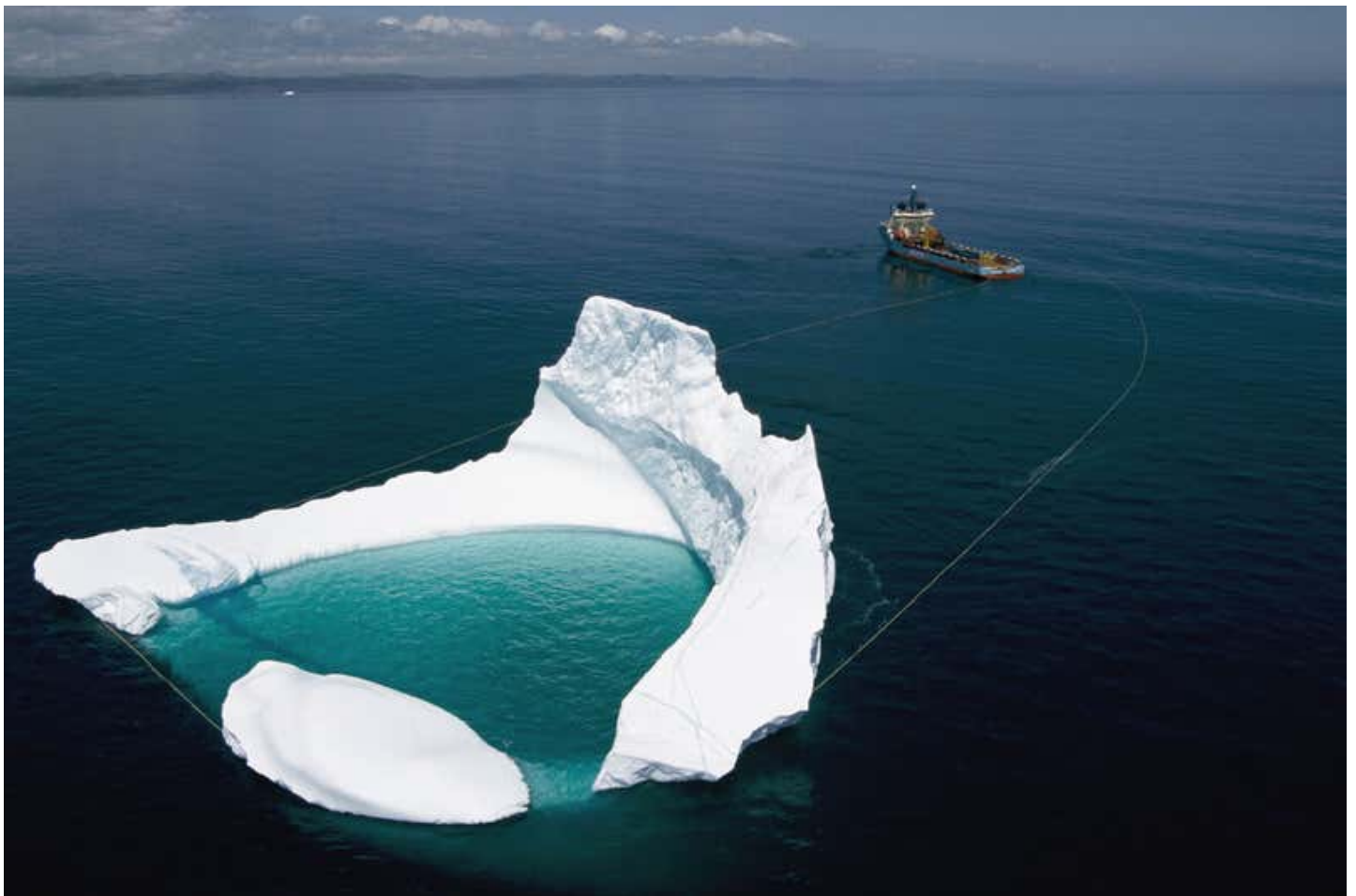


Towing icebergs to Cape Town is a poor way to halt water crisis

Hauling chunks of polar ice to dry regions to provide fresh water sounds tempting but there are many reasons to reject it, says **Olive Heffernan**

EARTH | COMMENT 8 May 2018

By **Olive Heffernan**



Icebergs are already towed away from oil rigs

Randy Olson/National Geographic/Getty

Nancy Gibson, National Geographic Society

In an unconventional solution to Cape Town's water crisis, a marine salvage expert is suggesting towing a giant iceberg to the city and melting it down as drinking water.

In drought since 2015, Cape Town was due to reach **Day Zero** about now, the point at which the city's taps would be turned off, forcing locals to queue for water at guarded standpoints. For now, this doomsday scenario **has been pushed back to 2019**.

But Nick Sloane, who led the refloating of Italian cruise ship Costa Concordia in ...

Continue reading

Subscribe for unlimited digital access

Subscribe now for unlimited access

APP + WEB

PRINT + APP + WEB



- Unlimited web access
- New Scientist app
- Videos of over 200 science talks plus weekly crosswords available exclusively to subscribers
- Exclusive access to subscriber-only events including our 1st of July Climate Change event
- A year of unparalleled environmental coverage, exclusively with New Scientist and UNEP

€4.37
PER WEEK
Save 48%

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE 48%

Existing subscribers, please [log in](#) with your email address to link your account access.

Paid annually by Credit Card
Inclusive of applicable taxes (VAT)

TRENDING

LATEST

VIDEO

FREE

- Covid-19 news: Germany, France and Italy suspend AstraZeneca vaccine** 1
- A Japanese spacecraft bombed an asteroid and it barely flinched** 2
- Ancient 'computer' may have used bejewelled rings to model the cosmos** 3
- Colorado's legal cannabis farms emit more carbon than its coal mines** 4
- Fingerprint ridges carry nerve endings that make us hypersensitive** 5

MORE FROM NEW SCIENTIST

HEALTH



Covid-19 news: Germany, France and Italy suspend AstraZeneca vaccine

HUMANS

New
Scientist

Early humans may have turned to small game after wiping out big beasts

EARTH

New
Scientist



One side of Earth's interior is losing heat much faster than the other

HEALTH



The number of twins in the world is the highest it has ever been

PROMOTED STORIES

Is bitcoin headed for the moon? Learn all about bitcoin

eToro

New All-Natural Formula to Bring You Relief from Constipation and IBS-C

Life & Plants Magazine

Is This £39 Monocular Better Than £3000 Telescopes?

Starscope

Do this Immediately if You Have Enlarged Prostrate (Watch)

healthsvip

Recommended by



[Contact us](#) | [Coronavirus: customer update](#) | [Help](#) | [About us](#) | [Privacy & cookies](#) |
[Cookie preferences](#) | [Terms & conditions](#)

[Advertise](#) | [Write for us](#) | [Events](#) | [Science jobs](#) | [Syndication](#) | [RSS feeds](#)
[Gift subscriptions](#) | [Student subscriptions](#) | [Educational subscriptions](#) |
[Corporate subscriptions](#)

GET THE APP

FOLLOW US



© Copyright New Scientist Ltd.

Back to top 