

NOGS LOG

September 2026

Volume 69 No.3

Deepwater

Technical Symposium

August 25-26, 2026

Hilton Riverside,
New Orleans LA



On the Cover

Algiers Point

A view of the Creole Queen on the Mississippi River at Algiers point as seen from the Hilton Hotel Riverside and Towers, the host site for the Deepwater Technical Symposium 2026.

The Mississippi River forms a crescent shape as it flows past New Orleans providing one of the cities many nicknames the “Crescent City”. The French Quarter, Faubourg Marigny and Bywater sections of the city are located at the downriver portion of the crescent on the cut bank with Algiers Point on the point bar of a sharp eastward meander. It can get quite confusing without a map. This photograph was taken from the east bank of the river looking north-east. The Mississippi river is flowing north (to the left), turning east at Algiers Point on the west bank. In the morning you can enjoy a spectacular sunrise in the east over the west bank!



According to the US Geological Survey the Mississippi River meanders for 2,300 miles (3,705 kilometers) from the headwaters in Itasca State Park, Minnesota to the delta in the Gulf of America. At the headwaters the Mississippi river is less than 3 feet deep. Between Algiers Point and the Governor Nicholls Street Wharf in New Orleans the river reaches it's maximum depth of 200 feet and supports an average flow rate of 600,000 cubic feet of water per second. The US Army Corps of Engineers maintains a 9 foot deep shipping channel from Minneapolis Mn to Baton Rouge, La. From Baton Rouge to Head of Pass in the Gulf of America a 45 ft channel is maintained to give ocean going vessels access to the ports of New Orleans and Baton Rouge. The Mississippi Alluvial Plain stretches from Cairo, Illinois 600 miles south to the Gulf of Ammerica. Louisiana's land south of Baton Rouge is attributed to deposits made by the Mississippi River.

From the Editor

Hello friends,

In August we saw a successful Deepwater Technical Symposium take place, so I want to give a big congratulations to all involved, and especially Emmitt Lockard as the conference chairman.

After our summer break, we are back into NOGS meetings season again! Our next meeting is on Sept. 23 at Zea's in Covington. I encourage all members to attend and learn all about the Salamanca Deepwater GOA Wilcox Development from David Schneider at LLOG.

As always, I encourage professionals, academics, and graduate students to grow your network and share your research through NOGS. If you are a member, please attend the monthly meetings, and encourage any colleagues to do so as well. I wish a happy Labor Day to all!

Sincerely.

Eric Fischer

Eric Fischer

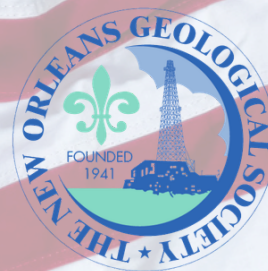
2026/2027 NOGS Log

Editor





A MESSAGE FROM THE 2026/2027 NOGS PRESIDENT CHARLES MILLER



Dear NOGS Members,

Happy Labor Day! As we begin September, I hope everyone had an opportunity to enjoy the holiday and take a well-earned summer break. We have another exciting month ahead, and I look forward to continuing the momentum from a busy and successful August.

I want to extend a tremendous thank-you and congratulations to Emmitt Lockard for his outstanding leadership of the 29th Annual Deepwater Technical Symposium. This year's symposium was a great success and brought together industry leaders, technical experts, service companies, and emerging professionals for two days of valuable education, collaboration, and networking.

Emmitt's dedication, leadership, and many years of volunteer service have played an important role in the continued success of the symposium. NOGS and our members are incredibly fortunate to have such a committed volunteer in Emmitt. I would also like to thank the symposium committee, speakers, instructors, sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers, and attendees who helped make this year's event possible.

Our next NOGS meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23, at Zea's Northshore. We are pleased to welcome David Schneider, Reservoir Engineer with LLOG Exploration, who will present "Overview of the Salamanca Deepwater GOA Wilcox Development." David will share insight into the Salamanca Floating Production System and this important deepwater development. Networking begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch and the program at noon. I encourage everyone to register and join us for what promises to be an informative presentation and a great opportunity to connect with fellow members.

We are also working to fill the NOGS calendar with engaging speakers and timely topics that provide value to our members. If you have a speaker recommendation, presentation idea, or technical topic you would like NOGS to consider, please email us at admin@nogs.org. Some of our strongest programs begin with suggestions from our members, and we welcome your input.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in NOGS. I hope to see you at our September meeting and at another upcoming NOGS event soon.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement.

Sincerely,

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

Charles Miller III
President, New Orleans Geological Society

September MEETING

Overview of the Salamanca Deepwater GOA Wilcox Development



David Schneider

David is a Reservoir Engineer at LLOG Exploration, where he evaluates new drilling opportunities and optimizes producing assets, including the company's recently installed Salamanca Floating Production System. With 18 years of experience across the Gulf and onshore Louisiana, his background spans reservoir engineering, economic evaluation, and business development—bringing both technical depth and commercial insight to his work.

Prior to LLOG, David advanced through roles at Eni Petroleum & Stone Energy, and in 2024 he was recognized as a "40 Under 40" honoree by Hart Energy's Oil and Gas Investor. He holds a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and an MBA in Finance from Tulane University.



Wednesday, September 23, 2026



11:30 AM - Networking

12:00 PM - Program & Lunch



Zea's Northshore

REGISTER





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Dear NOGS Members & Foundation Supporters,

I hope this letter finds everyone in good spirits and doing well.

I'm writing to provide a brief update on the New Orleans Geological Society (NOGS) Memorial Foundation and to ask for your support as we look ahead to the 2026–27 year.

We are currently in the process of finalizing our 2026–27 Board of Directors. Once the board is established, our primary focus will be developing our agenda for the coming year, including determining the amount of funding we will have available for scholarships and other earth science-related distributions.

As we move forward, I am reaching out to the great members—past and present—of the New Orleans Geological Society and asking for your continued support. The NOGS Memorial Foundation exists because of the generosity of NOGS members who have made donations over the years. Those contributions allow us to provide financial assistance to local earth science students, teachers, and universities.

Many of us, myself included, benefited from grants and scholarships during our undergraduate and graduate education. With the rising cost of education and the many financial challenges facing students today, it is more important than ever that we have the resources to support the next generation of earth scientists.

Any contribution, large or small, can make a meaningful difference. Your generosity will help us continue the tradition of giving back to students and educators in the earth sciences and ensure that the NOGS Memorial Foundation can carry this important mission forward.

Thank you very much for your consideration and continued support of the NOGS Memorial Foundation.

Respectfully,

Brian T. David
2026–27 President
NOGS Memorial Foundation



OCTOBER MEETING

Applications of palynology in the oil industry and beyond



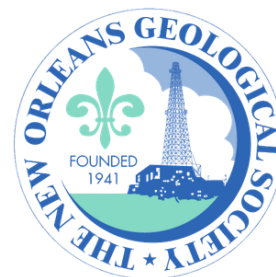
Presented by:

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

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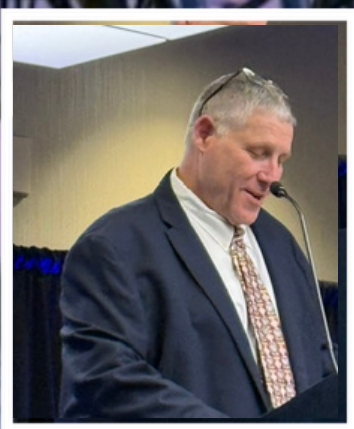
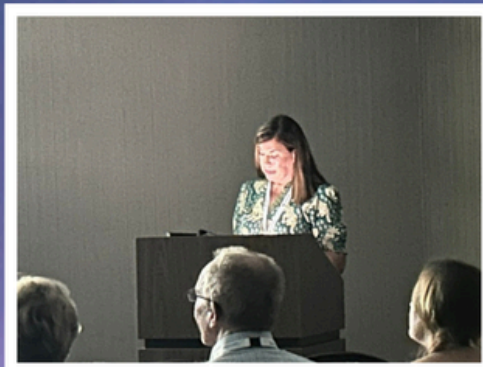
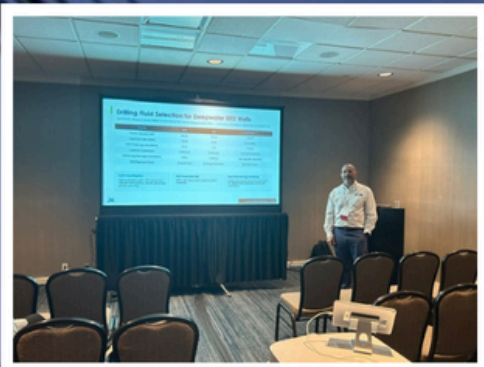


NOGS is seeking speaker and topic ideas for upcoming meetings. Know someone with valuable industry insights or have a topic you'd like to see covered? Send us your recommendations—we're building a strong lineup and welcome your input.

Email us with your suggestions: admin@nogs.org

Deepwater

Technical Symposium



Deepwater

Technical Symposium
NEW ORLEANS, LA

AUGUST 25-26, 2026



TIME TO CHOOSE

by Brian Bothner

As citizens of Louisiana, do we want a real and robust economy or a trial lawyer economy? Mark Ehhardt has served as the executive director of "Grow Louisiana Coalition" since it's inception in 2014 posed this question in his API Luncheon Keynote address at the 2026 Deepwater Symposium. He is a public relations professional advocating for Louisiana's energy and associated industries which comprise one quarter of the state's economy. The more than 110,000 Grow Louisiana Coalition supporters include industry employees, business owners, citizens and elected officials promoting policies and initiatives that support the energy sector and highlight the positive impact the industry has on our state, our coast and our cultural heritage.

What impact does the energy industry have on the Louisiana economy? The relative size and monetary impact of the energy industry in Louisiana according to the Louisiana Mid-continent Oil and Gas Association is significant. The energy sector comprises 25% of the state's economy adding \$77.7 billion in total value annually, 15% of the state's total employment (306,750 jobs), 19% of total earnings (\$25.5 billion) statewide, \$974 million paid in specific taxes (fiscal year 2024), \$1.1 billion in local property taxes (fiscal year 2024) and \$3.48 billion (20.4%) state taxes, licenses and fees. These numbers indicate the sizable and positive economic impact the energy industry has on our state and it's citizens.

What effect do trial lawyers, or litigation, have on our economy? A 2025 report by the Pelican Institute estimated the impact of Louisiana's lawsuit climate, and in particular, the effect of state and local government's coastal lawsuits against energy industry companies. The first coastal lawsuits were filed by Plaquemines and Jefferson Parishes in 2013. Currently six Louisiana coastal parishes have filed lawsuits against a large number of energy companies alleging coastal damage resulting from oil and gas production activities. The study by Dr. Gavin Roberts, Weber State University Goddard School of Business and Economics Department of Economics, found that the risk of getting sued increases the expected costs faced by companies and decreases drilling activity. According to this report:

- Offshore reserves down 42% in Louisiana state waters, while federal Gulf reserves declined just 4.6%.
- State production plunged 56%, while federal offshore output grew 15%.
- Energy jobs in Louisiana are down 37%, versus a 24% decline nationally.
- State mineral royalties cut in half from \$404 million/year (2009–2013) to \$190 million/year over the ten-year period ending in 2024.

TIME TO CHOOSE

continued

- \$1.1 billion in lost oil and gas payrolls since 2014, translating to roughly \$70 million in foregone state and local tax revenue.
- Louisiana's share of U.S. GDP fell from 1.4% to 1.1%, translating roughly to \$600+ billion in lost economic output since 2009.

"These are not market cycles. They are the predictable consequences of a hostile legal climate." There are many opportunities elsewhere for oil and gas companies and the investors that finance them. Why should they invest where they are likely to get sued? The State Legislature recently passed the Louisiana Energy Protection Act (effective June 8, 2026) in an attempt to protect industry from politically motivated lawsuits, particularly from out of state activists, while maintaining regulatory authority and environmental safeguards. The legislation specifically made exceptions for existing litigation, but it is an attempt to set clearer legal standards for energy production and related industrial activity in Louisiana.

So, if you are not involved in the energy industry and you don't live near the coast should you be concerned? Insurance costs affect all of us. Have you noticed how many television commercials and billboards feature trial lawyers? The high cost of insurance in Louisiana can be attributed to recurring weather events, high repair cost and, of course, litigation. The average annual Homeowners policy was \$2,178 in 2022. That's 54% higher than the national average. The average annual cost of automobile insurance in Louisiana was \$1,588 in 2022, 40% higher than the national average which may contribute to the number of Louisiana's uninsured motorists. Litigation exacerbates the problem. Nearly 50% of auto insurance premiums in Louisiana are spent on injury claims from almost half of the vehicle accidents. That is twice the national average. We can't control the weather and the cost of repairs is another economic issue, but litigation is a factor we can address. Legislative efforts in 2024 have helped stabilize the market but additional reforms are needed. Florida enacted comprehensive legal reform to significantly curb market challenges. Louisiana may require even more significant legal reforms.

Business and industry grow our state's economy providing our state with revenue, our citizens with jobs. Business and industries are regulated and audited. Frivolous litigation stifles economic growth leading to increase cost, the loss of revenue and the loss of jobs. Perhaps legislators and the Louisiana Bar Association need to address these problems. We need to choose and advocate, do we want a real and robust economy or a trial lawyer economy?

REFERENCES: <https://www.deepwaternola.org/keynotes-speakers/> ; <https://growlouisianacoalition.com/> ; <https://www.lmoga.com/news/2025-study-energy-industry-generates-25-of-louisianas-economy>; <https://pelicanpolicy.org/reports/new-report-coastal-lawsuits-cost-louisiana-energy-jobs-and-investments-but-the-economic-damage-is-reversible/>; <https://www.liveinsurancenews.com/louisiana-expensive-insurance/8561275/>; https://labi.org/804_senatefloor-2/

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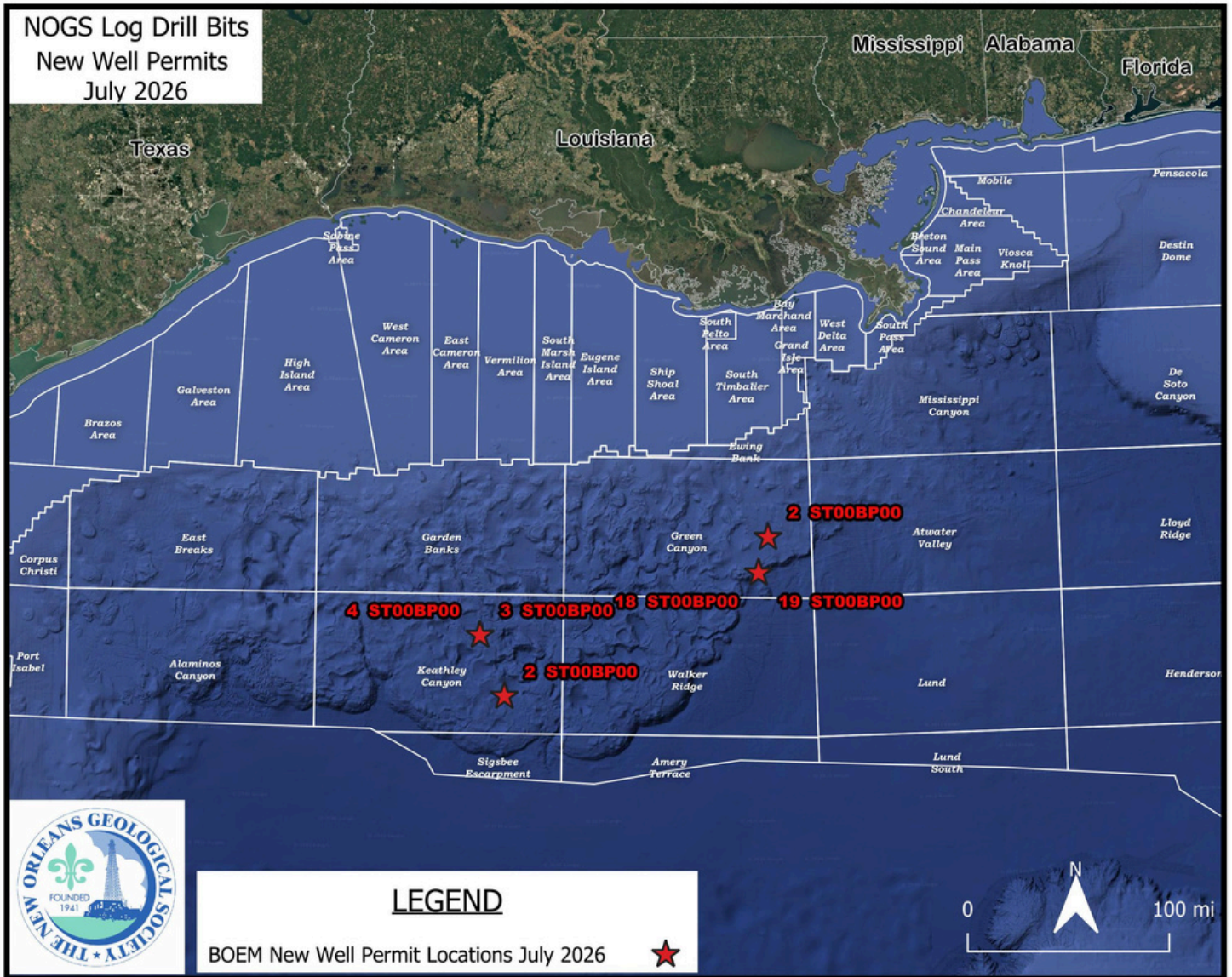
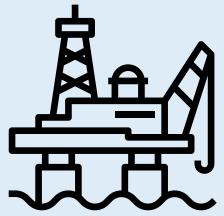


The NOGS LOG invites short articles from industry professionals, academics, and graduate students on topics related to Gulf Coast geology, energy resources, and related disciplines. Submissions may include technical summaries, case studies, research highlights, or industry perspectives.

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

DRILL BITS

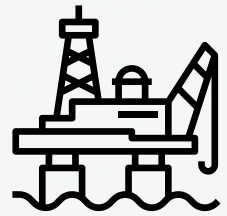
NEW WELL PERMITS OFFSHORE GULF OF AMERICA
SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES
MAP BY BRIAN BOTHNER



API Well Number	Company Name	Block_Area	Surface Lease Number	Well Type	Well Name	Water Depth (feet)	Surface Latitude*	Surface Longitude*	Rig Name
608114080600	BP Exploration & Production Inc.	GC 825	G09981	Development	18	5180	27.1312025	-90.33869222	DIAMOND OCEAN BLACKLION
608114080700	BP Exploration & Production Inc.	GC 825	G09981	Development	19	5179	27.13142694	-90.33807083	DIAMOND OCEAN BLACKLION
608114080500	Anadarko Petroleum Corporation	GC 562	G11075	Exploratory	2	3983	27.38845972	-90.25925361	VALARIS DS-16 (ROWAN RESOLUTE)
608084008100	LLOG Exploration Offshore, L.L.C.	KC 736	G36077	Development	2	6689	26.24119028	-92.37836167	SEADRILL WEST NEPTUNE
608084008200	BP Exploration & Production Inc.	KC 292	G25792	Development	3	6129	26.6795375	-92.57833944	T.O. DEEPWATER INVICTUS
608084008300	BP Exploration & Production Inc.	KC 292	G25792	Development	4	6129	26.67920139	-92.57823944	T.O. DEEPWATER INVICTUS

DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF AMERICA SHELF AND
DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES
BY BRIAN BOTHNER



North America Rig Count Report July 2026

North America: 588

State/Province	Protraction Area		Rig Count Value	Change from Previous Month	
LOUISIANA	East Cameron		1	0	
LOUISIANA	Green Canyon		3	2	
LOUISIANA	Keathley Canyon		1	1	
LOUISIANA	Mississippi Canyon		6	1	
TEXAS	Alaminos Canyon		1	0	
Gulf of America Total:			12	4	
State	Rig Count	Change from Previous Month	State	Rig Count	Change from Previous Month
ALASKA	12	0	NEW MEXICO	96	-1
ARKANSAS	0	0	NORTH DAKOTA	24	-2
CALIFORNIA	7	0	OHIO	10	-1
COLORADO	13	1	OKLAHOMA	50	4
LOUISIANA	27	-4	OREGON	1	1
MICHIGAN	1	0	PENNSYLVANIA	17	0
MISSISSIPPI	0	0	TEXAS	273	7
MONTANA	3	1	UTAH	13	0
NEBRASKA	1	1	WEST VIRGINIA	8	0
NEVADA	3	1	WYOMING	17	1

Recent Energy Headlines

August 2026 Recap

8/31/2026 - Trump Announces 'Biggest Oil Deal in World History' with Venezuela - (Rigzone) In a statement posted on his Truth Social page late Friday, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that the U.S. had “just entered into an Agreement with the Country of Venezuela on ... THE BIGGEST OIL DEAL IN WORLD HISTORY!”. “At my direction, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, working closely with Highly Respected Interim President of Venezuela, Delcy Rodriguez, and, through a partnership with private business, have secured majority U.S. control of more than 65 BILLION BARRELS of proven Oil Reserves in Venezuela, at no cost to the American Taxpayer,” [Read Full Article](#)

8/27/2026 - US Gulf: Viridien commences Walker Ridge Reimaging Extension in US Gulf - Viridien has recently launched its Walker Ridge Reimaging Extension in the US Gulf. With the support of industry partners, the initiative expands on the success of its original Walker Ridge Reimaging program. Fast-track results for this new project are already available. The 4,406 km² extension covers 189 new OCS blocks in the highly prospective Walker Ridge area, in addition to 46.5 blocks overlapping the original Walker Ridge Reimaging program over a 1,085 km² area. The total program coverage of 5,491 km² over 235.5 blocks will deliver a premium exploration dataset across a large acreage position with significant infrastructure-led exploration (ILX) potential. [Read Full Article](#)

8/20/2026 - EIA Sees Oil Crunch in 2026, Glut in 2027 - The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) is predicting an oil market crunch in 2026 and a glut in 2027, the organization's latest short term energy outlook (STEO), which was released earlier this month, revealed. According to its August STEO, the EIA sees world petroleum and other liquid fuels consumption outweighing production by 1.91 million barrels per day in 2026 and world petroleum and other liquid fuels production outweighing demand by 4.78 million barrels per day in 2027. [Read Full Article](#)

8/17/2026 - The Gulf of America Remains the World's Offshore Innovation Laboratory - For generations, the Gulf of America has served as the proving ground for offshore innovation. Every major chapter in modern offshore energy has depended upon American engineers, geoscientists, mariners, fabricators, regulators, and offshore workers to solve problems many believed were beyond reach. From the earliest fixed platforms to deepwater production, subsea systems, floating facilities, and today's 20,000 psi reservoirs, the Gulf of America has consistently demonstrated that producing more American energy safely requires constant technological advancement. The foundation built through decades of offshore energy innovation will support not only the next generation of oil and gas production, but the next generation of offshore industries. [Read Full Article](#)

8/12/2026 - US Gulf lease sale generates \$82.7 million, 76% higher than March sale - The most recent Gulf lease sale brought in 69 bids submitted for 59 blocks, with Chevron, Anadarko, and Arena Energy emerging as winners. The US Department of the Interior said Aug. 12 that the Marine Minerals Administration's (MMA) Lease Sale Big Beautiful Gulf 3 (BBG3) generated about \$82.7 million in high bids for 59 blocks in federal waters of the Gulf. [Read Full Article](#)

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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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on the course!



DATE:
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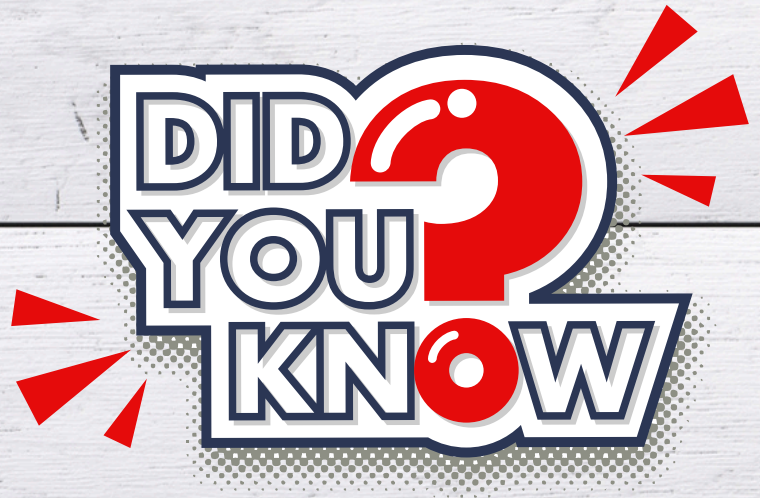
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