

SCOURING THE ROSS SEA



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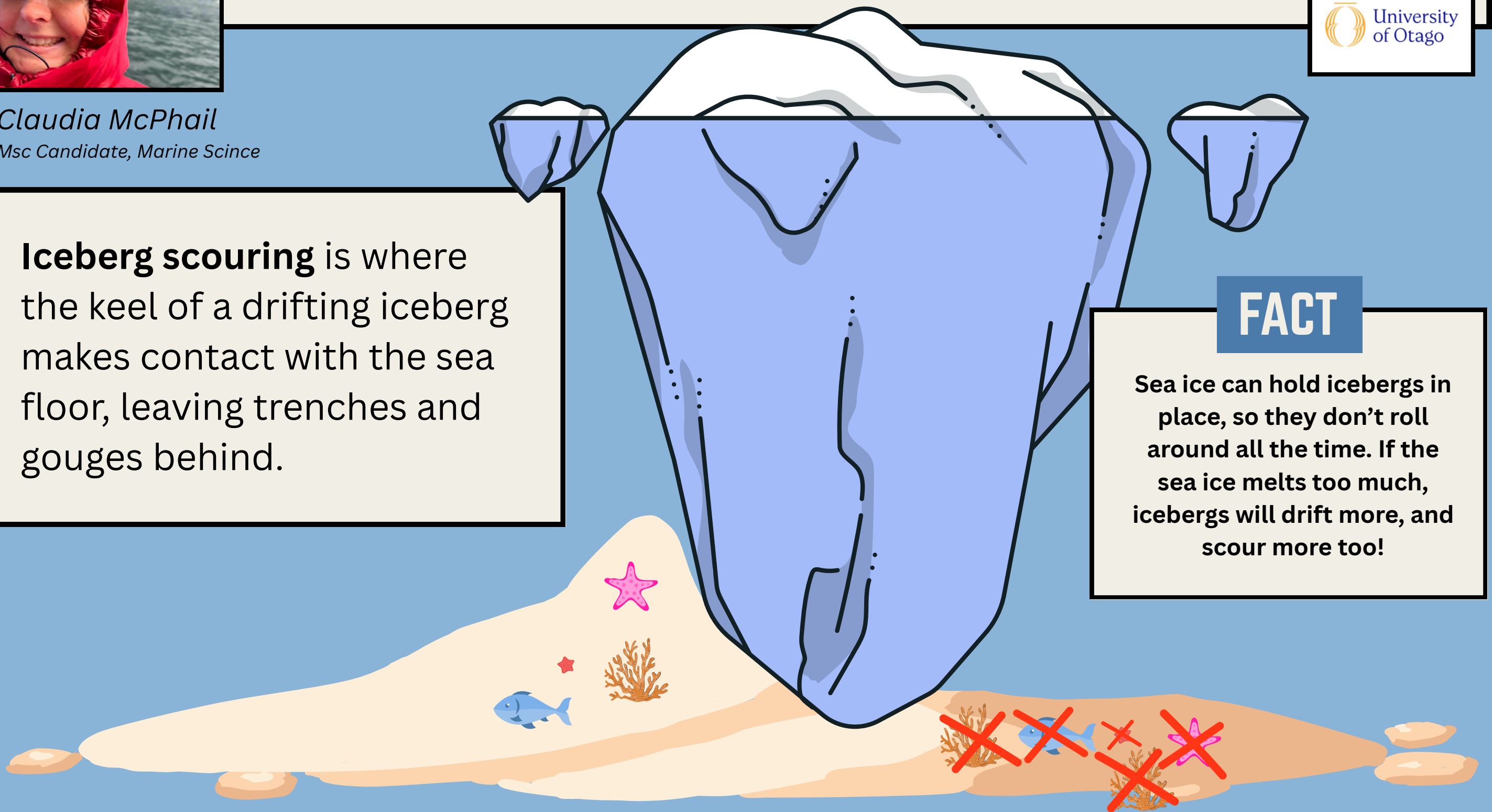
*In Antarctic waters, icebergs are moving more frequently.
How does this affect life on the sea floor?*



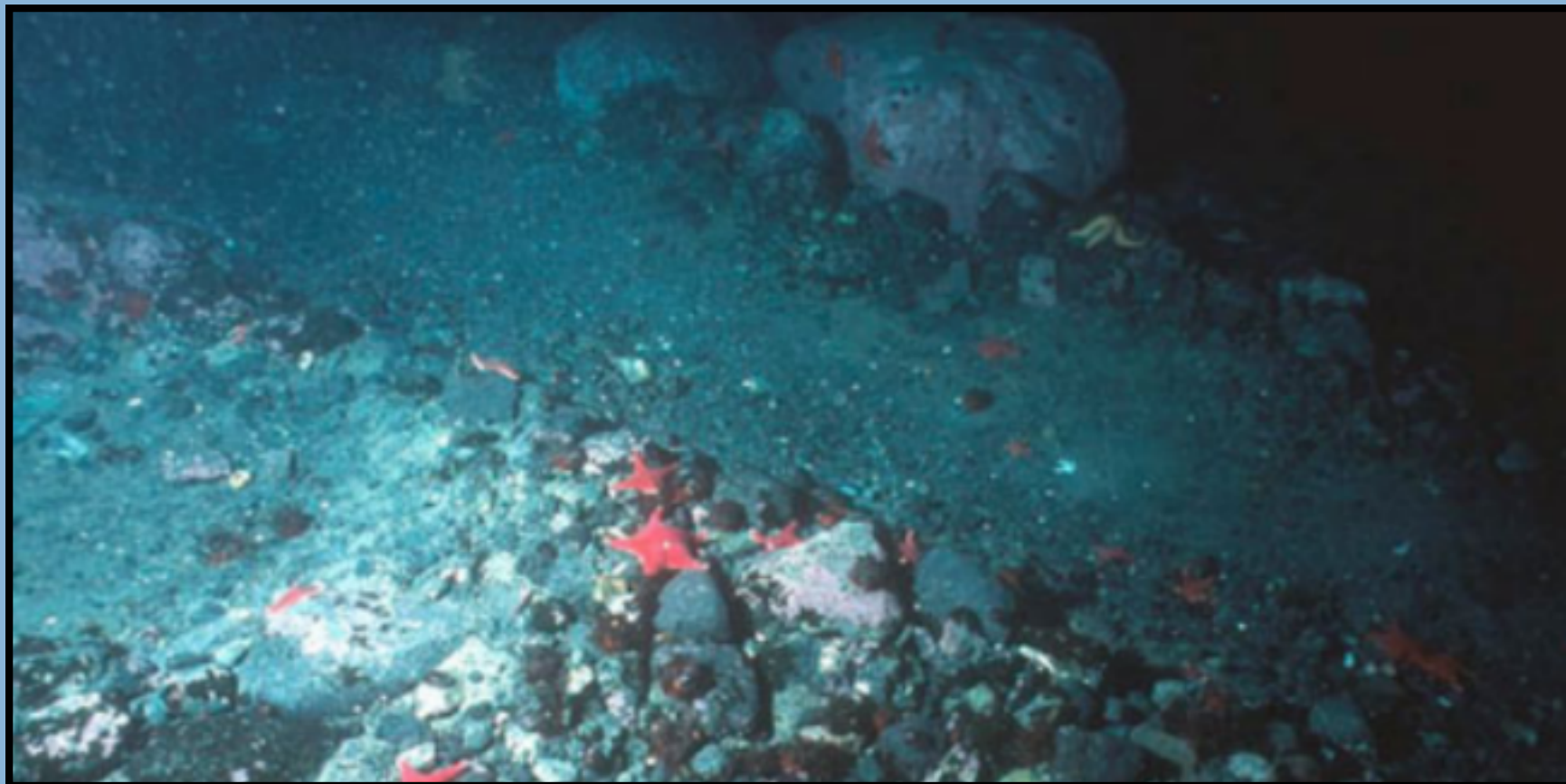
Iceberg scouring is where the keel of a drifting iceberg makes contact with the sea floor, leaving trenches and gouges behind.

FACT

Sea ice can hold icebergs in place, so they don't roll around all the time. If the sea ice melts too much, icebergs will drift more, and scour more too!



Example of real life scouring. Barnes 2017.



Scouring **disturbs** all of the organisms living on the sea floor. Recently scoured areas are barren. Sometimes, these areas fully recover, and sometimes, they're different.

This study will compare footage of the Ross Sea floor before scouring and for several years after. We'll measure things like **species richness and abundance**, as well as how much competition is occurring. This way we can see if disturbance from scouring is causing the ecosystem to **permanently change**, or if the community **recovers** over time.

SOURCES

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