

The Ocean's cold heart

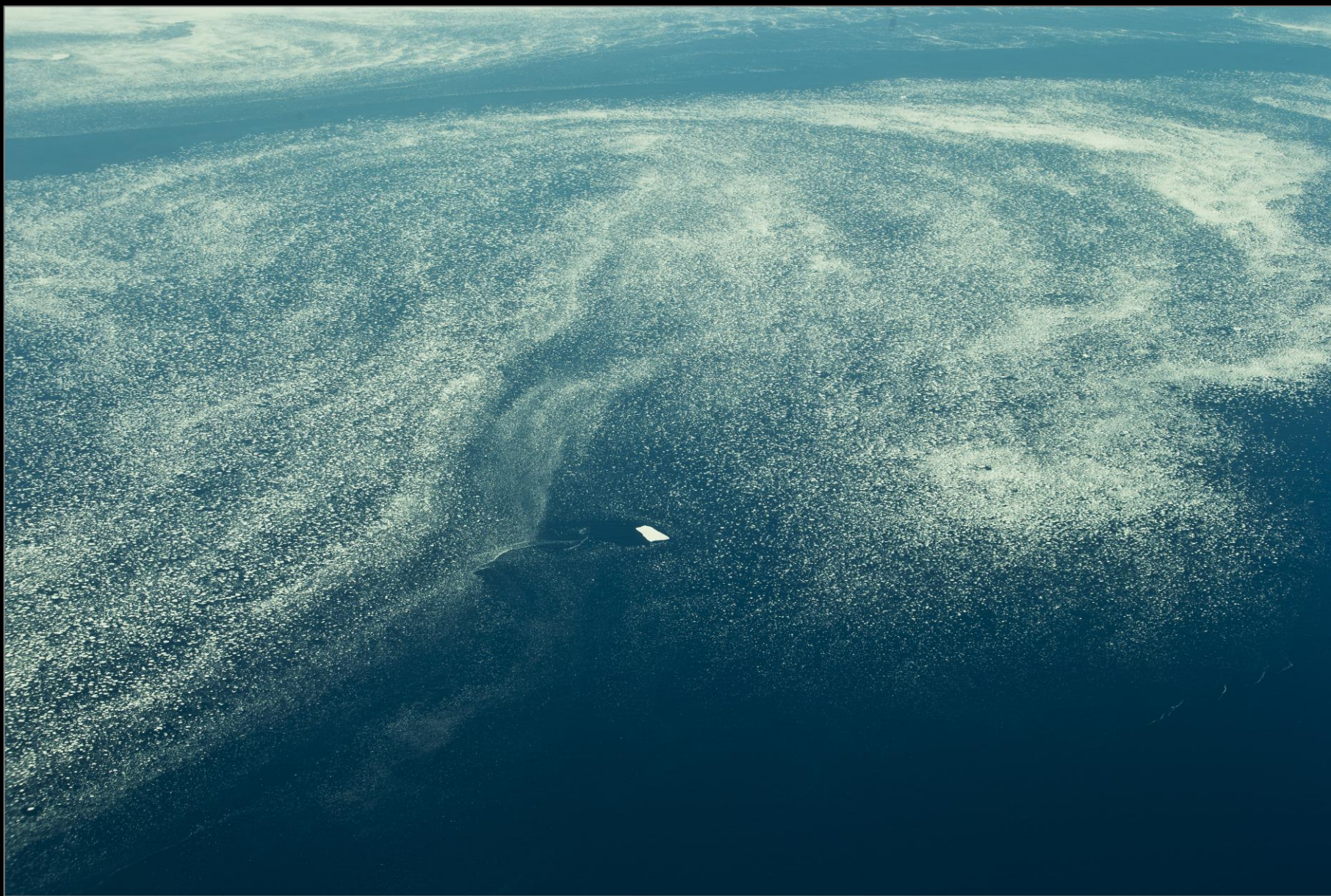
When we travel to Greenland, we most often departure from Europe. The travel goes across the Atlantic to Iceland. From Iceland we are flying straight to the west toward the east coast of Greenland. In the altitude of eleven kilometres, we get a view of one of the nature's most spectacular works.

Along the east coast an ocean current brings along a several hundred kilometres wide belt of ice from the north to the south. The ice from the Arctic Ocean is about a year to traverse the road from the world's northernmost ocean to the shores around Southwest Greenland.

The sea current to the south is a result of what is termed The Ocean's cold heart. It is a pump, which with a similar pump at Antarctica creates the great ocean currents in the oceans around the globe.

The engine of this pump is cold and salty water, which because of its gravity sink to the bottom of the Arctic Ocean. This cold, heavy water is moving south along the coast of Greenland and throughout the Atlantic into the Indian Ocean and the Pacific. The sea water is heated and rises to the surface. It creates a new current, which as warm surface water moves back to the north - an ocean current known as the Gulf Stream. Now the process starts over again.

In the most recent years the movement of the polar ice is changing. The polar ice is thinner and often form spirals on its way south, because in contrast to the heavier polar ice the thin polar ice is more affected by the wind than earlier.



Along the East Greenland coast, June 2015

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