

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [The Rapid Loss Of Antarctic Sea Ice Brings Grim Scenarios Into View](#)

Article Link: <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2023/08/02/the-rapid-loss-of-antarctic-sea-ice-brings-grim-scenarios-into-view>

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Publication	The Economist
Publication Date	August 03, 2023

Tweet: After remaining relatively stable and actually growing between 1976 to 2014, Antarctic sea ice is at a record low, six standard deviations below the 1991-2020 levels.

Summary: One of the leading short-term explanations is unusual patterns of wind and waves. Throughout June and July, gusts traveling from the Bellingshausen Sea towards the South Pole prevented ice from forming near the Antarctic Peninsula. Weather systems emanating from storms in the Indian Ocean—brought about by shifts in two regular atmospheric fluctuations, the El Niño Southern Oscillation and the Southern Annular Mode—may also have broken up sea ice as it began to form in East Antarctica. The ring of sea ice around Antarctica holds in place the continent's coastal ice shelves, which in turn do the same for its glaciers and ice sheets. If those ice shelves were to collapse—as the Conger shelf in east Antarctica did in 2022—the gates would open for continental ice to flow rapidly into the oceans. The west Antarctic ice sheet alone contains enough water to increase global sea level by 11 feet. Related: Antarctic Sea Ice Levels Dive In 'Five-Sigma Event', As Experts Flag Worsening Consequences For Planet and Antarctic Sea Ice Has Shrunk By An Area Nine Times The Size Of Britain

Primary Topic: Science

Topics: Global Warming, News article, Science

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