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Many of the world's productive deepwater hydrocarbon basins experience significant and ongoing vertical migration of fluids and gases to the modern seafloor. These products, which are composed of hydrocarbon gases, crude oil, formation fluids, and fluidized sediment, dramatically change the geologic character of the ocean floor, and they create sites where chemosynthetic communities supported by sulfide and hydrocarbons flourish. Unique fauna inhabit these sites, and the chemosynthetic primary production results in communities with biomass much greater than that of the surrounding seafloor.

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