

NOGS LOG

May 2026
Volume 66 No. 11

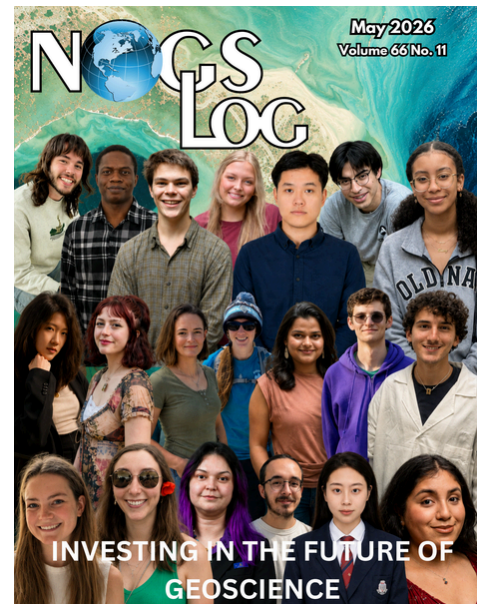


INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF
GEOSCIENCE

On the Cover

Investing in the Future of Geoscience

This month's cover highlights an exceptional group of students supported by the NOGS Memorial Foundation, representing Louisiana State University, University of New Orleans, and Tulane University. These scholarship recipients reflect the very best of the next generation of geoscience professionals, demonstrating academic excellence, and strong commitment to tackling the environmental challenges shaping our region and beyond.



Their areas of study span coastal restoration, climate research, geophysics, paleoceanography, and environmental stewardship. Collectively, their work underscores the critical role geoscience plays in understanding and protecting the Gulf Coast and our broader global environment.

In 2026, the NOGS Memorial Foundation made a significant investment in this future by increasing its scholarship support to \$21,000 per university, expanding both the number of awards and the impact on students pursuing careers in the earth sciences.

This progress would not be possible without the generosity of our donors. Their continued support over the years has allowed the Foundation to grow, adapt, and provide meaningful opportunities for students who are passionate about this field. Quite simply, these scholarships exist because of a community that believes in investing in people.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to the faculty and departments at Louisiana State University, the University of New Orleans, and Tulane University for their partnership in identifying and supporting these outstanding students. If you would like to help us continue this important work, we encourage you to consider making a contribution to the NOGS Memorial Foundation. Every gift directly supports the next generation of geoscientists.

[Donate here](#)



From the Editor

Hello friends,

At the last NOGS meeting, our tables were overflowing with students from LSU, Tulane and UNO to receive their scholarships from NOGS. A special thank you to Jared Bullock for presenting these awards on behalf of the NOGS Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees. Investing in the future of our industry is critical to ensure talented people continue to move geosciences into the future.

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 (<https://www.deepwaternola.org/>).

We continue to 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.

There will be no meeting this May, but we look forward to seeing everyone at the event in Mandeville at Loft18 in June.



Eric Fischer

Eric Fischer
Editor Elect



A MESSAGE FROM THE 2025/2026 NOGS PRESIDENT



BRIAN DAVID

Dear NOGS Members and Friends,

Summer is sneaking in like it owns the place—turning up the thermostat, stretching out the days, and convincing everyone that suddenly this is the year we become “outdoorsy.” Flip-flops reappear, iced drinks become a personality trait, and the sun starts clocking overtime. It’s the season of ambitious plans (beach bodies, road trips, waking up early) that somehow melt into naps, snacks, and saying “it’s too hot and humid” at least five times a day.

I want to wish everyone a very safe and fun summer!! NOGS will be taking a break from our monthly luncheons during the summer. We will resume in August, with Chris McLindon scheduled as our featured speaker.

The Big Beautiful Gulf 2 (BBG2) Oil and Gas Lease Sale saw an 84% decrease in bids compared to the previous BBG1 Lease Sale. This reduction was most likely due to the narrow window between the two sales. During BBG2, approximately 141,000 acres were leased, with bidding focused on high-quality deepwater targets. These deepwater tracts saw an average increase of 7.4% in value compared to BBG1, reaching approximately \$334 more per acre.

The next lease sale, scheduled for August 12, 2026, is called The Big Beautiful Gulf 3 (BBG3). It will be the third of thirty lease sales in the Gulf required under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. This sale is expected to offer around 15,066 unleased blocks, covering approximately 80.4 million acres on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf.

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.

I would like to personally thank our members for your continued support of NOGS. Speaking of support, NOGS is currently seeking volunteers to fill several board positions. I encourage our members to consider joining the board and helping guide the future of this organization. NOGS can only continue to thrive when our members step up, get involved, and support this amazing society.

Respectfully,



NEW ORLEANS
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MEMORIAL
FOUNDATION INC.

The NOGS Memorial Foundation is proud to recognize this year's scholarship recipients, an outstanding group of students representing Louisiana State University, Tulane University, and the University of New Orleans. These individuals exemplify academic excellence, dedication to the geosciences, and a shared commitment to understanding and addressing the environmental challenges facing our world, particularly along the Gulf Coast. From coastal restoration and climate research to geophysics, paleoceanography, and environmental stewardship, their work reflects both the diversity and importance of the field. NOGS Memorial Foundation is honored to support these emerging professionals as they continue their education and contribute to the future of geoscience.

LSU

2026 Scholarship Recipients



Tristan Ilgenfritz

\$2,500 Junior
Scholarship

Tristan Ilgenfritz is a first-generation college student pursuing a bachelor's degree in geology with a focus in palynology at Louisiana State University. After beginning his career as a licensed hairstylist, he made a bold transition to follow his long-standing passion for geoscience. Tristan is currently conducting research under Dr. Sophie Warny, contributing to the IODP-401 project with work focused on historical fire analysis using palynological methods, which has already been published in an international conference abstract. He plans to continue his education with a master's degree and pursue a career in geoarchaeology, combining fieldwork and research to better understand past environments.



Natali Barnes

\$2,500 Junior
Scholarship

Natali Barnes is a junior geology student at Louisiana State University with a strong academic record and a passion for research, environmental stewardship, and community engagement. A President's Honor Roll recipient, Natali is actively involved in the LSU Geology Club, coastal restoration efforts through the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, and undergraduate research. Her interests span environmental geology, natural resource management, and hazard mitigation, and she is committed to pursuing a master's degree and a career that blends field exploration with scientific research. Natali's dedication to both science and service reflects her goal of making a meaningful impact in the geoscience community.



Johnathan Smith

\$3,500 Senior
Scholarship

Johnathan Smith is a senior at Louisiana State University majoring in geophysics and computational mathematics, with a strong interest in geologic hazards and risk mitigation. A consistent Dean's List student, Johnathan discovered his passion for geology through fieldwork experiences and has since focused on applying quantitative skills to better understand Earth systems. He plans to pursue an advanced degree in geophysics and engage in research that helps anticipate and reduce the impacts of natural hazards. Outside the classroom, he has contributed to campus sustainability initiatives and supported fellow students as a tutor in mathematics.



Smruti Sardar

\$3,500 Senior
Scholarship

Smruti Sardar is a graduate student in geology at Louisiana State University whose research focuses on understanding the variability of the South Asian monsoon and its broader environmental impacts. Originally from Maharashtra, India, her academic path has been shaped by firsthand experiences with climate-related agricultural challenges. Smruti previously studied at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research and worked as both a science educator and research assistant before pursuing graduate studies abroad. In addition to her research, she is actively involved in outreach through the LSU EnvironMentors program, reflecting her commitment to science communication and community engagement.

LSU

2026 Scholarship Recipients



Riley Del Buono

\$3,000 Senior
Scholarship

Riley Del Buono is a senior geology student at Louisiana State University who discovered a passion for geoscience after taking an introductory course that reshaped her academic path. Now serving as Events Chair for the LSU Geology Club, Riley is actively involved in student engagement and departmental outreach. She works as a student researcher in Dr. Phil Bart's lab, contributing to studies of the cryosphere, and plans to pursue graduate education with a focus on research and environmental applications. Riley is particularly interested in careers that address environmental challenges, including carbon capture and sustainability initiatives.



Keyue "Skylie" Sun

\$3,500 Graduate
Scholarship

Keyue "Skylie" Sun is a graduate student in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at Louisiana State University specializing in mineralogical research. Her work focuses on the geochemistry and textures of jadeite from Myanmar and Guatemala, using advanced analytical techniques to improve provenance determination. With a background in gemology, Skylie has developed a strong interest in the intersection of earth science and cultural heritage, including applications in museum collections and archaeological materials. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. and build a career that integrates mineralogical research with the preservation and study of culturally significant materials.



Crystal Luna

\$3,500 Graduate
Scholarship

Crystal Luna is a graduate geology student at Louisiana State University whose academic journey reflects resilience, determination, and a deep commitment to education and research. A first-generation student, she supported herself through a nontraditional path to complete her degree while gaining extensive experience as a teaching and research assistant. Crystal has received numerous awards and research grants and has contributed to scientific conferences and field research, including participation in an oceanographic expedition. She aspires to become a professor, leading research initiatives, mentoring students, and advancing scientific understanding through both teaching and outreach.





THE UNIVERSITY of NEW ORLEANS

2026 Scholarship Recipients



Marley Allen

\$3,250 Graduate
Scholarship

Marley Allen is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of New Orleans whose research focuses on coastal processes, belowground biomass, and carbon storage across Louisiana and global delta systems. Originally from Kentucky, she holds a background in natural resources, environmental science, and GIS, and previously completed a master's degree studying coastal dune dynamics. Marley has gained extensive teaching and field experience through roles as a lecturer, teaching assistant, and environmental intern. She plans to pursue a career in environmental consulting, applying her research to real-world challenges in ecosystem restoration and coastal management.



Breanna Roberts

\$3,250 Graduate
Scholarship

Breanna Roberts is a graduate student in coastal science at the University of New Orleans, where her research focuses on sediment dynamics, wetland systems, and coastal restoration. With a strong academic record and hands-on experience in both field and laboratory settings, she has contributed to projects involving barrier island restoration and sediment resource management. Breanna currently serves as a graduate assistant, supporting undergraduate instruction and research activities. She is passionate about applying science to real-world environmental challenges and plans to continue her career working on restoration efforts that support the long-term resilience of Louisiana's coast.



Aubrey Nicholas

\$2,500 Junior
Scholarship

Aubrey Nicholas is an undergraduate student at the University of New Orleans majoring in Earth and Environmental Science with a growing interest in hydrology and natural systems. Her academic journey has been shaped by coursework in geology and mineralogy, which deepened her appreciation for Earth's processes and their interconnectedness. Originally from Harvey, Louisiana, Aubrey is particularly interested in water systems and environmental conditions impacting her home state. She plans to pursue a master's degree to further explore opportunities in geoscience and environmental research.



Layna Hebert

\$3,000 Senior
Scholarship

Layna Hebert is an undergraduate student at the University of New Orleans majoring in Earth and Environmental Science with a concentration in wetland ecology and a minor in biology. A Louisiana native, she developed her passion for the environment through hands-on experiences and academic research, including work in seagrass ecology and coastal monitoring programs. Layna currently serves as President of the Society of Earth and Environmental Science at UNO, where she is dedicated to increasing student engagement and awareness of environmental issues. She plans to pursue graduate studies and a career focused on coastal restoration or invasive species research.



THE UNIVERSITY of NEW ORLEANS

2026 Scholarship Recipients



Summer Tyme Baker

\$2,500 Junior
Scholarship

Summer Tyme Baker is an undergraduate student at the University of New Orleans pursuing a degree in Earth and Environmental Science. Originally from upstate New York, she brings a strong work ethic shaped by her service in the United States Marine Corps and previous industry experience. Her academic interests center on understanding Earth processes and applying that knowledge toward environmental protection. Summer plans to pursue a career as a conservationist, with a focus on protecting wildlife and preserving natural resources. She is especially passionate about working outdoors and connecting her studies to real-world environmental stewardship.



Jude Case

\$3,000 Senior
Scholarship

Jude Case is an undergraduate student at the University of New Orleans pursuing a degree in Earth and Environmental Science with a focus on coastal geosciences. A Louisiana native, he has gained valuable research experience through his work with the Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program, studying the dynamic processes shaping Gulf Coast barrier islands. Jude is particularly interested in coastal erosion and degradation and plans to continue his education with a master's degree in environmental or coastal geoscience. His goal is to build a career focused on understanding and addressing coastal change.



Justin Trochez

\$3,000 Senior
Scholarship

Justin Trochez is a senior Earth and Environmental Sciences student at the University of New Orleans with a concentration in environmental and coastal science. A Louisiana native, he previously earned an associate degree from Delgado Community College and has been recognized for his academic achievements and service. Justin's passion for geology was sparked through hands-on experiences and service work with AmeriCorps, where he explored diverse geological landscapes. He plans to pursue graduate studies and a career focused on environmental protection, with interests that span Earth history, ecology, and science communication.





Oluwadamilare Odugbesan

\$3,250 Graduate
Scholarship

Oluwadamilare Odugbesan is a Ph.D. student in Earth and Environmental Sciences at Tulane University whose research focuses on sediment dynamics and geohazards in both terrestrial and deep-marine environments. He is developing quantitative models to better understand channel stability and avulsion processes, with applications in predicting flooding and protecting critical offshore infrastructure. With a strong academic foundation that includes advanced degrees in geophysics and marine geosciences, along with professional experience in environmental and subsurface investigations, Oluwadamilare brings a multidisciplinary perspective to his work. He plans to pursue a research-focused career in academia or a government institution, contributing to the understanding of environmental change and sedimentary systems.



Mao Mao

\$3,250 Graduate
Scholarship

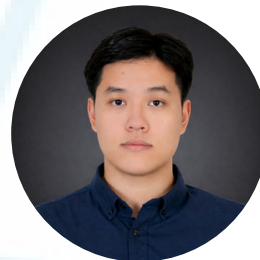
Mao Mao is a Ph.D. student in Earth and Environmental Sciences at Tulane University specializing in ocean biogeochemistry and Earth system modeling. Her research focuses on developing advanced models within the Community Earth System Model (CESM₂) to better understand the transport and transformation of pollutants and trace elements in marine environments. With a strong background in both scientific research and science communication, Mao has led interdisciplinary initiatives and contributed to international conferences. She is passionate about translating complex scientific concepts into accessible formats and plans to pursue a career in research that bridges environmental science, modeling, and public engagement.



Michael Douglas

\$3,000 Senior
Scholarship

Michael Douglas is a senior at Tulane University studying Earth and Environmental Science with a strong interest in environmental monitoring, policy, and coastal resilience. A Louisiana native, he is committed to applying geoscience to address local challenges such as climate change, subsidence, and environmental justice. Michael has gained experience through research and data processing roles as well as leadership positions within student organizations, including serving as Vice President of the Earth Science Club. He plans to pursue a career focused on improving environmental conditions in Louisiana, with potential pathways in research, regulation, or sustainability infrastructure.



Danh Ngo

\$2,500 Junior
Scholarship

Danh Ngo is an undergraduate student at Tulane University pursuing degrees in Earth and Environmental Sciences and Data Science, with a certificate in GIS. His academic interests center on climate systems, ocean processes, and paleoclimate, with a focus on applying data-driven approaches to better understand environmental change. Danh has gained research experience through roles in both geoscience and data science programs and is actively involved in the university's Earth Science Club, where he serves in a leadership role. He plans to continue his studies in graduate school and build a career at the intersection of geoscience and data analytics.



Gracen Miller

\$3,000 Senior
Scholarship

Gracen Miller is a senior at Tulane University majoring in Earth and Environmental Sciences with minors in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and Teaching, Learning, & Training. Her research focuses on coastal wetlands, particularly the biogeochemical processes within mangrove ecosystems and their role in carbon sequestration. In addition to her research, Gracen is actively involved in student leadership and serves as a teaching assistant, combining her passion for science with a commitment to education. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. and ultimately a career in academia, where she can contribute to research and mentor future students in environmental science.



Charles "Charlie" Goldstein

\$2,500 Junior
Scholarship

Charles "Charlie" Goldstein is a Tulane University student pursuing degrees in Earth Science and Business Management, with interests spanning geochemistry, planetary geology, and environmental applications. He conducts research in the Mangrove Lab, focusing on soil geochemistry and wetland carbon dynamics, and is also involved in innovative projects exploring lunar construction materials. A Dean's List student and active member of several campus organizations, Charlie brings both scientific curiosity and interdisciplinary thinking to his work. He is exploring a range of future paths, including environmental management, planetary science, and sustainability-focused business roles.



Kaetlyn Rodriguez

\$3,500 Graduate
Scholarship

Kaetlyn Rodriguez is a Ph.D. student in Earth and Environmental Sciences at Tulane University specializing in marine sediment geochemistry and paleoceanography. Her research focuses on reconstructing past climate conditions using foraminifera and sediment core analysis, contributing to a deeper understanding of ocean-climate interactions. A first-generation student, Kaetlyn has received multiple research grants and has gained experience working with the U.S. Geological Survey and leading academic outreach initiatives. She is deeply committed to science communication, mentorship, and expanding access to STEM opportunities, and plans to continue her career in research with a focus on public impact and education.



**NOGS is taking a
Summer Break in July
We will be back with our
regular meetings in
August**



*Mark
YOUR
Calendar*

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Northshore Lunch Meeting

Speaker - Chris McLindon

*Geological Underpinnings of the
Modern Mississippi Delta*



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- Logo recognition on all meeting promotional emails and marketing materials
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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

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.





Proposed By-Laws Changes to NOGS

Introduction

The proposed revisions include eliminating the Vice-President (VP) position and redistributing those responsibilities to the President-Elect under Article IV, Section B of the Constitution. Additional changes would allow Associate members to have voting rights and the ability to hold office, as outlined in Article I, Section B of the Bylaws. The revisions also update student membership provisions, student fees, and eligibility requirements for a NOGS Scholarship under Article IV, Sections A and D of the Bylaws. Ballots will be sent by email to all eligible voting members of NOGS in May. Once the ballots are distributed, the voting period will remain open for two weeks.

Eliminating VP Position - *Constitutional Change*

This proposed constitutional revision would eliminate the Vice-President (VP) position and formally redistribute the VP duties to the President-Elect. The VP position has gone unfilled for several consecutive years, and in practice, current and past President-Elects and Presidents have already performed these responsibilities. This change would address the Society's ongoing difficulty in recruiting members to fill board roles while also giving the President-Elect clearly defined duties and responsibilities.



Proposed By-Laws Changes to NOGS

Allow Associate Members to have voting rights and hold office - *Bylaw Change*

This proposed bylaws revision would allow Associate members to have voting rights and the ability to hold office under Article I, Section B. Granting these rights would promote wider participation within NOGS and help address the Society's ongoing difficulty in recruiting members to fill board roles. This change also reflects current and past practice, as Associate members have previously served, and are currently serving, in board positions.

Revision of student membership, student fees & eligibility requirements for a NOGS Scholarship - *Bylaw Change*

These proposed bylaw revisions would update student membership, student fees, and eligibility requirements for NOGS Scholarships under Article IV, Sections A and D. The revisions would expand eligibility beyond full-time students to include part-time students, broaden qualifying earth science degrees to better reflect current university curricula, and make student membership free, provided the required annual documentation is submitted. To qualify for free membership, a student must submit, on an annual basis, a current class schedule or registration confirmation showing the student's major and enrolled courses. Beginning in 2027, students must be active members of NOGS to be eligible for a scholarship. These changes are intended to create a more inclusive environment for students, expand student involvement, and encourage greater participation in NOGS.



Proposed By-Laws Changes to NOGS

Conclusion

On behalf of the NOGS Board, we thank you for your consideration of this matter. These proposed changes will help ensure the continued success and long-term sustainability of NOGS by better reflecting the evolving needs and current changes within the geological community in the greater New Orleans area.

Once again, ballots will be sent by email to all eligible voting members of NOGS in May. Once the ballots are distributed, the voting period will remain open for two weeks.

Respectfully,

Brian T. David
President NOGS

Grand Canyon Spring 2026

May 24th - 31st

Join Tulane for the 51st Grand Canyon
Colloquium Rafting Adventure!

Explore the geology, biology, history, and
anthropology of the southwest in this
unique trip, where the living
classroom gets grander than
anything you've ever
experienced before!

For More
Information:



TULANE UNIVERSITY
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**Calling All
Authors!!**

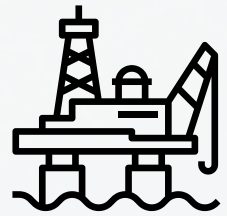


The NOGS LOG invites short articles from industry professionals, academics, and graduate students on topics related to Gulf Coast geology, energy resources, and related disciplines. Submissions may include technical summaries, case studies, research highlights, or industry perspectives.

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

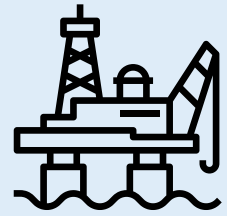


North America Rig Count Report March 2026

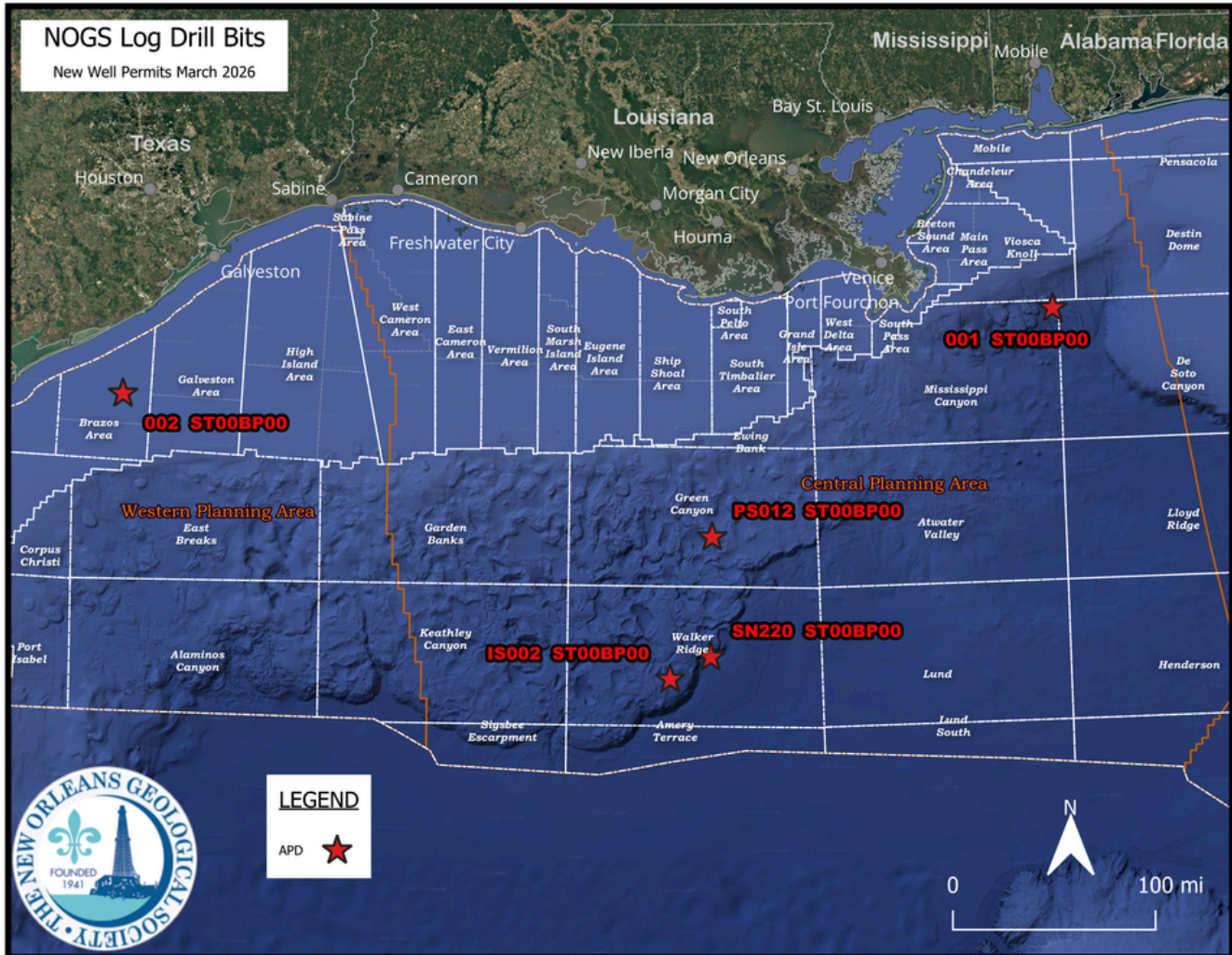
North America: 564

State/Province	Protraction Area	Rig Count Value	Change from Previous Month		
LOUISIANA	Eugene Island	1	0		
LOUISIANA	Green Canyon	3	0		
LOUISIANA	Mississippi Canyon	5	1		
TEXAS	Alaminos Casnyon	1	-1		
Gulf of America Total:		10	0		
State	Rig Count	Change from Previous Month	State	Rig Count	Change from Previous Month
ALASKA	12	0	NEW MEXICO	102	0
ARKANSAS	0	0	NORTH DAKOTA	27	1
CALIFORNIA	7	0	OHIO	12	-1
COLORADO	14	0	OKLAHOMA	46	1
LOUISIANA	31	0	PENNSYLVANIA	20	0
MICHIGAN	1	0	TEXAS	237	6
MISSISSIPPI	0	0	UTAH	16	0
MONTANA	2	0	WEST VIRGINIA	8	1
NEVADA	2	0	WYOMING	17	0

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
427044037000	WYOTEX Offshore, LLC	BA 543	G37340	Expl	002 ST00BP00	114	28.283	-95.526	WFD 400
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
608174152500	Anadarko Petroleum Corporation	MC 85	G08797	Dev	001 ST00BP00	5179	28.922	-87.966	VALARIS DS-16 (ROWAN RESOLUTE)

Recent Energy Headlines

April 2026 Recap

4/30/2026 - Could This be the Beginning of the End for OPEC? - How will the United Arab Emirates's (UAE) decision to withdraw from OPEC affect the global oil market and the OPEC+ group? Could this be the beginning of the end for OPEC? These were the questions Rigzone posed to analysts from the Heritage Foundation, Wood Mackenzie, and Standard Chartered after the UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure announced, in a statement posted on its X page which was translated from Arabic, that the country has made a decision to withdraw from OPEC and OPEC+, effective May 1. [Read Full Article](#)

4/22/2026 - Why HP/HT is no longer the Gulf of Mexico's outlier - Retired Chevron Anchor project director Tim Mitchell outlines how OBN seismic, HP/HT maturity and subsea recovery are changing deepwater GoM economics. As the Gulf of Mexico enters a more mature phase, its next chapter is being defined less by frontier depth and more by execution discipline, data quality and capital competitiveness. Few leaders understand that transition better than Tim Mitchell, Chevron's retired Anchor project director. In this interview with Offshore, Mitchell draws on four decades of experience to discuss the evolution of HP/HT development, subsea waterflooding, advances in imaging and AI, and the basin's enduring role in US energy security. [Read Full Article](#)

4/21/2026 - Speaker Johnson: House Republicans are Cutting Red Tape, Burdensome Regulations to Reestablish American Energy Dominance - This morning, at the weekly House GOP Leadership press conference, Speaker Johnson highlighted House Republicans' legislation this week to continue cutting red tape and dismantling burdensome energy regulations. Speaker Johnson also discussed the path forward to bring an end the Democrat DHS Shutdown and to reauthorize FISA Sec. 702. "The production of American energy is now directly related to national security. The need and the demand for energy is rising dramatically because of AI and all of these other necessities that we have in the economy. And we've got to provide for it," Speaker Johnson said. [Read Full Article](#)

4/22/2026 - Trump administration approved \$5 billion oil drilling project in the Gulf of Mexico - On March 14, the Trump administration approved another massive oil drilling plan. Owned entirely by British Petroleum, one of the largest oil companies, the \$5 billion project will extract oil in ultra-deep waters of the Gulf of America, formerly Mexico. Kaskida is the sixth operated hub in the U.S. Gulf of America by British Petroleum (BP), located in ultra-deep water 250 miles off the coast of New Orleans. Expected to start operations in 2029, it is estimated to produce 80,000 barrels of oil per day, which will eventually unlock 10 billion barrels of discovered resources. [Read Full Article](#)

4/9/2026 - Occidental makes oil discovery in US Gulf - The operator and partners are advancing appraisal and development plans, which could enhance regional production via subsea tie-backs to nearby platforms. Occidental Petroleum Corp. discovered oil at the Bandit prospect in the US Gulf of Mexico about 125 miles south of the Louisiana coast and is working with partners to determine next steps. The exploration well, in Green Canyon Block 680, encountered high-quality, full-to-base oil-bearing Miocene sands. [Read Full Article](#)

2025/2026 NOGS Board of Directors



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Brian Bothner
Editor

advertising rates

The New Orleans Geological Society was organized on October 3, 1941, as a non-profit organization for the purpose of facilitating the development of the profession and science of Geology, with specific emphasis to exploration and production of 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.

The NOGS LOG is now a digital magazine with live links to your site to reach NOGS Members and support your Society. Please contact Christy Himel admin@nogs.org for placement availability. Full page NOGS LOG advertisers will have their Company LOGO posted on the NOGS Website front page. All advertisers are included on the Society's monthly PowerPoint and listed on the website with a link to their home page. Please check out our website www.nogs.org

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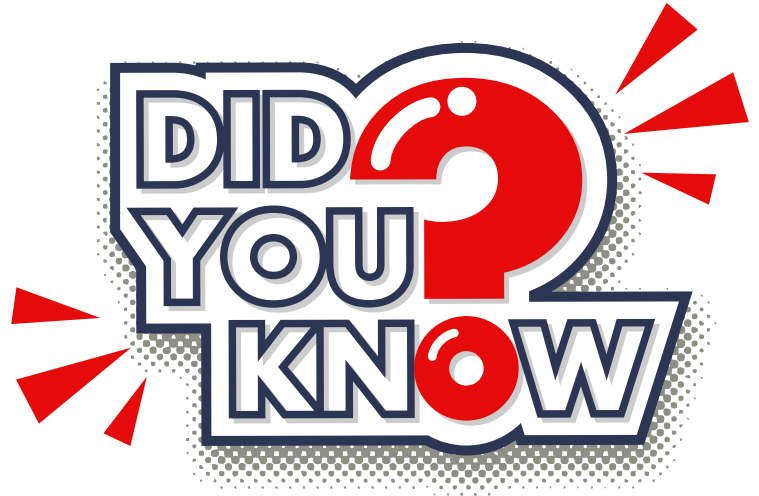
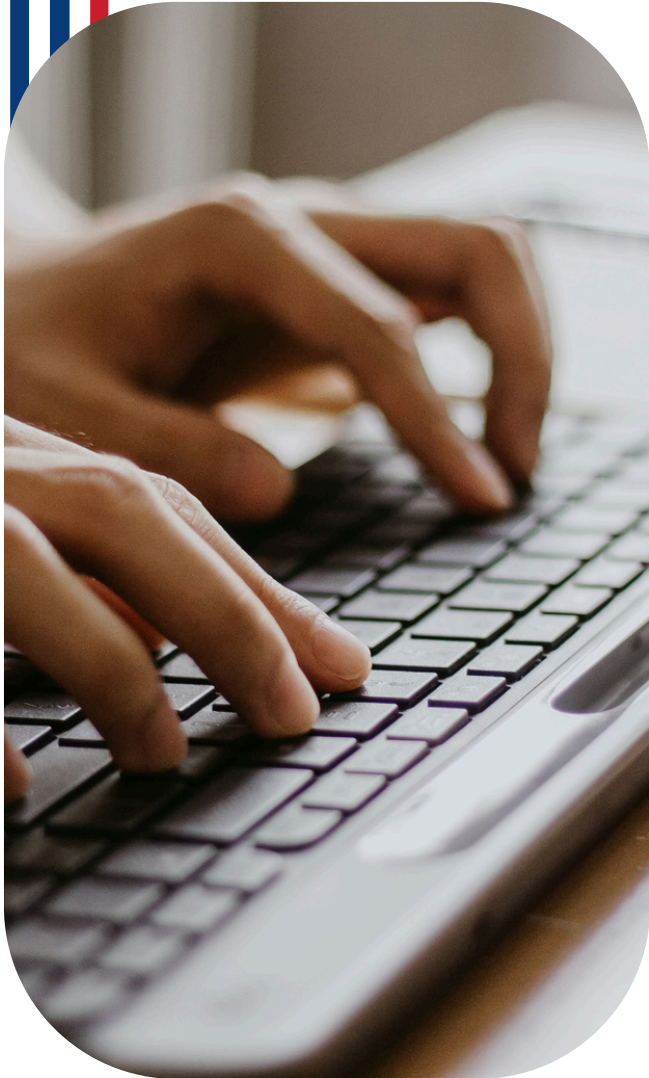
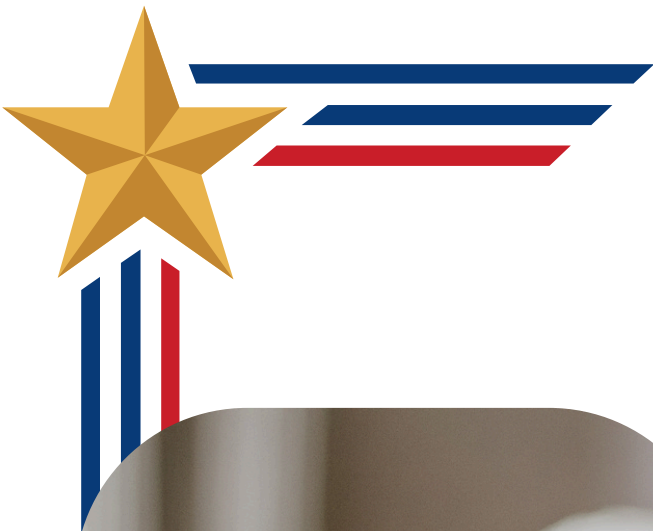
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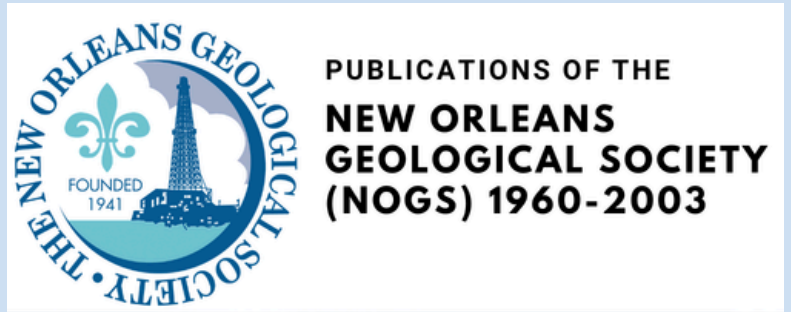
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