Some single-celled organisms that live on hydrothermal vents have medicinal uses, such as in certain COVID-19 tests.

If seabed mining destroys hydrothermal vents, the animals living there—such as the scaly-foot snail—could go extinct, unable to escape to or live in other habitats.

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Some hydrothermal vent species, such as eyeless shrimp larva, can drift on currents but may not be able to travel far enough to reach another vent if theirs is damaged.

The combined footprint of all known active hydrothermal vents in the world is less than the size of Manhattan.**

Sources