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METHANE HYDRATE RESEARCH AT NRL

Investigations are underway at NRL on oceanic methane hydrates to understand seafloor instabilities, geoacoustic anomalies of the ocean sediment using high resolution deep-towed multichannel seismic system, fine scale hydrate concentration and structure using in-situ NMR and X-ray diffraction, and carbon isotope analysis to distinguish biogenic and thermogenic methane. Additionally, NRL has established active collaborations with USGS, NETL, MBARI, the Geological Survey of Canada, University of Hawaii, Florida State University, Texas A&M University, Japan National Oil Corp., and University of Bergen. An overview of these topics will be discussed.