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Iceberg A-68G Calves from Iceberg A-68A in the South Atlantic Ocean

28JAN2021, Suitland, MD — The U.S. National Ice Center (USNIC) has confirmed a new iceberg calved from iceberg A-68A in the South Atlantic Ocean. The new iceberg A-68G is located at 56° 29' South, 35° 48' West. A-68G measures 29 nautical miles on its longest axis and 10 nautical miles on its widest axis.

A large crack has developed in A-68A near where A-68G broke free. Should that portion calve in one piece in the next few days, it will be large enough to be named as well.

A-68G was first spotted by Laura Gerrish of the British Antarctic Survey and confirmed by USNIC Ice Analyst Michael Lowe using the Sentinel-1A images 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)  
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.
Figure 1: Sentinel-1A image of A-68A and A-68G, January 28, 2021

For more information, please contact:
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