**Beat: News**

# Scientists say they have found a large body of water just below the surface, Mar

**Scientific News**

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**USPA NEWS -** According to the radar echoes, the lake is no more than 12.5 miles (20 km) across and is buried about a mile below the surface of the ice cap. The scientists can't figure out precisely how deep the lake is, but they have confirmed that it is at least 3 feet (1 meter) deep.

It must be rather salty, because the ice above it is quite clear and therefore quite cold “” if there were pure water below that sort of ice, it would be frozen, the researchers said.

Mars might have had many similar lakes in the past, when heat rising from deep within the planet melted some of the ice covering its polar regions, says Stephen Clifford, a planetary scientist who proposed the idea in 19874 and now works for the Planetary Science Institute in Houston, Texas.

If life once thrived in ancient subsurface lakes, he says, the latest finding “raises support for the idea that life could still persist on Mars“.

Hind A. Alsaffar

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