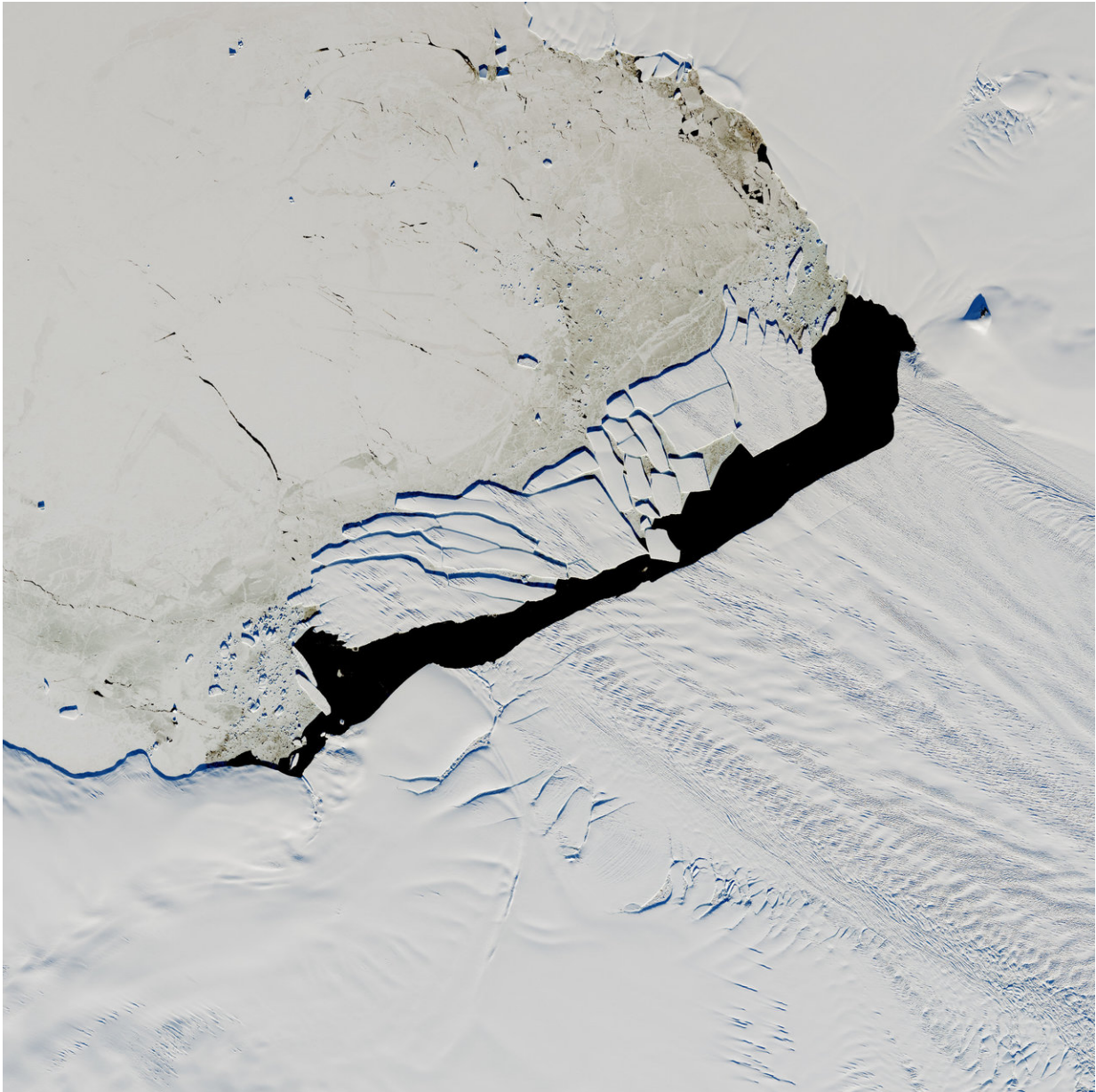


# Image: Under the midnight sun

January 3 2018

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Credit: NASA

In September 2017, a new iceberg calved from Pine Island Glacier—one of the main outlets where the West Antarctic Ice Sheet flows into the ocean. Just weeks later, the berg named B-44 shattered into more than 20 fragments. On December 15, 2017, the Landsat 8 Earth-orbiting satellite took this image of the broken berg. An area of relatively warm water, known as a polyna, has kept the water ice free between the iceberg chunks and the glacier front. The polynya's warm water could have caused the rapid breakup of B-44.

This image was acquired near midnight local time. Based on parameters including the azimuth of the sun and its elevation above the horizon, as well as the length of the shadows, it is estimated that the [iceberg](#) rises about 49 meters above the water line. That would put the total thickness of the berg—above and below the water surface—at about 315 meters.

Provided by NASA

Citation: Image: Under the midnight sun (2018, January 3) retrieved 28 July 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-01-image-midnight-sun.html>

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