U.S. National Ice Center

NOAA Satellite Operations Facility 4231 Suitland Road Suitland, MD 20746

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Contact: Evelyn V. Bowens
NIC.PAO@noaa.gov
301-817-3975

Iceberg A-68

Calves off Larsen-C Ice Shelf on the Antarctic Peninsula

July 13, 2017 SUITLAND, MD —The U.S National Ice Center (USNIC) confirmed a new iceberg has calved from the Larsen-C ice shelf on the east side of the Antarctic Peninsula. This iceberg, named A-68, is located at 67°55' South, 60°53' West, in the Weddell Sea. The iceberg measures 84 nautical miles on its longest axis and 25 nautical miles on its widest axis, and is slightly smaller than the state of Delaware.

A-68 was confirmed by USNIC Ice Analysts using the Sentinel-1 image (shown below) and longwave infrared imagery from the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) aboard NASA's Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership (NPP) satellite.

A-68 is expected to drift east-northeast along the Antarctic Peninsula in the Weddell Gyre over the next several months. It will likely fracture into smaller bergs before drifting far enough north to enter the Antarctic Circumpolar Current.

Iceberg names are derived from the Antarctic quadrant in which they were originally sighted. The quadrants are divided counter-clockwise in the following manner:

A = 0-90W (Bellingshausen/Weddell Sea)

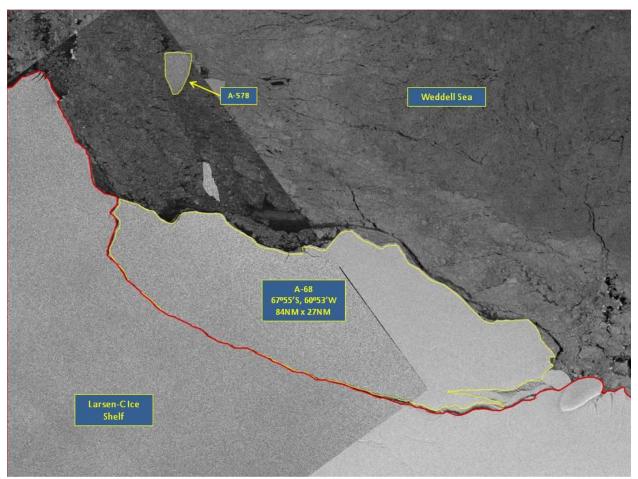
B = 90W-180 (Amundsen/Eastern Ross Sea)

C = 180-90E (Western Ross Sea/Wilkesland)

D = 90E-0 (Amery/Eastern Weddell Sea)

When first sighted, an iceberg's point of origin is documented by USNIC. The letter of the quadrant, along with a sequential number, is assigned to the iceberg. For example, C-19 is sequentially the 19th iceberg tracked by USNIC in Antarctica between 180-90E (Quadrant C). Icebergs with letter suffixes have calved from already named icebergs, where the letters are added in sequential order. For example, C-19D is the 4th iceberg to calve off the original C-19

iceberg. Iceberg positions are analyzed weekly and are available on the USNIC webpage at: http://www.natice.noaa.gov/Main Products.htm



Sentinel 1 image of A-68 dated July 12th, 2017 (Sentinel-1 Imagery Copyright © 2017 ESA. All rights reserved.)

For more information, please contact:

U.S. National Ice Center Command Duty Officer E-mail: nic.cdo@noaa.gov Voice: (301) 943-6977

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The U.S. National Ice Center is a multi-agency center operated by the Navy, NOAA, and Coast Guard and provides global to tactical scale ice and snow products, ice forecasting, and related environmental intelligence services for the United States government.