

#### IN THIS ISSUE

#### On the Cover

# The 27th Annual Deepwater Technical Symposium

The Annual Deepwater
Technical Symposium August 15
-16 at the New Orleans Hilton
Riverside and Towers. Supported
by dedicated volunteers from the
American Association of Drilling
Engineers (AADE) New Orleans
Chapter, New Orleans Geological
Society (NOGS), and Society of
Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Delta
Section.



Our mission is to provide a platform for industry experts to share knowledge, best practices, new technologies, and process improvements. To foster an open discussion of our industry's challenges and successes.

Proceeds from the Symposium are used to support scholarships and other educational efforts promoted by the supporting societies.

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### From the Editor...

Hello again,

In this issue of the NOGS Log:

The 27th Annual Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Technical Symposium was held in August at the Hilton Riverside, New Orleans, LA. The 400 plus attendees were introduced to new technologies, process improvements and shared knowledge between industry experts. The symposium was, and is, an excellent opportunity to expand your personal network and increase your professional visibility. In addition, NOGS offered four well received Geology Seminar classes during the day of Pre-Symposium Training, all of which offered Professional Development Hours. The Geologic continuing education training courses were: "Observing Source Rocks on Seismic Data"; "Carbon Capture and Storage: An Industry Primer"; "Introduction to Western and Central Gulf of Mexico Environmental Regulations" and "Professional Geoscientist Exam (ASBOG) Preparatory Class".

Also, The American Petroleum Institute Delta Chapter hosted the 25th Annual Joint Industry Luncheon with guest speaker Holly A. Hopkins, Vice President of Upstream Policy, American Petroleum Institute. Next year's 28th Annual Deepwater Technical Symposium is scheduled for July 15–17, 2025 again at the New Orleans Hilton Riverside.

Monthly luncheon and technical presentations will resume on September 11th at Zea's on the North Shore. Eric Zimmermann, COO of LLOG Exploration, will be our guest speaker. NOGS will sponsor two social events this month on both the North and South shores of Lake Pontchartrain. All NOGS members, perspective members, students, family, friends are all welcome. Come join us at one (or both) socials!

Volunteers are still needed for: Girl Scouts "BIG believe in Girls" event at Nicholls State University, Thibodeaux, LA on October 12th and "Super Saurus Saturday" at the Louisiana Children's Museum October 19th. Please consider taking advantage of these volunteer opportunities.

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 at NOGS events or offer your services as a Board Member. Brian Bothner

Until October....

**Brian Bothner** 2024/2025 NOGS Log Editor



#### JARED BULLOCK

# A MESSAGE FROM THE 2024/2025 NOGS PRESIDENT

As summer comes to an end, we eagerly welcome the Fall season with open arms. It brings cooler weather, beginning of a new school year, football season, the leeward side of hurricane season, and of course the NOGS monthly luncheons. We will start this year's monthly luncheons on Wednesday, September 11th at Zea's in Covington. Our speaker will be Eric Zimmermann, COO of LLOG Exploration. As with all of our luncheons, we will begin informally at 11:30am and the meeting starts at 12pm with announcements followed by a presentation.

Just recently, the 27th Annual Deepwater Technical Symposium was held at the Riverside Hilton in New Orleans, LA. If you didn't get a chance to attend, I can tell you first-hand that this year's symposium was a huge success. From pre-symposium training courses to new technical session topics to keynote speakers, the 2024 DWTS was all-things Gulf of Mexico energy. One of my most favorite parts of the symposium was hearing Joe Leimkuhler's keynote address titled "The US and Global Energy Transition: Observations and Trends". He showed data pertaining to energy consumption, capacity, and generation around the globe. He used the phrase "energy addition" when speaking of alternative energy sources outside of fossil fuels. We've heard this phrase before, and it's very appropriate when speaking of both the current state and the future of energy. There is not a one-size-fits-all solution and the "transition" will be a mix of energy sources for the foreseeable future. This idea of "energy addition" was embraced by the 2024 DWTS to include sessions that expanded beyond conventional energy. Emmitt Lockard, the 2024 DWTS chair, did an incredible job at building upon a long-standing, highly technical foundation that the symposium has delivered for some time. The sky is the limit for Gulf of Mexico energy production, and the Deepwater Technical Symposium will continue to foster industry-leading ideas, knowledge sharing, and network-building.

Please be on the lookout for announcements regarding several events this fall. NOGS will be hosting two fall social events. We will be at Pat's-Rest-Awhile on the Mandeville Lakefront on Thursday, September 19th, and Wrong Iron in Mid-City on Thursday, September 26th. Members, family, friends, and prospective NOGS members are all welcome at the socials. We host these to kick off a new NOGS year, provide an additional networking opportunity, and attract new members. Stratigraph and Leaaf Environmental have graciously stepped up to sponsor the events. I hope to see everyone at 1 of the 2!

Another event that the NOGS board has decided to add this year will be a Holiday Party at Rock-n-Bowl on Saturday, November 2nd from 1:30-4pm. It will be a family-friendly open to all. Registration will include food, drink, and open bar. This event was added to our calendar to complement our springtime golf tournament, offer an event that was family-friendly, and serve as a late-Fall Holiday party. More details will be announced soon.



## 2024/2025 NOGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS





















# New Orleans Geological Society Monthly Meeting September 11, 2024 Zea's Covington

11:30 a.m - 1:00 p.m.



# An Independent's Role in the Modern Gulf of Mexico

#### **Eric Zimmermann**

### Chief Operating Officer LLOG Exploration

Eric Zimmermann is chief operating officer of LLOG Exploration. He has been with the company since 2007. Prior to LLOG, Eric worked for BP and Dominion as a geologist. His experience has been focused on exploration and development projects in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico for his career.

Eric received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in geology at Louisiana State University. He is a professional geologist in the states of Texas and Louisiana and is a Fellow of the Geological Society of London.

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NOGS 2024 Kick-Off Party AND MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

# THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 PAT'S REST A WHILE 2101 LAKESHORE DRIVE MANDEVILLE, LA 70448



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NEW MEMBERS: FREE WITH 1ST YEARS DUES

MEMBERSHIP DUES -ACTIVE & ASSOCIATES - \$35/YEAR

STUDENTS: FREE 1ST YEAR SPONSORED BY SOCIETY \$15.00 RENEWAL



#### NOGS Monthly Meeting

#### October 9, 2024

**Drago's Metairie** 

11:30 a.m - 1:00 p.m.





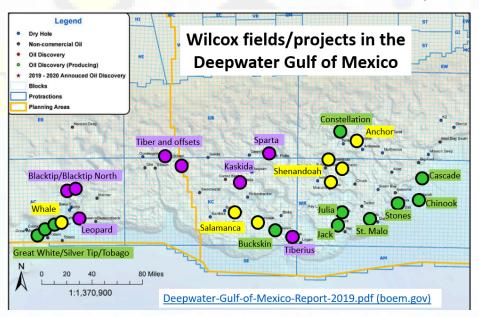
### THE WILCOX IN THE NORTHERN DEEPWATER GULF OF MEXICO - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

This presentation will discuss how successful the Wilcox, or Lower Tertiary, has been since the initial BAHA #2 well was drilled in the Perdido Fold Belt in 2001. We will look at early projections about the Wilcox, the overall exploration success and how well the Wilcox footprint has been tested, over 13 years of production from existing fields, the attractive queue of near-term projects, and future exploration and production projections.



#### **Bob Meltz**

Bob Meltz retired in 2020 after 38 years in the oil industry working as a petroleum geologist first for Texaco and then for Chevron. He spent his entire career working exploration and development in the U. S. onshore and offshore Gulf Coast basins. He earned a bachelor's degree in geology from the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh in 1980 and a Master's degree in geology from Northern Illinois University in 1982.



9
producing
fields 

4 FID projects

6 likely or
possible
future
projects





# Make Plans to Join Us before the Holiday Season Begins for some family fun!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024

Stay tuned for more details!

Food & Drinks
Prizes

Fun

Proceeds will benefit the NOGS Memorial Foundation





November 6 - Lunch Northshore

December 4 - Lunch Southshore

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# ITS TIME TO RENEW YOUR NOGS MEMBERSHIP



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WWW.NOGS.ORG TO RENEW

PAYING MEMBERS WILL BE SENT A BALLOT FOR THE 2024/2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

### **DRILL BITS**



### OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES BY AL BAKER

During July 2024, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) approved 69 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) drilling permits. Nine of the permits were for a shelf wells, and the remaining 60 permits were for deepwater wells. There was 1 new well permit issued in deepwater.

The 1 deepwater new well permit was for a development well. Anadarko Petroleum (Occidental) received the new well permit for their Mississippi Canyon 127 #C-1 well in Horn Mountain Field.

On July 26th, S&P Global Petrodata indicated that the GoM mobile offshore rig supply stood at 48, which is the same as last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 35 rigs, of which 27 were under contract. The marketed rig supply and the contracted rig supply were also the same as last month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate stood at 56.3%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stood at 77.1%. By comparison, the July 2023 total fleet utilization rate stood at 83.3% with 36 rigs in the marketed supply out of the 49 rigs in the fleet.

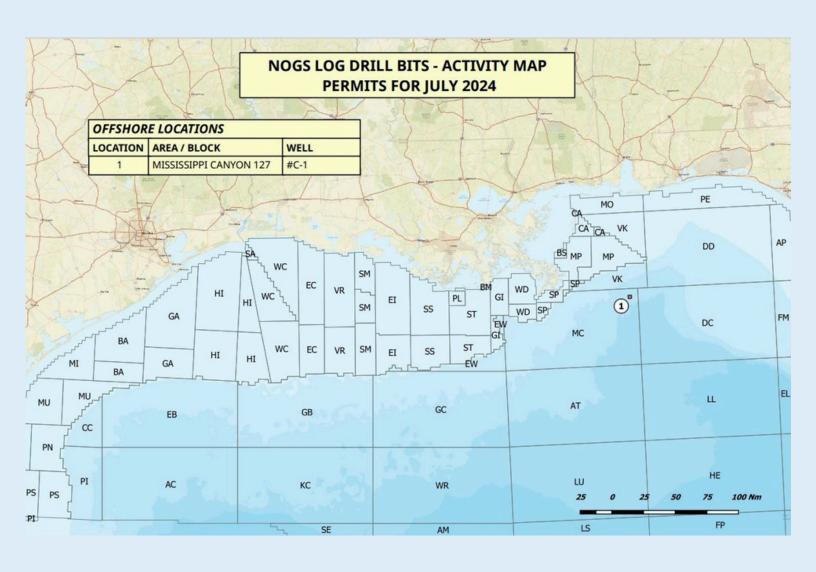
On July 26th, Baker Hughes reported that there are 19 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which is the same last month and 70.4% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. Currently, 2 rigs are drilling on the shelf, and 17 rigs are drilling in deepwater. The shelf rigs include 1 each in the Eugene Island and South Timbalier Areas. The deepwater rigs include 8 rigs in the Mississippi Canyon Area, 3 rigs in the Green Canyon Area, 2 rigs each in the Alaminos Canyon and Keathley Canyon Areas, and 1 rig each in the Walker Ridge and Garden Banks Areas.

On July 26th, the Baker Hughes total U.S. rig count stood at 589 rigs, which is 8 more than reported at the end of June 2024. Of the 589 rigs, 482 (81.8%) are oil rigs and 101 (17.1%) are gas rigs. Six rigs are listed as miscellaneous. Of the 589 wells being drilled, 523 (88.8%) are horizontal and 17 (2.9%) are vertical. A year ago, there were 664 rigs working in the U.S. inferring that the current 75 rig decline corresponds to an 11.3% decrease in rigs year over year. Nationally, Texas has the largest number of rigs with 276, which is 46.9% of the total number of rigs in the U.S. Louisiana currently has a total of 41 rigs, which is 1 more than last month. Louisiana ranks third behind New Mexico, which has 108 rigs

### **DRILL BITS**



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



#### **Recent Energy Headlines**

#### August 2024 Recap

8/29/2024 - Oil Volatility Increases - Oil volatility has increased at the front of the curve, with 30-day realized annualized front-month Brent volatility gaining 2.1 percentage points week on week to 31.7 percent. That's what analysts at Standard Chartered Bank, including Commodities Research Head Paul Horsnell, noted in a report sent to Rigzone by Horsnell late Tuesday. The analysts highlighted the volatility percentage was the highest since January 9. Read Full Article

8/28/2024 - TotalEnergies commences production at Anchor Field in Gulf of Mexico - The company holds a 37.14 per cent stake in the project, with Chevron serving as the operator with a 62.86 per cent interest. The Anchor field, situated 225 kilometres off the Louisiana coast, began development in December 2019. The project features an advanced system of subsea wells connected to a semi-submersible floating production unit (FPU). Key specifications include: 1. Production capacity: 75,000 barrels of oil and 28 million cubic feet of gas per day. 2. Expected net production for TotalEnergies: Approximately 30,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day (boe/d) at peak production. 3. The Anchor FPU has been designed with a focus on minimizing greenhouse gas emissions. Read Full Article

8/27/2024 - US slowly replenishes Strategic Petroleum Reserve into 2025 - The U.S. is slowly replenishing the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, buying up to 6 million barrels of oil for delivery in the first several months of next year, after the largest sale yet from the stockpile in 2022. The Energy Department said late on Monday it sought to buy about 3.6 million barrels for delivery to the reserve's Bryan Mound, Texas site from January to March next year. Earlier this month it bought nearly 2.5 million barrels for delivery in the same months at the same site, which was closed for maintenance but is now able to take oil. Read Full Article

8/26/2024 - Audubon secures topside design contract for bp's Kaskida project in gulf - Audubon Engineering Company (Audubon) has secured a significant contract for bp's Kaskida project in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. The contract entrusts Audubon with the topside engineering and design of the Kaskida floating production unit (FPU), a critical component of bp's latest Gulf development. Audubon's approach to the Kaskida project will leverage its proven design philosophies aimed at reducing cycle time, ensuring the project progresses efficiently from design to completion. The company's experience in this domain is well-established, having successfully delivered topside designs for notable semisubmersibles like Delta House, King's Quay, and Shenandoah. These past successes underscore Audubon's ability to deliver innovative and effective offshore solutions. Read Full Article

8/18/2024 - Shell Approves Waterflood Project for Vito Field - Shell Offshore Inc., a Shell PLC company, has sanctioned a waterflood project for its Vito asset in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. Shell announced in a media release the Final Investment Decision on the project that will enable water to be injected into the reservoir formation enabling additional oil to be recovered. The process is due to begin in 2027. "Over time, we've seen the benefits of waterflood as we look to fill our hubs in the Gulf of Mexico", said Zoë Yujnovich, Shell Integrated Gas and Upstream Director. "This investment will deliver additional high-margin, lower-carbon barrels from our advantaged Upstream business while maximizing our potential from Vito". Read Full Article

# 27th Annual Gulf of Mexico CHOMATEL Technical Symposium

#### by Brian Bothner

If you missed it, you may be interested in what the Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Technical Symposium had to offer. The symposium is an open discussion of our local petroleum industry's challenges and successes. It is supported by volunteers from the local chapters of the American Association of Drilling Engineers (AADE), the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Delta Section, and The New Orleans Geological Society (NOGS).













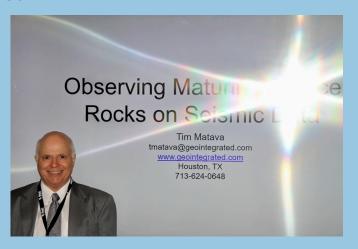


The Symposium provides a platform to share knowledge, best practices, new technologies, and process improvements. But I believe the most valuable attributes offered is the opportunity for practitioners to learn from industry experts and experienced colleagues. It offers a rare and valuable opportunity for personal interactions and to expand one's professional network. All proceeds support scholarships and other educational efforts promoted by the supporting professional societies.

# 27th Annual Gulf of Mexico CHARLES TECHNICAL Symposium

#### continued

Unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts, I was only able to attend one pre-symposium course. "Identifying Maturing Source Rocks on Seismic", a half day course and discussion led by Dr. Tim Matava, of Geological and Geophysical Integrated Modeling, Inc. (GGIM). Dr. Matava's presentation was much more intense than I expected. What I experienced in presentations at technical gatherings throughout my career were "Reader Digest", or basic overview presentations of previous or on-going work, However, in this presentation Dr. Matava successfully illustrated a complete process. My educational background paleontology includes geology and professional experience including petrophysics Dr. Matava's presentation geophysics. and included rock mechanics. petrology, petrophysics, geochemistry and geophysics; complete with supporting mathematics! Okay, so don't ask me to do the math, and thank goodness it wasn't required. The mathematics, offered for completeness, supported the scientific concepts which were easy to understand as presented. I thoroughly enjoyed the presentation.



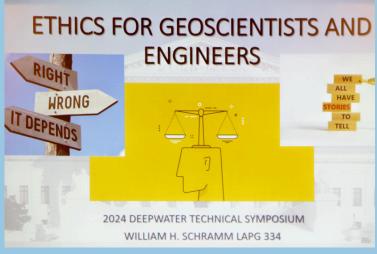


# 27th Annual Gulf of Mexico CHARLES TECHNICAL Symposium

#### continued

There were other geology course offerings: drilling, production, and facility engineering offerings, as well as regulatory and professional ethics courses. You could say there was a little something for everyone.









# 27th Annual Gulf of Mexico Control Con

#### continued

Keynote addresses by technical experts, industry executives, governmental agency representatives were offered throughout the symposium.

Industry exhibitors were also on site displaying their latest technology being deployed in the industry.







# 27th Annual Gulf of Mexico CHARLES TECHNICAL Symposium

#### continued

Of course, no meeting in New Orleans is complete without social gatherings.







Institute's Joint Industry Luncheon to networking session between presentations, or breakfast at Cafe' Du Monde to dinner at any French Quarter restaurant, the Gulf of Mexico Deep Water Technical Symposium is a extraordinary event offering attendees the opportunity to personally interact and expand their professional network. Don't miss the next one scheduled for July 15th – 17th, 2025 at the New Orleans Hilton Riverside!





To volunteer contact

Tom Bergeon

Tombergeon.geo@gmail.com

# CALL FOR SPEAKERS!

Have a great topic that you would like to present to NOGS Members at a Monthly Meeting?

Submit your topic and presentation for our Program Committee to review

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The New Orleans Geological Society was organized on October 3, 1941, as a nonprofit organization for the purpose of facilitating the development of the profession
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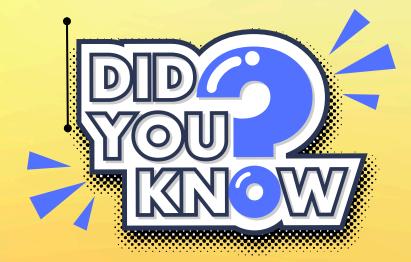












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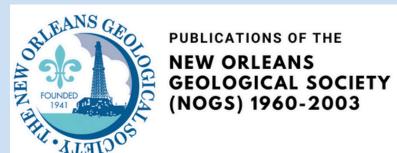
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