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Discussions

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.

I. MacDonald

imacdonald@fsu.edu

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One application of these results is consideration of seafloor hazards as the exploration program now operating in the Campeche offshore gathers momentum. Seismic and bathymetric surveys are unlikely to have impacts, but piston coring & heat-flow probes, among other operations, could locally impact sensitive chemosynthetic communities and potentially cause release of shallow gas and oil pools. It would be useful to give some priority in terms of backscatter, bathymetric, or other indicators that might be associated with the described sites. This would expand/refine the discussion on pg. 17 and point to some of the results from the individual knolls. At present, hazard avoidance would have to be based on a combination of plume detection and some

rather imprecise interpretation of the bathymetry–avoiding crater walls for example. Possibly some backscatter data would improve this.

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