



**U.S. National Ice Center**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Icebergs A-70 and A-71 Calve from Larsen-D Ice Shelf in the Weddell Sea**

08JAN2021, Suitland, MD — The Larsen-D Ice Shelf calved several icebergs in a calving event, two of which are large enough to be named. The breakup occurred in early November 2020, but until now it had been impossible to confirm whether these were icebergs large enough to be named or extremely old sea ice that had fasted to the ice shelf. Recent imagery showing surface topography typical of icebergs has allowed us to confirm these are indeed icebergs. The new iceberg A-70 is located at 72° 21' South, 59° 39' West and measures 8 nautical miles on its longest axis and 5 nautical miles on its widest axis. The new iceberg A-71 is located at 72° 31' South, 59° 31' West and measures 8 nautical miles on its longest axis and 3 nautical miles on its widest axis.

A-70 and A-71 were first spotted by USNIC Ice Analyst Michael Lowe and confirmed by USNIC Ice Analyst Chris Readinger using the Sentinel-1A image shown below.

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)      C = 180-90E (Western Ross Sea/Wilkesland)  
B = 90W-180 (Amundsen/Eastern Ross Sea)      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.

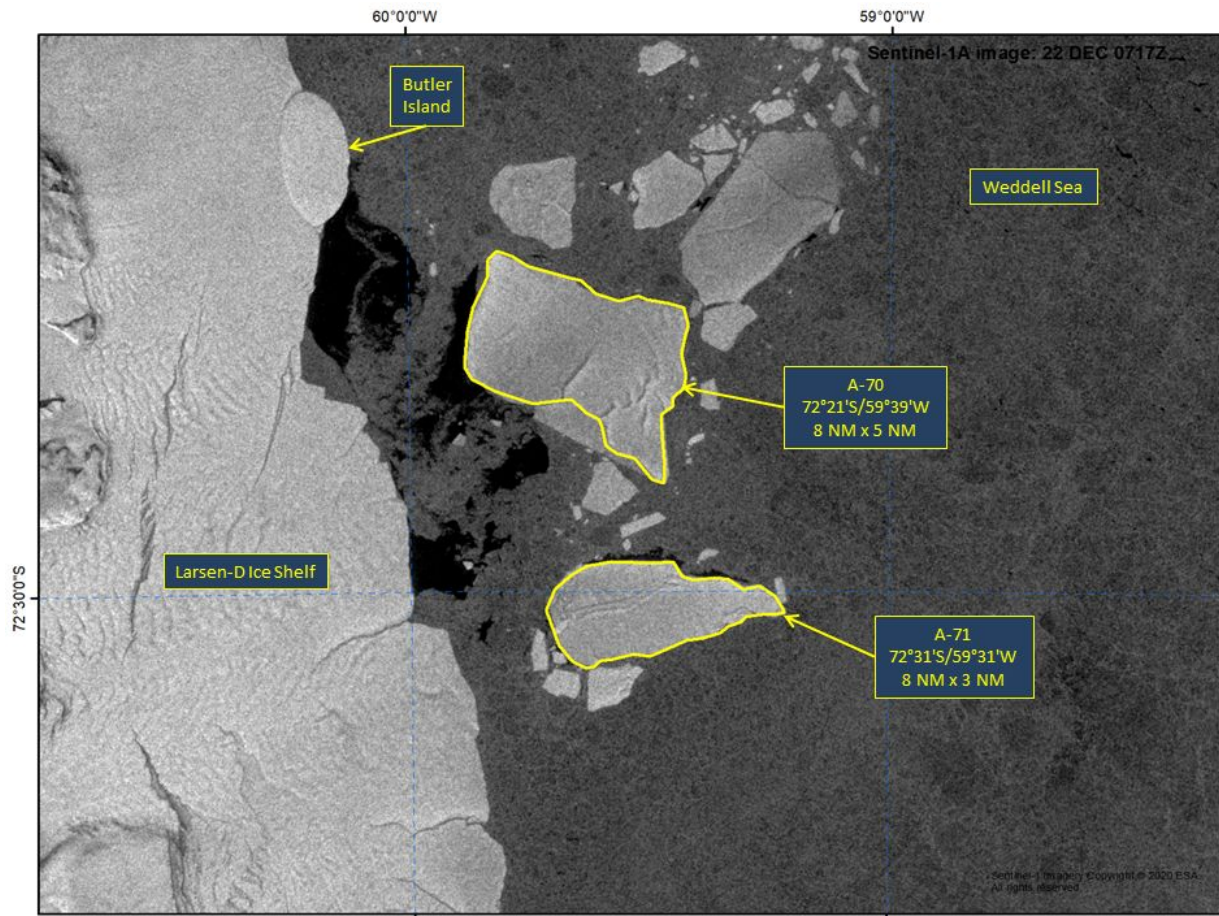


Figure 1: Sentinel-1B image of A-70 and A-71, January 07, 2021

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