



NOGS LOG

August 2026
Volume 68 No.2

Deepwater

Technical Symposium

August 25-26, 2026
Hilton Riverside,
New Orleans LA

**Empowering Future Success In
Deepwater**

From the Editor

Hello friends,

A few reminders and updates from this month:

It is not too late to sign up, registration is still open for the 29th Annual Deepwater Technical Symposium, taking place August 25–26, 2026 at the Hilton Riverside, New Orleans, LA. NOGS will again offer pre-symposium training courses along with a member registration discount. Course descriptions and registration details are posted to the NOGS website. Visit the Deepwater Technical Symposium website for more information.

As always, I encourage professionals, academics, and graduate students to grow your network and share your research through NOGS. Consider writing a short article for the Log, giving a lunchtime presentation at a monthly meeting, volunteering at NOGS events, or offering your services as a Board Member. NOGS runs on the contributions of its members — thank you for yours.

Sincerely.

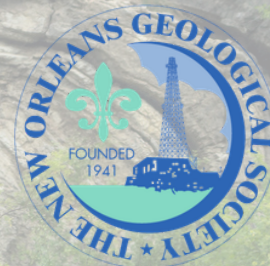
Eric Fischer



Eric Fischer
2026/2027 NOGS Log
Editor



A MESSAGE FROM THE 2026/2027 NOGS PRESIDENT CHARLES MILLER



Dear NOGS Members,

As I begin my second month serving as President, I'm excited that another Offshore Gulf of America lease sale is taking place this month. August also provides several great opportunities for us to connect with colleagues, support our industry, and participate in valuable technical and professional development events through our NOGS luncheons, the Lease Sale Party, and our annual Deepwater Symposium.

I hope you enjoyed the Gulf of America Lease Sale: Big Beautiful Gulf 3 Pre-Sale Party at The Misi at Jax Brewery. NOGS was pleased to host this event alongside the Offshore Oil Scouts Association and the Society of Petroleum Engineers Delta Chapter. The gathering provided an excellent opportunity to network with professionals from across the energy industry ahead of the lease sale.

Later this month, the 29th Annual Deepwater Technical Symposium will take place on August 25 and 26 at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. This year's theme, Technology Innovations for Resilient Deepwater Energy, reflects the continued importance of innovation, collaboration, and technical excellence in advancing deepwater operations. The symposium brings together industry leaders, technical experts, operators, service companies, and emerging professionals to share knowledge, practical experience, new technologies, and lessons learned. It remains one of the Gulf Coast's leading technical conferences and is a valuable opportunity for NOGS members to stay informed about developments affecting deepwater exploration and production. The program also features several half-day technical courses covering annular pressure buildup and load-case methodology, deepwater sedimentary systems, subsea tieback optimization, geothermal and carbon capture and storage well design, and Gulf offshore environmental regulations and compliance. Each course offers three professional development hours. NOGS members receive a discounted registration by using the code `nogs2026`. I encourage you to take advantage of the discounted registration and the professional development opportunities available through both the symposium and the technical courses. A special thank you to Emmitt Lockard for his leadership as DWTS Chair in recent years and for his many years of dedicated volunteer service, which have helped build and sustain the symposium's continued success.

I would also like to recognize and thank the volunteers, sponsors, speakers, instructors, and participating organizations whose work makes these programs possible. Their support allows NOGS to continue providing high-quality educational and networking opportunities for our members and the broader energy community.

August will be a busy and productive month, and I hope to see many of you at the Deepwater Technical Symposium. Your participation strengthens NOGS and helps us continue building connections across our profession.

I hope to see you at one of our upcoming NOGS luncheons, the Deepwater Technical Symposium, or one of our upcoming events.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement.

Sincerely,
Charles Miller III
President, New Orleans Geological Society

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

June 30, 2026

Dear Jared,

It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge the approval of the \$10,000 grant from the New Orleans Geological Society Memorial Foundation to the LSU Department of Geology and Geophysics. As you noted, LSU and the New Orleans Geological Society have enjoyed a long and productive relationship, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support of our students and programs.

The funds will be used exclusively to support students and geoscience education. To be considered for funding, students will submit a brief proposal describing the intended use of the funds, along with a budget. Eligible applicants must be full-time students (except during their graduating semester or the period of approved travel) and pursuing a degree in Geology and Geophysics.

Supported activities may include professional development opportunities, such as travel to scientific meetings where the student is presenting research, as well as research-related expenses including sample preparation, analytical costs, imaging charges, and other legitimate research expenditures. Requests for materials supporting innovative teaching and educational initiatives will also be considered.

To administer the program, the Department will appoint an ad hoc committee of three faculty members to review proposals and make funding recommendations. Individual awards will be up to \$500 for each successful proposal, allowing broad participation by our students.

At the conclusion of Fiscal Year 2026–2027, the Department will provide the New Orleans Geological Society Memorial Foundation with a report summarizing how the grant funds were distributed and the impact they had on our students and educational mission.

Thank you again for your generosity and your continued investment in the education and professional development of the next generation of geoscientists. We sincerely appreciate the Foundation's support.



Professor Darrell Henry
Campanile Charities Professor
Chair, Department of Geology and Geophysics
Louisiana State University

OCTOBER MEETING

Applications of palynology in the oil industry and beyond



Presented by:

Dr. Vann Smith

Ellington Geological Services

Palynology, the study of organic microfossils, has a broad variety of applications in hydrocarbon exploration, carbon capture and storage, academic biostratigraphy, paleoecological/paleoclimatic research, archeology, and forensics. Palynological research examines diverse groups of organisms, including pollen, plant and fungal spores, invertebrate remains, algae, and other unicellular organisms. The utility of palynology will be explained using examples from previous and ongoing research projects. These projects include palynological analysis of the Chicxulub impact crater in Mexico and analysis of multiple Paleogene Wilcox Group well sections and outcrops in Texas. Particular focus will be given to the identification and significance of strata deposited during the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) in the Gulf of Mexico.

More about our Presenter: Dr. Vann Smith is a palynologist currently employed at Ellington Geological Services in Houston, Texas. A New Orleans native, he obtained his BSc in Geology and Geophysics from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 2011, his MsC in Earth and Environmental Sciences from Tulane University in 2015, and his PhD in Geology and Geophysics from LSU in 2020. He recently completed a postdoctoral research project at LSU under the supervision of Dr. Sophie Warny. His current research interests include the biostratigraphy of the Wilcox Group and biotic changes during the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM).



Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Zea's Northshore

11:30 am Networking

12:00 noon Program & Lunch

NOGS Members: \$30

Guest: \$40

Virtual Option Available

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Technology Innovations for Resilient Deepwater Energy August 25-26 in New Orleans.

DEEPWATER'S TECHNICAL COMMUNITY RETURNS TO NEW ORLEANS

Join us August 25-26 at the Hilton Riverside for the 29th Annual Deepwater Technical Symposium - two days of technical insight, industry leadership and conversations focused on Technology Innovations for Resilient Deepwater Energy.

Connect with professionals shaping deepwater exploration, drilling, subsea development and offshore energy while gaining practical insight into the technologies and challenges influencing the Gulf's future.

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NOGS MEMBER DISCOUNT CODE: [nogs2026](#)

Half Day Courses will be offered on August 25, 2026

Annular Pressure Build Up (APB) and Load Case Methodology

Professional development hours (PDH): 3

Course Description:

During production tubing gets heated by the hot formation fluids. When the hot tubing contacts colder fluids entrapped in the annulus, the result is fluid heating and pressure buildup. In subsea wells only the A annulus is accessible at the wellhead. The outer annuli are not accessible and therefore proper well design to avoid APB related failure is critical. This training course should enhance the students' ability to understand the causes of Annulus Pressure Buildup (APB), mitigation techniques and equipment, and how to model APB load cases for various casing strings to maintain well integrity in an offshore HPHT well.

Instructor:

Barry Cresap, P.E., Well Engineering Director, Viking Engineering: over 20 years of oil and gas experience, primarily working as a principal drilling engineer and manager over a wide range of campaigns and rig types for both land and offshore. His engineering experience spans across both conventional and unconventional designs and operational practices including deepwater, shelf, and horizontal drilling. He began his career with ENSCO and completed a 3-year "fast-track" superintendent program which entailed working rig-based positions from crane crew, drill crew, up tonight toolpusher on jack-ups in the Gulf of Mexico. He broadened his experience at Grey Wolf / Precision Drilling while executing turnkey contracts all along the US Gulf Coast. He joined BHP in 2012 in the Eagle Ford as a Senior Drilling Engineer and moved up to Drilling Manager. He joined the offshore division in 2014 and executed a deepwater exploration well in Central GOA. He left BHP in 2021 with the merger acquisition by Woodside. He joined Viking Engineering shortly thereafter and is now working as the Director of Well Engineering and now resides with his family in Katy, TX

Half Day Courses will be offered on August 25, 2026

Deepwater Sedimentary Systems

Professional development hours (PDH): 3

Course Description:

Deepwater Sedimentary Systems helps professionals identify, understand and interpret deepwater sedimentary systems at various scales – both onshore and offshore. This course describes the best practices in the integration of geology and geophysics used to interpret these diverse environments. It draws on technical results gained from deepwater drilling campaigns, global field analog studies and frontier exploration both foreign and domestic. Covering conceptual approaches and state-of-the-art information on deepwater systems, this course serves as the essential primer for companies, consultancies, universities, governments and deepwater practitioners around the world seeking to understand deepwater systems amid the race to acquire new acreage and replenish reserves out to 2050 and beyond. Based on two books and a decade+ of collaborative experience, this course provides a broad foundation in turbidite, contourite, hybrid and mixed deepwater sedimentary systems using a variety of subsurface, modern seafloor and outcrop examples.

Instructor:

Jonathan Rotzien: 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 B.A. from Colorado College and a Ph.D. from Stanford University.

Half Day Courses will be offered on August 25, 2026

ERD as an Enabler for Subsea Tieback Optimization

Professional development hours (PDH): 3

Course Description:

Subsea tieback optimization is the strategic and engineering discipline focused on maximizing reservoir drainage, flow assurance integrity, and economic return from wells tied back to existing production infrastructure. Achieving that optimization increasingly depends on the ability to drill, complete, and produce from high-inclination and extended reach wellbores that push the boundaries of conventional subsea execution. Based on current industry practices, this course provides a comprehensive foundation in high inclination well challenges, latest landing string configurations in the GOM including ESP, Slotted liner and Screens running complications and mitigation strategies. Attendees will be equipped with actionable insights applicable to their next subsea tieback project as It draws on real-world case studies and lessons learned from active Gulf of Mexico (GOM) operations, incorporating the latest advances in landing string design, ESP deployment strategies, and wellbore conditioning techniques.

Instructor:

Jaime Avendano: a Senior Drilling Engineer with 27 years of experience in land and offshore operations across the Gulf of Mexico, Asia Pacific, and the Middle East. Specializing in deepwater well engineering, Extended Reach Drilling (ERD), tubular stress analysis, real-time monitoring, and drilling optimization, with senior roles held across major international operators and service companies. Jaime holds a B.Sc in Mechanical Engineering from Tachira University, Venezuela and an M.S. in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Houston

Half Day Courses will be offered on August 25, 2026

Introduction to Geothermal and CCS Well Design

Professional development hours (PDH): 3

Course Description:

Geothermal and Steam injection wells pose significant challenges to casing design due to the extremely high temperatures inherent with their operations, along with produced fluid chemistry. With CO₂ injection, CCS wells differ from typical oil and gas wells as they have increasing reservoir pressure over the life of the well, along with increased corrosion and pitting concerns due to CO₂ and impurities in the injection stream. This training course covers the fundamentals of casing and tubing design and advanced topics affecting the Geothermal and CCS well design and the impact to the overall well integrity.

Instructor:

Parveen Sachdeva, Renewables Manager, GATE Energy | Engineering, Commissioning & Specialty Field Services: over 18 years of oilfield experience. His expertise is in critical well design, flow assurance modeling and thermal analysis of wellbore heat transfer. At Viking Engineering, he has been involved in projects for casing design of class IV & class IV CO₂ Injection (CCUS) wells, high temperature geothermal wells, casing and tubing design of shale gas wells and deepwater (HPHT) wells. He is well versed with design software WELLCAT, TDAS and StrinGnosis, and flow assurance software WELLFLO. His research interests include thermal well design including steam injection and high temperature geothermal wells. Sachdeva has authored or coauthored 8 technical papers and holds 1 US patent. He received his B.S. degree in Aerospace Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Kanpur), and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Central Florida

Half Day Courses will be offered on August 25, 2026

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

Professional development hours (PDH): 3

Course Description: Introduction to Western and Central Gulf of Mexico Environmental Regulations training class is a must-attend event for new and experienced engineers, geologists, operations, support and HSE professionals who want an introductory class on environmental regulations. The workshop is designed to enhance your skills and knowledge of environmental regulations affecting oil and gas operations in the Western and Central Gulf of Mexico. The course instructors have direct experience assisting oil and gas operators comply with offshore environmental regulations.

The schedule includes the following topics:

- Offshore Water Permitting Compliance
- Offshore Waste Management
- Oil Spill Reporting and Response
- Offshore Air Quality Regulations

Instructors:

Brian Boyer Principal Air Quality Scientist, INTERA, Incorporated. An environmental consultant to the petroleum and chemical industries, with a specialty in regulatory compliance for offshore and onshore oil and gas operations. His work includes air emissions inventories, air permitting, emission control system evaluations, and NPDES permit compliance. He has more than 40 years of environmental experience supporting the offshore oil and gas exploration and production operations.

Stephen Depew is a Planning Specialist with J. Connor Consulting, where he has spent the past 11 years supporting more than 30 oil and gas operators in oil spill response, contingency planning, and leadership development. A 20-year veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, Stephen brings deep expertise in emergency preparedness and incident management. He recently became an Aggie and is currently pursuing his Executive MBA at Texas A&M University's Mays Business School, with graduation expected in May 20

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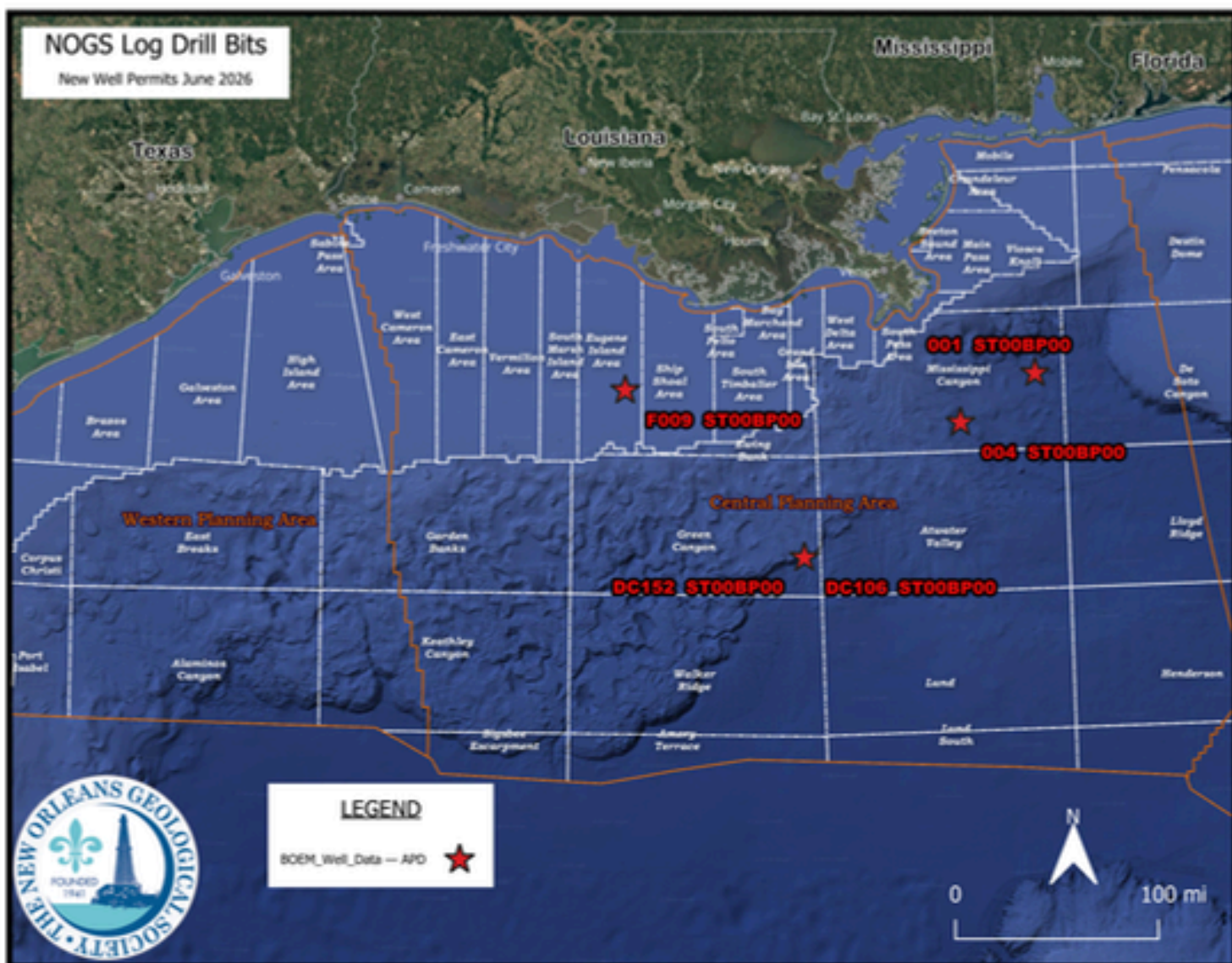
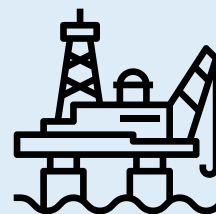


The NOGS LOG invites short articles from industry professionals, academics, and graduate students on topics related to Gulf Coast geology, energy resources, and related disciplines. Submissions may include technical summaries, case studies, research highlights, or industry perspectives.

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

DRILL BITS

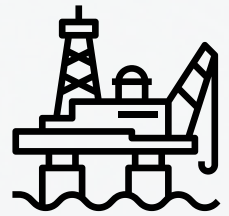
NEW WELL PERMITS OFFSHORE GULF OF AMERICA
SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES
MAP BY ERIC FISCHER



API Well Number	Company Name	Block Area	Surface Lease Number	Well Type	Well Name	Water Depth (feet)	Surface Lat	Surface Long	Rig Name
608114080400	BP E&P Inc.	GC 743	G15607	Dev	DC152	6823	27.225	-90.032	DIAMOND OCEAN BLACKHORNET
608114080300	BP E&P Inc.	GC 743	G15607	Dev	DC106	6838	27.223	-90.032	DIAMOND OCEAN BLACKHORNET
608174152700	LLOG Exploration Offshore	MC 816	G33178	Expl	004	5655	28.174	-88.757	SEADRILL WEST NEPTUNE
608174152600	Shell Offshore Inc.	MC 477	G36962	Expl	001	6842	28.515	-88.144	T.O. DEEPWATER PONTUS
177104170300	Arena Offshore	EI 276	G00989	Dev	F009	180	28.43	-91.47	WFD 400

DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF AMERICA SHELF AND
DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES
BY BRIAN BOTHNER



North America Rig Count Report June 2026

North America: 575

State/Province	Protraction Area		Rig Count Value	Change from Previous Month	
LOUISIANA	East Cameron		1	1	
LOUISIANA	Green Canyon		1	-2	
LOUISIANA	Mississippi Canyon		5	0	
TEXAS	Alaminos Canyon		1	1	
Gulf of America Total:			8	0	
State	Rig Count	Change from Previous Month	State	Rig Count	Change from Previous Month
ALASKA	12	0	NEW MEXICO	957	2
ARKANSAS	0	0	NORTH DAKOTA	26	0
CALIFORNIA	7	0	OHIO	11	0
COLORADO	12	1	OKLAHOMA	46	0
LOUISIANA	31	0	PENNSYLVANIA	17	0
MICHIGAN	1	0	TEXAS	266	24
MISSISSIPPI	0	0	UTAH	13	0
MONTANA	2	0	WEST VIRGINIA	8	0
NEVADA	2	0	WYOMING	16	0

Recent Energy Headlines

July 2026 Recap

7/30/2026 - bp starts production on its Atlantis Major Facility Expansion project - The brownfield expansion project will add about 10,000 boe/d in the US Gulf of America. The Atlantis expansion demonstrates how operators continue to unlock additional value from producing Gulf of America hubs, extending field life and maximizing returns from existing offshore infrastructure rather than relying solely on new standalone developments. Bringing new production online through established facilities can help accelerate project payback, lower development costs and add barrels more quickly than building entirely new offshore production systems. [Read Full Article](#)

7/27/2026 - 1947 Oil & Gas Plc to buy Renaissance Offshore LLC for \$65 million - Former Goldman Sachs commodities chief Jeff Currie is raising 50 million pounds (\$67 million) in a London listing for a Gulf of America oil producer. The new company, 1947 Oil & Gas Plc, will use the proceeds to buy Renaissance Offshore LLC for \$65 million. The Gulf of America produces roughly 2 million barrels a day, about 15% of total U.S. oil output. [Read Full Article](#)

7/17/2026 - Marubeni sells Gulf of Mexico Big Foot oil and gas stake to redirect capital toward North American natural gas - Marubeni just wrapped up the sale of its stake in Big Foot, a deepwater oil and gas asset in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico that Chevron operates. The field sits about 225 miles south of New Orleans, in roughly 5,200 feet of water, and it's been producing steadily since 2018. Marubeni wasn't a late arrival—the company was involved from the development stage. The exit marks a deliberate move away from an asset the Japanese trading house helped build from the ground up. [Read Full Article](#)

7/14/2026 - Gulf lawmakers aim to extend state borders to 9 miles offshore - A bipartisan coalition of Gulf Coast lawmakers is pushing to change a 73-year-old law that limits their states' maritime boundaries to 3 miles offshore, potentially reshaping the regulation of local fisheries and generating billions of dollars in tax revenues from offshore energy and minerals leases. Introduced by U.S. Rep. Mike Ezell, R-Miss., and a group of legislators that includes Reps. Troy Carter Sr., D-La., Clay Higgins, R-La., and Shomari Figures, D-Ala., the Offshore Parity Act would extend state waters from 3 nautical miles out to 9 – matching the long-held boundaries of Texas and Florida. This change would provide Gulf states full economic control over new leases issued for traditional oil and gas drilling, seabed mineral mining, and permanent offshore carbon sequestration. [Read Full Article](#)

7/6/2026 - Shell agrees to sell Gulf of Mexico Na Kika platform stake and Coulomb tieback to Talos and Ridgewood for \$1.7 billion - Shell Offshore Inc. has agreed to sell its 50% non-operated working interest in the Na Kika deepwater platform and associated fields in the Gulf of Mexico, along with its 100% interest in the Coulomb tieback, to subsidiaries of Talos Energy and Ridgewood Energy. The total price tag: \$1.7 billion, subject to customary adjustments and certain contingent payments. The transaction carries an effective date of July 1, 2025, and is expected to close by the end of 2026, pending regulatory approvals. [Read Full Article](#)

GULF OF AMERICA LEASE SALE: BIG BEAUTIFUL GULF 3 PRE-SALE PARTY



ENERGY LEADERS CONNECT

More than 180 professionals gathered along the New Orleans riverfront for an evening of connection, conversation and shared optimism ahead of the Big Beautiful Gulf 3 lease sale. The reception brought together leaders from across the offshore energy community in a setting that celebrated collaboration and the Gulf's continuing importance to American energy.



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This gathering was made possible through the generous support of organizations committed to the Gulf energy community. We appreciate their partnership and investment in bringing industry professionals together.



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GULF COAST ENERGY FORUM

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Energy leadership, innovation and collaboration across the Gulf Coast

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.

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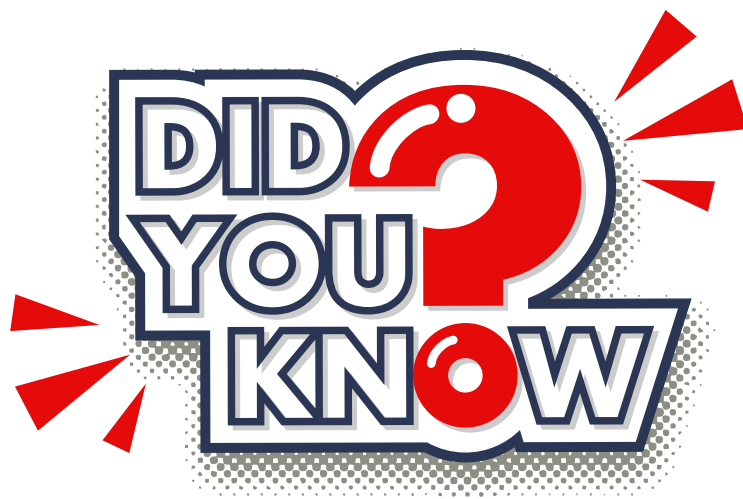
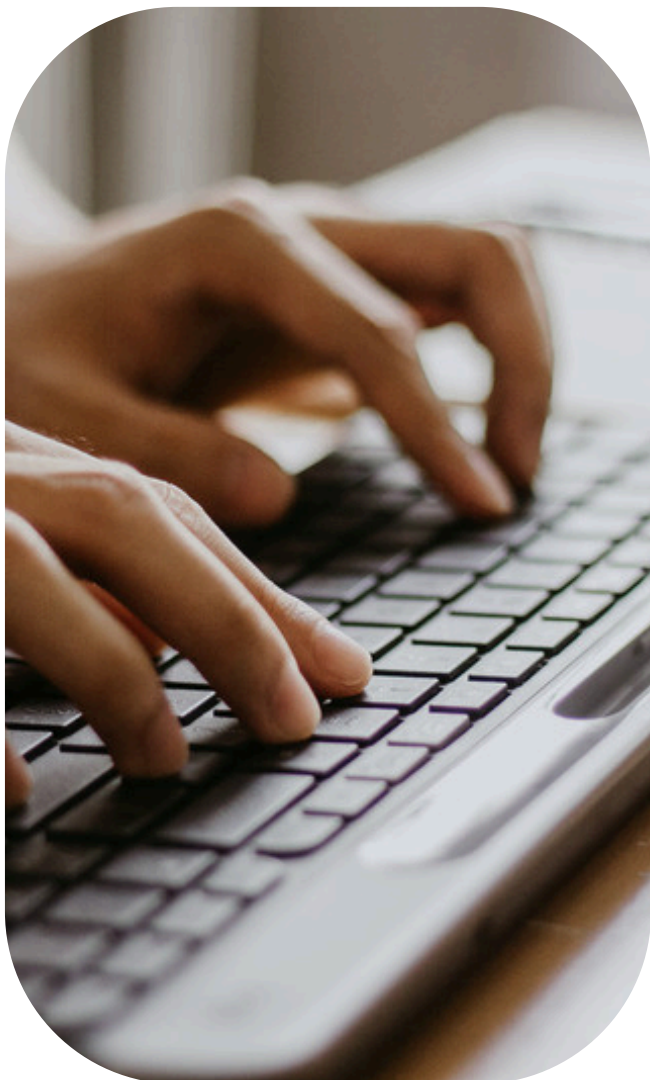
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Arthur F. Christensen

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GEOLOGY
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT

GEM Consulting, LTD

Emmitt Lockard
emlockard@yahoo.com

Michael Louis Merritt
admin@gemconsultingltd.com



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NEW ORLEANS
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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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