

**Newsweek**

# Mystery as Underwater Anomaly Larger Than Texas Spotted off African Coast

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A wave anomaly captured by a weather-mapping system sparked a global mystery this week—with some internet sleuths even claiming it proves the existence of aliens.

A giant cluster of waves over 80 feet high and spanning 2,000 miles—an area larger than Texas—appeared to [move through the ocean](#) off the coast of Africa on April 10 in a journey that lasted about 24 hours before it vanished. Some online commentators said the formation could only have been created by something moving under the surface of the sea—making it an "unidentified submersible object," the [ocean equivalent of a UFO](#).

A graphic of the incident has been shared widely online and sparked numerous jokes and theories. Some suggest the anomaly shows the path of a giant underwater sea creature, like the fictional Cthulhu, or a submerged alien craft. But *Newsweek* has learned that, in fact, it proves nothing more than the fallibility of data after discovering that the anomaly was caused by a "model error."

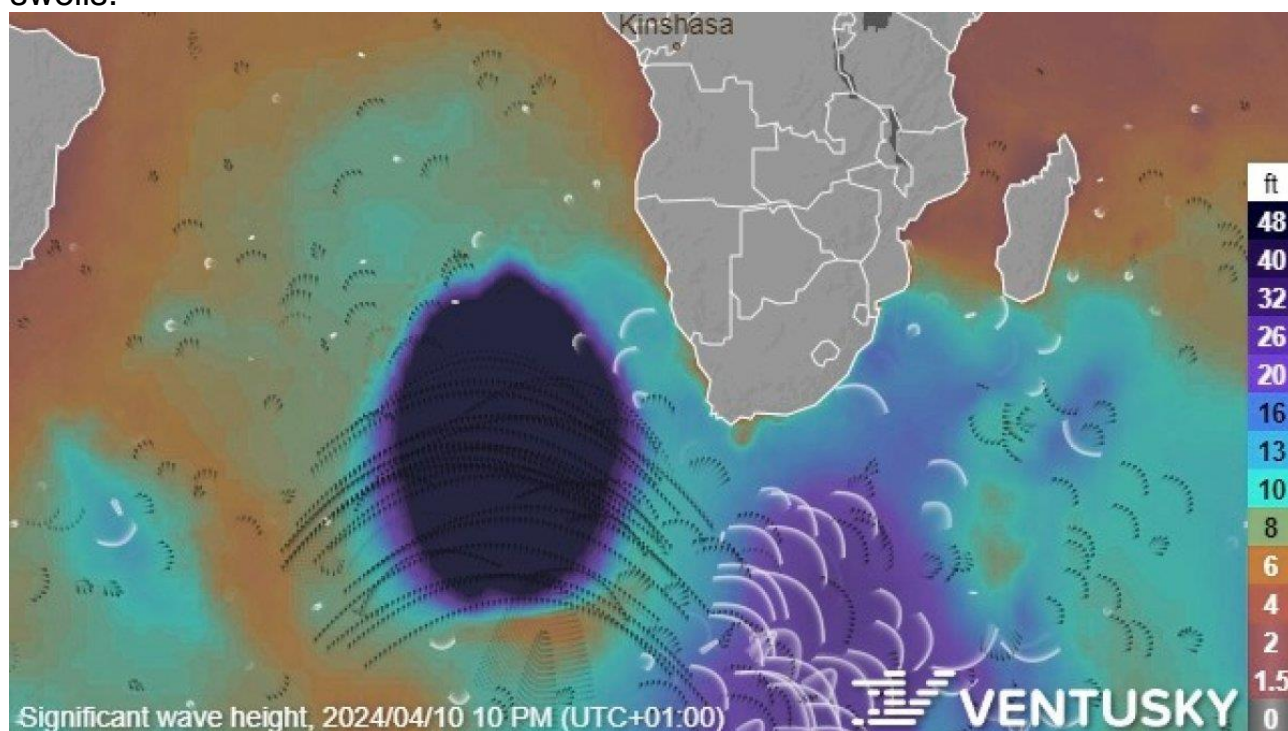


A man watching large waves crash against rocks in Pacific Grove, California, on February 7, 2006. An ocean-mapping graphic sparked a mystery after showing that a giant cluster of waves traveled along the coast of...

The wave anomaly was picked up by Ventusky, a meteorological app run by the Czech company InMeteo, which allows users to observe weather patterns, winds, and waves, using real-time data collated from respected international sources,

including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a U.S. government agency.

On its website, the company wrote: "We have created an entirely new system of displaying waves. Through the use of animated arcs, our visualization clearly differentiates the direction of movement and height of both wind waves and swells."



The wave anomaly, shown here in dark purple, moved alongside the coast of Africa. On social media, users debated whether the anomaly was a giant sea creature or system error. **VENTUSKY**

The graphic that showed the unusual sea activity near the coast of Africa has been shared on X, formerly [Twitter](#), numerous times—including by an account called "think tank," whose post received 163,000 views within seven hours.

The account said the graphic showed "an anomaly moving under water—the size of Texas."

The anomaly was also discussed in a YouTube video posted by MrMBB333, a channel that explores unexplained phenomena. Using [Zoom](#) Earth satellite maps, the presenter measured the size of the anomaly and said the area of disturbance in the ocean was about 2,000 miles long and 1,510 miles wide.

It dwarfs the African countries it passes, such as Angola and Namibia, and is more than double the length of Texas. The Lone Star State is about 810 miles long and 773 miles wide.

Responses in the video's comments section echoed those on other social media platforms and included jokes and theories of asteroids, aliens, sea monsters and data errors.

One user wrote, "Ok, who released the Kraken?"

"Probably another uber driver got lost," another added.

Some commenters suggested Cthulhu, the giant octopus-like creature invented by the writer H.P. Lovecraft, could be responsible.

"So i just watched the movie underwater lol so im freaking out cause ... the Cthulhu," one user wrote.

Others suggested aliens could be behind the strange activity.

"I've always said aliens don't come from space, they're in the oceans," one commenter said.

"The aliens have begun their water extraction operations. Clearly not a glitch," another added.

Other theories included a "sea creature waking up from a 3000 year long nap," a "portal" that opened after the [solar eclipse on April 8](#) and a "doomsday iceberg" that [broke off](#) Antarctica.

Some viewers maintained the anomaly was caused by a system error.

"It's gotta be a malfunctioning sensor/device," one user wrote.

"A wave that big would have impacted the coasts by now. Unless there is a total media blackout (a possibility), we would have heard of something by now. Weird nonetheless," another said.

"Wouldn't it have been confirmed/identified by ships if 80ft waves were happening ... surely that would be worthy to note by mariners," a commenter wrote.

An X user posted: "The only issue with this is that there are like 10,000 ships in that area at any given time. All of them would have sunk under 90meter waves. 10/10 a glitch in the system."

Now *Newsweek* can confirm that the skeptics were correct.

Ventusky's spokesperson David Prantl said in an email response on Friday: "It was a model error. Ventusky serves as a visualization platform that collects data from various sources. The error originated in the model itself, so it was also reflected in the visualization on our website. In this case, the model is from the German Meteorological Service (DWD), with whom we are in contact and they have already resolved this error.

"Please note, that the model receives millions of data points from ships and buoys throughout the ocean. Problems can occur in such a large database. However, it may take a time to determine the exact cause of this error."