

Interactive comment on “Scars in the Abyss: Reconstructing sequence, location and temporal change of the 78 plough tracks of the 1989 DISCOL deep sea disturbance experiment in the Peru Basin” by Florian Gausepohl et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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I think, the paper is a valuable contribution to the discussion about possible impacts of future manganese nodule mining and provides an overview about the activities since the end of the 70ies of the last century. According to my involvement in this field I was able to comment on the first 30 years so my comments deal primarily with the description of the first 24 pages and some on the literature. These first 24 pages focus on the historical development of manganese nodule mining and possible impacts. Unfortunately the authors have mixed the nomenclature of what was done. So the activities in the late 70ies were pre-pilot mining test and the trial, to identify

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possible impacts. In 1989 the first large scale impact experiment DISCOL was started in the South Pacific Ocean, focussing on the impacts on the bottom and sediment fauna, followed by the so called BIEs - (Benthic Impact Experiments) focussing on the impact of the resedimentation of sediments, transported in the water column during the mining process. DISCOL and the BIEs were not focussing on the same impact but complimentary to each other and the term benthic impact experiment should only be used for the the BIEs

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://www.biogeosciences-discuss.net/bg-2019-348/bg-2019-348-RC2-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-2019-348>, 2019.

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