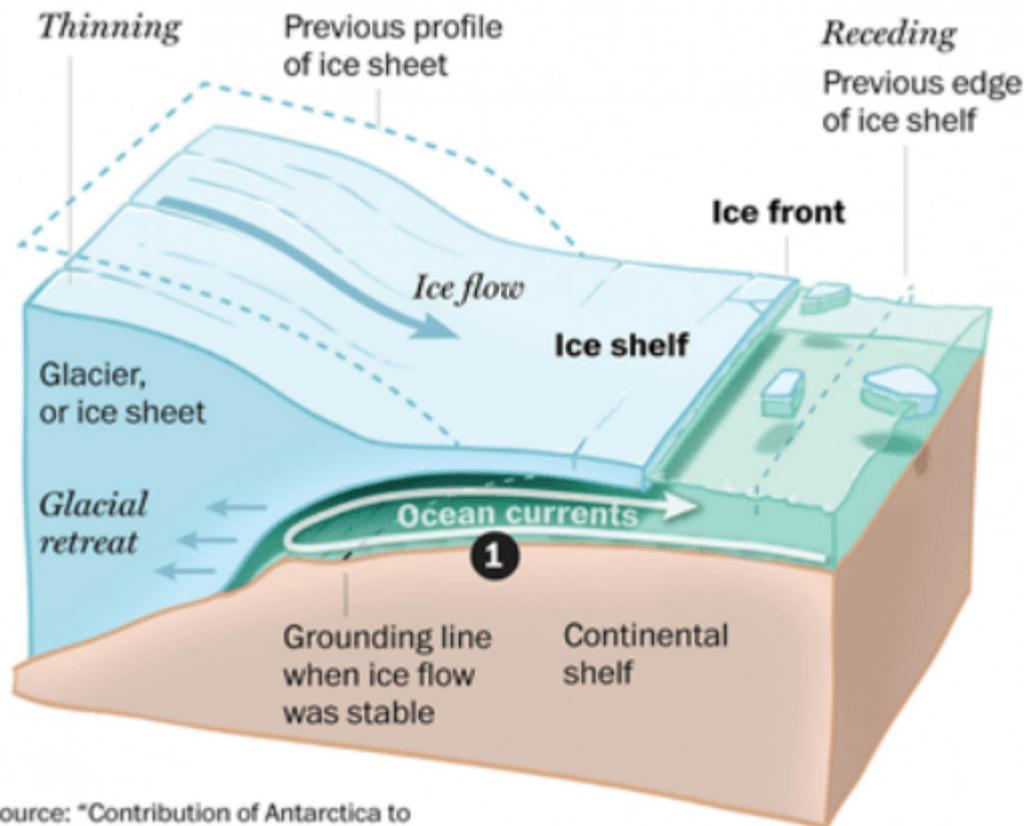


## Melting from below

Scientists have long known that glaciers resting under sea level can be unstable if they rest on a downward sloping sea bed.

**1.** Warmer ocean currents erode the glacier's base from below. The grounding line retreats downhill, and as it does, even more of the glacier is exposed to warm water. It melts more, and flows faster.



Source: "Contribution of Antarctica to Past and Future Sea-Level Rise," by Robert M. DeConto and David Pollard, in *Nature*

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