

# NOGS LOG



JUNE 2020  
Volume 60 No. 12

Department of  
Veterinary Affairs  
Southeast Louisiana Veterans  
Health Care System  
Medical Center



## NOGS

*Virtual Meeting*

Monday, June 8, 2020



# NOGS JUNE MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020 11:30 AM  
ZOOM MEETING



John Dribus is a Geologic Consultant living in Mandeville, Louisiana. He retired from Schlumberger in 2018 after a 42-year career at Bendix Field Engineering, Mobil Oil, and Schlumberger Oil Field Services. He has worked deep water basins of the Atlantic from Western Greenland all the way down to South Africa. His primary focus has been on understanding the petroleum systems of deepwater clastic sediments, and pre-salt and subsalt carbonates, and carbonate diagenesis. He has also done extensive work on the geology of salt, identifying sea floor and salt-related geo-hazards, and geologic risk analysis.

He is the former Chair of the American Petroleum Institute (API) Delta Chapter, served on the Imperial Barrel Award Committee of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), and is a member of the AAPG (40+ years), New Orleans Geological Society (NOGS), Houston Geological Society (HGS), and the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), and the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE). In 2013, he was recognized by the SPE with the Reservoir Description and Dynamics Award. In 2014, he was an invited speaker at the AAPG Discovery Thinking and Playmaker Forums, and received the Meritorious Service Award from the API Delta Section. In 2017, he was recognized as an AAPG Heritage Geologist at the 100th Annual Convention in Houston, and received the Best Technical Paper of the Year Award from NOGS. In 2018, he received the A.I. Levorsen Award from the AAPG for best technical paper at the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS). He currently serves as the President Elect of the New Orleans Geologic Society.

**JOHN R. DRIBUS**

## **THE TRANSFORMATION OF CONVENTIONAL EXPLORATION SINCE 2014, RECENT SIGNIFICANT GLOBAL DEEPWATER DISCOVERIES, AND THE LOOK FORWARD FOR DEEP WATER EXPLORATION.**

### **ABSTRACT**

This talk begins by examining how global exploration activities have evolved since the oil price downturns in 2014 and 2020. During this period, several significant discoveries have been found or expanded including the Brazil and Angola Presalt, the Gulf of Mexico Lower Tertiary and Jurassic, Senegal and western Africa basin margin turbidites, Guyana and Senegal turbidites, and the Egypt and Cyprus Zohr carbonates. After briefly examining these discoveries the talk looks to the future by reviewing some important deep water exploration wells that may be drilled in the next two years.

**[CLICK HERE  
TO REGISTER](#)**

**ZOOM INFO WILL BE EMAILED DAY PRIOR  
TO MEETING**

# IN THIS ISSUE



## On the Cover

This cover photo is dedicated to our outstanding healthcare workers. The photo is a group of nurses outside the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System Medical Center in New Orleans. Thank you on behalf of us all for the sacrifices you make, every day and especially during this pandemic.



## *From the Editor...*

Thanks to all those who continue to contribute to the monthly LOG. If you have any suggestions for future issues or have an article/photo(s) to contribute, please email me at [cmiller@ocsbbs.com](mailto:cmiller@ocsbbs.com). We would certainly love your input and any additional LOG content to be considered that may be of interest to NOGS members.

*Charlie*



**Charles Miller III**  
NOGS LOG Editor

Let's Play

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# FROM THE NOGS PRESIDENT ROBERT ROONEY



Dear NOGS Members,

This is my last President's letter. We have seen so many changes this past year! The Coronavirus global health crisis has touched many of our families and friends in a personal way, and lifestyle disruptions due to the lockdown have affected everyone. My working children (two of whom are employed with major Louisiana hospitals) have altered their work schedules, daycare arrangements, and social interactions as needed. My school-aged children have had to finish the year remotely, which has been a mixed bag, but it looks like they emerged with important computer skills that can only help them in the future. Now, on a Safety note, I would like to point out that bicycle use has noticeably increased; from family outings to teenage bicycle groups, there are many more cyclists on the road. So PLEASE-PLEASE keep the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians at the forefront when you are driving about and getting back to your work commutes. Give them lots of room and attention!

From an industry perspective, the roller-coaster of oil prices (even briefly dipping into the basement of negative price territory) has been surreal in many ways. My advice to geoscientists in this time is to take every opportunity to improve your geological computer skills. Purchase a copy of the NOGS Publication CD set. Look into software that can be useful to your skillset and weigh the cost-benefit. Brush up on public information data sources. Participate in on-line video-conferencing when possible. Prepare an abstract and make a virtual presentation of some of your work. Do research on a prospect or play of interest. But keep yourself busy and engaged and remain optimistic and you will emerge from this episode with additional capabilities that will benefit you down the road. You are a talented group of professionals and you have a lot to offer society through your profession.

Since our NOGS social gatherings have been suspended due to the lockdown, we have started to reach out by holding our monthly "luncheons" via Zoom meetings. This June 8th, incoming NOGS President John Dribus, will present: The Transformation of Conventional Exploration Since 2014, Recent Significant Global Deepwater Discoveries, and the Look Forward for Deep Water Exploration. I encourage everyone to register for the June Monthly Luncheon where we will also introduce the incoming Board of Directors. We are hoping that the nominal fee, and the convenience of not having to travel will encourage our regular luncheon attendees, students, other members, out-of-towners, and prospective new members and guests to attend this online meeting and presentation. Registration is quite easy, just follow the link to the announcement in this *NOGS LOG*.

It has been an honor to serve as NOGS President. I am grateful to all of the members, staff, and Board of Directors who have given their time and talents to help me throughout the year. I am excited to see the new Board who will carry on the mission of NOGS in support of the geological profession in the greater New Orleans area. There are certainly challenges facing our society as we work to restore our traditional gatherings and events, but with everyone's participation we will persevere.

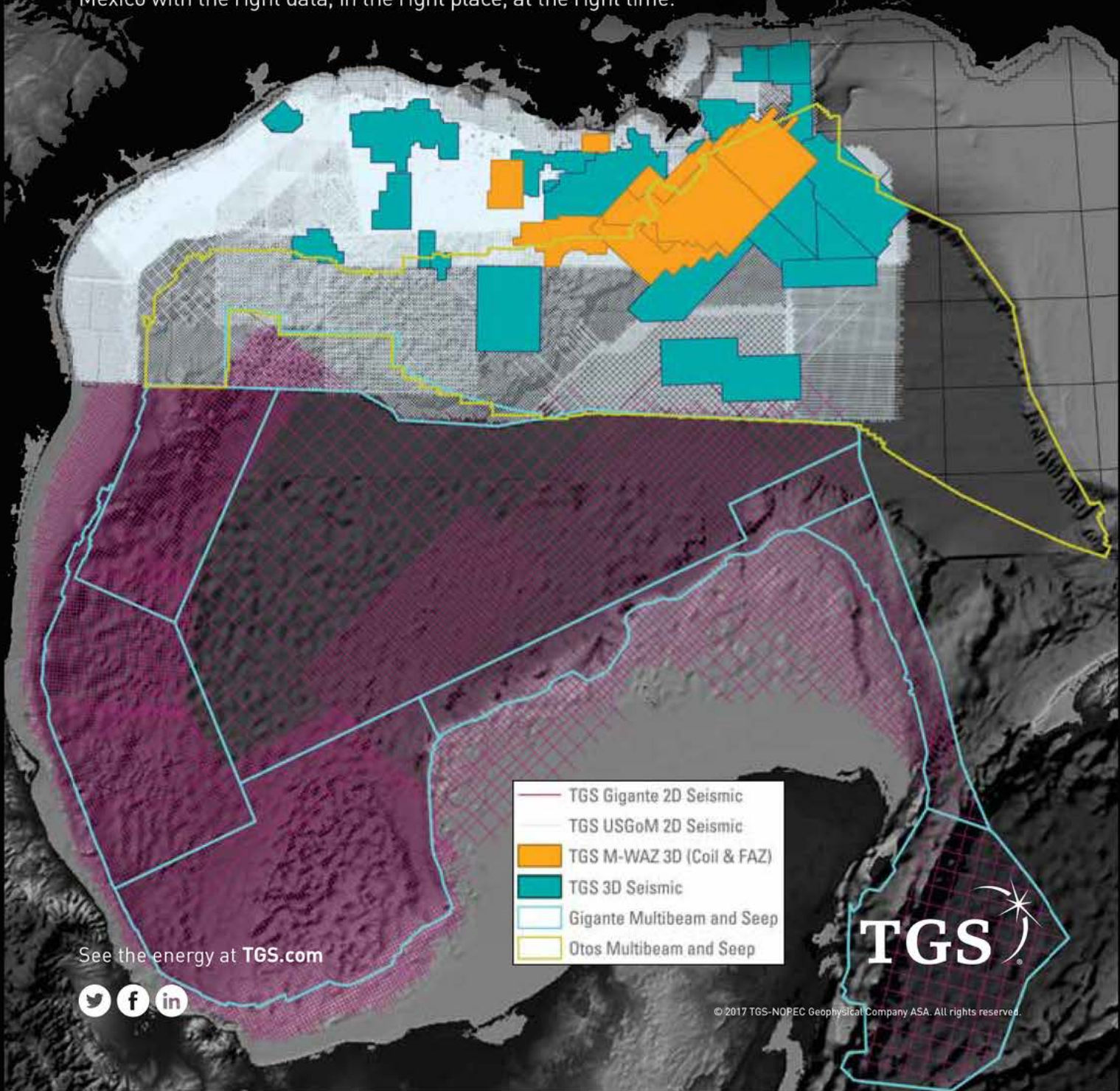
Again, it has been my honor to address you in this monthly President's Letter. I wish everyone a safe and sunny June.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Rooney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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- Gigante Multibeam and Seep
- Otos Multibeam and Seep



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# PICTURE FROM THE PAST



## **NOGS Board of Officers - 1997-1998**

**From left – Irion Bordelon, President; John Dombrowski, Secretary; Doug Christina, Treasurer; W.E. “Will” Conatser, President-elect; Duncan Goldthwaite, Director; Eric P. Mason, Vice President**

*Submitted by  
Ed Picou, Chairman - Historical Committee*



# 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](http://nogs.org).

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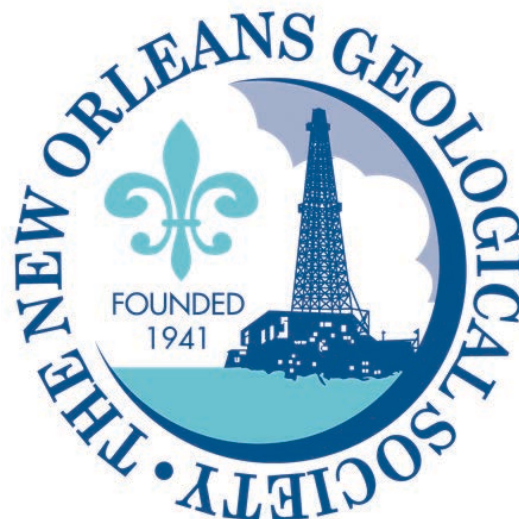
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# DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND  
DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES  
BY AL BAKER

During April 2020, the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) approved 43 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) drilling permits. There was one permit for a shelf well, and 42 were for deepwater wells. Of the total number of permits, there was only one new well permit issued in deepwater.

The single deepwater new well permit was for a development well. Talos ERT received it for their Green Canyon 280 #2 well, which is located within their Tornado Field.

On April 24th, IHS-Petrodata indicated that the GoM mobile offshore rig supply stood at 69, which is the same as last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 40 rigs, of which 28 were under contract. The marketed rig supply was 1 less than last month, whereas the contracted rig supply number was 3 less than last month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate stood at 58%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stood at 70%. By comparison, the April 2019 total fleet utilization rate stood at 57.7% with 41 rigs under contract out of the 71 rigs in the fleet.

As of April 24th, BakerHughes reported that there are 17 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which is 60.7% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. This active rigs number is 1 less than reported last month. Currently, there is 1 rig drilling on the shelf and 16 in deepwater. The shelf rig is located in South Marsh Island. In deepwater, there are 6 rigs in Mississippi Canyon, 4 in Green Canyon, 4 in Walker Ridge, 1 in Ewing Banks, and 1 in Alaminos Canyon.

As of April 24th, the BakerHughes total U.S. rig count stood at 465 rigs, which is 263 fewer rigs than reported at the end of March 2020. Of the 465 rigs, 378 (81.3%) are oil rigs and 85 (18.3%) are gas rigs. A year ago, there were 991 rigs working in the U.S. Thus, the current rig figure represents a 53.1% decline in rigs year over year. Texas continues to have the largest number of rigs, presently with 231, which is slightly under half (49.7%) of the total number of rigs in the U. S. Louisiana currently has a total of 40 rigs, down 4 rigs from last month. Nationwide, Louisiana ranks third in the rotary rig count. New Mexico ranks second with 70 rigs.

# NOGS 2020

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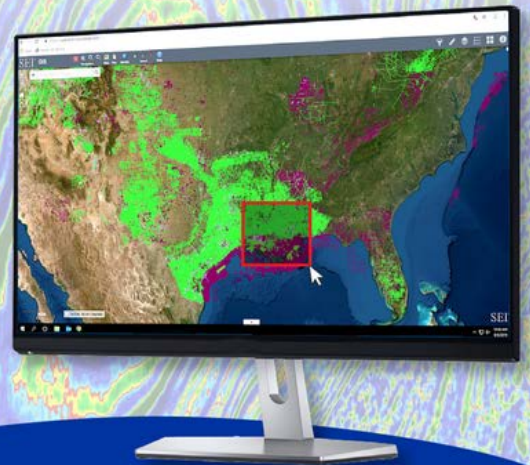
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# Oil Industry Headlines .....In The News (May 2020)

## **5/18/2020 - (CNBC) Oil retreats from earlier 12% gain as June futures contract nears expiration**

West Texas Intermediate for June delivery jumped more than 12% at the session high on Monday, one day ahead of the contract's expiration, as production cuts and the easing of stay-at-home restrictions supported prices.

## **5/17/2020 - (Forbes) Why U.S. Oil and Natural Gas Demand Will Rebound from Coronavirus**

The reality is that prospects for oil-based cars might actually improve from this crisis. Oil's internal combustion engine accounts for nearly all of our car sales. It might take a year or even two, but jet fuel demand will recover as travel bans end and business trips return. There's simply no substitute for flying and we Americans love to do it. Oil, after all, is therefore the basis of globalization, an integral and still emerging trend that you'd be well advised to not bet against.

## **5/14/2020 - (Oil & Gas Journal) IEA: Oil market outlook improved, major uncertainties remain**

The oil market outlook has improved somewhat thanks to the easing of lockdown measures, steep production declines in non-Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and the commitments made by the OPEC+ agreement, according to the IEA.

## **5/11/2020 - (Forbes) America's Oil and Gas Jobs Could Soon Come Roaring Back**

Cars are getting back on the road. The anticipated rapid return of jobs hinges on a crucial assumption: that demand for oil will return. That is no guarantee. At the same time, however, some evidence suggests that there might soon be even more cars on the road than before the COVID-19 pandemic spread because people will seek to avoid crowded public transportation. And in three of China's largest cities, morning traffic levels now exceed 2019 averages, according to a Bloomberg News report that cited government data. Traffic jams are once again a feature of some major European cities.

## **5/8/2020 (Offshore Technology) Williams to transport gas from Chevron's Anchor field in GOM**

Natural gas transportation firm Williams has signed an agreement with Chevron and Total to provide offshore natural gas transportation services to Anchor field in the Gulf of Mexico. Anchor oil and gas field is jointly owned by Chevron USA (62.86%, operator) and Total E&P USA (37.14%). It is located at a water depth of 1,524m in the Green Canyon area, approximately 140 miles offshore Louisiana, in the US Gulf of Mexico.

## **5/6/2020 (Rigzone) FPSO Sector Might Show Fast Recovery**

On January 27 of this year, back when crude oil was still trading above \$50 per barrel, the owner of a U.K.-based valve manufacturer and supplier told Rigzone that he was seeing a "busier" supply chain in the floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) vessel market. The observation by Dan Munro, managing director of PJ Valves, supported what others had projected just weeks earlier: that the FPSO market was bound for a "major recovery" in 2020.