

The Atlantic

Ocean*

A One Page Zine by Brian Sproule

There is perhaps no more storied or well chronicled body of water than the Atlantic Ocean...



Its name derives from the Greek word, *Atlantikos*, the sea earning its name from the Titan tasked with holding the world upon his shoulders.

ATLANTIC OCEAN FLOOR

GREENLAND

BY THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

ILLUSTRATION BY RICHARD H. COOPER

NORTH

AMERICA

EU

SARAFIA

AFRICA

SOUTH AMERICA

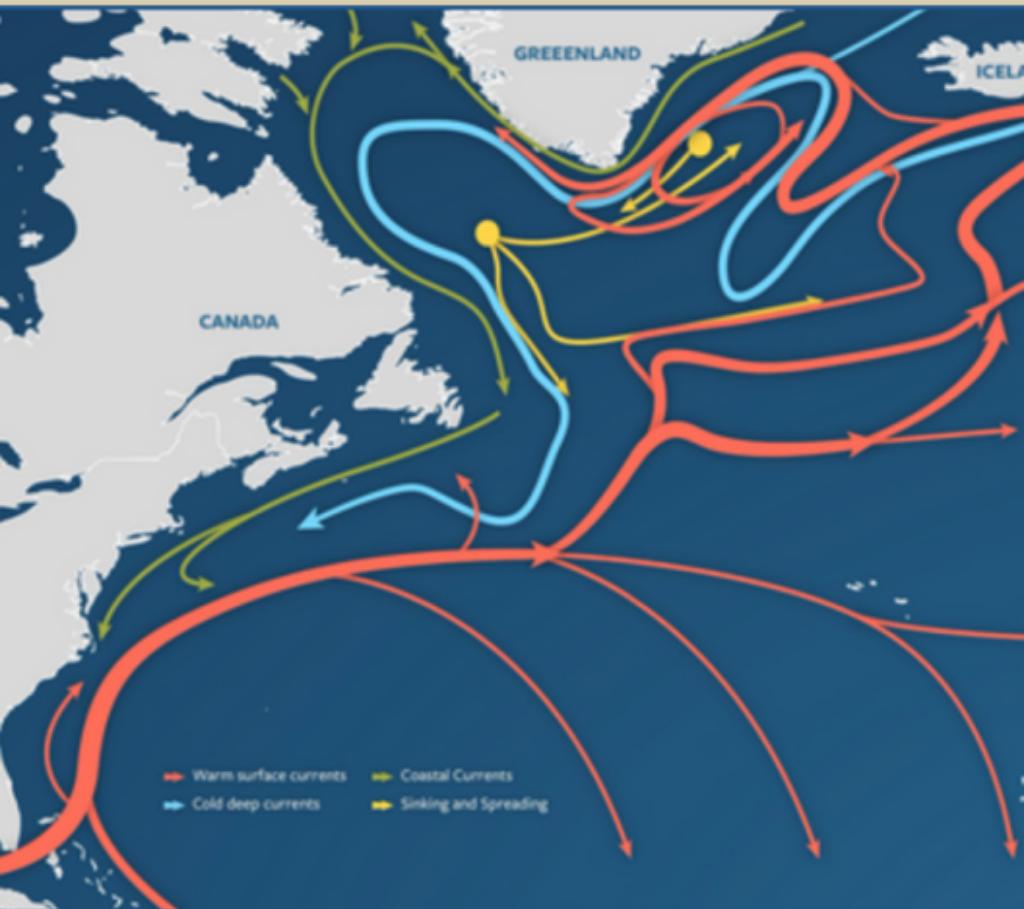
SOUTH

AMERICA

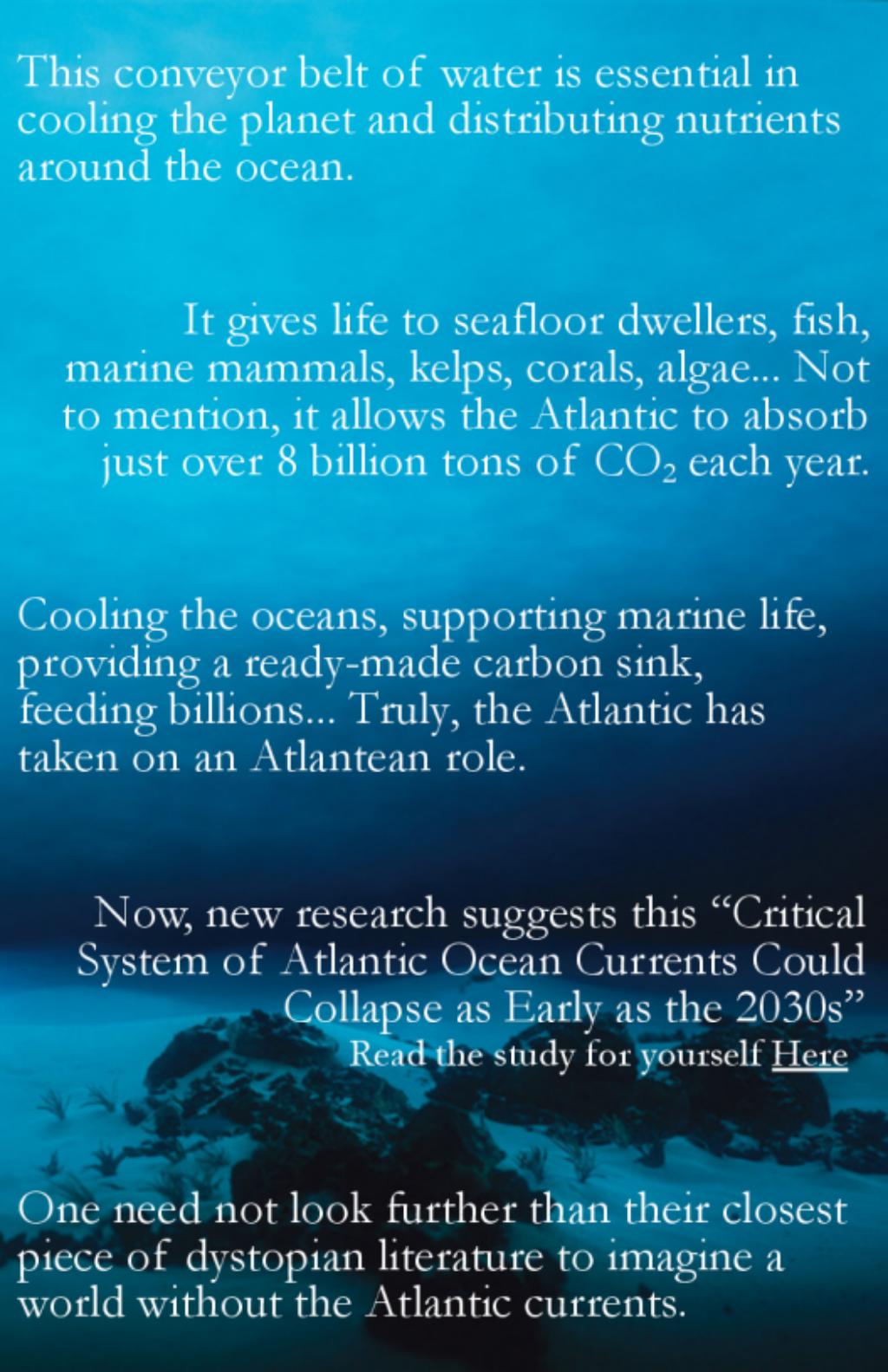


Though the Greeks knew the ocean well, they were blissfully unaware of how prophetic their namesake for the Atlantic would become.

The Atlantic Meridional OVERTURNING CURRENT



Warm, less salty water near the surface flows north, eventually cooling and becoming denser as it approaches the poles. This denser water then sinks and flows south, completing the cycle. Both the better known Gulf Stream and North Atlantic Current comprise the AMOC.



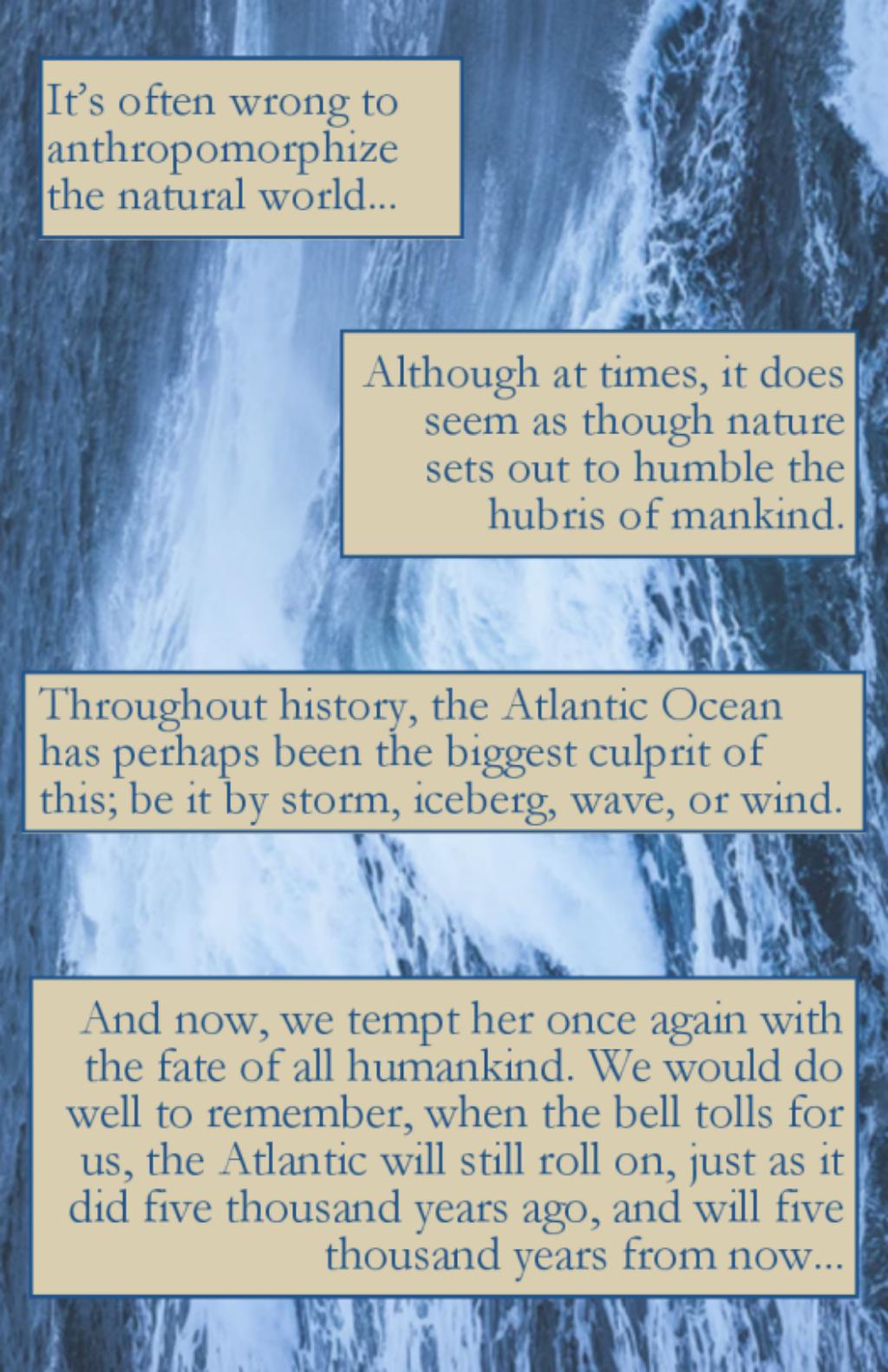
This conveyor belt of water is essential in cooling the planet and distributing nutrients around the ocean.

It gives life to seafloor dwellers, fish, marine mammals, kelps, corals, algae... Not to mention, it allows the Atlantic to absorb just over 8 billion tons of CO₂ each year.

Cooling the oceans, supporting marine life, providing a ready-made carbon sink, feeding billions... Truly, the Atlantic has taken on an Atlantean role.

Now, new research suggests this “Critical System of Atlantic Ocean Currents Could Collapse as Early as the 2030s”
Read the study for yourself [Here](#)

One need not look further than their closest piece of dystopian literature to imagine a world without the Atlantic currents.



It's often wrong to anthropomorphize the natural world...

Although at times, it does seem as though nature sets out to humble the hubris of mankind.

Throughout history, the Atlantic Ocean has perhaps been the biggest culprit of this; be it by storm, iceberg, wave, or wind.

And now, we tempt her once again with the fate of all humankind. We would do well to remember, when the bell tolls for us, the Atlantic will still roll on, just as it did five thousand years ago, and will five thousand years from now...

