

“Doomsday Glacier” melting fast

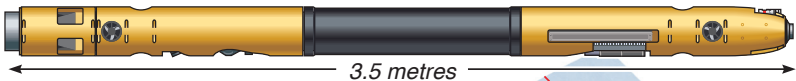
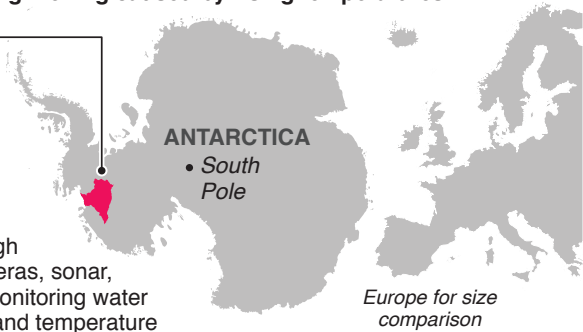
A new study providing a close-up view of Antarctica's vast Thwaites Glacier shows warm water is seeping into its weak spots, worsening melting caused by rising temperatures

THWAITES GLACIER

192,000km²

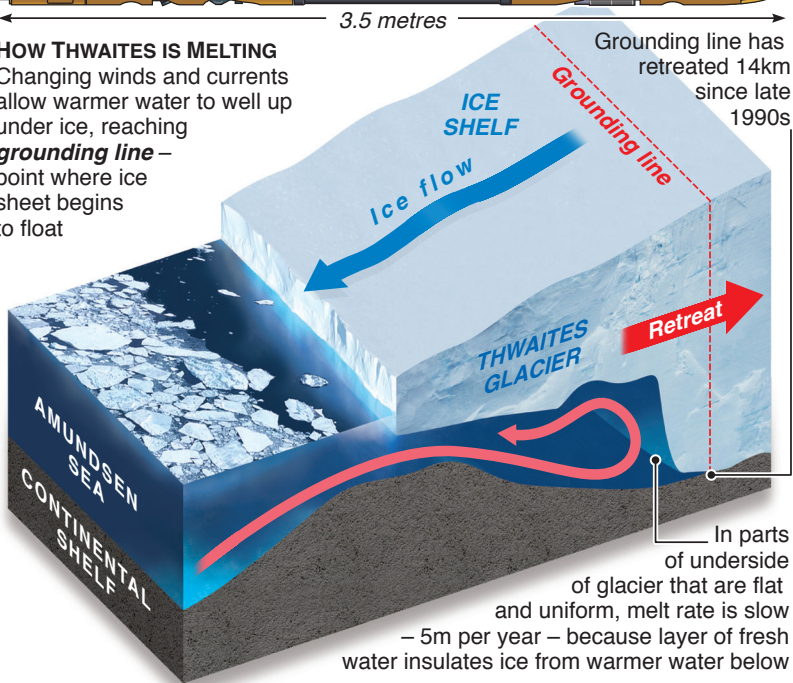
If melted completely, Thwaites could raise global sea levels by half a metre

Icefin: Underwater robot fed through borehole drilled through glacier. It carries cameras, sonar, and instruments for monitoring water flow, salinity, oxygen and temperature



HOW THWAITES IS MELTING

Changing winds and currents allow warmer water to well up under ice, reaching **grounding line** – point where ice sheet begins to float



Sources:
thwaitesglacier.org,
International Thwaites
Glacier Collaboration,
British Antarctic Survey

But where there are fissures or sharp steps, warm water is eroding glacier at much higher rate – 30m per year – contributing to nearly one third of ice loss