

NCGS LOG

April 2026
Volume 66 No. 10



GEOGULF2026
BATON ROUGE
23-25 MARCH 2026
75 YEARS OF ADVANCING GULF COAST GEOSCIENCE



On the Cover

Lower Mississippi River Physical Model



The Lower Mississippi River Physical Model: The LSU Center for River Studies, Baton Rouge, LA.
Photo provided by [The LSU Center for River Studies](#)

The Lower Mississippi River Physical Model is a 90 ft by 120 ft movable bed model based on exact parameters of the river's physical and dynamic properties. The represented 14,000 square miles section of Southeast Louisiana, running 179 miles from Donaldsonville to the Gulf of America, includes the Terrebonne, Barataria, Breton Sound, and Pontchartrain Basins. The model uses water and sediment to simulate the river's depth and flow. The sediment used in the model is a ground plastic material with a particle size and density designed to replicate the flow and depositional behavior of real Mississippi River sand. Eighteen acoustic sensors monitor water levels along the model coinciding with the sensor station locations along the actual Mississippi River. Twenty high resolution digital projectors positioned in the ceiling bring simulations to life by projecting coastal landscape, aerial photographs, project features, diversion outputs and other simulation animations onto the pure white model. The model scale is 1:6000 Horizontal and 1:400 Vertical and can simulate one year of natural river time per hour. The model is used by scientists and engineers to improve our understanding of the lowermost Mississippi River and how it responds to modifications.

From the Editor

Hello again,

GeoGulf2026 was a great success! This, the 75th anniversary of The Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) annual meeting held in March was co-hosted by the New Orleans (NOGS), Lafayette (LGS) and Baton Rouge (BRGS) Geological Societies. The three field trips that were offered, originating and terminating at the convention hotel were very well attended but the Salt trip unfortunately left some on the waiting list. The Short Courses offered on Monday were also well attended, with the Salt Tectonics course offered by Mark Rowan exceeding available course material due to last-minute registrations. The exhibition Hall was full of sponsors representing industry, professional organizations and academic institutions. Several companies also sponsored an Ice Breaker in the Exhibition Hall and a Social at The LSU Center for River Studies. Tuesday and Wednesday featured four concurrent ~20 minute technical sessions focused on Geologic, Geophysical and Environmental topics as well as research topic posters by students from local universities. All facets of the convention, venue, course offerings, technical presentations and field trips received positive feedback from attendees! If you missed this opportunity GeoGulf2027 will be held next spring in Houston.

In the meantime, early bird registration is now open for The 29th Annual Deepwater Technical Symposium to be held August 25th and 26th, 2026 at the Hilton Riverside, New Orleans LA. NOGS will again offer pre-symposium training courses and a registration fee discount to members. Now is the time to take advantage of early bird registration. When course offerings are confirmed, descriptions and registration information will be posted on the NOGS website. Call for abstracts is open until July 14, 2026. Please visit the [Deepwater Technical Symposium](#) website for additional information

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 May....

Brian Bothner



Brian Bothner
2025/2026 NOGS Log
Editor



A MESSAGE FROM THE 2025/2026 NOGS PRESIDENT

BRIAN DAVID



Dear NOGS Members and Friends,

Anyone else miss the good old school days, when time moved slower and life felt a whole lot more carefree? These days, time seems to fly by, and the only thing not moving is responsibility. On that note, Mark Wojna and the GeoGulf Board deserve a huge attaboy for doing a phenomenal job organizing this year's very successful event.

GeoGulf 2026 welcomed around 350 attendees and showcased an impressive turnout of students from several local and distant universities. The event featured a variety of activities, including field trips, short courses, a golf tournament, technical luncheons, and an icebreaker, in addition to an outstanding technical program. We are incredibly grateful to all of the wonderful sponsors, both corporate and individual, whose support helped make this event possible. A heartfelt thank you to Christy Himel for her dedicated work on GeoGulf. Lastly, I want to recognize Carol Avery, Eric Fisher, Emmitt Lockard, Brian Bothner, and Stephanie Bothner for their many contributions, tireless efforts, and for representing NOGS so well.

The Deepwater Technical Symposium will be held August 25–26, 2026, at the Hilton Riverside in New Orleans. Early registration is now open. This year's conference is shaping up to be an outstanding event, featuring valuable training opportunities and a strong lineup of technical presentations. Vendor and sponsorship opportunities are still available.

The Big Beautiful Gulf 2 (BBG2) Oil and Gas Lease Sale was held on March 11, 2026, and, as expected, proved to be a relatively small sale. In total, 10 companies submitted bids on 25 blocks. The sum of all bids reached \$69,838,782.00, with high bids totaling \$46,976,423.00. The highest individual bid was submitted by BP, which offered \$21,009,990.00 for Green Canyon Block 404.

NOGS will be holding its April luncheon on the South Shore at Drago's in Metairie on April 22nd. We are excited to have Dr. Jon Rotzien speaking on Why is exploration leadership essential?. Be sure to mark your calendars and come out for what promises to be a great talk, along with some delicious food.

Respectfully,

NOGS *April* MEETING

Why is exploration leadership essential?



JON R. ROTZIEN, PH.D.
PRESIDENT
BASIN DYNAMICS, LLC



**APRIL
22 ND**

DRAGO'S METAIRIE
NOGS Members \$30
Guests \$45



**11:30
AM**

Reservations Required
www.nogs.org

NOGS MEETING

April

Why is exploration leadership essential?

ABSTRACT

Conventional wisdom says that leaders are born. Let's say that's true. What makes them effective leaders in applied geoscience and the broader energy industry?

In order to start to understand what differentiates effective leaders in the geosciences and broader energy industry, this study interviewed over 30 people over five years from a diverse range of expertise and experience. The results of this study, compiled in the first-of-its-kind book *The Explorer's Mindset: Lessons in Leadership in Applied Geoscience and the Energy Industry*, include the following topics: 1) traits in exploration excellence; 2) how these traits are not limited to the exploration and production industry, but extend into other disciplines and professions; 3) the multifaceted talents of exploration leaders; 4) the elements of The Explorer's Mindset, the foundation and central theme in the book; and 5) why exploration leadership is essential over the next decades.

There are at least six traits demonstrated by the successful explorer, including a pioneering spirit, an exploration mindset, excellence in research, power in building teams, entrepreneurship and business talent. These traits were not apparent at the beginning of the project, but became clear near the end as all data were incorporated into the study.

Do exploration leadership traits differ from those required for non-specific leadership? These traits are not limited to the oil and gas business, but likely extend to other resource and technology industries. These traits can be applied more broadly to professions around the world.

While successful explorers can be very good at one thing, they are often talented at multiple tasks, bringing together diverse information to make sound business decisions. While explorers are often remembered excelling at one task – the “difference maker” task – the task that set them above and beyond average explorers, these explorers are also masters at many other parts of the exploration process.

These tasks originate in the broad spectrum of activities required for successful exploration and involve clear and intuitive definition of the problem, an ability to bring teams together to action, an ability to tell a compelling story, business acumen and tenacity and grit (these five elements being distilled into one of the key themes (and eventual title) of the book, *The Explorer's Mindset*, originally defined by C. A. Yeilding in her 2002-2003 AAPG Distinguished Lecture Tour.

NOGS April MEETING

Why is exploration leadership essential?

ABSTRACT

Effective exploration leadership is essential to meet growing global energy demand over the next decades.

If leaders are only born, this study is not very useful. But if exploration leadership traits can be defined, studied and interrogated, anyone with ambition, work ethic and technical and business savvy can improve their own exploration leadership, and in turn, over the long run their exploration success.

One of the key strengths of this study is that it goes directly to the source – the energy industry and its people – with a focus on oil and gas exploration and production. This study highlights that the most important resource in this industry is its people. These leaders originate new play types, design engineering patents, negotiate lucrative contracts, and break down dogma that acts as a ceiling to growth and prosperity, among other critical achievements. While this study only includes 30+ personal testimonies, it encourages us to continue to seek wisdom from those who are innovating and creating value. The world is full of these individuals, yet they are relatively rare.

About the Author

Jonathan R. Rotzien is President of Basin Dynamics. He has worked in most of the world's petroleum producing regions and specializes in leading corporate projects, research programs and professional training courses pertaining to oil and gas exploration and production. In addition to his business, he serves in faculty and research roles at University of Houston, University of Texas at Austin, South Dakota Mines and The Drifters Research Group with the Andalusian Earth Sciences Institute. He currently holds consulting appointments with HOT Energy Group (Leoben, Austria) and Subsurface Consultants & Associates (Houston, USA). With over 100 publications including short courses, his most recent works include *Deepwater Sedimentary Systems: Science, Discovery and Application* (Elsevier, 2022), written by 62 authors from 20 countries, and the 2nd edition of *The Explorer's Mindset: Lessons in Leadership in Applied Geoscience and the Energy Industry* (Amazon, 2025). He holds a BA from Colorado College and a PhD from Stanford University.



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SPEAKERS AND TOPICS NEEDED

NOGS is seeking speaker and topic ideas for upcoming meetings. Know someone with valuable industry insights or have a topic you'd like to see covered? Send us your recommendations—we're building a strong lineup and welcome your input.

Email us with your suggestions: admin@nogs.org

75th GEOGULF 2026

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Hosted by:



Celebrating 75 Years of Gulf Coast Geology

March 23 - 25, 2026



by **Mark Wojna**
General Chair

It's only been a few days since Geogulf2026 wrapped up, but I'm still basking in the glow of an outstanding conference put on by dedicated members of the New Orleans, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge Geological Societies. Geogulf2026 was held in Baton Rouge, 75 years after the initial GCAGS conference was held in



New Orleans in 1951. The conference drew over 350 attendees. The success of the conference is a testament to the dedicated geologists from our geological societies who stepped forward as volunteers to organize 3 field trips, 3 short courses, and chair fifteen half-day technical sessions filled with excellent gulf coast related geological talks, drawing speakers and guests from around the world.

The conference began with three field trips on a beautiful sunny spring day in South Louisiana. Chris McLindon and King Munson led a salt dome trip to Jefferson Island, Avery Island and Anse la Butte. LSU's Sam Bentley led a marine trip to the Wax Delta. Tulane professor and NOGS member Nancye Dawers led a Baton Rouge Fault zone trip. All three trips received rave reviews. Kudo's to Cantium's Stefanie Frelinger for organizing the trips. Cantium's Kaare Egedahl put together a stellar group of short courses.



Mark Rowan focused on recent salt developments in the gulf coast, John Castagna's class touched on seismic attributes and William Schramm's class prepared geologists for taking the ASBOG test and ethics in geology.

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Celebrating 75 Years of Gulf Coast Geology

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A number of geologists who have contributed to the success of the GCAGS, GCSSEPM, and our local geological societies were honored at the Awards Ceremony during the Opening Session. NOGS very own Chris McLindon was honored with a GCAGS Distinguished Service Award, Tom Bergeon received a GCAGS Honorary Membership Award for his student and volunteer outreach work, and Dr. Mark Kulp, UNO was recognized as a GCAGS Outstanding Educator.



Left to Right: Brian Horn AAPG President, Mark Kulp UNO Department Chair and “Outstanding Educator Award Recipient, Julie Bloxson 2025 GeoGulf General Chairman



Left to Right: Brian Horn AAPG President, Tom Bergeon: awarded “Honorary Member for his willing and dedicated service to his profession and to GCAGS”, Julie Bloxson 2025 GeoGulf General Chairman

Our conference technical chair and GCAGS President, James Willis along with our many technical committee chairs put together a technical program worthy of the 75th anniversary of GCAGS. Sessions focused on the diverse geology of the gulf coast including Salt Geology, CCS, Lithium, Deepwater geology, Coastal processes, faulting in South Louisiana, modern day Mississippi River Delta, AI and Machine Learning, Tectonics of the gulf coast, and of course recent developments in South Louisiana exploration.

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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Celebrating 75 Years of Gulf Coast Geology

March 23 - 25, 2026

Attendees had opportunities to relax at several social functions. A jazz combo of LSU students provided entertainment at the opening Icebreaker Event. New Orleans' very own Joe Krown provided an evening of New Orleans music at the LSU Center for River Studies, where we were able to tour the world class research model of the Birdfoot Delta created by LSU.



75th GEOGULF 2026

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

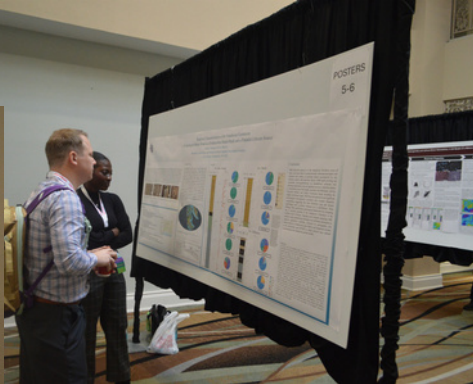
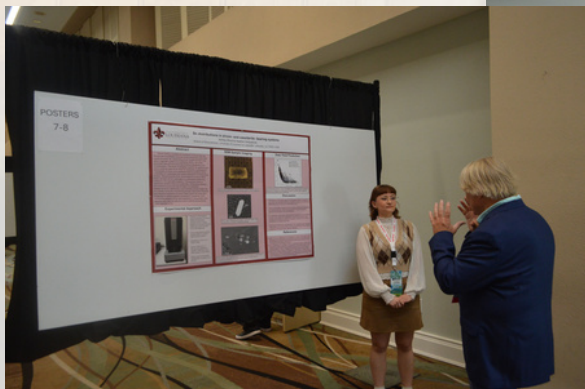
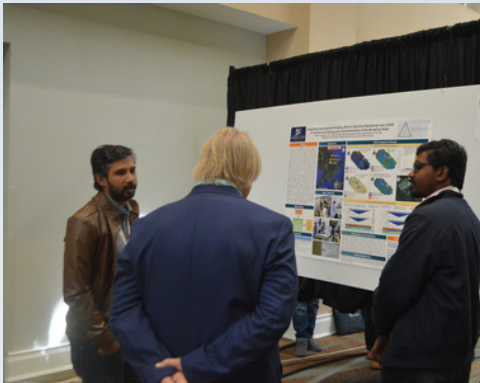
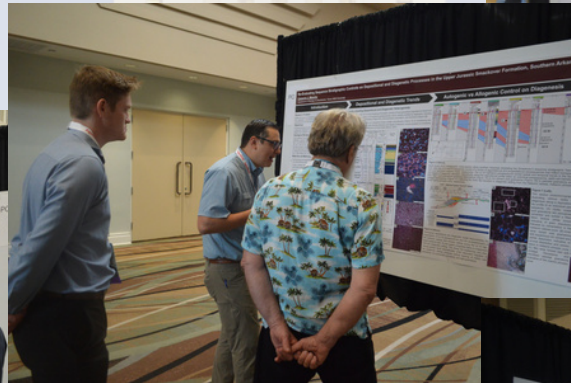
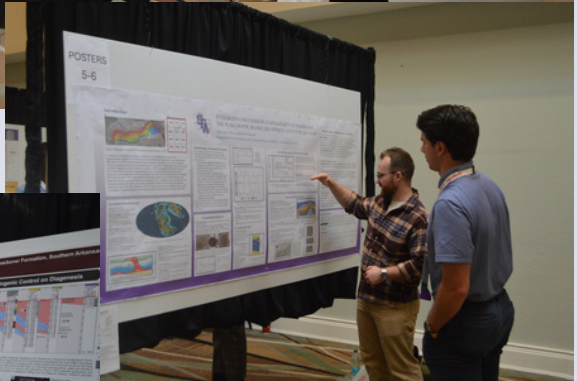
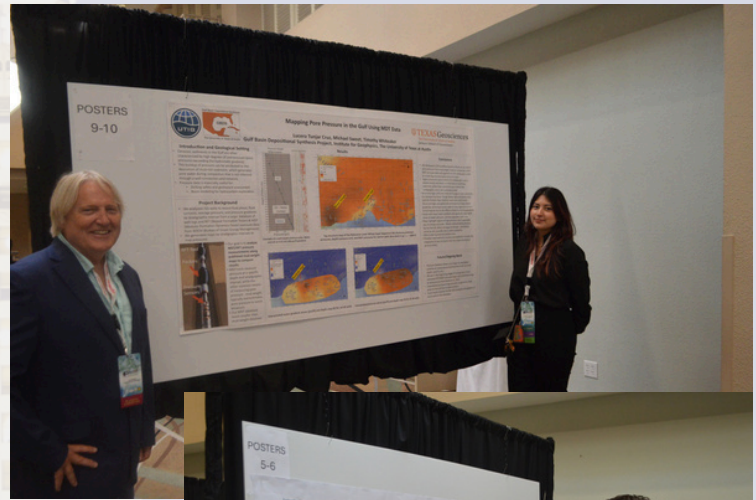
Hosted by:



Celebrating 75 Years of Gulf Coast Geology

March 23 - 25, 2026

Local universities were well represented by faculty and students from Tulane, UNO, LSU and UL. The Geogulf team did a fantastic job acquiring support for university students. We raised over \$8000 including \$2,500 from the NOGS Memorial Foundation, providing numerous students with waived registration fees, industry lunches, short courses and field trips. A number of students also took part in the poster sessions chaired by Tom Bergeon.



75th GEOGULF 2026

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Hosted by:



Celebrating 75 Years of Gulf Coast Geology

March 23 - 25, 2026

We received very strong financial support from numerous sponsors who helped make this conference a success. We also drew 25 exhibitors, including our very own New Orleans Geological Society, which made for a very lively and vibrant exhibitors hall



75 GEOGULF 2026

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Hosted by:



Celebrating 75 Years of Gulf Coast Geology

March 23 - 25, 2026

One of the highlights of the conference was NOGS member Kevin McMichael's key note talk at the All-Convention Luncheon revealing the results of the 30,000' Highlander well recently drilled. The widely anticipated talk drew over 160 guests. The conference provided something for everyone in attendance. Technical conferences like Geogulf serve an important role in bringing people together to share experiences, collaborate with others, and become exposed to new ideas. Regardless of your field, attending conferences should be encouraged by managers. This was professionally a very fulfilling experience for me. I feel very fortunate to have worked with such an outstanding group of geologists in planning this conference. Finally, I wanted to give a special shout-out to my Vice-Chair Travis Helms, Christy Himel, and Brian and Stephanie Bothner for all their help during the conference. Thank You.



GEOGULF2027

H O U S T O N
18-20 APRIL 2027

CALL FOR PAPERS

Areas: Gulf of Mexico, onshore, offshore, Mexico, and Caribbean

- Cretaceous and Jurassic Plays, onshore and offshore
- Frio, Vicksburg, Wilcox, Yegua, Miocene, and Pleistocene trends
- Geology and Geophysics, Field studies, Case studies, look-backs
- Source Rocks, Basin History, Geochemistry
- Structural Geology, Gulf Opening, Salt Tectonics
- Seismic Technology, Modeling, Inversion, Direct Detection
- Data Analytics, Virtual Reality, Computer Applications
- Remote Sensing Technology, Gravity Magnetics
- Environmental Studies, Near Surface Mapping, Remediation
- Gulf Coast Carbon Capture and Sequestration, Minerals, Geothermal
- Resource Assessment and Energy Economics of the GOM

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1, 2026

Submit abstract via a Google Form at: <https://forms.gle/KQbeDpXsX6v1FU4g9>

Longer submissions (full papers or extended abstracts) after abstract acceptance are welcome.

Contact Program Chairs, Ted Godo (geodogexploration@gmail.com) and

James Willis (jjwillis11@hotmail.com) for more information.



A close-up photograph of a crocodile's head, focusing on its large, textured eye and the surrounding scales. The eye is a mix of green and yellow, with a dark slit pupil. The scales are brown and tan with some darker spots. The text is overlaid on the top left of the image.

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YOU...

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**EARLY BIRD TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE FOR THE
29TH ANNUAL DEEPWATER TECHNICAL
SYMPOSIUM**

August 25-26, 2026

Hilton Riverside, New Orleans LA

NOGS MEMBER DISCOUNT CODE: [nogs2026](#)

[DWTS 2026 Tickets](#)

***"Technology Innovations for Resilient
Deepwater Energy"***



Underground Injection Control Conference 2026

Madison Avery
Geologist (Class I and II)
Louisiana Department of Conservation and Energy

In February 2026, I had the opportunity to attend the 2026 UIC Conference hosted by the Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC). The GWPC is a nonprofit organization comprised of state groundwater regulatory agencies working collaboratively to protect and conserve the nation's groundwater resources. Through the promotion of best management practices and fair, effective groundwater protection laws, the organization plays a critical role in strengthening regulatory programs across the country.

As part of our Engineering Division at the Louisiana Department of Conservation and Energy, our team provides technical and state regulatory guidance through the review of permit applications for underground injection control (UIC) wells. Ensuring well integrity, protecting underground sources of drinking water, and maintaining compliance with state and federal regulations remain central to our work.

The conference offered valuable insight into the latest regulatory updates, evolving technical standards, and emerging technologies affecting UIC programs nationwide. Sessions explored best practices in well construction, mechanical integrity testing, area-of-review evaluations, and long-term monitoring strategies. The technical workshops provided deeper discussion on geologic characterization, risk assessment, and advancements in injection well design.

Equally important were the collaborative discussions with fellow regulators, engineers, geologists, and industry professionals. The GWPC conference serves as an important forum for stakeholder communication and research, strengthening governments' roles in groundwater protection and conservation. The networking opportunities allowed us to exchange practical solutions and discuss shared regulatory challenges facing UIC programs.

Attending this conference reinforced our commitment to promoting the protection and conservation of groundwater resources for all beneficial uses. We returned with enhanced technical insight and a renewed focus on applying best practices to our permit review process to ensure safe and effective underground injection operations.

BOEM Releases 2026 National OCS Assessment

Key Takeaways

BOEM, 3/10/2026

BOEM released its latest 2026 National Assessment of Undiscovered Oil and Gas Resources (OCS Report BOEM 2026-012, March 2026), based on data available as of January 1, 2024. This probabilistic play-based appraisal updates the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) resource base and directly informs the National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program. It employs BOEM's internally developed GRASP model (10,000 Monte Carlo trials) for undiscovered technically recoverable resources (UTRR) and follows with economic modeling for undiscovered economically recoverable resources (UERR).

National Results Mean UTRR totals 65.80 Bbo oil and 218.43 Tcfg gas (P95: ≥ 53.75 Bbo oil / 170.41 Tcfg; P5: > 79.65 Bbo oil / 270.97 Tcfg). On a BOE basis, $\sim 44\%$ lies in the Alaska OCS and $\sim 33\%$ in the Gulf of America OCS. The assessment also updates the total resource endowment (UTRR + cumulative production + remaining reserves) and includes price-supply curves for UERR across \$30–\$210/bbl oil scenarios.

Regional Breakdown (Mean UTRR)

- Alaska OCS: 24.10 Bbo oil, 122.29 Tcfg
- Gulf of America OCS: 26.90 Bbo oil, 45.59 Tcfg (second-largest share)
- Pacific OCS: 10.30 Bbo oil, 16.20 Tcfg
- Atlantic OCS: 4.50 Bbo oil, 34.35 Tcfg

The Gulf of America assessment covers 30 geologic assessment units (Cenozoic shelf/slope and Mesozoic plays) and uniquely incorporates reserves appreciation derived from $> 30,000$ reservoir completions in the BOEM corporate database. Mean oil UTRR is down $\sim 9\%$ from the prior assessment, primarily from refined field-size distributions and prospect counts in mature shallow-water plays. Deepwater slope and Mesozoic potential remain robust.

Methodology Highlights (Geoscience Interest) BOEM implemented a standardized risking framework across all regions for greater consistency and national aggregation:

- Clear distinction between Established Plays (proven petroleum system = 1.0 play chance) and Conceptual Plays.
- New Play and Prospect Risk Form evaluates three petroleum-system components—Hydrocarbon Fill (source rock + expulsion/migration), Reservoir, and Trap—using sub-elements scored 0.0–1.0 per detailed qualitative guidelines.
- “Weakest link” aggregation within each component; overall Play Chance and Exploration Chance are multiplicative products.
- Aggregation flows from plays/AUs \rightarrow planning areas \rightarrow regions \rightarrow national totals.

These changes enhance comparability and reduce inter-regional discontinuities seen in earlier assessments. compare 2006–2026 trends. The full report, regional volumes (Gulf: BOEM 2026-008), and factsheet are freely available at the BOEM undiscovered-resources page. This assessment underscores the Gulf's enduring conventional potential even as mature areas are refined.

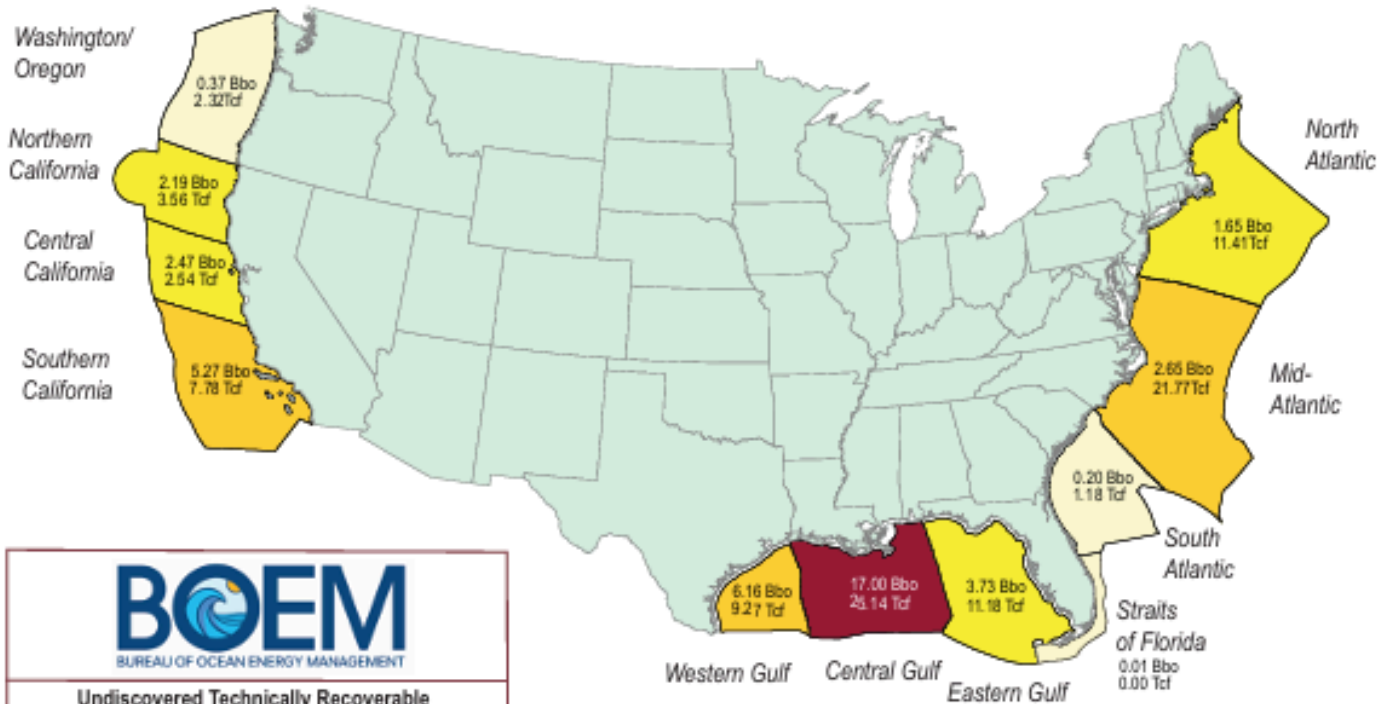
Full Report Access


<https://www.boem.gov/oil-gas-energy/resource-evaluation/undiscovered-resources>

BOEM Releases 2026 National OCS Assessment

Key Takeaways

Assessment of Undiscovered Technically Recoverable Oil and Gas Resources of the United States Outer Continental Shelf, 2026



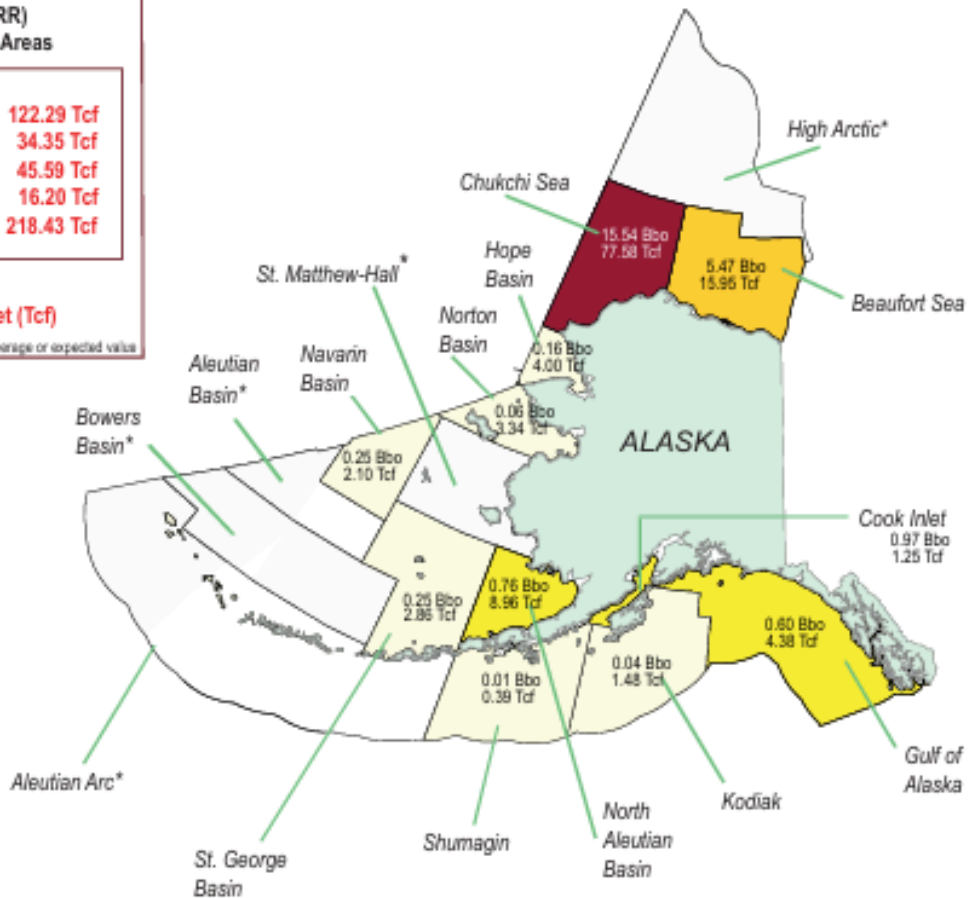
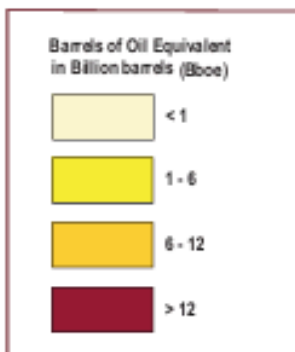


Undiscovered Technically Recoverable Oil and Gas Resources (UTRR)
Mean* Estimates for Planning Areas

Regional Totals:	Oil (Bbo)	Gas (Tcf)
Alaska OCS	24.10	122.29
Atlantic OCS	4.50	34.35
Gulf of America OCS	26.90	45.59
Pacific OCS	10.30	16.20
Total U.S. OCS	65.80	218.43

Oil in Billions of Barrels (Bbo)
Natural Gas in Trillions of Cubic Feet (Tcf)

* Arithmetic average or expected value



* Not evaluated in this study - petroleum potential is negligible.



Society of Petroleum Engineers

SPE Delta Section

DELTA SECTION APRIL 2026 MEETING
Thursday, April 16, 2026

Dr. Lee Jordan
Gate Energy

**“A High-Level History of Water Injection in
the Deepwater Gulf of America”**

at LLOG, 1001 Ochsner Blvd #100, Covington, LA.

LSU GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS DEPARTMENT SPRING 2026 SEMINAR SERIES APRIL EVENTS

Date	Speaker, Title or Topic
April 1	<i>Dr. Jeffrey Nunn, Chevron Corp.</i> Geothermal Energy in the Western U.S.
April 8	<i>Dr. Jeffrey Hyman, Los Alamos National Laboratory</i> Unraveling flow and reactive transport through fractured media using machine learning
April 15	<i>Prof. Paul Spry, Iowa State University</i> Using trace element compositions of silicates and oxides as guides in the search for metamorphosed massive sulfide deposits; <i>And/or</i> Telluride-bearing gold deposits
April 22	<i>LSU G&G Rock Star Poster Event</i> Drs. Luttrell, Snow, Zhuang, Organizing
<p style="text-align: center;">No seminars the last Wednesday of the month due to faculty meetings. Updated 1/07/2026 (Profs. Barb Dutrow & Sophie Warny, organizers)</p>	

Seminars now on Wednesdays! At 3:15 p.m., we begin with refreshments in the Clarence Cazalot Marathon Oil Atrium of Howe Russell Kniffen Geoscience Complex. Seminars begin at 3:30 p.m. in E137 Howe-Russell-Kniffen. Networking continues after the seminar in the Atrium

Thanks to our seminar series sponsors: L.J Wilbert, Grover E. Murray, & Marathon Oil Funds



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**Calling All
Authors!!**



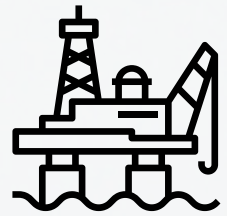
The NOGS LOG invites short articles from industry professionals, academics, and graduate students on topics related to Gulf Coast geology, energy resources, and related disciplines.

Submissions may include technical summaries, case studies, research highlights, or industry perspectives.

If you are interested in contributing or have a topic idea, please contact the Editor or email admin@nogs.org.

DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF AMERICA SHELF AND
DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES
BY BRIAN BOTHNER



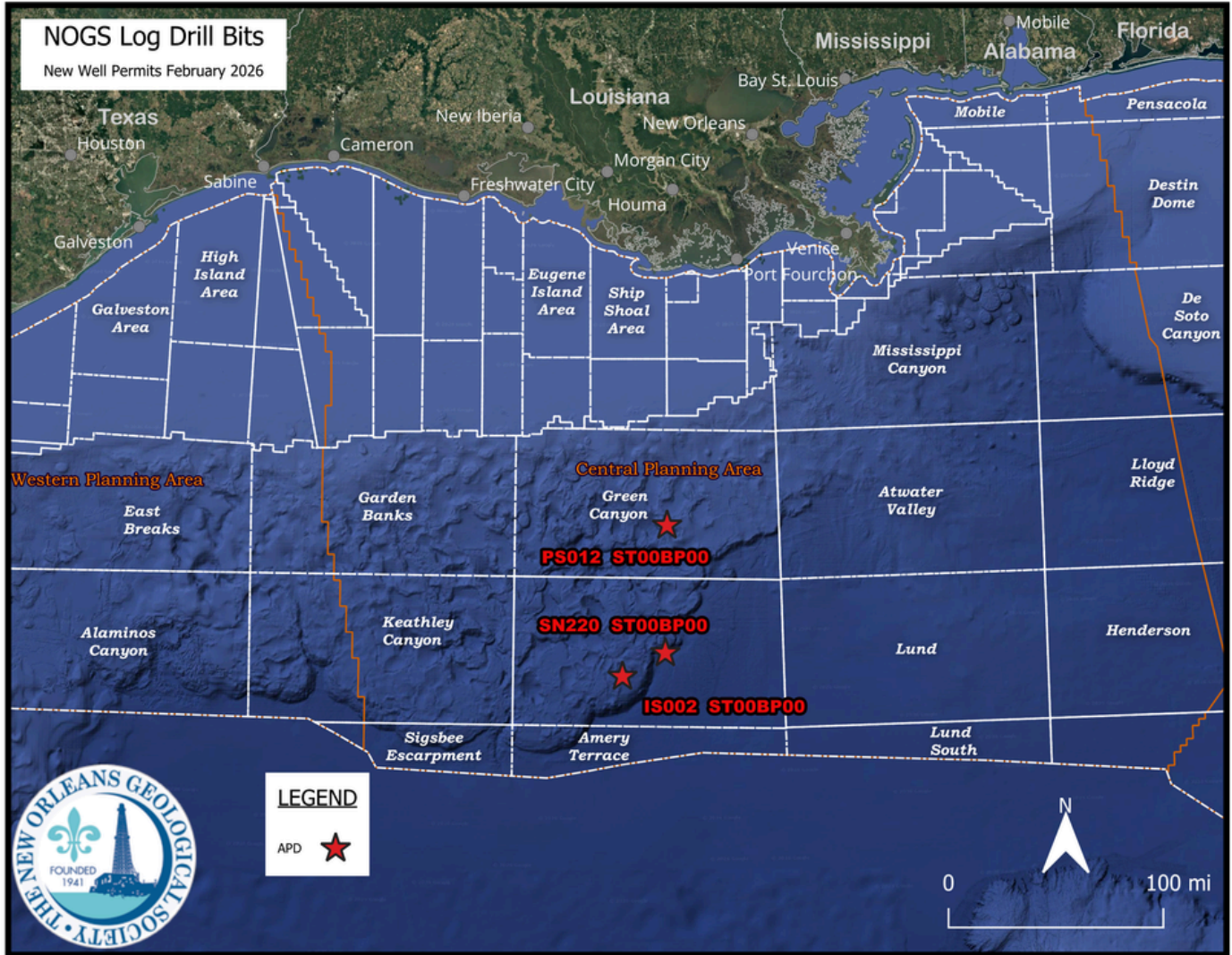
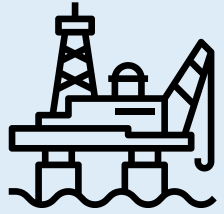
North America Rig Count Report February 2026

North America: 556

State/Province	Protraction Area	Rig Count Value	Change from Previous Month		
LOUISIANA	Eugene Island	1	1		
LOUISIANA	Green Canyon	3	0		
LOUISIANA	Mississippi Canyon	4	1		
TEXAS	Alaminos Casnyon	2	0		
Gulf of America Total:		10	2		
State	Rig Count	Change from Previous Month	State	Rig Count	Change from Previous Month
ALASKA	12	3	NEW MEXICO	102	-1
ARKANSAS	0	0	NORTH DAKOTA	26	-1
CALIFORNIA	7	-1	OHIO	13	-1
COLORADO	14	2	OKLAHOMA	45	1
LOUISIANA	31	-2	PENNSYLVANIA	20	2
MICHIGAN	1	0	TEXAS	231	5
MISSISSIPPI	0	0	UTAH	16	0
MONTANA	2	0	WEST VIRGINIA	7	0
NEVADA	2	0	WYOMING	17	1

DRILL BITS

NEW WELL PERMITS OFFSHORE GULF OF AMERICA SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES
MAP BY ERIC FISCHER



API Well Number	Company Name	Block Area	Surface Lease Number	Well Type	Well Name	Water Depth (feet)	Surface Lat	Surface Long	Rig Name
608114079900	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	GC 640	G20082	Expl	PS012 ST00BP00	4302	27.316	-90.753	T.O. DEEPWATER CONQUEROR
608124016000	Shell Offshore Inc.	WR 508	G17001	Expl	SN220 ST00BP00	9589	26.455	-90.771	T.O. DEEPWATER PONTUS
608124016100	Union Oil Company of California	WR 677	G18753	Expl	IS002 ST00BP00	7035	26.297	-91.093	T.O. DEEPWATER CONQUEROR

Recent Energy Headlines

March 2026 Recap

3/25/2026 - Woodside begins drilling Trion field in Gulf of America - The Trion greenfield development is on track to produce first oil in 2028. Woodside Energy started drilling at Trion oil field in ultradeep waters of the Gulf of America. The campaign includes the execution of 24 subsea wells which will be connected to the 100,000-b/d Tláloc floating production unit (FPU). The development incorporates associated subsea infrastructure and export systems. Production from Trion will be loaded into the 950,000-bbl Chalchi floating storage and offloading (FSO) unit. [Read Full Article](#)

3/20/2026 - BP, Chevron are top spenders at small US Gulf of America oil and gas auction - A sale of drilling rights in the Gulf of America on Wednesday ended with \$46.98 million in high bids from oil and gas companies, with a single bid from BP, opens new tab accounting for nearly half of the total, according to a livestreamed U.S. government auction. The sale, conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, yielded far less industry interest than the last one three months ago. President Donald Trump's administration has prioritized regular lease sales, and is planning for 30 in the region through 2040. [Read Full Article](#)

3/13/2026 - BP wins US approval for Kaskida project in Gulf of America, spokesperson says - British energy major BP, opens new tab has received approval from the Trump administration to advance its Kaskida project in the Gulf of America, a company spokesperson told Reuters in an emailed statement late on Friday. The \$5 billion investment would unlock 10 billion barrels of resources that BP has discovered in the Paleogene fields of the U.S. Gulf, the spokesperson said. [Read Full Article](#)

3/13/2026 - U.S. natural gas production reached a new record in 2025 according to EIA - U.S. marketed natural gas production reached a new record in 2025, growing by 5.3 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) to average 118.5 Bcf/d, according to our latest Natural Gas Monthly. Three regions—Appalachia, Permian, and Haynesville—accounted for 67% of the total marketed gas production in the United States in 2025 and for 81% of the growth last year. [Read Full Article](#)

3/11/2026 - IEA Agrees to Release Record 400 Million Barrels of Oil From Reserves - Members of the International Energy Agency (IEA) agreed on March 11 to release 400 million barrels of oil from reserves. This is the largest withdrawal on record as governments attempt to mitigate the spike in global energy prices. With global crude demand totaling approximately 100 million barrels per day, the latest supply injection is expected to be enough to cover about four days of consumption. [Read Full Article](#)

3/6/2026 - Harbour Energy updates guidance to reflect LLOG, Waldorf acquisitions - Harbour Energy updates its 2026 guidance, incorporating recent acquisitions, with expected production of 475,000-500,000 boe/d and capital expenditure of up to \$2.4 billion, reflecting growth in US deepwater and UK assets. Harbour Energy updated its 2026 guidance to include the impact of the now-closed acquisition of LLOG and the company's entry in the US deepwater Gulf of America. In the first 2 months of 2026, the company produced an average of 509,000 b/d, including 1 month's contribution from LLOG's oil-weighted assets. [Read Full Article](#)

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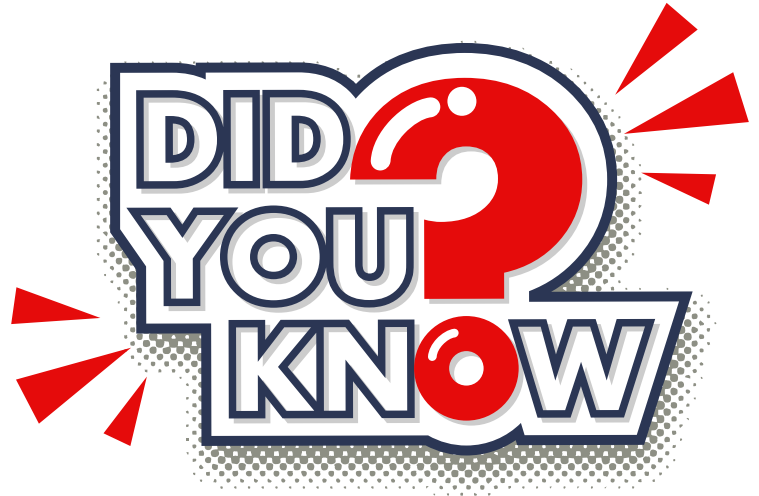
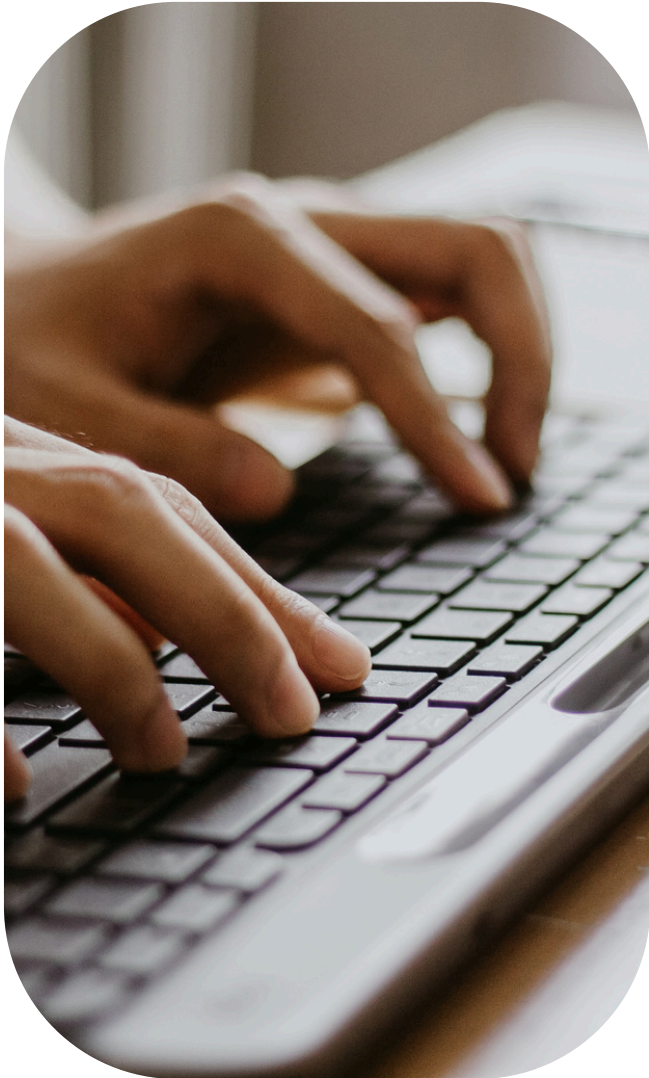
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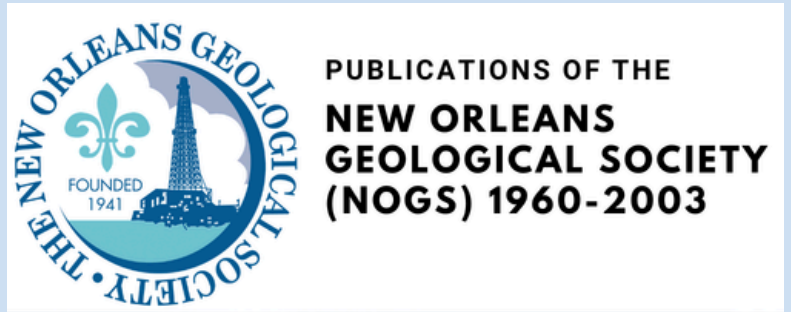
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