

## Image: ICESat-2 reveals profile of ice sheets

December 12 2018

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Credit: NASA/Kate Ramsayer

Less than three months into its mission, NASA's Ice, Cloud and land Elevation Satellite-2, or ICESat-2, is already exceeding scientists' expectations. The satellite is measuring the height of sea ice to within an

inch, tracing the terrain of previously unmapped Antarctic valleys, surveying remote ice sheets, and peering through forest canopies and shallow coastal waters.

With each pass of the ICESat-2 satellite, the mission is adding to datasets tracking Earth's rapidly changing ice. Researchers are ready to use the information to study sea level rise resulting from melting ice sheets and glaciers, and to improve sea ice and climate forecasts.

In this image, sea ice forms in the open water between floes, called leads, in the Bellingshausen Sea. ICESat-2 is able to detect the thin sea ice, allowing scientists to more accurately track seasonal ice formation.

Provided by NASA

Citation: Image: ICESat-2 reveals profile of ice sheets (2018, December 12) retrieved 20 April 2024 from [https://phys.org/news/2018-12-icesat-reveals-profile-ice-sheets\\_1.html](https://phys.org/news/2018-12-icesat-reveals-profile-ice-sheets_1.html)

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