

U.S. National Ice Center

PRESS RELEASE

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Iceberg A-76N Has Calved from Iceberg A-76B in the Weddell Sea

17MAY2024, SUITLAND, MD — The U.S. National Ice Center (USNIC) has confirmed that iceberg A-76N (figure 1, below) calved from iceberg A-76B in the Weddell Sea. As of May 17, A-76N was centered at 63°46' South and 54°02' West and measured 12 nautical miles on its longest axis and four nautical miles on its widest axis. A-76B was centered at 63°23' South and 53°42' West and measured 17 nautical miles on its longest axis and 7 nautical miles on its widest axis. The break was first seen on satellite imagery on May 17. A-76B first calved from the Ronne Ice Shelf in May 2021.

The calving event was spotted and confirmed by USNIC Analyst, Britney Fajardo, using the Sentinel-1A image 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.

Iceberg positions are analyzed weekly and are available on the USNIC webpage at:
<https://usicecenter.gov/Products/AntarcIcebergs>

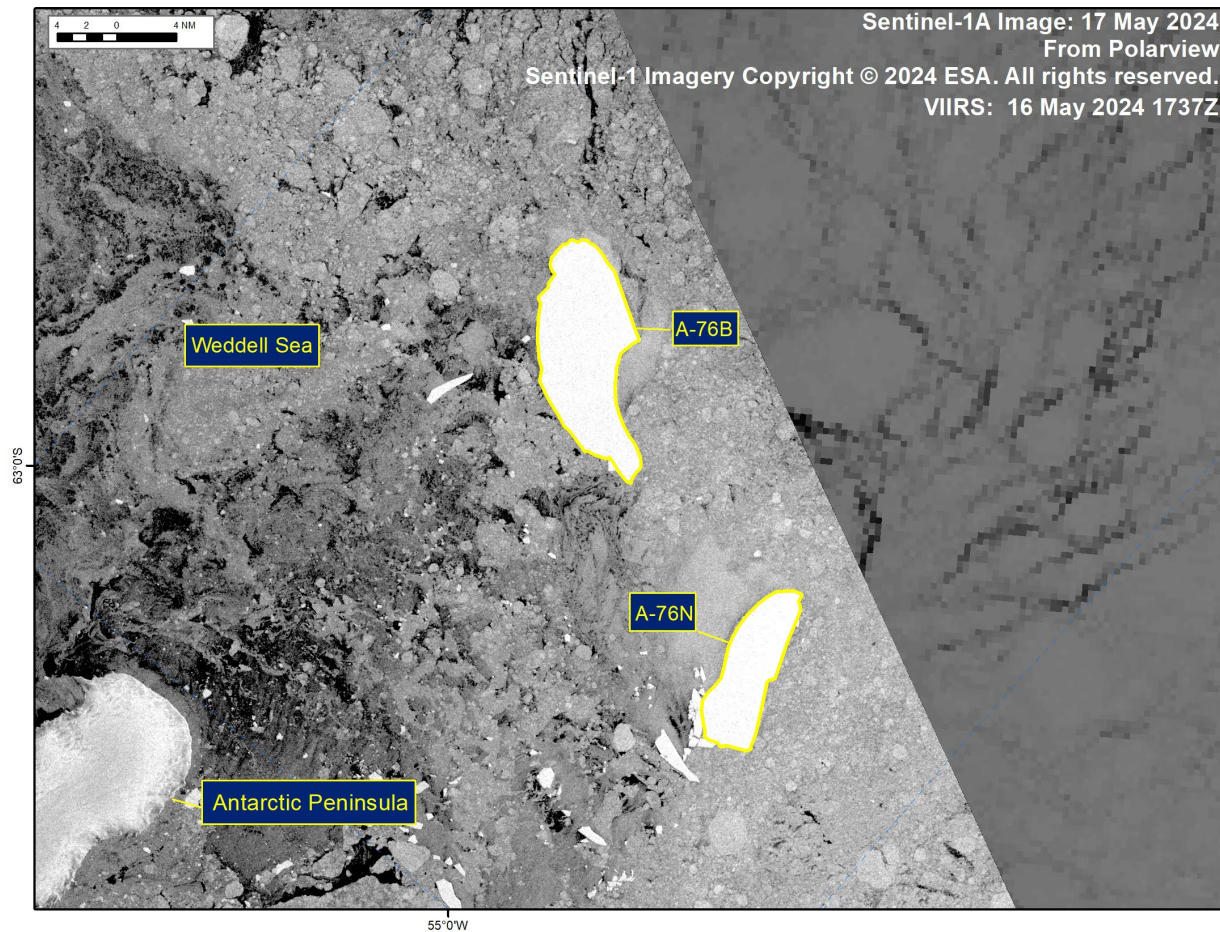


Figure 1: Sentinel-1A image of iceberg A-76N from May 17, 2024.

USNIC is a multi-agency center—subordinate to Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command—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.

Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command directs and oversees more than 2,500 globally-distributed military and civilian personnel who collect, process, and exploit environmental information to assist Fleet and Joint Commanders in all warfare areas to make better decisions faster than the adversary.

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