

U.S. National Ice Center

PRESS RELEASE

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Iceberg D-15D Has Calved from Iceberg D-15C

05MAY2026, SUITLAND, MD — The U.S. National Ice Center (USNIC) has confirmed that iceberg D-15D calved from D-15C in the southern Amery Sea along the West Ice Shelf. As of May 5th, D-15C was centered at 67° 08' South and 79° 29' East and measured 14 nautical miles on its longest axis and 7 nautical miles on its widest axis. D-15D was centered at 67° 15' South and 79° 20' East and measured 8 nautical miles on its longest axis and 6 nautical miles on its widest axis. D-15 originally calved from the West Ice Shelf and once held the title of world's largest iceberg.

The new iceberg was first spotted by Dr. Jan Lieser of Australia's Bureau of Meteorology and confirmed by USNIC Analyst Britney Fajardo using the Sentinel-1 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: Sentinel-1 image of icebergs D-15C/D from May 3, 2026.

The U.S. National Ice Center (USNIC), in collaboration with its global partners, empowers mariners and Naval forces operating in polar, subpolar, and Great Lakes regions with authoritative and timely snow, sea- and lake-ice products and forecasts. USNIC safeguards life and property at sea, defends access and commerce, and further enhances Naval maneuver and superiority. To access daily products, weekly products, archival data and much more of USNIC data in various formats, visit the USNIC webpage at: <https://usicecenter.gov/Products>.

The U.S. National Ice Center is a tri-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.

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