

March 2025
Volume 65 No. 9



NIGS LOG



On the Cover

The Cliffs of Moher, County Clair, Ireland

The Cliffs of Moher located on the west central coast of the island of Ireland in County Clair are a popular tourist attraction and a designated United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Global Geopark. The cliffs are composed of inter-bedded sands, siltstones and shale rapidly deposited by a major river system in



Photo: Brian Bothner 2017

a shallow sea during the Carboniferous Period approximately 300 million years ago. At that time this area was close to the equator and these rock contain fossil crinoids, ammonoids and burrows. Some areas were sub-aerially exposed and contain fossil soil zones and fossil roots. The burrow patterns preserved in the rock led to the demand for Liscannor flagstone and a strong quarry industry in the 19th century. The Visitor center and walkways utilized this flagstone and fossils are clearly visible throughout the site.

Collision with what is now Europe caused uplift, and deep fracturing. The rocks which were originally horizontal, became gently folded and formed the present day high cliffs. Glaciation from the north and north east produced ice sheets over 200m thick approximately 1.8 million years ago which scoured the surface and carved valleys. Erratic glacial deposits including granite and red sandstone can be found across the area today.

The sandstone layers are slightly more resistant than the shale layers and produce large block rock falls that maintain the vertical profile of the cliffs. Erosion from massive waves produce many interesting coastal land forms such as Sea Stacks, Sea Stumps and caves, including the sea cave featured in the movie 'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince'.

Resources: [Geology and Cliffs of Moher Geopark | Quarrying - Official Site;](https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/GeositesCliffsMoher)

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/GeositesCliffsMoher> including text courtesy of Sarah Gatley (Geological Society of Ireland and Irish Geoparks Forum), and the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark

From the Editor

Hello again! Happy Mardi Gras, St. Patrick's Day and may your favorite team make it to March Madness.

The monthly luncheon and technical presentation will be held Wednesday, March 19th at Zea's Restaurant in Covington. This month's technical presentation will feature David W. Hume: "The Deep-Water Andaman, Mahanadi and Bengal Basins. Three Frontier Areas with Massive Exploration Potential on the East Coast of India". Come join us for a delicious lunch and engaging conversation or join us virtually! Thank you, Chris McLindon, for February's technical presentation, an excellent overview of U.S. Lithium Resources. I apologize for the technical difficulties, and I hope those online were able to attend the entire presentation. Photos of Chris's presentation are in this issue of the NOGS Log and his slide presentation is available for download from the NOGS Website

SPE Delta Section Golf Tournament will be held March 14, 2025, at Carter Plantation, Springfield, LA. For more golf information contact the event coordinator Matt Wandstrat (Matt.wandstrat@gmail.com).

LSU Geology & Geophysics Department's Spring Seminar series will offer three presentations in March. Seminars are usually on Wednesdays at 3:20 p.m. beginning with refreshments served in the Clarence Cazalot Marathon Oil Atrium of Howe Russell Kniffen Geoscience Complex. Technical presentation begins at 3:45 p.m. in E130 Howe-Russell-Kniffen. Networking continues after the seminar in the Atrium. Financial support for the lecture series is provided by the LJ Wilbert Endowment, Grover E. Murray Educational Fund, and the Marathon Oil Distinguished Speaker Series Fund. Speaker and Seminar titles and topics. (Note: The presentation by Elizabeth Chamberlin will be on Friday, March 21st).

Registration to attend Geogulf 2025 is open! Nacogdoches, TX will host the the 74th GCAGS/GCSSEPM Convention and Exposition April 6th through the 8th. Registration fee is \$500, (\$100 for students). Registration includes admission to the technical program, admission to the Core Workshop, lunches on Monday and Tuesday, the Ice Breaker on Sunday, refreshment breaks, and more! It's not too early to make plans to attend!

The New Orleans Geological Society is still in need of an Editor Elect to serve on the Board of Directors. Please consider donating a little bit of you time to the continuation and health of our organization.

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 or offer your services as a Board Member.



Brian Bothner
2024/2025 NOGS Log Editor

Brian Bothner

Until April....



JARED BULLOCK

A MESSAGE FROM THE 2024/2025 NOGS PRESIDENT

Greetings,

Thank you to our attendees and February luncheon speaker, Chris McLindon, on being flexible as we had to postpone our January meeting to February due to the winter storm. Attendance was wonderful and Chris' talk on U.S. Lithium Resources was very interesting. The feedback I received was positive with some saying it was one of the best talk they've heard at a NOGS luncheon.

There are some updates that everyone should be aware of regarding the NOGS Golf Tournament this year. Due to feedback the Board has received on the proposed NOGS Golf Tournament in May, the NOGS Board of Directors has decided to cancel this event and instead co-host a golf tournament with PLANO and SPWLA in October. The tournament will be October 6, 2025 at Bayou Oaks City Park New Orleans. This group of societies joined forces in 2023 for a golf tournament that turned out to be a huge success. Over \$8,000 was given to charity that year. So, please mark your calendar with the new golf tournament date.

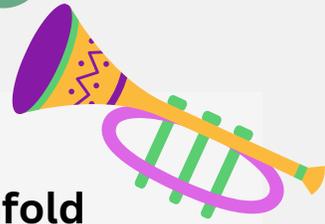
Our next monthly luncheon will be Wednesday, March 19th at Zea's Covington. The speaker will be David Hume giving a talk on "The Deep-Water Andaman, Mahanadi and Bengal Basins. Three Frontier Area with Massive Exploration Potential on the East Coast of India". The luncheon begins informally at 11:30a with networking followed by announcement and the presentation at 12p noon. We hope to see everyone there or joining us online.

In my previous letter, I mentioned that the NOGS Board of Directors has begun the search for candidates to serve for the 2025-2026 NOGS term. There are several people who have stepped up and will be returning to the board next term, but there are several spots still open. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone to serve on the NOGS Board of Directors with the new term starting in July, please reach out to us.

Jared Bullock
NOGS 2024-2025 President

Promoting NOGS

Carol Avery; NOGS Director



We have created a “Join NOGS” flyer that will be available at our monthly luncheons. These handy trifold brochures are a great way to introduce The New Orleans Geological Society and to highlight the benefits of membership in our professional organization.

Our intent is to increase society awareness and membership. These flyers will be available at NOGS functions and the NOGS exhibition booth at professional conferences such as the Deepwater Technical Symposium and the upcoming Louisiana Environmental Conference and Trade Fair in Lafayette’s Cajun Dome, March 20-21.

Additionally, we are working to create several stand-alone feather banners and retractable banners for use in exhibit hall booths and at Public and School Outreach events. These items will also be valuable as we interact with university students on various NOGS initiatives. Once complete, we will display these items at our monthly meetings.

Please pick up a couple of brochures at our next monthly luncheon. Pass them on to friends and coworkers. Membership in professional organizations is a valuable resource and joining NOGS is as easy as completing our online application at <https://nogs.org/join-us!>

FEBRUARY MEETING

Overview of U.S

Lithium Resources



CHRIS MCLINDON



MARCH MEETING

The Deep-Water Andaman, Mahanadi and Bengal Basins. Three Frontier Areas with Massive Exploration Potential on the East Coast of India

Offshore India has been unattractive for international exploration, with many prospective basins remaining undrilled. Recent changes have lifted restrictions on foreign investment and opened the country to exploration. The Andaman, Mahanadi, and Bengal basins show great promise.

The Andaman basin, at the Indian and Eurasian plate boundary, features complex structures but has only 20 wells drilled over 660,000 km² with only one discovery. However, two major structural gas discoveries have recently been made in an extension of the basin in Indonesian waters.

The Mahanadi and Bengal basins are passive margins with deep-water areas that are also largely undrilled. They contain clastic and carbonate reservoirs with potential for structural and stratigraphic traps. This year, ONGC announced two deep-water Pliocene-aged channel gas discoveries in the Mahanadi.

A 2017 resource assessment conservatively estimated the combined basins' gas potential at 30TCF. Recent work at the U of H indicates the potential is much greater.



DAVID W. HUME, P.GEO.
HUME ENERGY ENTERPRISES LLC



DATE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025



TIME

**AT 11:30 AM NETWORKING
12:00 PM LUNCH &
PRESENTATION**



ZEA'S NORTHSHORE

REGISTER NOW

LSU GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS DEPARTMENT SEMINAR SPRING 2025 SERIES MARCH EVENTS

Date	Speaker, Title or Topic	Dept. Host
March 5	Mardi Gras Holiday ends	
March 12	LSU Geology & Geophysics Open House for Undecided Undergraduates	ALL
March 21 (F) Friday	Elizabeth Chamberlin, Univ. Netherlands Mississippi Delta evolution reconstructed through luminescence dating	Prof. Wilson
March 26	Pamela Kempton, Kansas State University Evolution of a mid-ocean ridge over 61 million years	Prof. Dutrow

Seminars now on Wednesdays! At 3:20 p.m., we begin with refreshments in the Clarence Cazalot Marathon Oil Atrium of Howe Russell Kniffen Geoscience Complex. Seminars begin at 3:45 p.m. in E130 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

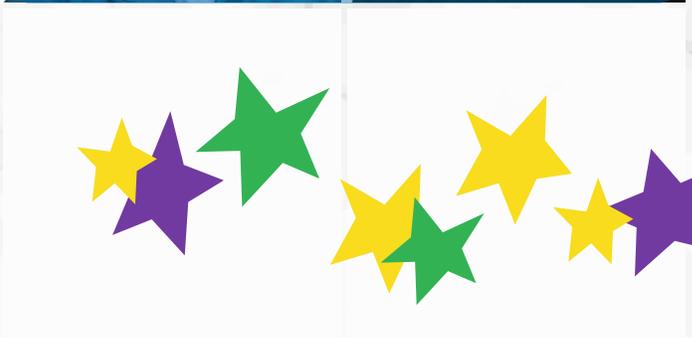
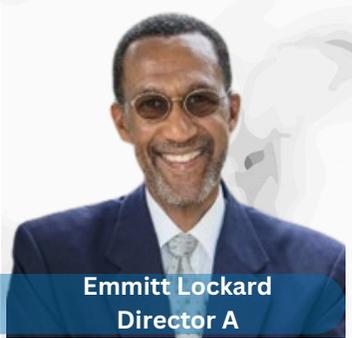
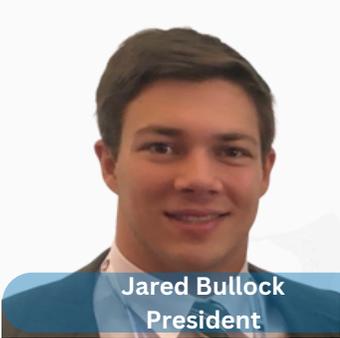


College of Science

Department of Geology & Geophysics



2024/2025 NOGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS





DELTA SECTION MARCH 2025 MEETING

Vito Waterflood

Michal Sobera,

Business Opportunity Manager, Vito Waterflood, Shell USA

Friday, March 28, 2025, at 11am at Shell USA office, Hancock Whitney Center, 701 Poydras Street, Room 2114, 21st floor, downtown New Orleans, LA, 70139. Networking & lunch; 11:30am. The presentation is available in person and via Teams link. There will be a light lunch available, and the cost is FREE.

Abstract

Discovered in 2009, Vito is the 13th deep-water host in Shell's US GOM deep-water portfolio and began production in February 2023. It is located 150 miles southeast of New Orleans and 10 miles south of the Shell-operated Mars TLP. The original Vito host design was simplified and rescoped, resulting in a reduction of approximately 80% in CO2 emissions over the lifetime of the facility as well as a cost reduction of more than 70% from the original host design concept. Waterflood modules (water processing and injection) will be installed on the platform as a brownfield scope, i.e. post FOD. Given the configuration of the Vito reservoir, WF energy is required to maximize the producing rate of existing wells and thus ultimate recovery. Vito Waterflood concept includes three water injection wells, which were drilled as pre-producers. Water injection is slated to begin in Q1 of 2027 and expected to increase recoverable resource volume by 60 million boe.

Michal Sobera joined Shell in 2005 as a Reservoir Engineer in The Netherlands. Over the last 20+ years, he held various roles in reservoir engineering (both development and production operations), development planning, subsurface integration, front-end development management and business opportunity management in The Netherlands, Russia, Brunei, and the United States. Michal joined Deepwater GOM in 2014 in Appomattox team and while in the GOM he has held roles Appomattox, Perdido, NaKika/Coulomb and Vito. Michal holds a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Czestochowa University of Technology (Poland) and a PhD in Applied Physics from Delft University of Technology. Michal and his wife Ewelina have two daughters Wiktoria and Tosia. In his free time, he enjoys running, tennis and cooking.

RSVP to Mary O'Neill at cyberbrat@msn.com or Kevin Landry at Klandry@expertep.com. Please advise if you will be in person or via TEAMS. Please bring an unexpired government photo ID to Shell receptionist on day of the meeting. Regarding parking, there is parking in the Hancock Whitney Center with entrance on Carondelet Street. It usually costs \$13.20 for 3 hours. The parking website is go.lazparking.com and parking phone is (985) 956-6927. Also, there is parking on the street which is \$6 for 2 hours (feed the meter which accepts credit cards) or use the Premium Parking lots at about \$16 for 2 hours and reservable. See website parkopedia.com (for street parking & lot parking) or premiumparking.com (for lot parking).



SPE DELTA SECTION 2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

March 12, 2025, Happy Hour with Young Professionals in Energy (YPE).
Location downtown New Orleans is being finalized.

March 14, 2025, Friday, SPE Delta Golf Tournament at Carter Plantation,
Springfield, LA. Matt Wandstrat is coordinating. For more golf information
contact Matt.wandstrat@gmail.com.

May 22, 2025, Thursday, Expert office, Madisonville, LA, lecture on AI.
Speaker will be Nefeli Moridis, Development Relationship Manager, Head of
Subsurface, Global Energy Team, Nvidia Corp. Nefeli has a Ph. D from Texas
A&M in Petroleum Engineering.

Tentative title of presentation: Generative AI Demystified: What it is and how
we can leverage it in energy.

Thanks for your support of our events.

Golf Update

Dear NOGS Members,

We have canceled our scheduled May golf tournament, but excited to share that we are once again teaming up with PLANO and SPWLA for a special event to support our local charities.

Please save the date – Monday, October 6, 2025 – for our joint charity golf tournament at Bayou Oaks in New Orleans. This will be a fantastic opportunity to come together, enjoy a great day of golf, and make a meaningful impact in our community.

More details can be found in this issue of the log. We look forward to your participation and support!

Let's Play
GOLF

MON, OCT 6, 2025
BAYOU OAKS

New Orleans, LA

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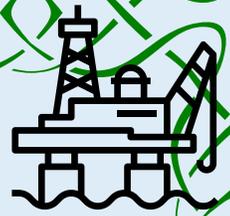
www.planoweb.org



SPWLA
NEW ORLEANS, LA

DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES BY AL BAKER



During January 2025, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) approved 59 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) drilling permits. Six of the permits were for a shelf wells, and the remaining 53 permits were for deepwater wells. There were 4 new well permits issued; 1 is on the shelf and 3 are in deepwater.

The single shelf new well permit was issued to Cantium for their South Timbalier 23 #SB-25 development well.

The 3 deepwater new well permits were for exploration wells. Anadarko Petroleum (Occidental) received a new well permit for their Green Canyon 81 #4 well. Talos Petroleum obtained a permit for their Walker Ridge 107 #SS-1 well. Shell Offshore was given a permit for their Mississippi Canyon 812 #KI-1 well.

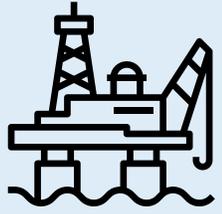
On January 31st, S&P Global Petrodata indicated that the GoM mobile offshore rig supply stood at 47, which are 2 less than last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 33 rigs, of which 25 were under contract. The marketed rig supply was 3 less than last month, and the contracted rig supply was 2 less than last month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate stood at 53.2%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stood at 75.8%. By comparison, the January 2024 total fleet utilization rate stood at 81.1% with 37 rigs in the marketed supply out of the 50 rigs in the fleet.

On January 31st, Baker Hughes reported that there are 11 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which is 6 less than last month and 44% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. Currently, all 11 rigs are drilling in deepwater. The deepwater rigs include 5 rigs in the Mississippi Canyon Area, 2 rigs each in the Green Canyon Area, Alaminos Canyon Areas, and 1 rig each in the Keathley Canyon and Garden Banks Areas.

On January 31st, the Baker Hughes total U.S. rig count stood at 582 rigs. Of the 582 rigs, 479 (82.3%) are oil rigs and 98 (16.8%) are gas rigs. Five rigs are listed as miscellaneous. Of the 582 wells being drilled, 519 (89.2%) are horizontal and 13 (2.2%) are vertical. A year ago, there were 619 rigs working in the U.S. inferring that the current 37 rig decline corresponds to a 6% decrease in rigs year over year. Nationally, Texas has the largest number of rigs with 277, which is 47.6% of the total number of rigs in the U. S. Louisiana currently has a total of 29 rigs and is ranked fifth behind New Mexico, Oklahoma and North Dakota, which have 106, 45 and 33 rigs, respectively.

On January 15th, Talos Energy announced that their Katmai West #2 well located in Ewing Bank Block 1010 encountered commercial quantities of oil and natural gas. The discovery well was drilled to a depth of 27,000 feet TVD and found the primary target sand full-to-base with more than 400 feet of gross pay interval. The well is expected to produce 15,000 to 20,000 boepd beginning in the late second quarter of 2025.

DRILL BITS

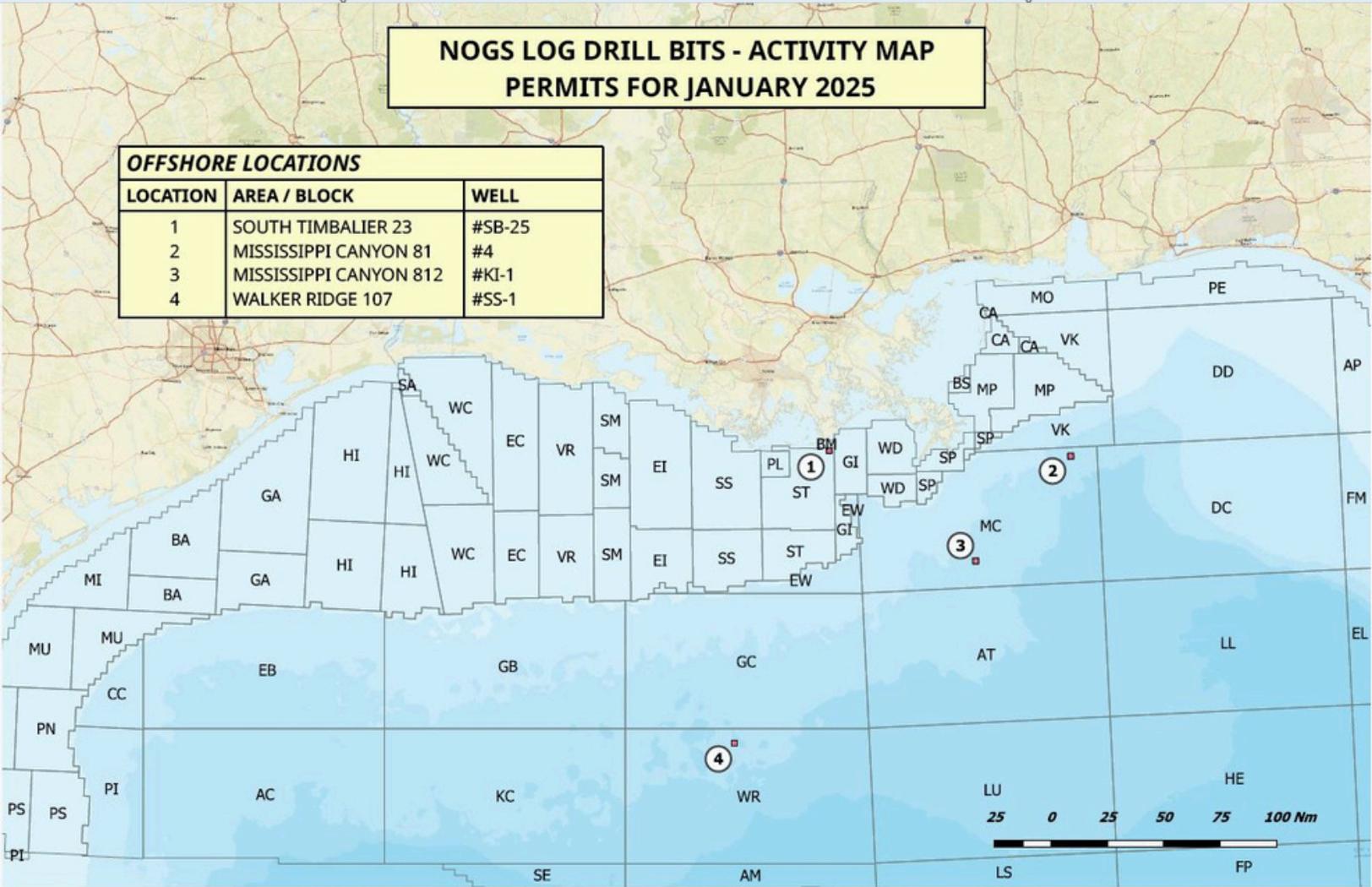


NEW WELL PERMITS OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES MAP BY KEVIN TROSCLAIR



NOGS LOG DRILL BITS - ACTIVITY MAP PERMITS FOR JANUARY 2025

OFFSHORE LOCATIONS		
LOCATION	AREA / BLOCK	WELL
1	SOUTH TIMBALIER 23	#SB-25
2	MISSISSIPPI CANYON 81	#4
3	MISSISSIPPI CANYON 812	#KI-1
4	WALKER RIDGE 107	#SS-1



Recent Energy Headlines

March 2025 Recap

2/20/2025 - BOEM Rescinds Expanded Rice's Whale Protection Efforts - The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) today announced it is rescinding its Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) 2023-G01, Expanded Rice's Whale Protection Efforts During Reinitiated Consultation with NMFS [National Marine Fisheries Service]. The NTL contained recommendations for suggested precautionary measures by lessees and operators during the reinitiated consultation. [Read Full Article](#)

2/14/2025 - Trump creates council for 'energy dominance,' boosts natural gas exports and offshore drilling - President Donald Trump on Friday signed an executive order formally creating a National Energy Dominance Council and directed it to move quickly to drive up already record-setting domestic oil and gas production. Trump also announced it has granted conditional export authorization for a huge liquefied natural gas project in Louisiana, the first approval of new LNG exports since former President Joe Biden paused consideration of them a year ago. And Trump said he has directed Interior Secretary Doug Burgum to undo Biden's ban on future offshore oil drilling on the East and West coasts. [Read Full Article](#)

2/13/2025 - IEA increases 2025 global oil demand forecasts - The forecast for global oil demand growth in 2025 has been raised to 1.1 million b/d, higher than the 1.05 million b/d forecast in January, due to a minor pickup in GDP growth and lower oil prices. However, the growth estimate for 2024 has been lowered to 870,000 b/d. According to the latest Oil Market Monthly Report released by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in February 2025, the forecast for global oil demand growth in 2025 has been slightly raised to 1.1 million b/d, higher than the 1.05 million b/d forecast in January, due to a minor pickup in GDP growth and lower oil prices as per the current forward curve. However, the growth estimate for 2024 has been lowered to 870,000 b/d from 940,000 b/d. [Read Full Article](#)

2/14/2025 - Trump administration lays off over 2,000 workers at Interior Department, sources say - Some 2,300 people have been laid off at the U.S. Interior Department as part of the Trump administration's sweeping government job cuts, according to three sources familiar with the matter. The Interior Department manages around 500 million acres of U.S. public lands, including its national parks, and also administers the country's onshore and offshore oil and gas leasing programs - source of around a quarter of U.S. oil production. [Read Full Article](#)

2/12/2025 - Shell Sees AI Revolutionizing Energy System in New Outlook - Artificial intelligence could lead to significant energy demand growth as the technology is implemented across industries, an acceleration that could also help to halve the system's carbon intensity by 2050, according to a new report from Shell Plc. As productivity improvements resulting from AI — including automation, especially in manufacturing — enable major economic growth, consumption of oil will continue to expand by three to five million barrels a day into the 2030s, before peaking and then declining slowly over a long period, Shell said. Natural gas demand could increase into the 2040s while the use of petrochemicals is likely to continue into the 22nd century. [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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Registration for GeoGulf 2025 is Open

Seize the opportunity to join the prestigious Gulf Coast Section at **GeoGulf 2025**, from April 6–8, 2025, at the scenic Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. Secure your spot now with our exclusive early bird rate of \$400 available until March 1, before it rises to \$500.



[REGISTER HERE](#)

Grand Canyon Spring 2025

May 25 - June 1

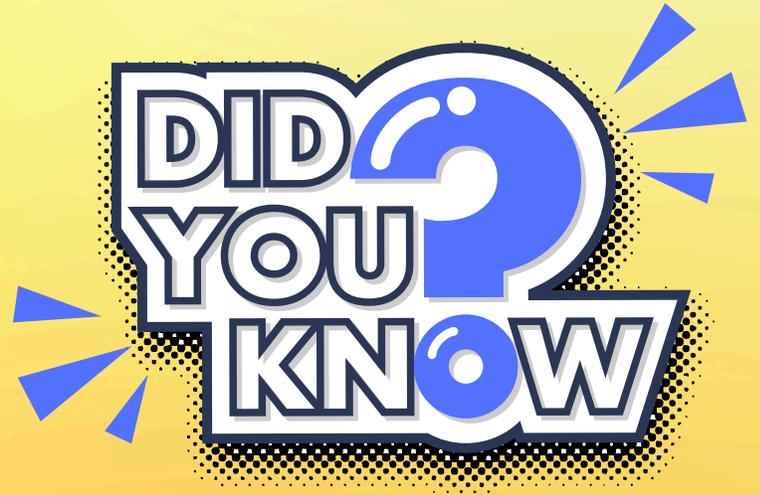
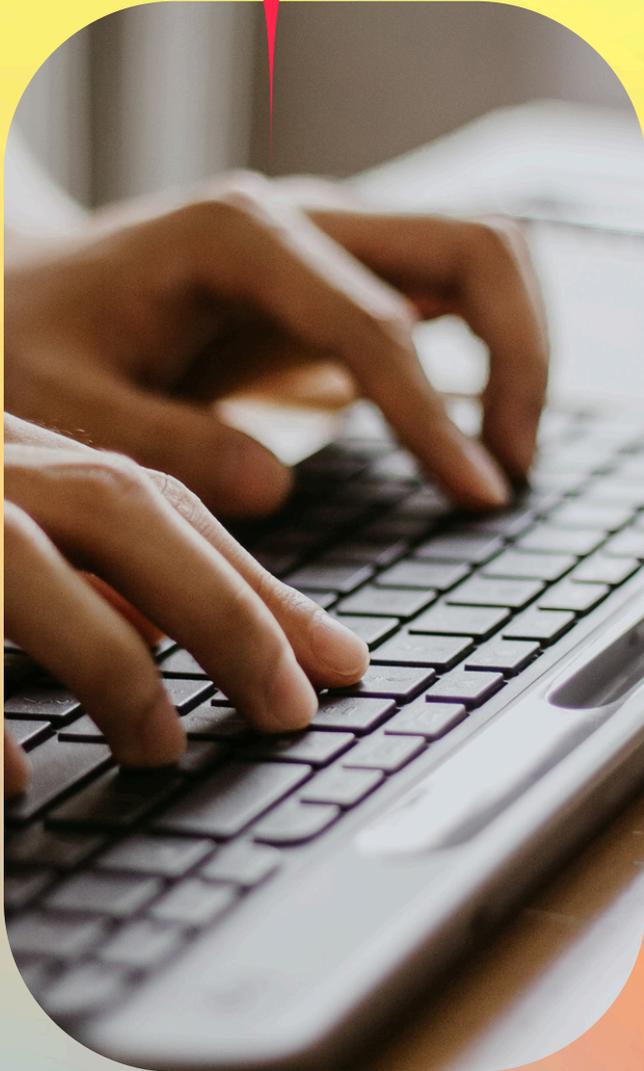
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 Emmitt Lockard emlockard@yahoo.com Michael Louis Merritt
admin@gemconsultingltd.com

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LSU GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS DEPARTMENT SEMINAR SPRING 2025 SERIES UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Speaker, Title or Topic	Dept. Host
April 2	LSU Spring Break	
April 9	Becky Totten, University of Alabama A journey from below sea level to the Doomsday Glacier: How polar changes affect the Gulf Coast	Prof. Warny
April 16	Aaron Palke, Gemological Institute of America The Internal World of Gemstones: Inclusions as Geological Time Capsules	Prof. Dutrow
April 23-25	LSU G&G Rock Stars, Student Poster Presentations	Prof. Luttrell
	End of semester	

Seminars now on Wednesdays! At 3:20 p.m., we begin with refreshments in the Clarence Cazalot Marathon Oil Atrium of Howe Russell Kniffen Geoscience Complex. Seminars begin at 3:45 p.m. in E130 Howe-Russell-Kniffen. Networking continues after the seminar in the Atrium

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College of
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Founded March 14, 1978, the mission of the New Orleans Geological Society Memorial Foundation is to promote earth-science related educational or scientific purpose by granting of scholarships to outstanding Geology students at the universities in Southeast Louisiana offering a degree in Geology. Donations given in memory of Bill Craig Memorial provide for any earth science related educational or scientific purpose that is a direct benefit to grades K-12 teacher or teachers within the Greater New Orleans Area. This area encompasses New Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes.

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