



## Concern Over Gibraltar Strait Subduction Zone

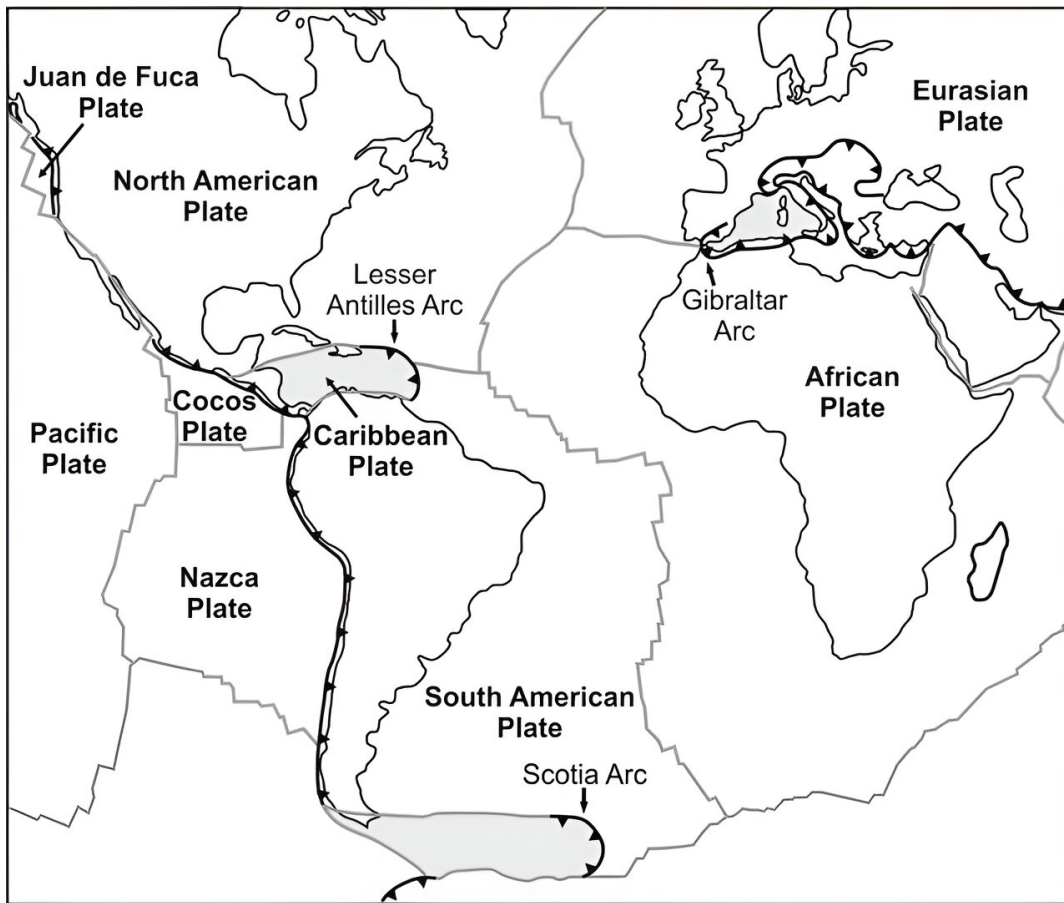
[Source: TOI](#)

Recently, Scientists raised concerns about the future of the [Atlantic Ocean](#). They have identified a [subduction zone](#) beneath the [Gibraltar Strait](#), situated between **Spain and Morocco**.

- It is a narrow gap separating **Europe** and **Africa**. It marks the meeting point of the [Eurasian Plate](#) and the [African Plate](#).
- **The Ring of Fire:** Similar to the [Pacific Ocean's Ring of Fire](#), where subduction zones encircle the **Pacific Ocean**, the **Atlantic Ocean** may witness the formation of a new subduction system.
- **Subduction Process:** Subduction zones occur where tectonic plates interact, with one plate diving below another. In this case, the **African Plate** is subducting beneath the **Eurasian Plate**, leading to seismic activity and earthquake risks.
  - Scientists predict that this subduction zone will expand westwards over the next 20 million years.
- **Ocean Basin Shrinking:** The subduction process could lead to the [shrinking of the ocean basin](#), ultimately closing off the **Atlantic Ocean**.
- **Subduction Invasion:** Despite its current relatively small size (about 125 miles in length), projections suggest that the **subduction zone could expand to approximately 500 miles** within the next two decades.
  - This phenomenon is known as “**subduction invasion**.”

//





**Read More:** [Pacific Ring of Fire](#), [Mid Oceanic Ridge](#), [Seafloor Spreading](#), [Tectonic Plates](#), [Tectonic Evolution of Greater Maldive Ridge](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/concern-over-gibraltar-strait-subduction-zone>