

SITE S5

This is a muddy site in a mid-shelf environment without current-induced bedforms, indicating quiet hydrodynamic conditions that allow a seasonal layer of fluff-like organic detritus to form on the sediment surface. There are many biogenic burrows and mounds in the soft sediment which are often free of deposited detritus, indicating an active benthic community. Clear water in Spring shows evidence of "snow"; the snow disappears in late July and the water becomes more turbid. Positive evidence of trawling-activity was recorded. Fifty photographs were taken at this site in May and July 1996.

Reference No: **II/49/4/24:**

Site:	S5
Cruise:	Challenger CH126B
Position:	55° 56.65' N 08° 00.23' W
Depth:	173 m
Date:	11th May 1996.
Time:	13:16:43 GMT

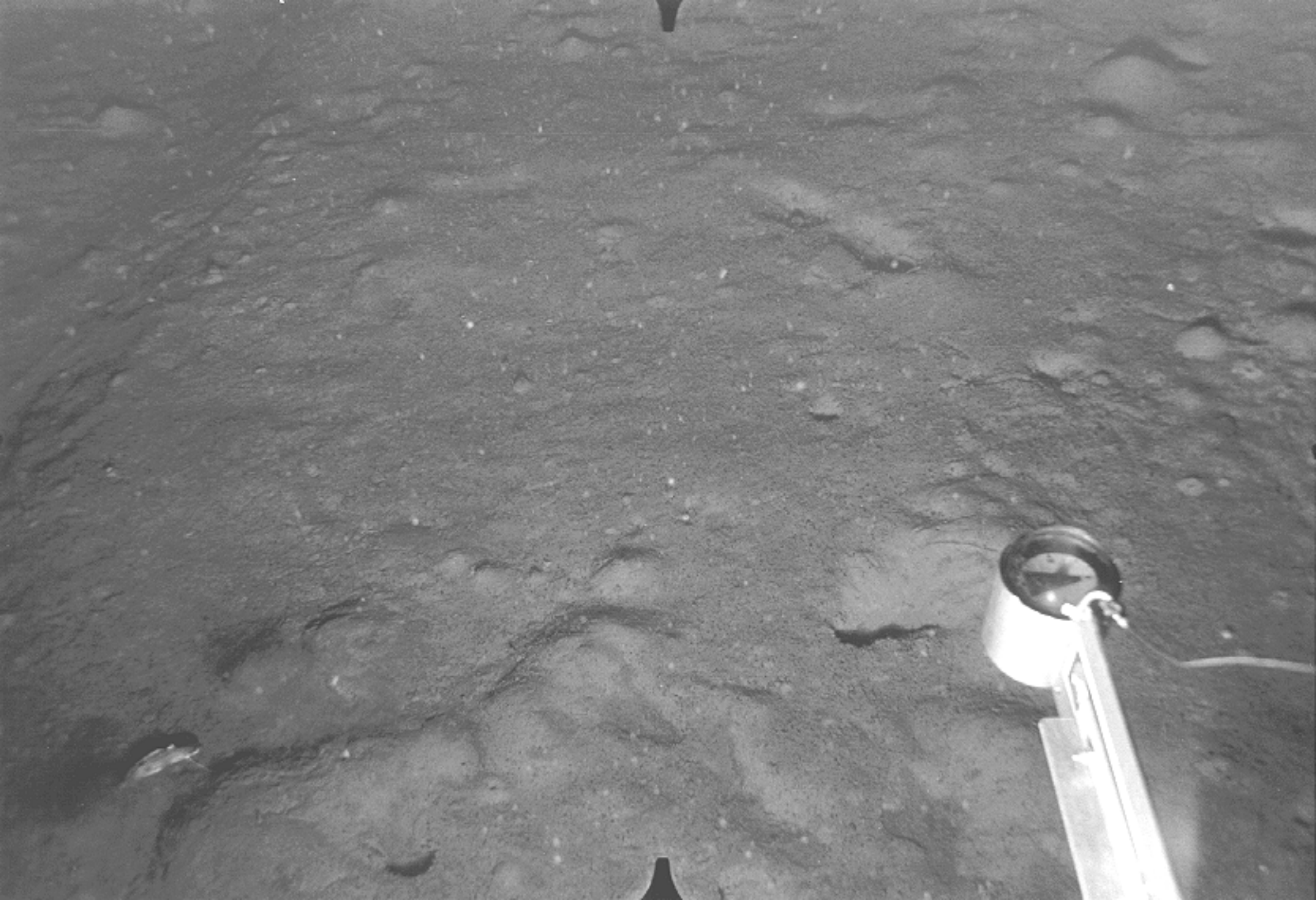
A fine sand or muddy seabed, overlain with a thin, darker layer of phytoplankton detritus ("phytodetritus") falling from above (note the presence of white flecks of "snow" and that the picture was taken during the Spring-bloom period). The burrowing activities of benthic animals have covered the darker layer in places, or perhaps the slopes of spoil-mounds and holes are too steep for the detritus to settle on them. There are no current-induced bedforms, further indicating the quiet hydrodynamic environment that would be necessary for the detrital material mentioned above to accumulate. There are numerous burrows, openings and "volcano-mounds" made by deposit-feeding benthos, imprints (resting traces) of starfish, and one area of radial feeding-marks, possibly made by an echiuran worm. There is a set of regular tracks near, and parallel to, the bottom of the picture that are probably the footprints of a decapod crab. A solitary coral is just visible at the bottom edge. The view looks towards the WSW.



Reference No: **II/49/4/25:**

Site:	S5
Cruise:	Challenger CH126B
Position:	55° 56.65' N 08° 00.22' W
Depth:	172 m
Date:	11th May 1996.
Time:	13:18:43 GMT

A fine sand or muddy seabed, overlain with a thin, darker, slightly granular layer, probably made up of phytodetritus falling from above (note the presence of white flecks of "snow" and that the picture was taken during the Spring-bloom period). The burrowing or feeding activities of benthic animals have disturbed the darker layer in places, or the slopes of spoil-mounds and holes are too steep for the detritus to settle on them. There are no current-induced bedforms, indicating a quiet hydrodynamic environment. A large depressed area at the top left of the picture might be the remains of an old trawling-scar. There are numerous burrows and biogenic spoil-mounds, and a small fish at the bottom left-hand corner. The view looks towards the West.



Reference No: **II/50/5/25:**

Site:	S5
Cruise:	Challenger CH128B
Position:	55° 54.92' N 07° 59.77' W
Depth:	175 m
Date:	28th July 1996.
Time:	04:50:54 GMT

A fine sand or muddy seabed, uniformly overlain with a dark layer of very low reflectivity. The water is rather turbid. There are no current-induced bedforms, indicating a quiet hydrodynamic environment. There are numerous burrows and spoil-mounds, and the imprint of a large starfish approx. 22 cm across overall. There is a single sea anemone towards the top of the picture. The view looks towards the SSE.

