



# SPE California Sustainability Study Group Webinar



**Emily Hazelwood, MAS & Amber Sparks, MAS**

## ***“Rigs as Reefs: Re-imagining Offshore Decommissioning in California”***

By 2055, 23 of California’s 27 offshore oil and gas platforms are scheduled for decommissioning. Historically, decommissioning in California has meant complete removal—severing platforms from their foundations and bringing them onshore for recycling and disposal. Although in some cases complete removal is the best decommissioning option, it can also be costly and technically challenging, with significant impacts to marine life and local fisheries. In the Gulf of Mexico, several hundred offshore platforms have been successfully repurposed as reef—a method called “Rigs to Reef” (RtR)—but California, RtR faces several hurdles including legal, financial, and political. However, the California Marine Resources Legacy Act (Assembly Bill [AB] 2503) supports alternative decommissioning strategies in California and the potential is gaining support.

This lecture will shed light on how scientists, operators and regulators are beginning to think creatively about the net benefits of Rigs to Reef decommissioning. This lecture will demonstrate to members how implementing a RtR program in California may not only provide a viable alternative to traditional decommissioning but also a replicable, scalable and significantly more commercially viable solution for sustainable ocean resource development.

### **Speaker: Emily Hazelwood**



Emily is a marine conservation biologist and co-founder of Blue Latitudes, a women-owned marine environmental consulting firm, where she works to unite science, policy, and innovative technology to solve the complex ecological challenges associated with re-purposing offshore oil and gas platforms as artificial reefs through the Rigs to Reefs program. She has a B.A. in Environmental Science from Connecticut College and an M.A.S in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation from Scripps Institution of Oceanography. In 2018, Emily was recognized on the Forbes 30 Under 30 (entrepreneurs) list for her work developing sustainable, creative, and cost-effective solutions for the offshore energy industry.

### **Speaker: Amber Jackson**



Amber is a marine conservation biologist and co-founder of Blue Latitudes, a women-owned marine environmental consulting firm, where she works to unite science, policy, and innovative technology to solve the complex ecological challenges associated with re-purposing offshore oil and gas platforms as artificial reefs through the Rigs to Reefs program. She has a B.A. in Marine Science from UC Berkeley and an M.A.S in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation from Scripps Institution of Oceanography. In 2018, Amber was recognized on the Forbes 30 Under 30 (entrepreneurs) list for her work developing sustainable, creative, and cost-effective solutions for the offshore energy industry.

**October 14, 2021, 12:00pm—1:00pm Pacific Time**

Sign in early (after 11:30am) to meet presenters—and stay late for an open discussion.

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