

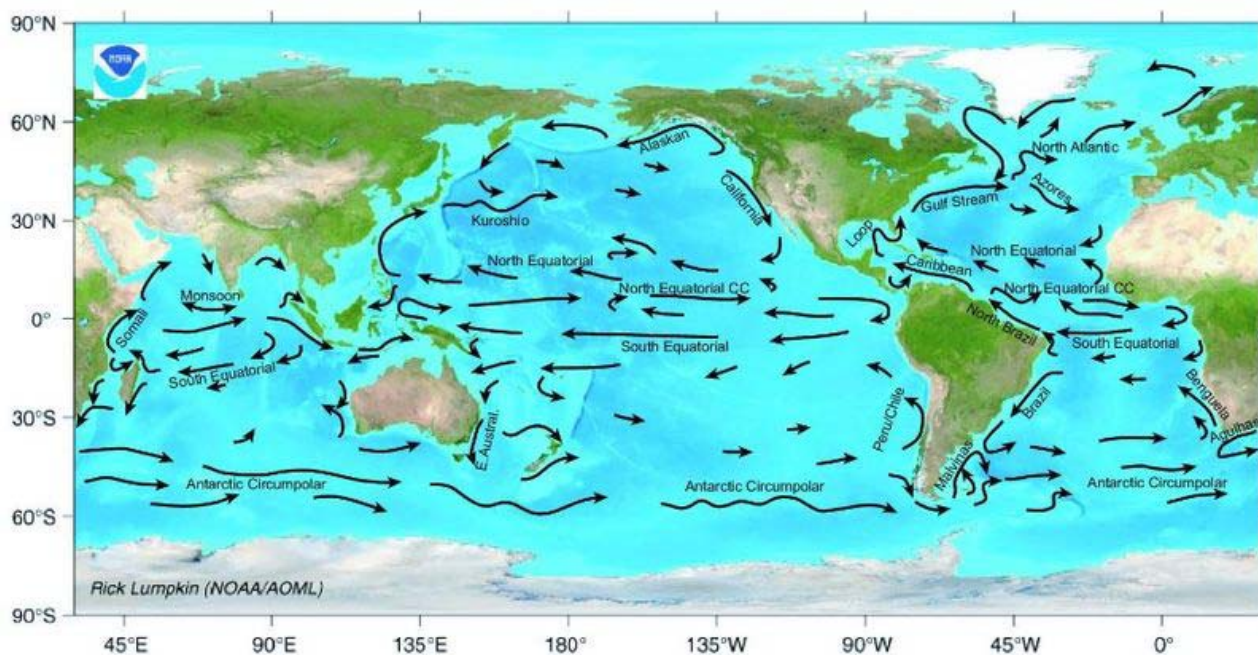
The HB Ocean Adventure Schools Programme is a Galway Stopover Volvo Ocean Race 2008-2009 Legacy Initiative. It introduces teachers and students in primary and secondary schools throughout Ireland to the sport of sailing, the marine environment, Ireland and its history with the sea, a variety of geography lessons and marine careers.

Skipper, Ian Walker, reporting from the Green Dragon this week said, "it seems strangely normal being at sea again. Even though the Rio stopover was short at only two weeks, I felt ready to leave. We made a good start and protected the favoured side of the course to stay in touch with the leaders. The key has been the current which has largely been helping us to get West".

OCEAN FACTS & CLASSROOM TASKS...

- **An ocean current** is a continuous, directed movement of ocean water generated by the forces acting upon the water, such as the Earth's rotation, wind, temperature, salinity differences and tides caused by the gravitational pull of the Moon and the Sun. Ocean currents can flow for thousands of kilometres and together they create the great flow of the global conveyor belt which plays a dominant part in determining the climate of many of the Earth's regions. Perhaps the most striking example is **the Gulf Stream**, which makes northwest Europe much more temperate than any other region at the same latitude. Learn more at www.letsdoitschools.com.

Major Surface Ocean Currents



- *Surface ocean currents are generally wind driven and develop their typical clockwise spirals in the northern hemisphere and counter-clockwise rotation in the southern hemisphere because of the imposed wind stresses.*
 - *The areas of surface ocean currents move somewhat with the seasons; this is most notable in equatorial currents.*
 - *Surface currents make up about 10% of all the water in the ocean.*
 - *Surface currents are generally restricted to the upper 400 metres of the ocean.*
 - *Knowledge of surface ocean currents is essential in reducing costs of shipping, since they reduce fuel costs.*
 - *Round-the-world sailing competitors employ surface currents to their benefit.*
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- **The Skipper** is a person who has command of a boat or ship, more or less equivalent to "captain." At sea, the skipper has absolute command over the crew. **Your task this week is to find a skipper in your area and invite him to your school to talk about his/her ocean adventures.**