

U.S. National Ice Center

PRESS RELEASE

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Iceberg A-23J Has Calved from Iceberg A-23A

16JAN2026, SUITLAND, MD — The U.S. National Ice Center (USNIC) has confirmed that iceberg A-23J calved from A-23A in the northern Weddell Sea. As of January 16th, A-23A was centered at 52° 44' South and 41° 21' West and measured 16 nautical miles on its longest axis and 15 nautical miles on its widest axis. A-23J was centered at 52° 51' South and 41° 43' West and measured 11 nautical miles on its longest axis and 8 nautical miles on its widest axis. A-23A first calved from the Ronne Ice Shelf in 1986.

The new iceberg was first spotted by Dr. Jan Lieser of Australia's Bureau of Meteorology and confirmed by USNIC Master Ice Forecaster Isabelle Marcus using the MODIS image below.

Iceberg names are derived from the Antarctic quadrant in which they were originally calved. 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:
<https://usicecenter.gov/Products/AntarcIcebergs>

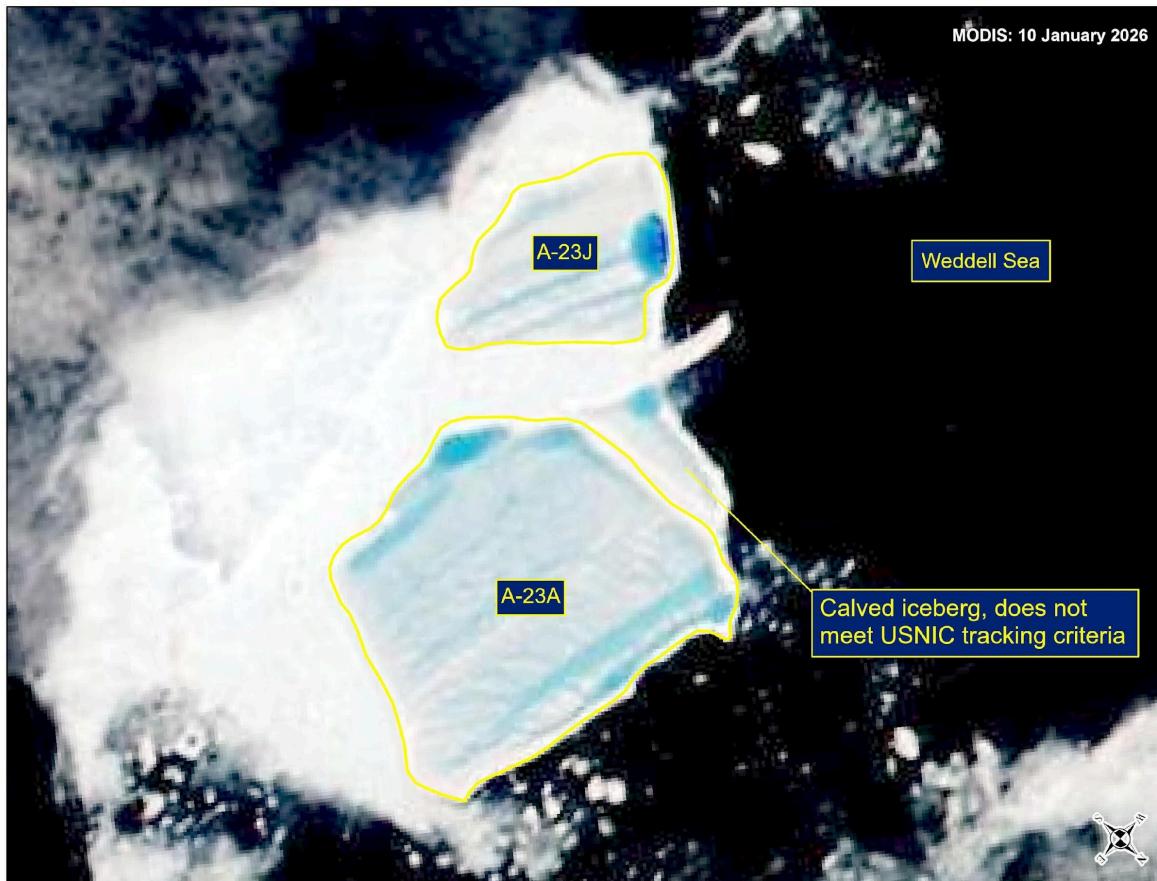


Figure 1: MODIS image of icebergs A-23A and A-23J from January 10, 2026.

The USNIC is a multi-agency partnership between the U.S. Navy, NOAA, and the U.S. Coast Guard that provides strategic-, operational-, and tactical-level ice and snow products, ice forecasting, and related environmental intelligence services for the U.S. government.

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