

Interactive comment on “Seafloor observations at Campeche Knolls, southern Gulf of Mexico: coexistence of asphalt deposits, oil seepage, and gas venting” by Heiko Sahling et al.

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Thanks a lot for the constructive suggestions and comments. We applied the suggested changes and corrected almost all of your editorial comments as written in the attached pdf file you uploaded. A revised version of the manuscript considering your comments as well as those of Referee #1, #2, and #3 has been uploaded, including a version with tracked changes.

Thanks for your comment on the correlation between SAR slicks and seafloor seepage and your note on “evidence of absence” that we fully agree with. We applied changes accordingly.

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Three of your general / high-level comments concerned the former section 5.6 “Chemosynthetic communities at Campeche Knolls and future energy exploration” as well as a sentence concerning this topic in the section Conclusion. We acknowledge your comments on regulations regarding how to avoid biological sensitive areas (e.g. the “notices to lessees”). However, we deleted the respective sections from the manuscript following the advice by Referee #1 as this section is “advocacy and not basic science”, which we agree on.

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