Iceberg A69 breaks becoming Icebergs A-69A and A-69B in the Weddell Sea

07JUL20, Suitland, MD — The U.S National Ice Center (USNIC) confirmed that the newly named iceberg A-69 has broken into two nameable icebergs. A-69A is located at 69°01’ South, 60°34’ West, in the Weddell Sea, it measures 10 nautical miles on its longest axis and 9 nautical miles on its widest axis. Iceberg A-69B is located at 68°52’ South, 60°41’ West, in the Weddell Sea, it measures 10 nautical miles on its longest axis and 7 nautical miles on its widest axis. A-69A and A-69B were confirmed by USNIC Master Ice Analyst Chris Reader 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/Wilkes land)
- **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 from 05 July (2359Z) showing both A-69A and A-69B. (Sentinel-1 Imagery courtesy of European Space Agency)

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