

U.S. National Ice Center
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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Iceberg B-44 Calves off Pine Island Glacier into the Amundsen Sea

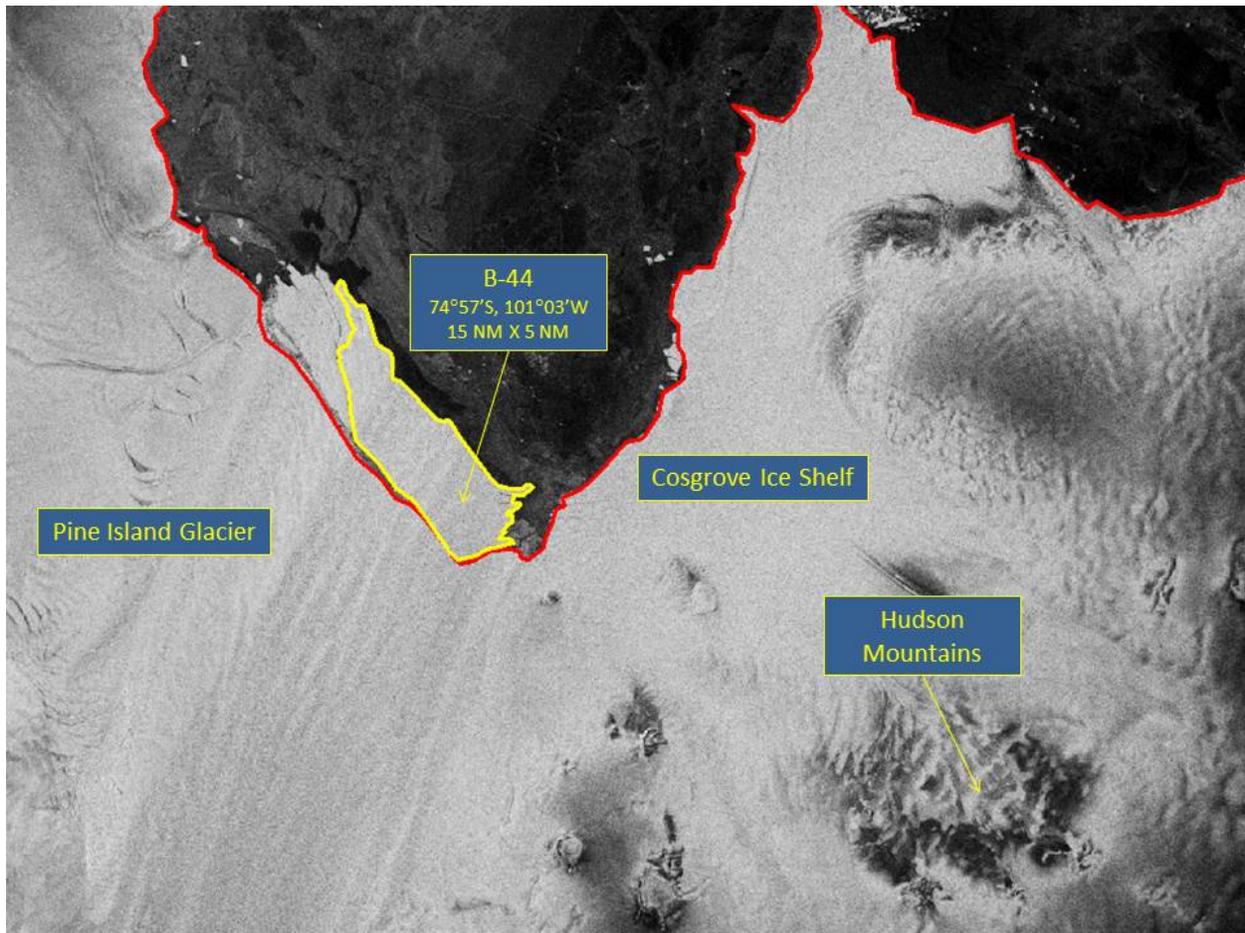
September 25, 2017 SUITLAND, MD —The U.S National Ice Center (USNIC) discovered a new iceberg that calved from the Pine Island Glacier south of the Hudson Mountains in Antarctica. Iceberg B-44 is located at 74°57' South, 101°03' West, in the Amundsen Sea. The iceberg measures 15 nautical miles on its longest axis and 5 nautical miles on its widest axis, with an area of 54 square nautical miles.

B-44 was discovered by USNIC Ice Analyst Matthew Welshans using the Sentinel-1 image shown below. It is expected to remain relatively stationary in an area of first year ice then drift into Pine Island Bay as the fast ice region breaks down late in the melt season. B-44 shows some fracturing, which may allow for smaller bergs or growlers to calve off the main iceberg. B-44 is not expected to pose any hazards to shipping.

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: http://www.natice.noaa.gov/Main_Products.htm



Sentinel 1 image of B-44 dated September 23rd, 2017 (Sentinel-1 Imagery Copyright © 2017 ESA. All rights reserved.)

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