

Press Release



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Fascinating photo mosaic from the seafloor in 4000 m

capabilities of the AUV and it worked out very well," says Professor Greinert. Apart from this, the research group congratulated AUV ABYSS to its 200th dive.

As with all scientific expeditions, the data, maps, photos, and samples collected must now be analyzed in detail. "However, the first results are very exciting as well," says Professor Greinert. The plough tracks of 1989 can still clearly be seen and the disturbed regions have not been recolonized yet. At the same time, the images show that a few decimetres from the plough tracks, normal deep-sea life exists. "The expedition proved that the deep sea is not an area that is beyond monitoring. Mining activities can be monitored efficiently, the technology is already available."

Currently, a follow-up team of the JPIO project led by Prof. Dr. Antje Boetius of the Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research is working in the DISCOL area. During this leg of the cruise, which lasts until early October, detailed biogeochemical investigations of the disturbed habitats are the primary objective. In a joint project blog, the participants report about their activities onboard. "In the end we will have a fascinating record of the deep sea in this area," says Greinert.

Links:

www.geomar.de The GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel
<http://jpio-miningimpact.geomar.de> website of the project "Ecological Aspects of Deep-Sea Mining" with the Expedition Blog

Images:

At www.geomar.de/n3996-e images are available for download.

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