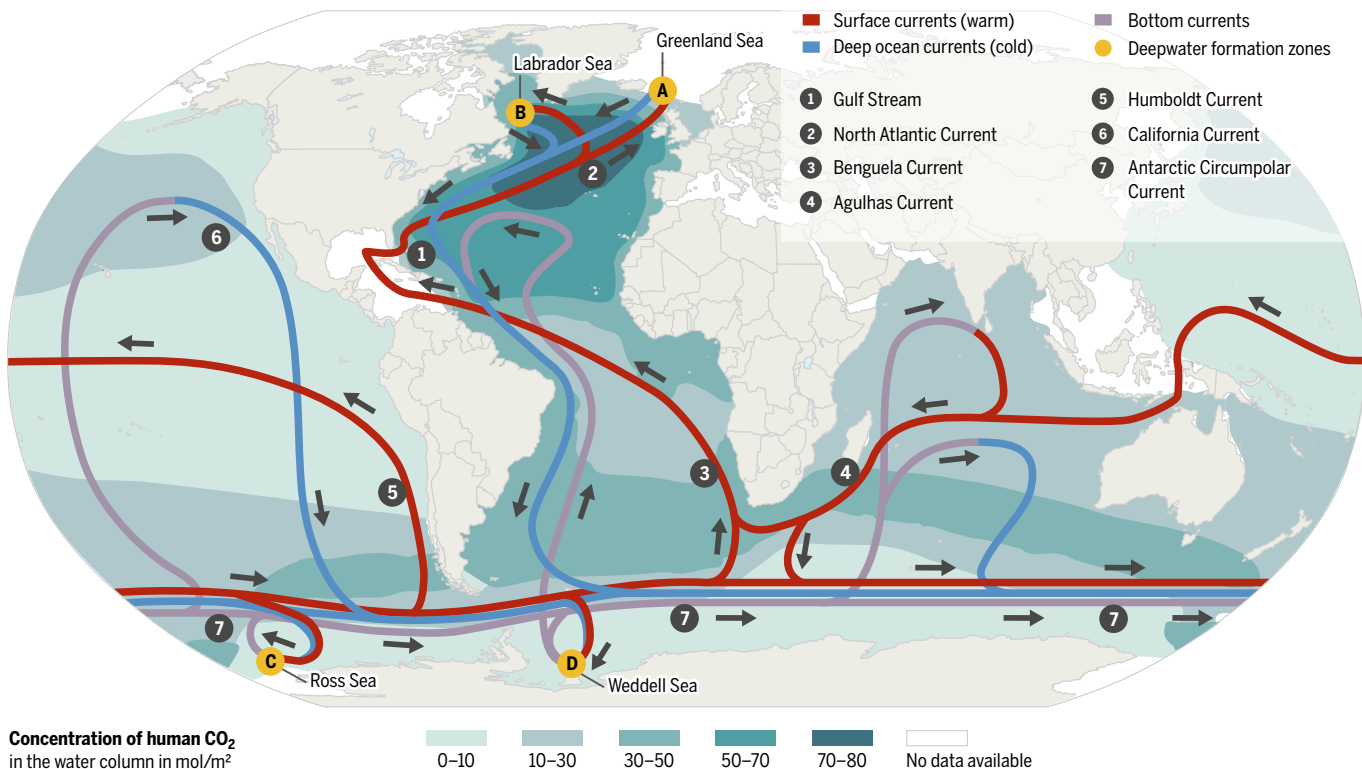


The Global Conveyor Belt—How the Ocean Stores CO₂



CO₂ entrapment is made possible by large oceanic currents. Working like conveyor belts, they carry warm surface water, which absorbs CO₂, from the tropics in the Atlantic towards the colder poles. On the way, the water slowly cools and becomes saltier. When it arrives in the Greenland Sea **A**, the Labrador Sea **B**, and at the

Antarctic coast in the Ross Sea **C** and the Weddell Sea **D**, the heavy surface water sinks into the depths, taking the CO₂ with it. The CO₂-rich water then flows back towards the tropics. As it travels, the cold water slowly mixes with the warmer layers above and rises—very slowly—back to the surface.