



David Billett, National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, UK

David Billett is a biologist with over 34 years experience of working in the deep-sea environment, including mid-ocean ridges, abyssal sediments, seamounts, coral mounds, submarine canyons and continental slopes.

He has a particular interest in:

- 1) long-term change in the deep-sea,
- 2) the potential effects of climate change on the deep-sea environment,
- 3) distinguishing between natural and man-made impacts,
- 4) the environmental management of offshore deep-water oil and gas and mineral mining,
- 5) the impact of bottom fishing on deep-sea ecosystems and
- 6) spatial and temporal management of man's activities in the deep ocean.

Current projects include Hotspot Ecosystem Research and Man's Impacts on European Seas (HERMIONE), Ecosystems of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (ECOMAR), climate change on the deep-sea floor (Oceans 2025), sustained observations in the oceans (ESONET, EuroSITES), environmental monitoring by the offshore oil and gas industry using Remotely Operated Vehicles (SERPENT) and the consequences of natural iron fertilisation in the oceans (CROZEX).

He is a member of the United Nations International Seabed Authority's Legal and Technical Commission ensuring that mining activities in the deep ocean (polymetallic nodules, ferromanganese-rich cobalt crusts and polymetallic nodules) are realised within a sound environmental plan for conserving biodiversity at the regional scale.