

NGS LOC

Geologic Map of France

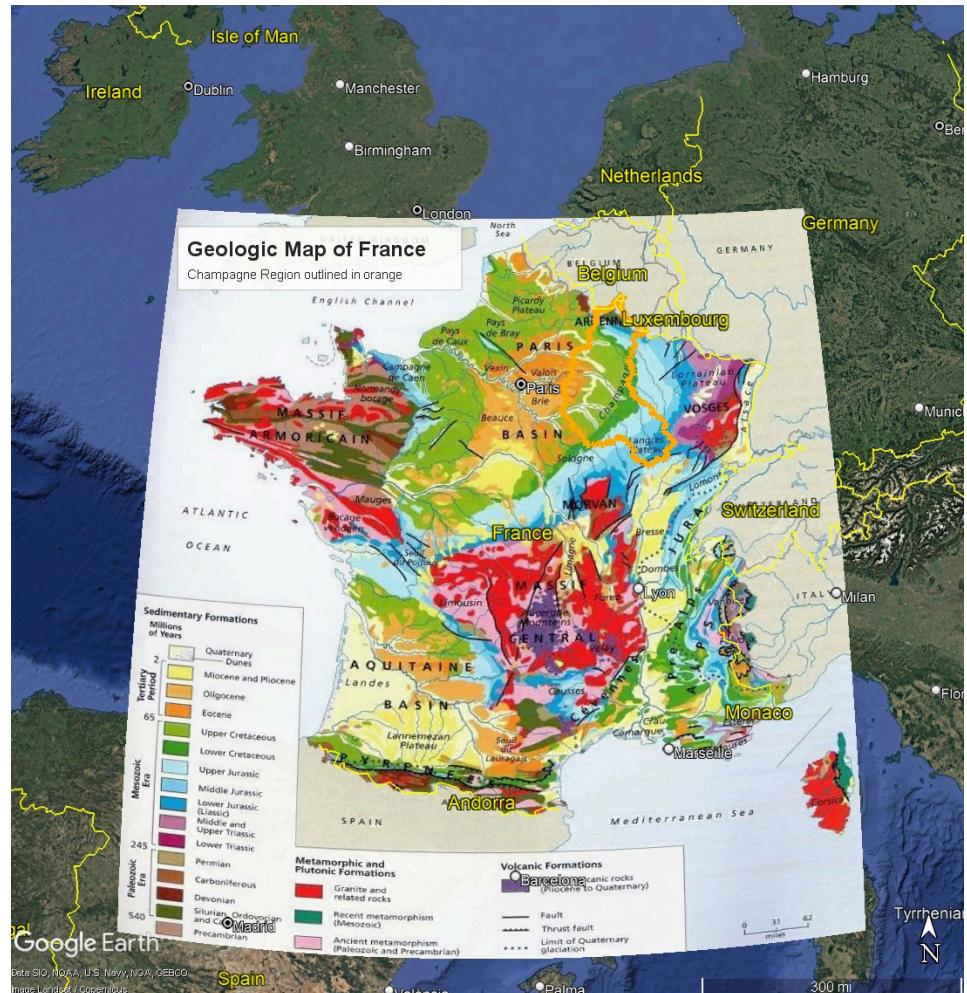
Champagne Region outlined in orange



On the Cover

Champagne Region, France

The champagne region of France is famous for its namesake sparkling wine, champagne. An Italian dry sparkling wine is called "Prosecco", a Spanish sparkling wine is called "Cava", and an American sparkling wine is called, well, "Sparkling Wine". Only sparkling wines produced in this region of France are called champagne. The region is located in the eastern portion of the Paris basin, an intracratonic, 110,000 square kilometer (43,000 square mile) sedimentary basin in the northeastern portion of present day France. During the Late Paleozoic Era 370 to 290 million years ago, the Varsican orogeny, produced mountains on the western cratonic margin and an inland structural depression to the east. During the Mesozoic Era, 250 – 66 million years ago, extensional forces produced by rifting and thermal subsidence, deepened the depression accompanied by wide-



Map reference: "Sustainable Groundwater Management" by Jean-Christophe Maréchal, Josselin Rouillard, Brgm (French Geological Survey), Montpellier, superimposed on Google Earth.

spread transgression and the deposition of rich organic black shale. Successive transgressive sequences produced carbonate platforms, argillaceous input from the surrounding highlands and chalk deposition.

Today the Champagne Chalk (Craie Champenoise) underlies many of the region's vineyards, and this sedimentary sequence produced rich limestone/chalk, clay, clay-limestone mixed and sand/marl soils which provide good drainage, water storage capacity, high pH and minerals while reflecting light and warmth. The quality and uniqueness of the champagne produced here is due to the soil composition, with the limestone chalk and clay supporting healthy deeply rooted vines. Variations in soil composition allow chardonnay and pinot noir grapes to thrive and produce variations in flavor and complexity of the wine.

So, raise a celebratory glass of champagne with a loved one on Valentine's Day or throughout this Mardi Gras season and remember the long complex geologic history that produced it.

Resources: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1342937X13000981>;
<https://pubs.geoscienceworld.org/aapg/books/edited-volume/1351/chapter-abstract/1071714/Paris-Basin?redirectedFrom=fulltext>;
<https://frontrowsociety.com/fine-cuisine/wines-and-spirits/limestone-chalk-and-the-secret-of-champagne/>

From the Editor

Hello and Happy Valentines Day and a very HAPPY MARDI GRAS!!!,

Thank you Dr. Alexander Kolker , for your presentation "*Modern Dynamics Of A Large River Distributary: The Case Of Neptune Pass, The Largest Mississippi River Distributary To Form In A Century.*" at the NOGS January luncheon and technical presentation. Our February luncheon and technical presentation will be held on the 18th at Drago's of Metairie. Tad Loupe, Louisiana State Environmental Scientist will present "*Funding Sources for Remediating Contaminated UST Sites*". Register online from the NOGS website to attend in person or join us through the remote webcast.

Registration is now open for Geogulf2026 at the Crowne Plaza Executive Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana from March 23-25, 2026. This year will be the 75th anniversary 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. This is an excellent volunteer opportunity as we are still in need of additional committee chairs, session chairs, judges, and sponsors. Make plans to attend and please consider volunteering some of your time and talents to make this NOGS sponsored event a success! In association with GeoGulf2026, three field trips will be offered on Sunday, March 22, 2026, originating and terminating at the convention hotel. Several Short Courses will also be offered on Monday March 23, 2026. Convention Registration is NOT required to take advantage of the field trip or short course offerings. Additional information is available in this issue of the NOGS Log and on the [Geogulf2026](#) website.

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. When course offerings are confirmed, descriptions and registration information will be posted on the NOGS website.

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 March....

Brian Bothner



Brian Bothner
2025/2026 NOGS Log
Editor





A MESSAGE FROM THE 2025/2026 NOGS PRESIDENT



BRIAN DAVID

Dear NOGS Members and Friends,

I hope everyone is off to a great start in 2026! Time is flying, February is here, and that can only mean one thing—Mardi Gras season is upon us! 🌸 💜 💚 💛 Even with a shorter parade schedule and cooler weather, here's hoping you get out and enjoy your favorite parade, eat plenty of king cake, and all the other Mardi Gras traditions you and your family love.

This year is shaping up to be a very active one for NOGS, with several exciting events planned for our members. Please mark your calendars for **GeoGulf 2026**, scheduled for March 2026 in Baton Rouge, early registration is now open. NOGS is also seeking volunteers to serve as judges for poster and technical presentation sessions. Members interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact NOGS for additional information.

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 NOGS Board is currently planning a Spring Social to be held on the Northshore following Mardi Gras. We are actively seeking venue suggestions, and members with recommendations are encouraged to reach out to us. Additional details, including the event date, will be announced soon.

BOEM is currently concluding Phase 1 of the Big Beautiful Gulf 1 (BBG1) Oil and Gas Lease Sale and preparing to enter Phase 2 of the process. In addition, the Big Beautiful Gulf 2 Oil and Gas Lease Sale is scheduled to take place on March 11, 2026. On February 18, 2026, NOGS will host its monthly luncheon on the South Shore at Drago's, featuring Ted Loupe, who will present on funding sources for underground storage tank (UST)sites. We encourage members to attend for networking, professional development, and continued support of NOGS.

Respectfully,



Brian David
President, NOGS 2025-2026

NOGS *February* MEETING

Funding Sources for Remediating Contaminated UST Sites

Leaking USTs are one of Louisiana's leading causes of soil and groundwater contamination. Act 1121 of 2001 initiated the abandoned tank program and authorized the use of state funds for the closure of abandoned motor fuel USTs and the assessment and remediation of property contaminated by the abandoned motor fuel USTs.

The authorized funds are to provide financial assistance for the permanent closure of USTs that have been abandoned or are no longer in service and for the remediation of properties that are not eligible for clean up under the Louisiana Motor Fuels UST Trust Fund. All interest earned by the Motor Fuels UST Trust Fund shall be used to fund site activities.

The presentation will provide an overview of the LDEQ's UST Division and the LA Motor Fuels Trust fund along with the functions of the abandoned tank program, revenue sources, financial status, and state projects.

Tad Loupe earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Soil Science from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. After graduation, Tad worked for an environmental laboratory as a Metals Analyst Supervisor. He joined LDEQ in 1998 as an Environmental Specialist in the Water Quality Division. He began his career conducting LPDES Water Discharge Permit inspections, managing oil spill responses, and sampling state ambient watershed basins. In 1999, he transitioned into the UST program conducting compliance inspections while functioning as a multi-media inspector in the LDEQ Surveillance Division. He has over 18 years of UST experience related to site investigations, RECAP evaluations, and corrective action. In 2019, he began serving as the UST Senior Environmental Scientist focusing on all aspects of the UST remediation process. He is also a member of the Motor Fuels Trust Fund Remediation Oversight Group and serves as the Abandoned Tank Project Manager.



**Tad Loupe &
Chris Means
Louisiana DEQ**



DATE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026



TIME
AT 11:30 AM NETWORKING
12:00 PM LUNCH &
PRESENTATION
DRAGO'S OF METAIRIE



NOGS MEETING

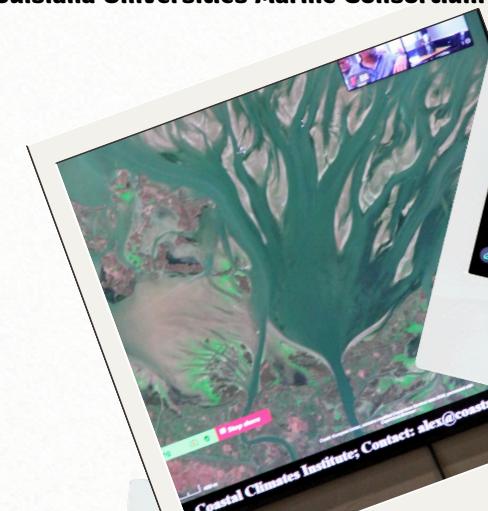
January Lookback

**Modern Dynamics Of A Large River Distributary:
The Case Of Neptune Pass, The Largest Mississippi
River Distributary To Form In A Century.**



Alexander Kolker PhD

Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium



DRAGO'S OF
METAIRIE



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- Logo recognition on all meeting promotional emails and marketing materials
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LSU GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS DEPARTMENT

SPRING 2026 SEMINAR SERIES FEBRUARY EVENTS

Date	Speaker, Title or Topic
Feb. 4	<i>Special Faculty Meeting – no seminar</i>
Feb. 11	<i>Alumni Frances Crawford, Agathe Carrier, and Patrick Baudoin, New Orleans Army Core of Engineers</i> Navigating Early Career Transitions into the Public Sector
Feb. 18	LSU Mardi Gras Holiday
Feb. 25 Noon RM - TBA	<i>Dr. Stefanie Brachfeld, Montclair State University & USSSP</i> Magnetic forensics in the Scotia Sea: Exploring the deep-sea magnetic susceptibility-ice core dust connection
	No seminars the last Wednesday of the month due to faculty meetings. <i>Updated 1/07/2026 (Profs. Barb Dutrow & Sophie Warny, organizers)</i>

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



College of
Science
Department of Geology
& Geophysics



Society of Petroleum Engineers

SPE Delta Section

**Friday, March 6, 2026,
SPE Delta Golf Tournament at Carter Plantation,
Springfield, LA
Matt Wandstrat, Coordinator.**



For more golf information contact Matt.Wandstrat@gmail.com



Hosted by:



Mark Wojna

Celebrating 75 Years of Gulf Coast Geology

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 March 23-25, 2026, at the Crowne Plaza Executive Center Baton Rouge, 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.



GEOGULF 2026

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



GeoGulf 2026 Short Course 1

Convention registration is NOT required to attend short courses.

Recent Developments in Gulf of Mexico Salt Tectonics

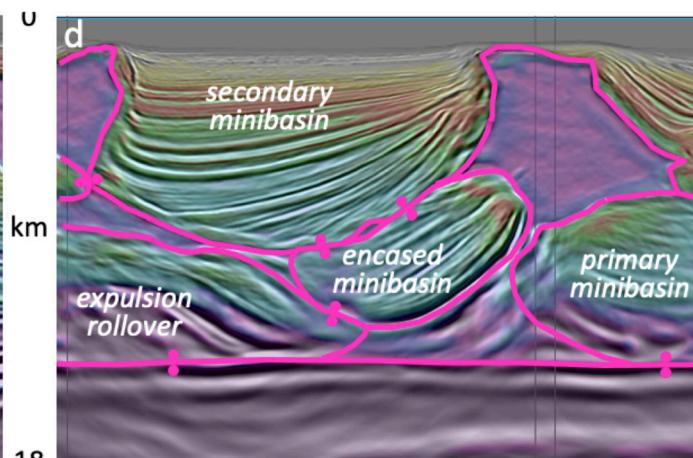
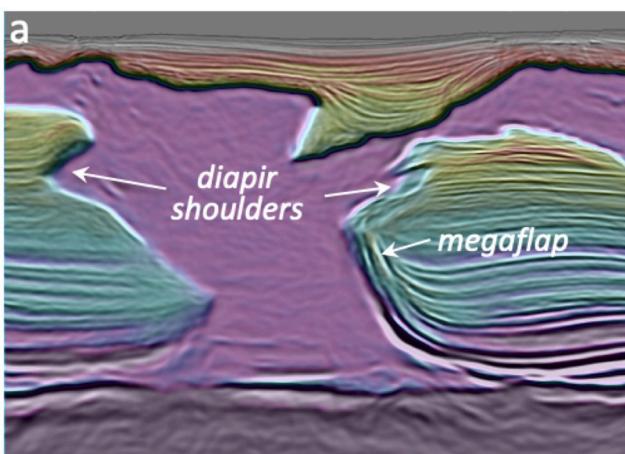
23 March 2026—All Day

Mark G. Rowan
Rowan Consulting, Inc.



This one-day short course is intended for those who want an update on aspects of salt tectonics relevant to the GoM. A familiarity with the basic concepts of salt movement, diapirism, and canopy development is assumed. Topics covered include: (i) the crustal architecture and evolution of the GoM; (ii) the age, distribution, and stratigraphy of the Louann salt; (iii) the triggers and drivers for salt movement in the Mesozoic; (iv) Cenozoic gravitational failure and associated extensional, contractional, and strike-slip deformation; (v) styles and distributions of feeder diapirs, canopies, and associated minibasins; and (vi) small-scale deformation adjacent to diapirs and beneath salt sheets.

Cost: \$175, includes lunch.





GeoGulf 2026 Short Course 2

Convention registration is NOT required to attend short courses.

Quantitative Interpretation of Seismic Data for Rock/FluidProperties

23 March 2026—All Day

John Castagna
University of Houston



This course discusses methods for determination of rock and fluid properties from post-stack and pre-stack seismic data. Topics include (1) Fundamentals, (2) Seismic Attributes, (3) Spectral and Phase Decomposition, (4) AVO, (5) Seismic Inversion, and (6) AI and Machine Learning in Reservoir Characterization.

Cost: \$175, includes lunch.

Biography: John Castagna received his PhD in exploration geophysics in 1981 from the University of Texas at Austin. He has since worked in a variety of capacities including 16 years in exploration and research for a major oil company. For the past 30 years, he has held endowed chairs in academia. He currently holds the Sheriff Chair in Geophysics at the University of Houston and is partial owner of Lumina Geophysical where he advises on technical matters.



GeoGulf 2026 Short Course 3

Convention registration is NOT required to attend short courses.

Preparation for the ASBOG Fundamental and Professional Geoscientist Testing, and Ethics for Geoscientists

23 March 2026—Half Day

William Schramm



Multiple states, including Louisiana and Texas, require that everyone practicing geoscience, as defined by respective statutes, must be licensed. One of the requirements to obtain your license is passing both exams offered by the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG). This course will provide instructions on registering for the exams, a discussion of exam construction and validation, and scoring. As preparation for the exam, we will discuss how to study, options for additional subject matter instructions from AS- BOG, and practice using actual exam questions provided by ASBOG. In addition to discussion of the exams, I will also provide one Professional Development Hour of training on Professional Ethics for Geoscientists.

Cost: \$60, includes lunch.

Biography: Mr. Schramm received a BA in geology from UWM and started his professional career on the geology staff at UWM, researching extraterrestrial geology. He then mined uranium in Wyoming for EXXON and mud logged for Schlumberger in Louisiana. He attended USL for his MS. He then joined the LDEQ as a geologist working with state and federal agencies, industry, consultants and private citizens to investigate and/or remediated over 3000 contaminated sites. He supervised a staff of 16 (Geologists and Remediation Specialists) in the Remediation Division and retired after 28 years. From 2005 to 2016 he was an Adjunct Instructor on the staff of the Department of Geosciences at ULL and served on numerous Graduate Thesis Committees. Governor John Bell Edwards appointed him to the Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists in 2018. He held the Treasurer and Chairman positions and now serves as Compliance Committee Chairman. He is a Subject Matter Expert for the National Association of State Boards of Geologists and a Senior Geologist with Losonsky and Associates.



GeoGulf 2026 Field Trip 1

Convention registration is NOT required to attend field trip.

History, Geomorphology, and Stratigraphy of the Wax Lake Delta of the Atchafalaya River: A Pristine Friction-Dominated Shallow-Water Coastal River Delta

Sunday, 22 March 2026, 7:00 am-5:30 pm



Participants will depart by bus from Baton Rouge and travel to the Wax Lake Outlet of the Atchafalaya River on US Hwy. 90 near Patterson, LA. From there we will travel in a group of small boats operated by the LSU Coastal Studies Institute to one of the larger islands in the delta that emerged from a deltaic distributary-mouth sandbar following the 1973 flood on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. Along the way we will pause in mid-stream to observe and discuss the crossing of the Intracoastal Waterway and Head of Passes for the delta.

We will then get out on (possibly) dry land to collect, split, and study a vibracore 5-6 m long, which should penetrate the entire Anthropocene deltaic sediment package, and illustrate the history of deltaic growth.

We will then return to the boat ramp, load into buses, and return to Baton Rouge by dinner time. Total travel hours approximately 7:00 am-5:30 pm door to door.

Cost: \$300/person

Start/End Location: Convention Hotel

Maximum: Enrollment likely limited to 25–30 participants, pending availability of boats.

Sam Bentley - Field Trip Leader
Ph.D., P.G., Louisiana State University



GeoGulf 2026 Field Trip 2

Convention registration is NOT required to attend field trip.

Quaternary Activity of the Baton Rouge Fault Zone and Impacts on Coastal Landscape and Infrastructure

Sunday, 22 March 2026, 8:00 am–2:00 pm



Nancye Dawers - Field Trip Leader
Structural Geologist
Department of Earth and
Environmental Sciences at Tulane
University.

This field trip will visit key sites along the Baton Rouge Fault Zone that exhibit prominent late Quaternary scarps. Stops will focus on the highly segmented nature of the fault zone, slip rate variability, influence of faulting on alluvial channels, and impacts to infrastructure.

Departing from Crowne Plaza at 8:00 am and returning to Crowne Plaza by 2:00 pm

Cost: \$200/person
Start/End Location: Convention Hotel
Maximum: Enrollment likely limited to 25–30 participants.

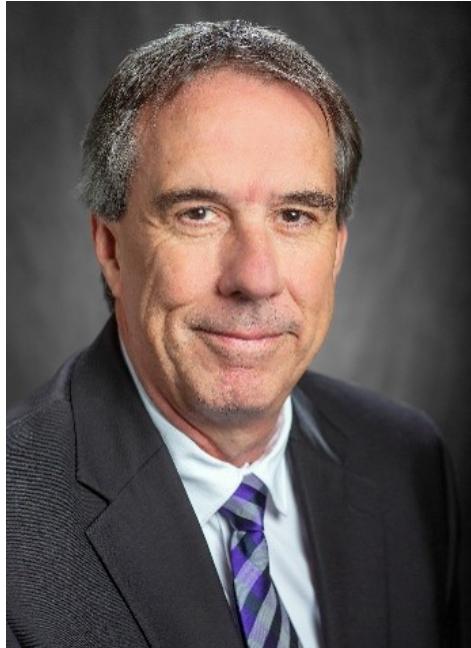


GeoGulf 2026 Field Trip 3

Convention registration is NOT required to attend field trip.

Salt Domes of South Louisiana

Sunday, 22 March 2026, 7:00 am-5:30 pm



Chris McLindon - Field Trip Leader

Director of Energy Education and Outreach at the LSU Center for Energy Studies.

Participants will depart by bus from Baton Rouge and travel to Avery and Jefferson Island salt domes. A field trip guidebook covers the geologic origins of Louisiana salt domes, the geology of cap rock, the history of salt mining and the relationships between salt domes and oil and gas exploration and production. The topographic surface expressions of both domes support beautiful elevated grounds surrounded by marsh. The grounds include botanical gardens that are havens for wildlife with walking trails. Avery Island is also the site of the original factory for Tabasco Pepper Sauce where museum tours are available.

Brian Lock, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, University of Louisiana at Lafayette is the Field Trip Guidebook Author but is unable to attend

Cost: \$200/person

Start/End Location: Convention Hotel

Maximum: Enrollment likely limited to 25–30 participants.



GEOGULF 2026

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



Sponsorship Opportunities

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\$20,000

Premier recognition as a Diamond Sponsor. Opportunity to speak during the opening session. 7 complimentary conference registrations. Inside Front Cover advertisement in *Transactions* and Program (first come, first served) OR 2-Pg. composite landscape advertisement, full color with bleed. Logo featured on the conference website, program, convention screens and signage, and all promotional materials.

Platinum
\$10,000

Major recognition as a Platinum Sponsor. 5 complimentary conference registrations. Inside Back Cover ad or logo in *Transactions* (first come, first served) OR 1-Pg. portrait advertisement, full color with bleed. Logo featured on the conference website, convention screens and signage, and all promotional materials.

Gold
\$5,000

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\$1,000

Recognition as a Bronze Sponsor. 1 complimentary conference registration. Quarter-page portrait ad or logo with margins in *Transactions* and Program. Logo featured on the conference website and convention screens and signage.

Copper
\$500

Recognition as a Copper Sponsor. Logo featured on the conference website, *Transactions*, Program, and convention screens and signage.

Patron
\$250

Recognition as a Patron Sponsor. Name featured on the conference website, *Transactions*, Program, and convention screens and signage.

Friend
\$100

Recognition as a Friend Sponsor. Name featured on the conference website, *Transactions*, Program, and convention screens and signage.

Note that all advertisements or logos will be published in full color for the digital version of the *Transactions* and Program. Bronze and higher-level sponsorships can be directed towards specific events dependent upon level of support.

GeoGulf 2026—75th GCAGS/GCSSEPM Conference,
23-25 March 2026, at the Crowne Plaza Executive
Center in Baton Rouge, LA.
Hosted by the New Orleans, Lafayette, and Baton
Rouge Geological Societies.

Donate online at:
<https://geogulf.org>

Or contact Mark Wojna:
markw@llox.com

Calling All Volunteers



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.



Empowering Future Success In Deepwater

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

August 25-26, 2026

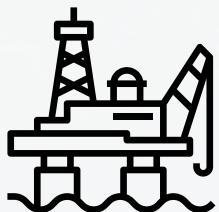
Hilton Riverside, New Orleans LA

[DWTS 2026 Tickets](#)

*"Technology Innovations for Resilient
Deepwater Energy"*

DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND
DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES
BY BRIAN BOTHNER



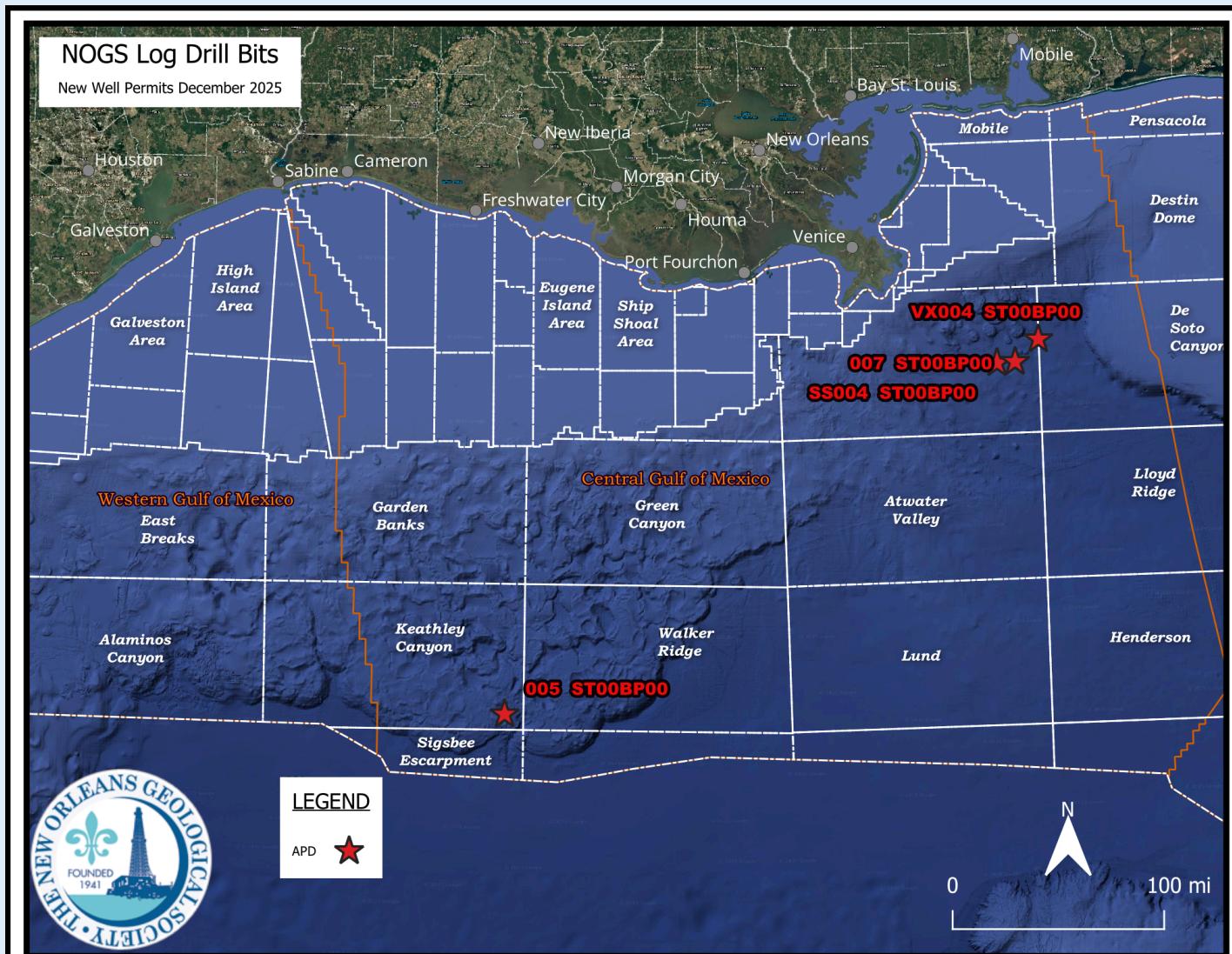
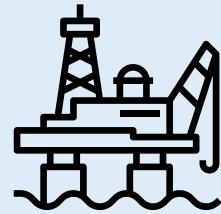
North America Rig Count Report December 2025

North America: 558

State/Province	Protraction Area	Rig Count Value	Change from Previous Month
LOUISIANA	Eugene Island	0	-1
LOUISIANA	Green Canyon	2	1
LOUISIANA	Mississippi Canyon	6	-2
TEXAS	Alaminos Casnyon	2	0
Gulf of America Total:		10	-2
State	Rig Count	Change from Previous Month	State
ALASKA	10	-1	NEW MEXICO
ARKANSAS	0	0	NORTH DAKOTA
CALIFORNIA	8	0	OHIO
COLORADO	11	-3	OKLAHOMA
LOUISIANA	38	5	PENNSYLVANIA
MICHIGAN	1	0	TEXAS
MISSISSIPPI	0	-1	UTAH
MONTANA	2	0	WEST VIRGINIA
NEVADA	2	0	WYOMING

DRILL BITS

NEW WELL PERMITS OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO
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
608084007900	Anadarko Petroleum Corporation	KC 919	G21447	Expl	005 ST00BP00	7386	26.078	-92.06	DIAMOND OCEAN BLACKHAWK
608174152100	BP E&P Inc.	MC 522	G08823	Expl	007 ST00BP00	6933	28.463	-88.104	DIAMOND OCEAN BLACKLION
608174152200	Talos QN Exploration LLC	MC 519	G27278	Expl	SS004 ST00BP00	6550	28.458	-88.246	Seadrill West Vela
608174152300	Shell Offshore Inc.	MC 393	G26254	Expl	VX004 ST00BP00	7404	28.614	-87.919	T.O. DEEPWATER PROTEUS

Recent Energy Headlines

January 2026 Recap

1/9/2026 - 30 Pct of Oil Reserves Might be Consolidated Under US Influence - Around 30 percent of global oil reserves might be consolidated under U.S. influence. That's what J.P. Morgan analysts, including the company's head of global commodities strategy Natasha Kaneva, stated in a J.P. Morgan research note sent to Rigzone by Kaneva this week. "Combined oil reserves from Venezuela, Guyana, and the U.S. could give the U.S. about 30 percent of global oil reserves if consolidated under its influence," the analysts said in the note. [Read Full Article](#)

1/9/2026 - LLOG deal adds a new core region for Harbour Energy - While most independents are shrinking portfolios and shortening cycles, Harbour Energy just doubled down on long-cycle deepwater risk across two basins, in two weeks. In the span of weeks, this UK-based independent has: 1. Taken the operator seat on Zama field, 750 million barrels recoverable offshore Mexico 2. Agreed to acquire LLOG Exploration for \$3.2 billion, their entry into the deepwater Gulf of America [Read Full Article](#)

1/11/2026 - Supreme Court Case Will Set Major Precedent For American Energy - The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments Monday in a case determining whether companies acting under federal orders can shift state lawsuits to federal court — with many concerned parties arguing that American energy is at stake. The case addresses whether Chevron and other energy companies can move a Louisiana state lawsuit to federal court under the federal-officer removal statute, based on actions taken on behalf of the federal government during World War II. Roughly 40 lawsuits have been filed since 2013 over oil and gas companies' alleged role in Louisiana's coastal erosion, and the Supreme Court's upcoming review of Chevron U.S.A. v. Plaquemines Parish decides whether those cases can be moved from state to federal court. [Read Full Article](#)

1/13/2025 - Exxon Baton Rouge, Louisiana refinery preparing to run Venezuelan oil, sources say - Exxon Mobil (XOM.N), is preparing to run Venezuelan crude oil at its Baton Rouge, Louisiana refinery, people familiar with plant operations said. The 522,500 barrel-per-day Baton Rouge refinery previously ran Venezuelan heavy sour crude, but has not since sanctions were imposed on Venezuela, the sources said. [Read Full Article](#)

1/16/2026 - Beacon begins production at Zephyrus Field in deepwater - Beacon Offshore has brought its Zephyrus Field online, marking first production from the Miocene development ahead of the second well coming online later this quarter. Beacon has initiated oil and gas production from the Zephyrus Field in deepwater, marking first output from the development's initial well in late December 2025. The Miocene-aged project lies in MC 759, about 130 miles southeast of New Orleans in water depths of 3,100-3,600 ft. [Read Full Article](#)

1/21/2026 - IEA upgrades forecast for 2026 oil demand growth - In 2026, global oil demand growth is projected to grow more than earlier projections, all from non-OECD countries, according to a recent IEA forecast. Global oil demand growth is projected to average 930,000 b/d in 2026, up from 850,000 b/d in 2025, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in its January 2026 Oil Market Monthly Report, reflecting a normalization of economic conditions after last year's tariff disruptions and oil prices trending lower than a year ago. [Read Full Article](#)

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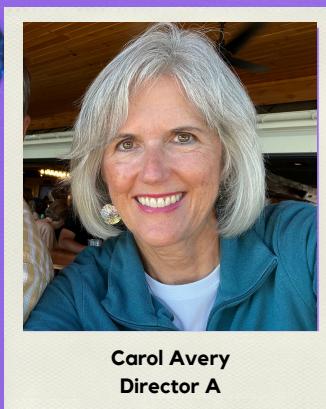
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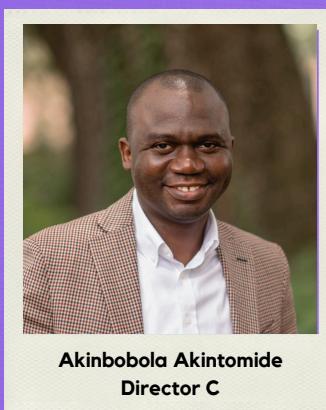
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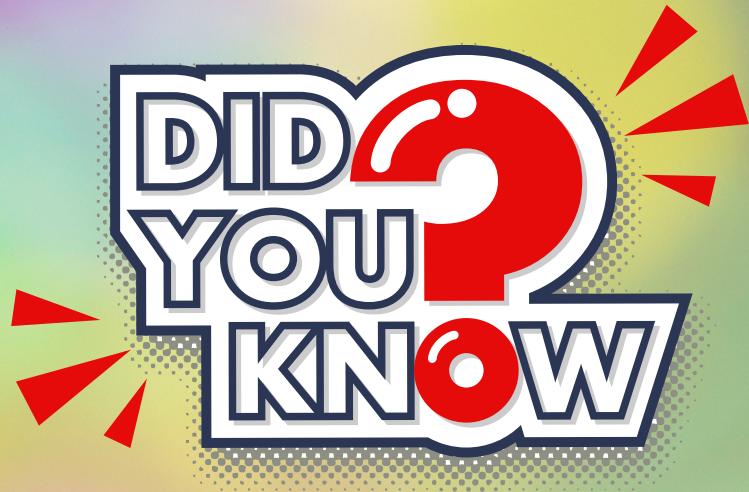
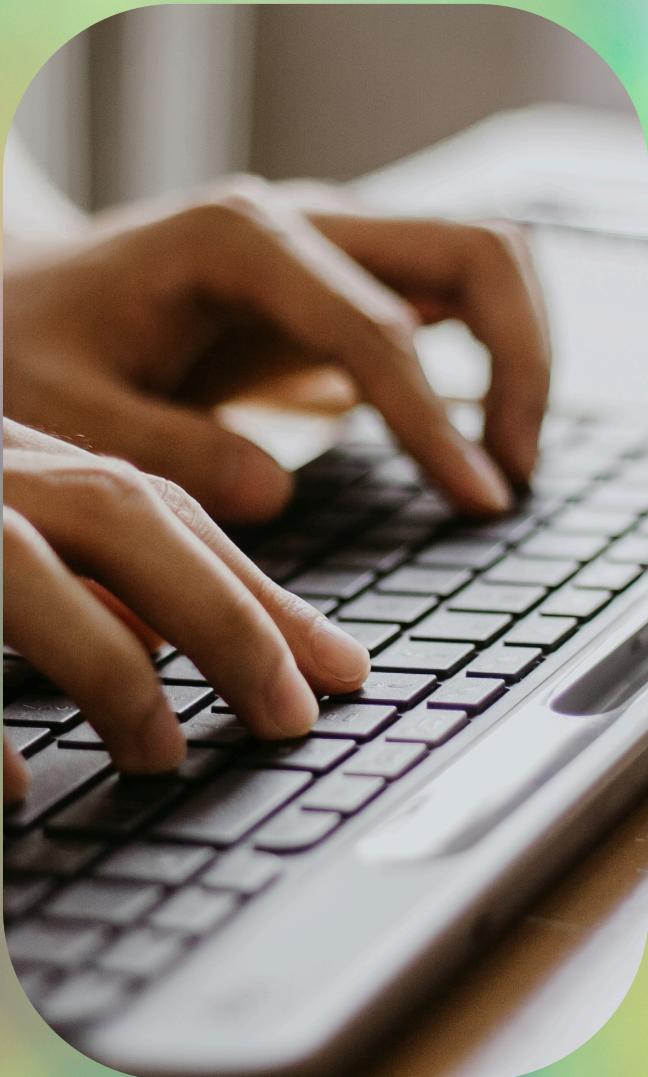
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