



Giant scours around George Bligh Bank and the northern Rockall Bank margin

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Recent multibeam bathymetry surveys around parts of the Banks and shoals to the west of the United Kingdom have revealed significant erosive scours in the seabed. Along the northern flank of George Bligh Bank the sculpted deeps are in water depths between 700-900 m, they occur either as individual hollows between 50-75 m in depth, or they have coalesced into sinuous steep-walled channel-like systems. The width of the deeps varies between 1-1.5 Km, and in length from 2 Km to over 12 Km, with an elongation axis trending E-W. To the north of Rockall Bank some scours occur across the saddle connecting to the southern flank of George Bligh Bank, however they become very highly developed where the individual features form a long sweeping arc that defines the foot of a slope at the exit of the Rockall-Hatton Basin. The western flank of the northern Rockall Trough is known to be an erosive area, however whether the features described here are actively forming or are remnant has yet to be determined.