According to two articles in *Nature*, astronomers may have discovered an ocean hidden beneath the Sputnik Planitia basin on Pluto.

Sputnik Planitia aligns with the dwarf planet’s tidal axis, but the high gravity required for this alignment didn’t match assumptions of a rocky frozen world. Even at such low temperatures between 180 and 250 degrees Kelvin liquid water can still exist when mixed with ammonia and methanol. Nimmo et al. claim the ocean could potentially last four billion years before freezing.

With this growing evidence, scientists may expect to find subsurface oceans on similar objects in the Kuiper Belt and beyond.

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Image: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)