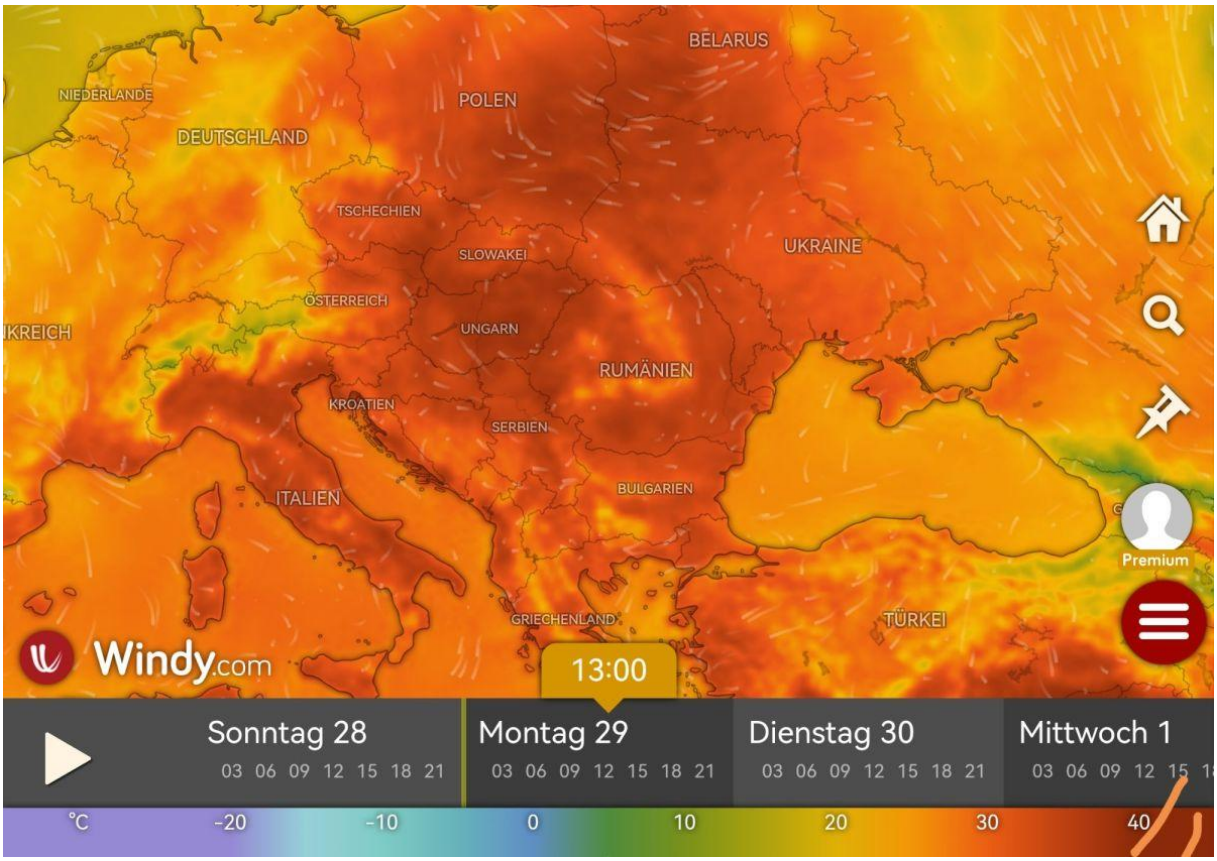
tkp The blog for science & politics



Climate research in contradiction: The Southern Ocean and the CO2 question

June 29, 2026 by Dr. Peter F. Mayer 5.7 minute read

In current weather reports, any temperature above 20 degrees Celsius is presented as evidence of climate change caused by man-made CO2. Cold waves, on the other hand, are seen as unfortunate weather extremes that may also be related to the aforementioned climate change.

Two scientific heavyweights within just a few months have shaken the established climate narrative—and, tellingly, the mainstream media has barely reported on them. At stake is nothing less than the question of whether the CO_2 myth, upon which our entire energy, economic, and mobility policy is based, can even withstand empirical scrutiny. Spoiler alert: It cannot.

New data from the US National Science Foundation are turning previous models of the Southern Ocean's biological productivity on their head. At the same time, a long-term study

from Queen's University Belfast exposes the CO_2 hypothesis for what it is: a belief system without empirical foundation.

It's no secret that climate models tend to sketch reality rather than precisely depict it—at least not outside the IPCC bubble. But the fact that they **were fundamentally wrong** about one of the central tipping points of the global climate system can certainly be described as a scientific own goal.

Researchers at the *National Center for Atmospheric Research* (NCAR), funded by the *US National Science Foundation* , presented groundbreaking new findings in May 2026: The **biological productivity of the Southern Ocean in summer is significantly higher than** predicted by previous estimates and subsequent models. NSF NCAR Research: Southern Ocean Biological Productivity

Why this is an important scientific finding:

The Southern Ocean is the planetary engine of climate regulation. Its circulation determines how heat is absorbed and redistributed. It controls the supply and distribution of nutrients. And—crucially—it is responsible for the formation of deep-water masses that store carbon for centuries.

In other words, **if the Southern Ocean's biological pump is working harder than previously thought, the entire carbon budget is shifting.** The oceans are absorbing more CO_2 than expected—and all without political decisions, carbon taxes, or moralizing climate activists.

The Belfast Study

While the NCAR data shake the model assumptions about carbon uptake, another study has attacked the very foundation of the CO_2 hypothesis — and was effectively ignored by the media.

In 2025, Queen *'s University Belfast* published a study analyzing daily temperature data from weather stations over a period from **1899 to 2024—125** years, not a selective cherry-picking period, but the full breadth of the industrialized era. The central finding, in no uncertain terms:

“A direct examination of publicly available daily temperature data from weather stations does not support the notion that CO_2 is the primary driver of global warming. If this were the case, periods with higher CO_2 emissions would show faster warming than periods with lower emissions. In contrast, this study concludes that in some recent periods, despite sharp increases in CO_2 emissions, there has been a global cooling trend. Moreover, the long-term temperature rise was steeper in earlier periods when CO_2 emissions were moderate compared to today’s levels.” Queen’s University Belfast: CO_2 not primary driver of global warming

This **completely overturns the CO_2 narrative.** The logic is as simple as it is devastating: if CO_2 were indeed the great thermostat, the warming curve would have to follow the increase in emissions. But it doesn't.

The three knockout criteria that the IPCC does not discuss

The Belfast study provides three empirical findings that are simply incompatible with the CO_2 hypothesis:

1. **No acceleration despite emissions boom** — In recent periods with massively increased CO_2 emissions, there has been no proportional acceleration of warming. On the contrary: there have been phases of global cooling.
2. **Steeper warming with moderate emissions** — In earlier periods, when industrial CO_2 emissions were ridiculously low compared to today, the long-term temperature rise was *steeper* . This is the exact opposite of what the hypothesis predicts.
3. **No correlation in the raw data** — The daily, publicly available station data simply show no CO_2 fingerprint. Anyone who sees one does so only after massive statistical "adjustments" that make the dataset conform to the model.

Imagine if a drug underwent the same evidence test: no dose-response relationship, effect at the wrong phase, raw data contradicting the hypothesis. **Approval would be denied in ten minutes.**

The Southern Ocean as a silent corrective factor

The NCAR results fit seamlessly into this picture. If the Southern Ocean is more biologically productive than modeled, this means:

- **Increased CO_2 uptake** by phytoplankton and the biological carbonate pump
- **More carbon export to the deep sea** , where it remains bound for centuries.
- **Systematic overestimation of the atmospheric fate** of anthropogenic CO_2 in all common climate models

For decades, climate research acted as if the oceans were a passive, largely understood carbon sink. Reality is correcting this hubris— **with phytoplankton blooms that no computer model predicted.**

The political dimension: Why nobody wants to hear this

The fact that these findings didn't make headlines in Der Spiegel and Tagesschau has a simple explanation: **The CO_2 hypothesis is no longer a scientific project; it's a political one.** Trillion-dollar industries, supranational governance structures, CO_2 emissions trading, the European Green Deal, and the moral legitimacy of an entire generation of politicians who portray themselves as "saviors of the planet" all depend on it.

Scientific findings that threaten this house of cards are not refuted—they are **ignored, marginalized, or defamed as “climate denial.”** The Belfast researchers were not given an institutional platform to discuss their results. The NCAR data will likely suffer the same fate: quietly incorporated into subsequent models without anyone questioning the underlying assumptions.

What really matters: Scientific hygiene

A hypothesis that clashes with empirical data must be modified or discarded. This is the fundamental method of science—at least according to Karl Popper and the natural sciences. The CO_2 hypothesis clashes with:

- Daily temperature data from 1899 to 2024
- The lack of a dose-response relationship between emissions and warming
- New evidence on the Southern Ocean biological pump
- The existence of natural climate cycles, which are systematically underestimated in models.

Anyone who, in light of this data, continues to claim that "science is settled" has not understood the difference between science and religion.

The oceans are correcting the models — policy should follow.

The new NCAR data and the Belfast study are two pieces of the same puzzle: **The climate system is more complex, more robust, and less CO_2-determined than the political and media narrative claims.** The Southern Ocean breathes more deeply than previously thought. The temperature curve does not follow the emissions curve. And the models on which trillions of dollars in decisions are based have underestimated fundamental biological pumping mechanisms.