

Surficial geology of the area near the Titanic wreck

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The Atlantic Geoscience Center, at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, has selected seismic and sample data in the region surrounding the Titanic wreck as part of a study of geological evolution and sedimentary processes on the continental rise. This report describes and interprets the new 40 cubic inch sleeve seismic profiles, 3.5 kHz profiles, and samples collected in 1991. The seismic data show two

major Pleistocene erosion surfaces resulting from erosion by the Western Boundary Undercurrent, that separate sediments on the rise principally deposited by turbidity currents and slides. Surficial sediment near the Titanic wreck is commonly sandy, partly as a result of deposition from a recent turbidity current down Titanic Valley and partly as a result of winnowing by the Western Boundary Undercurrent.