disclosed. With the deal, TotalEnergies gains interest in 13 blocks in the Walker Ridge area, 9 blocks in the Mississippi Canyon area, and 18 blocks in the East Breaks area, the company said. Read Full Article

# 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 pertoleum 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.

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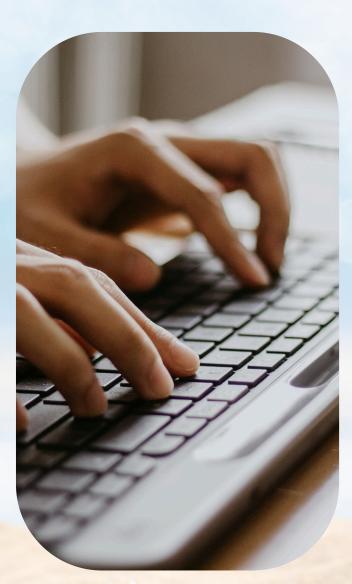
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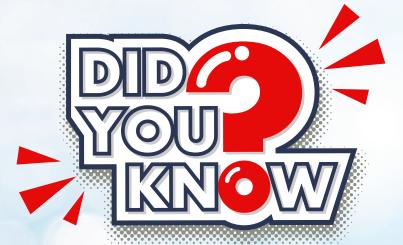
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9	Oil and Gas Fields of South Louisiana 2010. CD-ROM		2010
	Meander Belt Deposition, Plaquemine Point		1998
M	Northeastern Gulf Coastal Plain Revisited		1997
2000c	Geology of the Ouachita Core Area		1993
<b>9</b>	Productive Low Resistivity Well Logs		1993
700	Tour of Salt Dome Caprock Features, Winn Rock Quarry		1993
	Geological and Cultural Excursion, Jackson to Natchez, MS		1993
No.	Introduction to Central Gulf Coast Geology		1991
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•	Oil and Gas Fields of Southeast Louisiana Vol. 3 Supplement		1987
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