

# NGLS LOG

July 2025  
Volume 66 No. 1

*Happy  
4<sup>th</sup> of July*



**Empowering Future Success  
In Deepwater  
"Technology Innovations for  
Resilient Deepwater Energy"**

**July 15-17, 2025**

**Hilton Riverside**

**GA TICKET INCLUDES ACCESS TO THE SYMPOSIUM ON  
JULY 16 + 17. MEALS ON JULY 16 + 17 ARE INCLUDED IN  
YOUR TICKET PRICE.**



# REGISTER TODAY

JULY 15-17, 2025

HILTON RIVERSIDE NEW ORLEANS

*Featuring Keynote Speakers:*



**CLARE FALCON, PH.D.**  
State Geologist -  
Louisiana Director,  
Louisiana Geological  
Survey Research Professor



**DR. JIM KENDALL**  
Regional Director  
Bureau of Ocean  
Energy Management -  
New Orleans Office



**REPRESENTATIVE JOE  
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District 54  
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PRODUCTION SYSTEMS | OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY | RESERVOIR & ECONOMICS  
STUDENT PRESENTATIONS | TECHNOLOGY ENTREPRENEUR  
| TOPSIDES | WELL DECOMMISSIONING

REGISTRATION AGENDAS & SCHEDULE  
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INQUIRIES/MORE INFORMATION:  
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PRE-SYMPOSIUM TRAINING  
JULY 15, 2025  
STUDENT FORUM

STUDENTS ATTEND FREE





# NOGS GEOLOGY COURSES 2025



28th Annual Gulf of Mexico  
**Deepwater**  
Technical Symposium

## Tuesday, July 15, 2025

## Hilton Riverside New Orleans

**Deepwater  
Sedimentary Systems:  
Science, Discovery  
and Applications**

**Jon Rotzien, Ph.D.**

**Course Duration: Full Day**

**Professional Development  
Hours (PDH) = 6**

**Cost: \$250.00  
(NOGS Members \$200)**

**Introduction to  
Geothermal and CCS  
Well Design**

**Parveen Sachdeva,  
Ph.D.**

**Course Duration: ½ Day**

**Professional Development  
Hours (PDH) = 3**

**Cost: \$150.00  
(NOGS Members \$100)**

**Introduction to Western  
and Central Gulf of  
Mexico Environmental  
Regulations and  
Compliance**

**Brian Boyer  
Jerry Landry  
Lincoln Stroh**

**Course Duration: Full Day**

**Professional Development  
Hours (PDH) = 6**

**Cost: \$250.00  
(NOGS Members \$200)**

**[Click Here for Full Course Descriptions](#)**



# *From the Editor*

Hello again,

Registration is now open for the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Deepwater Technical Symposium to be held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, New Orleans Louisiana July 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> 2025. This event is co-sponsored by American Association of Drilling Engineers (AADE) New Orleans Chapter, New Orleans Geological Society (NOGS), and Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Delta Section. In addition, NOGS will offer Geology short courses on Tuesday July 15, 2025. Additional information, detailed course descriptions and discount course registration fees are available to NOGS members through the NOGS website. This is a major NOGS sponsored event and an exciting volunteer opportunity for NOGS Members. Please volunteer, attend and take advantage of the continuing education Geology short course opportunities

I encourage 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 August...

*Brian Bothner*



**Brian Bothner**  
**2024/2025 NOGS Log Editor**







**JARED BULLOCK**

# **A MESSAGE FROM THE 2024/2025 NOGS PRESIDENT**

Members of NOGS,

The current and incoming NOGS Board of Directors are holding the annual board transition meeting in July. NOGS is fortunate to have several familiar faces from this past term year return to serve again on the board in new posts. I'm confident that the 2025-2026 NOGS Board of Director's will continue to build and improve the society in this dynamic environment we find ourselves in. The incoming Board is filled with capable individuals who have consistently delivered and overcome challenges. It's been a wonderful year serving alongside such dedicated individuals, and they should be proud of the standard they've set for what NOGS can achieve as a society today.

The Board will be in great hands under our next President, Brian David. Brian has experience working all over the country throughout the course of his career in the oil industry and has lived in the New Orleans area for nearly 5 years. He is a very dedicated individual and will be a wonderful fit for NOGS in 2025-2026. If you haven't met Brian in-person I would encourage you to reach out to him to show your support and do your best to attend one of NOGS events to say hello.

As mentioned in the previous NOGS LOGs, GeoGulf26 will be co-hosted by NOGS alongside the Lafayette and Baton Rouge Geological Societies. It will be held in Baton Rouge on March 23-25 2026, and it will be GeoGulf's 75 year anniversary. In addition, Mark Wonja, NOGS previous president, is the conference Chairman. If you would like to volunteer on behalf of NOGS please reach out to us ([admin@nogs.org](mailto:admin@nogs.org)). There are several different types of positions available including conference Board Member positions, session chairs, and technical judges among others.

One final note: NOGS will take a two month break from luncheons and events with a plan to begin again around Labor Day. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer! See yall at the Deepwater Technical Symposium July 15-17 in New Orleans, or later this fall!

Jared Bullock  
NOGS 2024-2025 President





# A MESSAGE FROM THE 2025/2026 NOGS PRESIDENT

**BRIAN DAVID**

Greetings everyone,

My name is Brian David, and I am incredibly honored and privileged to serve as your New Orleans Geological Society (NOGS) President. First and foremost, I want to extend my sincere thanks to our outgoing board members for their service and dedication, and to the current and incoming board members for stepping up to serve. I would especially like to recognize and thank our outgoing President, Jared Bullock, for his outstanding leadership and guidance. NOGS simply would not run as smoothly nor exist without the behind-the-scenes dedication of Christy Himel—our full-time administrative guru—who keeps the wheels greased and turning. Her commitment, along with the selfless service of everyone involved, is what makes this organization so strong.

An organization like NOGS can only survive—and truly thrive—when our local geological community actively participates and supports it. As your newly minted NOGS President, I'm asking each of you to help support your board members by taking a proactive role in NOGS functions and activities. The board consistently puts in a great deal of effort to plan and execute events. These gatherings aren't just about geology—they're also a fantastic opportunity to connect or reconnect with colleagues, mentors, and friends we may not have seen in a while.

Personally, I've been fortunate to meet many outstanding individuals through NOGS, and I've learned so much from these interactions. My point is simple: NOGS is a wonderful organization filled with incredibly smart, generous people who are always willing to share their knowledge. Through my involvement with NOGS, I've grown both professionally and personally—and I know many of you have had similar experiences. Let's keep that spirit alive and growing.

In return for your support, I promise to work tirelessly and give 120% effort to meet the needs of our members and to help grow NOGS into an even more robust and dynamic society. I have several goals for the year ahead that I look forward to developing with our board. These include expanded professional development opportunities, exciting field trips, and increased student outreach—alongside our ongoing community engagement and social events. You'll hear more about these initiatives soon as we begin to bring them to life.

Just as important, I want to hear from you. I value member input and encourage you to share your feedback, ideas, and suggestions—on what NOGS is doing well and where we can improve. To make that easy, I've set up a dedicated email address: [2025.26nogspres@gmail.com](mailto:2025.26nogspres@gmail.com)

Please don't hesitate to reach out. Your voice matters, and together, we can make this a truly impactful year for NOGS.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to a great year ahead with you.

*Brian*

Brian David  
NOGS 2025-2026 President





*Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

*Hosted by:*



## **Celebrating 75 Years of Gulf Coast Geology**

**March 23 - 25, 2026**

# **Mark Wojna**

The Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) was formed in 1951. GCAGS consists of 13 geological societies in the Gulf Coast area and serves as the Gulf Coast Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG). The first GCAGS convention was held in New Orleans in 1951. Next year's conference will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 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. I will be serving as the General Chair for the convention, with Travis Helms, (Cantium) serving as Vice Chair. We're currently seeking additional committee chairs, session chairs, judges and volunteers and sponsors to make the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary Geogulf2026 a success. Several members have already stepped forward.

Sessions will include Regional Gulf Coast geology, South Louisiana-Geopressured Exploration, Salt Dome geology and storage, Deepwater Geology, Lithium Exploration, Coastal Processes-Diversions-Land Restoration, MAFLA (Mississippi, Alabama & Florida) energy resource activity. A session is also being planned for Louisiana Carbon Capture Underground Storage (CCUS). We anticipate all of the major earth science departments from Louisiana schools will participate. To all university faculty, Geogulf2026 presents a great opportunity for your students to share their research by presenting a talk or doing a poster sessions. More information on the conference will be coming out soon including a webpage. I'll be using LinkedIn to post additional information on the conference. If you would like to volunteer, sponsor, contribute a technical presentation to the conference or have any questions please contact me at [markw@llox.com](mailto:markw@llox.com). I look forward to seeing everyone next year in Baton Rouge.

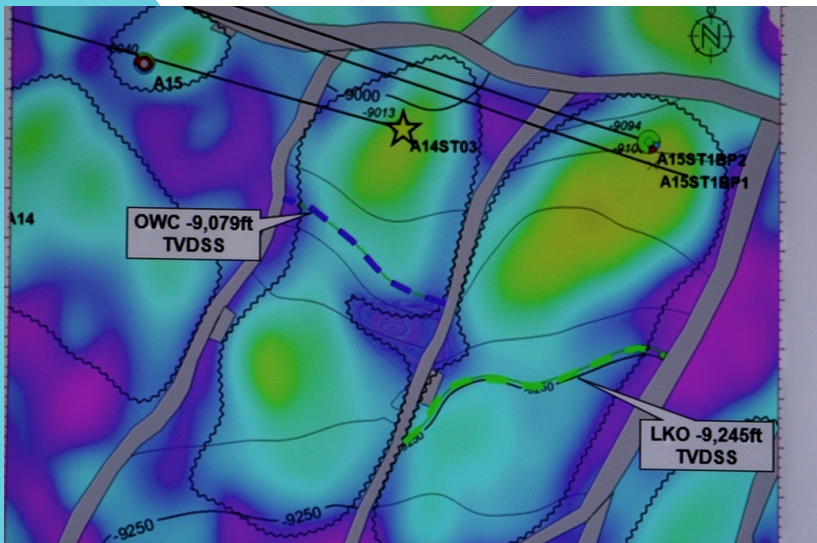
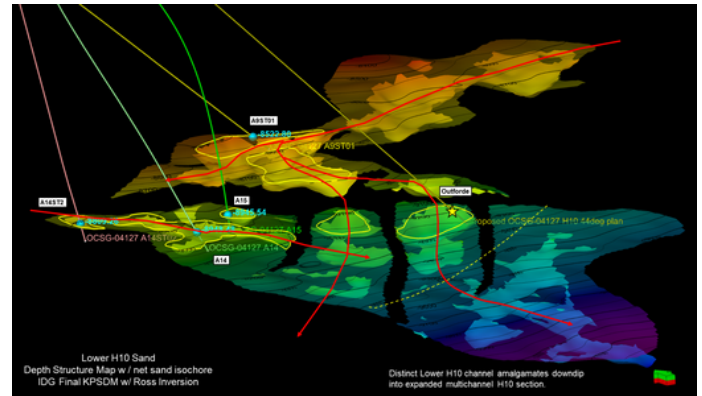


# JUNE MEETING 2025

**Unraveling the stratigraphic complexity  
of the Upper Miocene slope-channel  
systems at MP313, Gulf of Mexico Shelf:  
Leveraging reprocessed seismic to  
establish a new trend within a mature  
field.**

## SPEAKERS

**STEFANIE FRELINGER  
AND LUKE PIERCE**



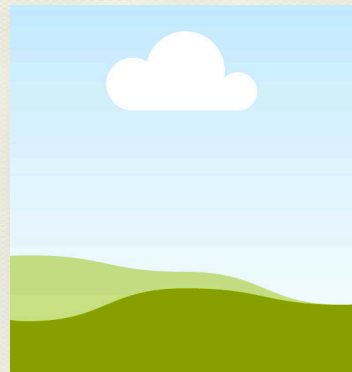




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**Akinbobola Akintomide**  
Director C



**Brian Bothner**  
Editor



**James Duncan**  
Editor Elect

# 2025/2026 NOGS BOARD SLATE





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## NOGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE

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### ABOUT

## AKINBOBOLA AKINTOMIDE

Akinbobola Akintomide, widely known as Bobola, is an accomplished geologist with a strong and proven track record in geoscience and the oil industry. His technical expertise spans structural geology, salt tectonics, and reservoir characterization. Currently working as a geologist at the Louisiana Geological Survey, Bobola is spearheading the construction of a comprehensive 3D subsurface geologic model for the state of Louisiana, a project vital for energy, CCUS, and environmental initiatives. His prior industry experience includes roles as a wellsite geologist with Columbine Corporation on unconventional drilling projects in Midland, Texas, and as a geologist with BGI Resources and Canyon Creek Energy, where he contributed to oilfield development, reservoir characterization, and new opportunity identification in Texas and Oklahoma.

Bobola holds a Ph.D. in Geology from Tulane University, where his research advanced the understanding of fault activity and its contribution to coastal wetland loss and subsidence in south Louisiana. His academic work also produced significant models explaining salt-fault interactions in the Gulf of America (Gulf of Mexico). He earned his Master of Science in Geoscience from the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and his Bachelor's degree in Applied Geology from the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria. Outside of his professional and academic pursuits, Bobola is an avid tennis player and enjoys hiking, combining his passion for the outdoors with his appreciation for geological landscapes.





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## NOGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE

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### ABOUT

## JAMES DUNCAN

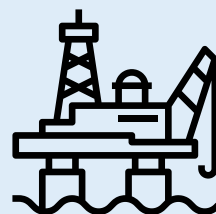
I am James Grimshaw Duncan, GIT. I am 29 years old and was born and raised in uptown New Orleans, Louisiana. I earned a High School Diploma From Lusher Charter High School in New Orleans, Louisiana in May 2014 and a Bachelor of Sciences in Environmental Geology from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi in May 2020. I currently work (Feb. 2023 to present) as a GIS Analyst I in the Electronic Information Systems Department at Jefferson Parish Government where I utilize ESRI's ArcGIS Pro software to update the Parish's digital maps based on aerial imagery. I previously worked (Oct. 2021 to Aug 2022) as a GIS Analyst—NGA Project for Actalent, Inc./T-Kartor USA, Inc. performing remote mapping work for Maxar Technologies, Inc. where I generated and edited digital lithologic maps based on satellite data utilizing ArcGIS Pro and ERDAS Imagine software packages. I own a Geoscientist-in Training license (GIT 31) from the Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists in May 2021.





# DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND  
DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES  
BY AL BAKER



During May 2025, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) approved 54 Gulf of America (GoA) drilling permits. Six of the permits were for a shelf wells, and the remaining 48 permits were for deepwater wells. There were 6 new well permits issued in deepwater.

The 6 new well deepwater permits were all given to Shell Offshore for various exploration wells. Four of the permits were for their Garden Banks 959 #SP-1, #SP-2, #SP-3 and #SP-4 wells in their Sparta Field, which is a sub-salt Paleogene oil development. They also obtained a permit for their Mississippi Canyon 764 #KE-3 well in their King Embayment Field, which is located on the northeast flank of Mars Field (MC 607 TLP). Their sixth permit was for their Alaminos Canyon #GD-12 well in their Great White Field located in the Perdido area.

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, S&P Global Petrodata indicated that the GoA mobile offshore rig supply stood at 43, which is 1 less than last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 32 rigs, of which 26 were under contract. The marketed rig supply was 1 less than month, and the contracted rig supply was 1 more than last month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate stood at 60.5%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stood at 81.3%. By comparison, the May 2024 total fleet utilization rate stood at 82.9% with 35 rigs in the marketed supply out of the 48 rigs in the fleet.

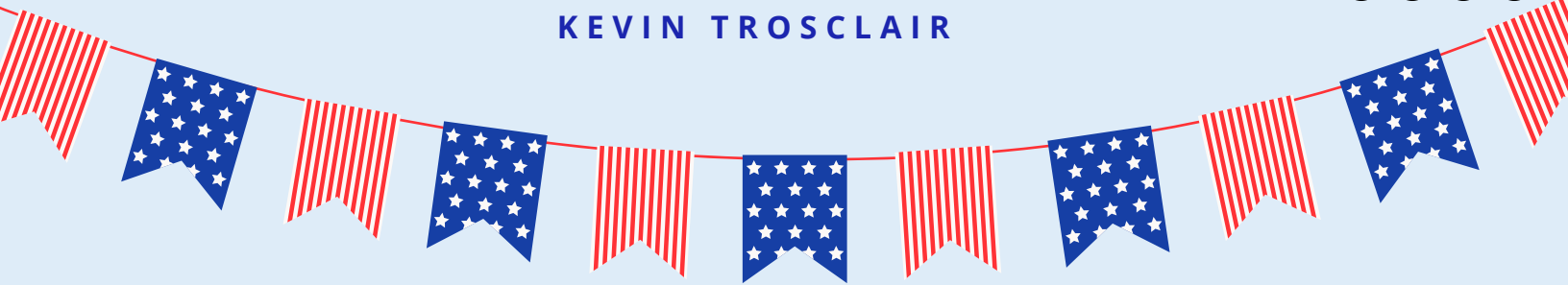
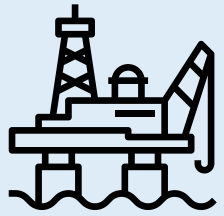
On May 30<sup>th</sup>, Baker Hughes reported that there are 9 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which is 2 less than last month and 34.6% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. Currently, all 9 rigs are drilling in deepwater. The deepwater rigs include 6 rigs in the Mississippi Canyon Area, 2 rigs in the Green Canyon Area and 1 rig in the Alaminos Canyon Area.

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, the Baker Hughes total U.S. rig count stood at 563 rigs, which are 24 less rigs than last month. Of the 563 rigs, 461 (81.9%) are oil rigs and 99 (17.6%) are gas rigs. Three rigs are listed as miscellaneous. Of the 563 wells being drilled, 508 (90.2%) are horizontal and 13 (2.3%) are vertical. A year ago, there were 600 rigs working in the U.S. inferring that the current 37 rig decline corresponds to an 6.2% decrease in rigs year over year. Nationally, Texas has the largest number of rigs with 266, 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 and North Dakota are tied for tied for fourth. They rank behind New Mexico and Oklahoma, which have 91 and 52 rigs, respectively.



# DRILL BITS

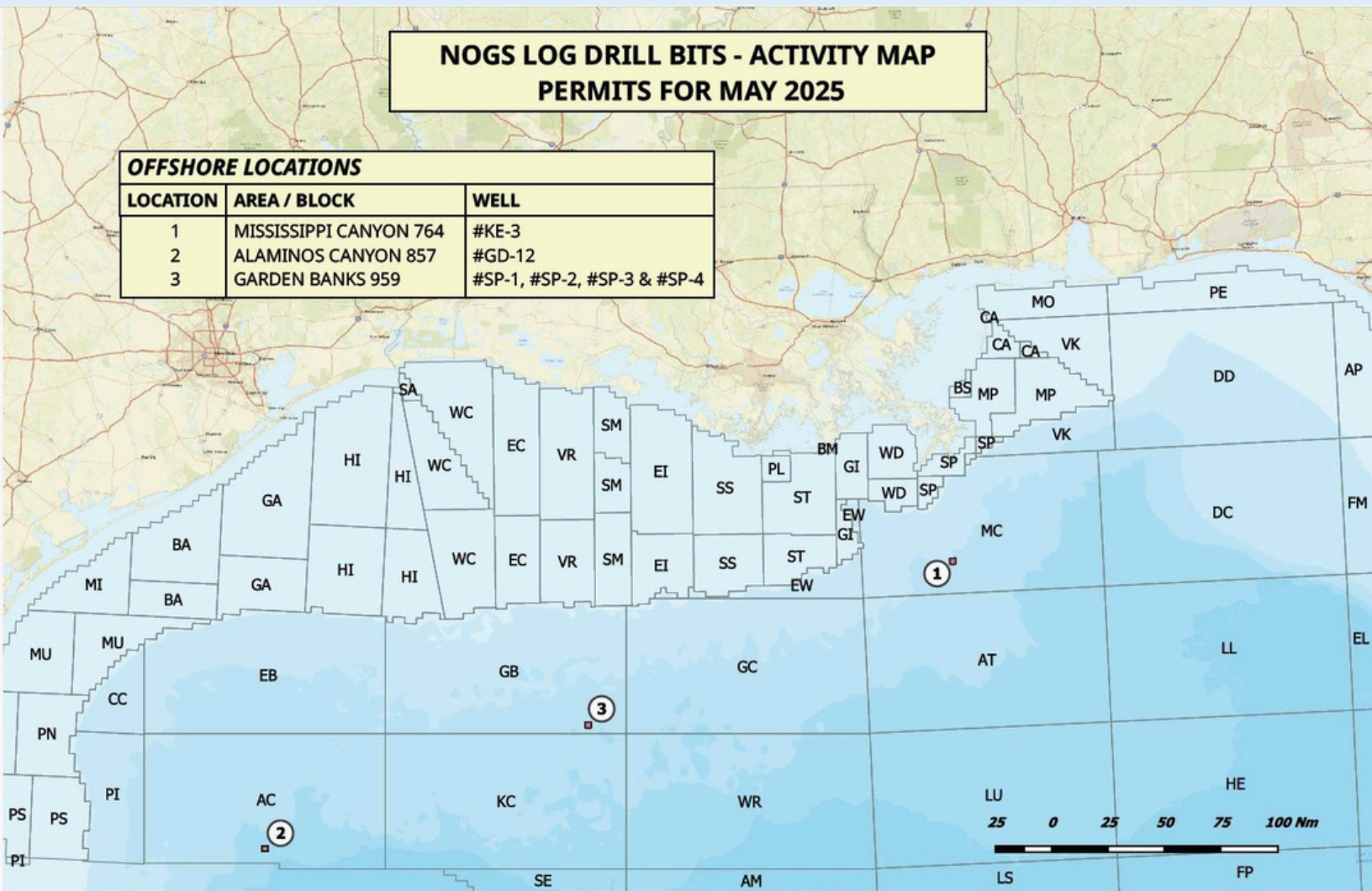
NEW WELL PERMITS OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO  
SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES MAP BY  
KEVIN TROSCLAIR



## NOGS LOG DRILL BITS - ACTIVITY MAP PERMITS FOR MAY 2025

### OFFSHORE LOCATIONS

LOCATION	AREA / BLOCK	WELL
1	MISSISSIPPI CANYON 764	#KE-3
2	ALAMINOS CANYON 857	#GD-12
3	GARDEN BANKS 959	#SP-1, #SP-2, #SP-3 & #SP-4





# Recent Energy Headlines

## *June 2025 Recap*

**6/25/2025 - Interior Streamlines Offshore Mineral Policies to Strengthen U.S. Supply Chains and Security** - The Department of the Interior today announced new policy steps to speed up the search and development of critical minerals offshore—resources vital to the nation’s energy, technology and defense needs. These actions support the Trump administration’s efforts to strengthen American leadership in this area by cutting red tape and streamlining the approval process to ensure the responsible development of critical minerals. “We’re making decisive moves to secure America’s leadership in critical minerals—resources that power our economy, protect our national security and support modern life,” said Acting Assistant Secretary Adam Suess. [\*\*Read Full Article\*\*](#)

**6/25/2025 - Next Gulf of America Lease Sale will be December 10, 2025** - The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management today announced the publication of a Proposed Notice of Sale (PNOS) for an oil and gas lease sale in the Gulf of America. As directed by Secretary of the Interior and outlined in the PNOS, Lease Sale 262 will offer approximately 15,000 unleased blocks located 3 to 231 miles offshore across the Gulf’s Western, Central, and Eastern Planning Areas. Covering roughly 80 million acres, these blocks are situated in water depths ranging from 9 feet to more than 11,100 feet (3 to 3,400 meters). BOEM will live stream the lease sale via Zoom. The lease sale bid reading is proposed for December 10, 2025. [\*\*Read Full Article\*\*](#)

**6/17/2025 - U.S. Dept. of Interior urged to fully leverage offshore energy resources** - The American Petroleum Institute today joined more than 100 other energy trade groups and organizations in urging the Department of the Interior to develop a new five-year offshore leasing program that fully leverages the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf as a secure source of affordable, reliable energy. “Revising the five-year offshore leasing program to take full advantage of our rich offshore resources through expanded access and development in the Gulf of America, Alaska, Pacific, and Atlantic will help sustain America’s growing energy advantage for decades to come,” the groups wrote in comments to Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). [\*\*Read Full Article\*\*](#)

**6/16/2025 - 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. [\*\*Read Full Article\*\*](#)

**6/9/2025 - Gulf of Mexico to maintain stable oil and gas production levels through 2026** - Over the next two years, 13 new fields are expected to commence production in the GOM. The US Energy Information Association (EIA) forecasts that crude oil production in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) will remain stable, with an average production of 1.80 million barrels per day (mbbl/d) in 2025 and 1.81mbbl/d in 2026. The GOM’s natural gas production is also expected to remain significant, contributing around 13% of US crude oil production and 1% of US marketed natural gas production during this period. [\*\*Read Full Article\*\*](#)



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).

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](mailto: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](http://www.nogs.org)

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Members at a Monthly  
Meeting?**

**Submit your topic and  
presentation for our Program  
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**[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT](#)**





# Energy Fundamentals



## June 23-27 & July 7-11

Registration is now open for the annual [LSU Energy Fundamentals](#) course. Energy Fundamentals is designed to provide an overview of the U.S. energy sector, with a focus on Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region. Participants will be exposed to the history, science, and economics of producing and consuming energy.

This is a week-long course offered in two sessions, one June and a second in July covering all aspects of current energy markets. Two days on "Molecules" (oil, gas, coal, uranium, lithium, hydrogen and biomass), two days on electricity (how markets work, rates are set and future outlook) and one day on government policy moderated by former congressman Garret Graves. The congressman is working one lining up some impressive participants to talk about policy.

The event will take place in the Energy Information Center Dalton J. Woods Auditorium located in the [Energy Coast & Environment Building](#), 93 S. Quad Drive Louisiana State University Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

Short field trips are being planned to the LSU Cogeneration Plant and the Petroleum Engineering Research, Training, & Testing Lab on the LSU campus.

CPD and MCLE hours will be available. **Each day will have six hours of possible credit hours.**

For questions, contact us at [ces@lsu.edu](mailto:ces@lsu.edu).



# *Let's Play* **GOLF**

**MON, OCT 6, 2025**  
**BAYOU OAKS**

New Orleans, LA

**9:00 AM SHOTGUN START**

**All Proceeds Will Benefit  
Local Charities**

**INDIVIDUALS - \$175**

**CORPORATE TEAM - \$700**

**4 MULLIGANS - \$20**

**HOLE SPONSORS - \$150**

**PRICE INCREASE AFTER 9/1/25**

**INDIVIDUAL \$200**

**CORPORATE TEAM \$800**

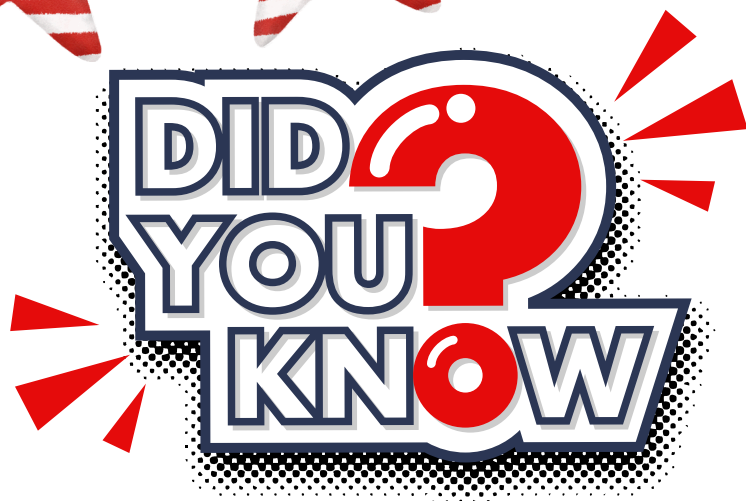
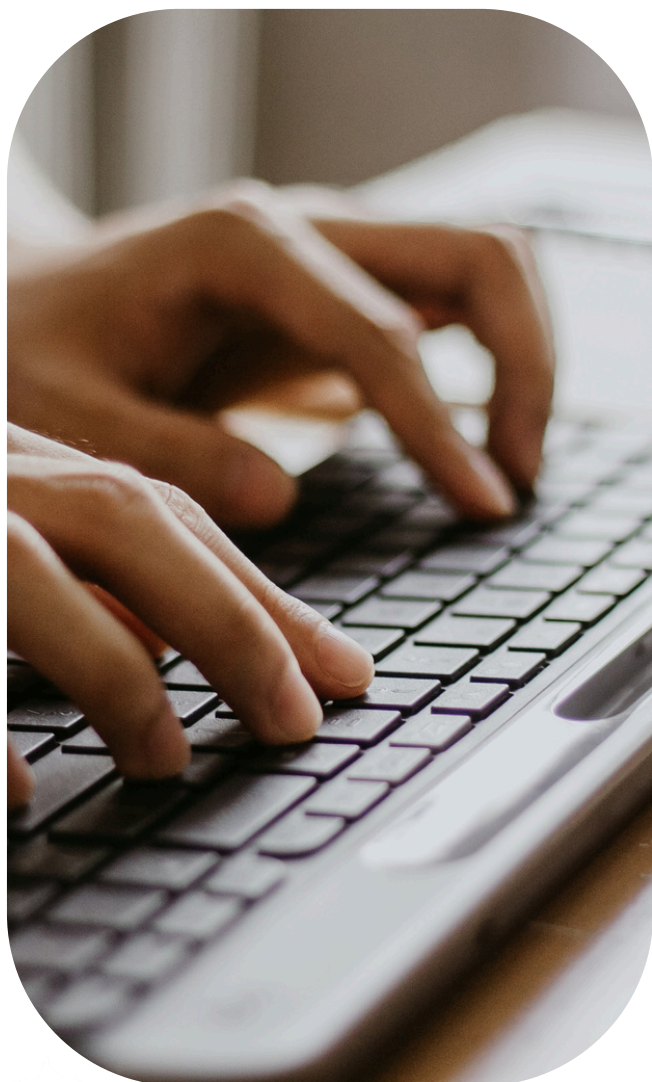
**PRICE INCLUDES GREEN FEES,  
CART, RANGE BALLS, FOOD,  
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*Volunteers  
Needed!*



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





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**Log in TODAY and UPDATE your profile with your current information and even add your PHOTO!**

**This is a great Member's Only Tool and a great networking and resource option for you!**





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**PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARTHUR**

Arthur F. Christensen

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985-893-2013



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NEW ORLEANS  
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MEMORIAL  
FOUNDATION INC.

Founded March 14, 1978, the mission of the New Orleans Geological Society Memorial Foundation is to promote earth-science related educational or scientific purpose by granting of scholarships to outstanding Geology students at the universities in Southeast Louisiana offering a degree in Geology. Donations given in memory of Bill Craig Memorial provide for any earth science related educational or scientific purpose that is a direct benefit to grades K-12 teacher or teachers within the Greater New Orleans Area. This area encompasses New Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes.

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in memory of Art Johnson

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in memory of Steve Widdicombe, Bill Ward

**Hilary James Brook**

**Bill Haworth**

**Candace V. Strahan**

in memory of James R. Strahan

**Robert Meltz**

**William Whiting**

**Robert Burnett**

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In memory of Case Petersen

**Mark Sunwall**

In Memory of Louis F. Goss,  
Sidney J. Waguespack, Jr. and  
Shelby W. Smith.

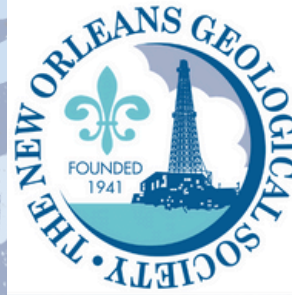
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