

Part II

Confirmed Ocean Worlds

“Where there’s water on Earth, you find life as we know it. So if you find water somewhere else, it becomes a remarkable draw to look closer to see if life of any kind is there, even if it’s bacterial, which would be extraordinary for the field of biology.”

– Neil deGrasse Tyson

In this part, we review in detail the five moons that harbor vast subsurface oceans under their icy crust. Some are limited in their ability to support life while others boast the most promising environments for life to arise in our Solar System after Earth. All five are fascinating objects in their own right. Let us visit them one by one.