



Satellite Images Show Antarctica's Melting Ice Impacting Marine Life

Description

Antarctica is losing its ice quickly, causing major changes in the Southern Ocean. A new study shows that as sea ice melts, it disrupts marine life, with krill numbers falling and salps, a type of jelly-like creature, increasing. This change is an urgent problem for ecosystems around the world.

For many years, Antarctica's sea ice was stable and important for creatures like krill. However, in the last decade, much of it has melted away. Scientists now believe this loss is likely permanent, mainly due to climate change and rising temperatures.

Satellite images helped researchers see how the ocean has changed from ice-covered waters to open sea. These changes have allowed more phytoplankton, tiny plant-like organisms, to grow. While phytoplankton are crucial for the food web, the loss of ice has also affected larger animals that need it for survival.

Krill are essential for many marine animals, including whales. Their decline can harm other species and the fishing industry. As krill numbers drop, salps are thriving in the new conditions, taking their place but contributing less to the carbon cycle.

These changes pose serious risks to marine biodiversity and the health of the Southern Ocean. Scientists continue to study these transformations to better understand their long-term effects.

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL2

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