U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Polar Bear Viewing Information

USFWS

August 2013

Polar Bear Viewing Information around Kaktovik, Alaska

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) lands and waters (see map, Appendix 7) provide habitat important to polar bears for denning, feeding, resting, and seasonal movements. Arctic Refuge has regulatory responsibilities for commercial activities on waters surrounding Kaktovik. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has regulatory responsibilities for protecting polar bears wherever they exist in the United States. With increasing numbers of people interested in viewing polar bears in Alaska, FWS has developed this Polar Bear Viewing Information booklet for visitors to the Kaktovik area who are seeking opportunities to observe polar bears. This booklet is intended to insure that polar bears are not disturbed, so that opportunities for the public to enjoy, observe, and photograph these bears in the wild can continue. Whether viewing polar bears independently, or with a guide, it is each individual's responsibility to insure that their activities around polar bears are safe and remain lawful. **This booklet will help you understand your legal requirements and your stewardship obligations while viewing polar bears.** If you are planning activities other than polar bear viewing whereby you may unintentionally encounter polar bears, please contact the Refuge for specific safety guidance.

What does "Protected Status" of polar bears mean?

Polar bears are protected wherever they occur in the United States under both the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). The listing of polar bears as threatened under the ESA in 2008 does not alter the existing MMPA requirements. Both laws prohibit take of polar bears, with few exceptions.

Under the MMPA, **take** is defined as "to harass, hunt, capture, or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill" any marine mammal, including polar bears. **Harassment** is divided into two categories: 1) **Level A harassment**, which is defined as "any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which has the **potential to injure** a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild;" and 2) **Level B harassment**, which is defined as "any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which has the **potential to disturb** a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering."

In general, **disturbing polar bears is illegal. Any change in a polar bear's natural behavior as a result of your presence (including any attempt to feed a polar bear) can be considered an illegal disturbance**. A few exceptions exist within the MMPA, such as permitted commercial and educational photography (for Level B harassment only), permitted scientific research, subsistence purposes, authorized harassment (deterrence) by Federal agents or their appointees for public safety, and defense of life.

What general activities are allowed near polar bears?

General recreational viewing. **It is legal to view and photograph polar bears for recreational purposes; it is illegal to disturb them.** If you encounter polar bears and your viewing activities are conducted in a manner that does not result in a change to their natural behavior, the viewing activity is legal. Any change in the animal's natural behavior as a result of your presence can be considered harassment and, unless specifically authorized, is not legal, whether your viewing is commercially-guided or independent.

Commercially-led viewing. You are not required to use a guide to view polar bears on Refuge lands outside the Kaktovik area, or Refuge waters immediately surrounding Kaktovik. However, encounters with polar bears can be dangerous, and using a guide for viewing polar bears on Refuge lands and waters can provide local knowledge which may benefit your experience and safety. If you wish to view polar bears with a guide on the Refuge, **be sure that any guide service you use has a special use permit for conducting commercial activities** on Refuge lands or waters. The Refuge maintains a list of authorized commercial guided polar bear viewing operators at **http://arctic.fws.gov/pbguide.htm**.

Business owners wishing to conduct guided polar bear viewing on Refuge lands or waters must apply for a permit before April 15 of that calendar year. Those who wish to operate in winter and spring should apply October 1 to November 30 in the preceding calendar year. Permits must be renewed annually. Additional information may be obtained from:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
101 12th Avenue, Room 236
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Toll Free Tel. 1-800-362-4546
Contact: Jennifer Reed
Web site: http://arctic.fws.gov/permits.htm

Commercial or educational photography. **Photographing and filming polar bears for educational or commercial purposes is allowed provided all required permits are in place** in advance of the activity. If you intend to conduct this activity, please contact the Refuge (contact information above) well in advance (at least 45 days) to discuss whether you will need a Special Use Permit for commercial operations issued by the Refuge. In addition, when photography or filming has the potential to disturb polar bears, a photography permit issued by the FWS Division of Management Authority (DMA) is required. Please contact DMA (contact information below) to discuss whether your activities will require a photography permit. You should allow for a minimum of three months for DMA to process your permit application. If photography or filming can be done in a way that the animals remain unaware of the photographer, then DMA will likely conclude that a photography permit for Level B harassment will not be required. Permit information can be obtained from:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Management Authority
4401 W. Fairfax Drive, Room 212
Arlington, Virginia 22203
Toll Free Tel. 1-800-358-2104
Contact: Monica Farris (ext. 2378)

In addition to Federal permits, you may also be required to obtain a permit for commercial photography and filming on City of Kaktovik property (City of Kaktovik Ordinance No. 10-01). Permit information for this activity can be obtained from:

City of Kaktovik Mayor
P.O. Box 27
Kaktovik, AK 99747
907-640-6313

When and where can I see polar bears?

Polar bear distribution in Alaska. **Polar bears can be found in the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort seas and the adjacent coastline during any time of the year, including the northern portions of the Arctic Refuge.** Generally, polar bears are distributed in association with ice-covered marine waters during most of the year; they use the ice as a platform for seasonal movements, hunting, feeding, resting, and denning. Polar bears may use terrestrial habitats of the Arctic Refuge to rest, travel, or feed between July and October when sea ice recedes from the coast; and between October and April to travel or den. On land, polar bears are most likely to be encountered within about 25 miles of the coastline; sightings further inland are rare but do occur.

Viewing opportunities. Public lands and waters along Alaska's northern and northwestern coast are remote and their access usually requires careful (expedition-style) planning. There is no guarantee that polar bears will be present when you seek to view them since their distribution and use of coastal habitat varies.

Please be aware that the Arctic Refuge encompasses the traditional homeland of the Inupiat people of Kaktovik and perpetuates opportunities for their continuing traditional subsistence uses. The village of Kaktovik is located on Barter Island which serves as the primary commercial access point for visitors traveling to the northeastern region of the Arctic Slope and the Beaufort Sea coast. This coastal community consists of about 300 residents, primarily Alaska Natives, and has limited facilities available for visitors. Fall is an important time for subsistence whaling in Kaktovik, which coincides with the occurrence of polar bears in high densities along the Beaufort Sea coast. If you choose to visit Kaktovik, be as self sufficient as possible by educating yourself about local resources before your arrival (Appendix 4). Seek guidance from local residents about how to least impact the community's routine subsistence activities (Appendix 6). Be respectful of local community activities and the rights of local citizens to privacy while you visit their community.

Nearly all lands in the vicinity of the Kaktovik Townsite are either privately owned by the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation, or privately-owned parcels, or are military reserve lands. Entry onto non-Refuge lands is only allowed with prior approval from the appropriate landowner. It is the visitor's responsibility to learn about land status and receive prior approval before entering non-Refuge lands (Appendices 1, 5). Private lands probably will not be marked with signs, but maps depicting the Refuge boundary and private lands within the Refuge boundary are available at: **http://arctic.fws.gov/nonrefugelands.htm**. Please be respectful of these private land rights.

How should I behave around polar bears?

The continued opportunity for recreational polar bear viewing depends on proper human conduct which avoids bear-human interactions.

Safety. Anyone engaged in polar bear viewing is encouraged to become familiar with bear safety information prior to conducting such activities. Always remember that polar bears are wild animals: even though individual bears can demonstrate tolerance for human activity, they can respond dangerously at any given time. Polar bears are naturally curious and potentially predatory. These characteristics are factors that increase risk to humans. Polar bears spending extended periods of time on land without an adequate food source may be nutritionally stressed and, therefore, may be more dangerous. Your choice to be in proximity to these animals is potentially a hazardous activity.

Appendix 2 provides information regarding safety around polar bears. We recommend that you or your guide have a polar bear safety plan in place that addresses issues such as what communication/emergency procedures will be used if unforeseen circumstances arise or an injury occurs. All members of a viewing party should be familiar with recommended viewing practices described herein and your group's safety plan before embarking to view polar bears. We also recommend that the DVD "Polar Bears: a Guide to Safety" is viewed by everyone planning to view polar bears prior to embarking. For information about how to obtain this DVD please contact FWS staff listed in Appendix 1.

Laws and ordinances. People engaged in polar bear viewing are responsible for ensuring that their activities do not disturb polar bears. Groups (whether lead by commercial guides or independent visitors) should be familiar with polar bear habitat use and behavior, as well as Federal conservation laws and recommendations applicable to polar bears (described herein), and site-specific rules. For example, visitors viewing bears on private or other non-Refuge lands around Kaktovik (see Appendix 7) may need to follow local governmental or private land owner requirements (available from Kaktovik contacts, Appendix 1), such as being accompanied by a local guide to view bears. Penalties imposed for permit violations or harassment of marine mammals may include fines up to $3,000 for each incident. Examples of permit violations include harassment of polar bears by commercial filmers while operating without a commercial filming permit, or guiding clients without a permit. Examples of harassment violations include causing injury to a polar bear; separating mothers from their cubs; or allowing polar bears to make contact with a vehicle, boat, or all-terrain vehicle.

Distance. Insure that your actions do not cause a change in a polar bear's behavior. The best way to accomplish this is to avoid close encounters. Polar bears must be allowed to continue to do, unhindered,

whatever they were doing before your arrival. The closer you are, the more likely you are to cause disturbance or have interactions with bears. Be aware that the distance at which bears tolerate humans varies by individual bear, and may also be affected by other factors such as type of conveyance (boat, ATV, truck, on foot), rate of speed of approach or departure, and presence or absence of noise, light, scents or other sensory stimuli. A distance that initially seems fine may suddenly become too close for the bear's comfort when additional stimuli (like an abrupt noise or the arrival of another bear) are added to the viewing scenario. **Respect bears' "personal space" – insure that you don't crowd or displace bears by self-monitoring your distance from the bear.**

Appendix 5 summarizes best practices for polar bear viewing. The following text provides more detailed information about polar bear viewing:

Viewing location and method. **Viewing polar bears on foot is not recommended.** Viewing bears from fixed locations (observation posts) at consistent times reduces overall stress to polar bears by making human behavior more predictable, and is appropriate for situations where guides, visitors, or residents repeatedly visit a viewing area, such as along barrier islands or at whale carcass remains near Kaktovik. Stay with your vehicle or boat to make the group more predictable to the bears. Polar bears have a keen sense of smell; therefore, observation posts located downwind from where bears occur would be most effective in avoiding their disturbance. Choosing a location for your observation post that is in the open will allow bears to avoid you, and avoid surprise encounters. Aerial polar bear viewing involving low level flights or circling causing disturbance is illegal.

Time of day. Polar bears are typically most active during dusk, night, or dawn hours when visibility may be limited. Be aware of your surroundings, especially during limited visibility. Use extra caution while viewing in low-light and consider viewing only during daylight hours for increased safety.

Familiarity with bear behavior. Polar bears that are foraging, nursing, swimming, playing, resting, or traveling in an uninterrupted manner are probably behaving naturally. Be aware that since animals' reactions will vary, all bears in an area must be carefully observed at all times during viewing in order to insure they continue to behave naturally. Be aware that viewing family groups (mothers with cubs) requires special consideration because of: 1) the highly protective nature of the mother; 2) the curious behavior of cubs (which may cause a defensive reaction by the mother when cubs approach humans); and 3) the increased nutritional demands of growing bears. Learn to **recognize and respect wildlife alarm signals**. Polar bears that stop what they are doing to turn their head or sniff the air in your direction may have become aware of your presence. Visitors should leave the vicinity if you see signs of disturbance. Signs of disturbance include:

- Behavioral reactions such as a pursed lip, lowered head with ears flat back or directly forward, looking directly at you;
- Vocalizations such as huffing, hissing, growling, or chomping;
- Rapid changes in direction or speed of movement (running away from, or toward you).

Attractants. It is illegal to attempt to attract polar bears through the use of food, scents, or other attractants. When bears learn to associate humans or human activities with food, they have become "food-conditioned." Bears can become food-conditioned quite quickly, even after one instance of obtaining human-related food or garbage. Food-conditioned bears are more likely to negatively interact with people, as they move through their home ranges and interact with other people, whether it is in hunting and fishing camps; or near cars, trucks, and snow machines; or at private cabins, etc. This behavior is often independent of where the food-conditioning first occurred. **Allowing a bear to obtain human-associated food may increase the risk of the bear injuring people and may eventually lead to the bear's death.**

Viewing practices. The following actions will help ensure that bears remain undisturbed during viewing:

- Always conduct your viewing in a manner that does not attract bears or require you to defend yourself or your group;
- Before viewing, plan on how your group will respond to encounters in which bears exhibit curious, nervous, threatened, or aggressive behavior, should they unexpectedly occur;
- Approach and depart from viewing areas using the same route, proceeding slowly, and using minimal lights and noise;

- Do not attempt to herd, follow, or chase a polar bear;
- During viewing, all members of group should be asked to remain vigilant for bears at all times and not simply rely on their guides;
- Stay as a group; do not leave (or lean out of) boats or vehicles while in close proximity to bears;
- Avoid noisy conversation and movements during viewing;
- Avoid carrying food with you or smelling like food during viewing;
- Do not mimic a bear's vocalizations to attract it closer or in response to an aggressive bear;
- Do not attempt to touch or feed a polar bear to attract it closer;
- Do not separate a mother from her cubs; and
- Do not allow a bear to make physical contact with you or your boat or vehicle. Bears that are allowed to make contact with people without being scared off may lose their natural sense of fear that could lead to increased aggression during future encounters. If contact occurs, make noise to scare the bear off, e.g., by revving engine or sounding a horn; use the minimum amount of noise or action necessary to stop the bear's behavior. If contact occurs repeatedly, move to a different location or leave the area, then report the incident to one of the FWS contacts identified in Appendix 1.

What else should I take into consideration?

Swimming bears. Polar bears are marine mammals and ocean waters are a significant part of their habitat. It is common to see bears in water. **It is illegal to restrict movements of swimming bears.**

- If viewing from a boat, do not block the path in which the bear is travelling. If the bear is passing, put the engine in neutral to allow the bear to pass;
- Do not approach, encircle, or trap a swimming bear between boats; do not pursue a swimming bear;
- Do not separate a swimming mother from her cubs; and
- If approached by a swimming bear, move the boat away to minimize interactions; if the bear persists, leave the area while avoiding sudden use of the throttle.

Denning bears. Pregnant females spend October to late March or April in winter dens. On land, these maternal dens can be located in snow drifts that form along coastal bluffs and river drainages. Temporary shelter dens dug into snow are also used by resting polar bears and may be encountered throughout the year. Because of the high potential for maternal den disturbance and risk of den abandonment and cub death, **viewing of polar bears within maternal denning habitat is not recommended.** If you cannot avoid travelling in areas of potential denning:

- Travel away from the edge of bluffs and avoid crossing large snow drifts formed along bluffs;
- Be aware of bear signs such as tracks and holes in snowdrifts; and
- If you find yourself near a den, immediately retreat to a distance of at least one mile.

Resting, sick, injured, or dead bears. It is not uncommon for bears to rest without moving for days after completing long-distance swims; it is illegal to disturb them. Stay away from abandoned or sick wildlife and report such incidents to FWS at 1-800-362-5148. Depending on the situation, you may be asked to voluntarily provide information or collect samples from a dead bear (Appendix 3).

Thank you for working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conserve polar bears and their habitat for the benefit and enjoyment of today's and future generations.

Appendixes

Appendix 1. Contacts for Additional Information on Laws, Regulations, and Resources

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
Jennifer Reed, Visitor Services Coordinator
101 12th Avenue, Room 236
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Tel. 1-800-362-4546

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Marine Mammals Management
Susi Miller, Polar Bear Biologist
Craig Perham, Polar Bear Biologist
1011 E. Tudor Road MS 341
Anchorage, AK 99503
1-800-362-5148

Native Village of Kaktovik
Fenton Rexford, Tribal Administrator
P.O. Box 130
Kaktovik, AK 99747
907-640-2042

Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation
Nathan Gordon, President
P.O. Box 73
4089 Hula Hula Avenue
Kaktovik, AK 99747
907-640-6120

City of Kaktovik
Anne Tikluk, Mayor
P.O. Box 27
Kaktovik, AK 99747
907-640-6313

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Polar Bears and Humans
Safety Guidelines

Polar bear density in Alaska is highest during fall months when polar bears aggregate along the coastline. Due to changing ice conditions the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) anticipates that polar bear use of the coast will increase during open-water seasons (June through October). During this time many villagers engage in subsistence activities, and more people are engaging in polar bear viewing opportunities. Increasing numbers of visitors to Barrow and Kaktovik to view polar bears increase potential interactions between humans and polar bears. Polar bears are naturally curious and predatory which are factors that increase risk to humans.

The purpose of these guidelines is to minimize polar bear-human interactions and maximize the safety of both humans and polar bears, so each can continue to live safely in the Arctic environment.

FEDERAL LAW REGARDING POLAR BEAR-HUMAN INTERACTIONS

Polar bears are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) which prohibits take of any marine mammal.

Take is defined under the MMPA as: "to harass, hunt, capture, or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal." This includes feeding or attempting to feed a marine mammal in the wild.

Level A Harassment is: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which has the potential to injure a polar bear.

Level B Harassment is defined as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which has the potential to disturb a polar bear by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering.

This means that any change in a polar bear's natural behavior that is a result of your presence in proximity to the animal can be considered level B harassment, and is unlawful.

A mother protecting her cubs may display defensive behavior by huffing or snapping her jaws.

Some exceptions are:

- Take for subsistence purposes, as long as take is not wasteful. The hunter is required to have the hide and skull tagged within 30 days. Harvest taggers are located in coastal villages to help.
- Authorized harassment of bears (deterrence) by government officials (i.e. North Slope Borough Polar Bear Patrol) is permissible as long as it is done in a humane manner and is for the welfare of the bear, the public, or non-lethal removal of nuisance animals that pose a risk to public safety.
- Defense of life take is only permissible if such taking is imminently necessary in self defense or to save the life of a person in immediate danger, and such taking is reported to FWS within 48 hours. Public officials have the authority to use lethal methods to protect the public from polar bears, and may do so when all reasonable steps to avoid killing the bear(s) have been taken.
- Scientific research such as polar bear population surveys, ecology studies etc. can be authorized.
- Photographing polar bears in the wild is permissible if no take occurs. If such activity is for educational or commercial purposes and could result in Level B harassment (disturbance), a permit is required.

Polar bears are also listed as a "threatened" species under the Endangered Species Act. This designation does not alter the definitions or exceptions of take outlined above under the MMPA.

GUIDELINES FOR LIVING IN POLAR BEAR COUNTRY

Most polar bears avoid people and have historically inflicted few human injuries and fatalities. However, the combination of curious and occasional sudden aggressive behavior creates the potential for human injury. In addition, polar bears spending extended periods of time on land without an adequate food source may be nutritionally stressed animals and potentially more dangerous.

In general, polar bears will react to humans by avoiding them, exhibiting curious behavior, treating them as other bears, or attempting to prey on them. The closer that humans are to polar bears, the more dangerous the situation because of the increased likelihood that the polar bear(s) will feel threatened. This could result in an attack. Unprovoked predatory attacks on humans are rare but do occur. The following guidelines may help reduce the risk associated with living in polar bear country.

Remain undetected

The best way to avoid detection by a polar bear is to be alert and detect the animal before it detects you. Be particularly alert in areas where bears are likely to occur: near open water leads, at whale or other marine mammal carcass sites, along coastal and river bluffs, or in the vicinity of fresh tracks.

- Avoid traveling alone;

Sub-adults may display curious behavior: moving head around to catch scents, ears forward, stopping frequently.

- When in coastal areas, remain vigilant and be aware of your surroundings;
- Stay down-wind from known polar bear aggregation sites to avoid detection.

Avoid close interactions
Viewing animals should be accomplished without the animal's awareness of your presence. Little information is available regarding what constitutes a safe viewing distance. Polar bears are individualistic and react differently to both noise and human presence. A general rule of thumb is that the closer you are to the animal, the more likely you are to disturb it.

- Use binoculars and high powered scopes to avoid approaching too closely;
- Be aware that when on land bears typically rest during day and become more active during dusk, night, or dawn hours.

Avoid pursuing polar bears
Harassment or pursuit of polar bears is prohibited by law.

- Never attempt to herd, chase, or separate groups of polar bears;
- Using motorized vehicles, including boats, to view bears should be avoided if it results in unnatural behavior by bears.

Minimize attractants
Polar bears will investigate anything out of the ordinary as a possible food item. The presence of attractants are likely to increase the chances of having close bear-human interactions. If a bear learns to associate food with humans, it is likely to attempt obtaining food from humans in the future. A polar bear that receives a food reward is very likely to return.

- Do not let bears associate food with humans;
- Maintain a clean camp or residence; remove attractants such as food, garbage, animal carcasses, sewage, gray water, anti-freeze, or petroleum products;
- Store food or attractants in bear-resistant containers or locations;
- Avoid carrying food or items with strong odors when traveling in bear country.

Be Aware of Bear Behavior
Ensure that your actions do not cause a change in behavior of a polar bear. Since individual animal's reactions will vary, carefully observe all animals and leave the vicinity if you see signs of disturbance. Polar bears that stop what they are doing to turn their head or sniff the air in your direction may have become aware of your presence. These animals may exhibit curious, threatened, or predatory behavior.

- Curious polar bears typically move slowly, stopping frequently to sniff the air, moving their heads around to catch a scent, or hold their heads high with ears forward.
- A threatened or agitated polar bear may huff, snap its jaws together, stare at you (or object of threat) and lower its head to below shoulder level, pressing its ears back and swaying from side to side. These are signals for immediate withdrawal. If ignored, the polar bear may charge. Threatened animals may also retreat, withdraw, or run away.
- Predatory behavior may involve a polar bear that is sneaking or crawling up on an object it considers prey. Another form of predatory behavior is a bear that is approaching in a straight line at a constant speed without exhibiting curious or threatened behavior. This behavior is indicative of a bear about to attack.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH A POLAR BEAR
If a polar bear detects and approaches you, get out of the way if you are in the bear's path, or between a mother and her cubs. If the animal continues to approach and you are in a vehicle, leave the area. If no vehicle is available, slowly move to a safe shelter. If no safe shelter is available, do not run; stand your ground. Gather people together in a group and/or hold a jacket over your head to look bigger. If the bear continues to approach, shout or make noise to deter the bear.

If a polar bear attacks in a predatory manner and no safe shelter is available, defend yourself. If the attack is by a female defending her cubs, remove yourself as a threat to the cubs; fight back if the attack turns predatory.

The future of polar bears is uncertain due to the combination of climate change effects and human-caused mortality. We encourage everyone to seek non-lethal methods of avoiding bear-human conflicts. This may help ensure polar bears are here in the future.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
http://www.fws.gov

December 2009

For more information please contact:
Craig Perham or Susanne Miller
1 800/362 5148
Craig_Perham@fws.gov
Susanne_Miller@fws.gov

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Marine Mammals Management Office
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503

Visit the Marine Mammals home page:
http://alaska.fws.gov/polarbear

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

What to Do if You Find a Dead Polar Bear

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is the federal agency responsible for monitoring polar bear populations in the United States. As part of this effort, FWS biologists are working to obtain information on the condition and health of these animals. Recovering the carcass of a polar bear that has died recently of natural causes provides an important opportunity to aid in monitoring the health of polar bear populations. For example, a small tooth extracted from a polar bear skull allows scientists to estimate the animal's age, while marrow from a leg bone can be used to assess body condition and health.

We need your help. If you find a polar bear carcass or partial remains, please contact the FWS Marine Mammals Management Office in Anchorage at 1-800-362-5148. You will be asked to provide the following information about the animal, and, if possible, take photographs and collect the skull and femur (biggest front leg bone):

- Location where the carcass was found (GPS location, if possible)
- Estimated length, girth (circumference), and weight
- Sex and age class (cub of the year, yearling, sub-adult or adult)
- Body condition (see diagram on back)
- Presence of ear tags, collar, or other identifying features
- Possible cause of death (for example: open wounds, scars, broken bones)
- Estimated time of death (less than or more than 24 hours - see below)

It is especially valuable to biologists to quickly obtain samples from animals that are frozen or have died within 24 hours. If you find a polar bear that is frozen or has died within 24 hours, please call the FWS Marine Mammals Management office immediately. The FWS will arrange for samples to be shipped to Anchorage. The carcass is less than 24 hours old if:

- Carcass is intact and not scavenged
- Eyes are present and not wrinkled or shrunken
- No foul odor or dark brown/black fluid leaks from carcass
- Fur does not pull free in clumps when grasped
- No maggots or fly eggs are on or under the body

Thank you for your assistance. Your help in collecting this information is very much appreciated.

CRAIG PERHAM, USFWS

Scientists investigate a polar bear mother killed at her den site by an adult male polar bear.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
http://www.fws.gov

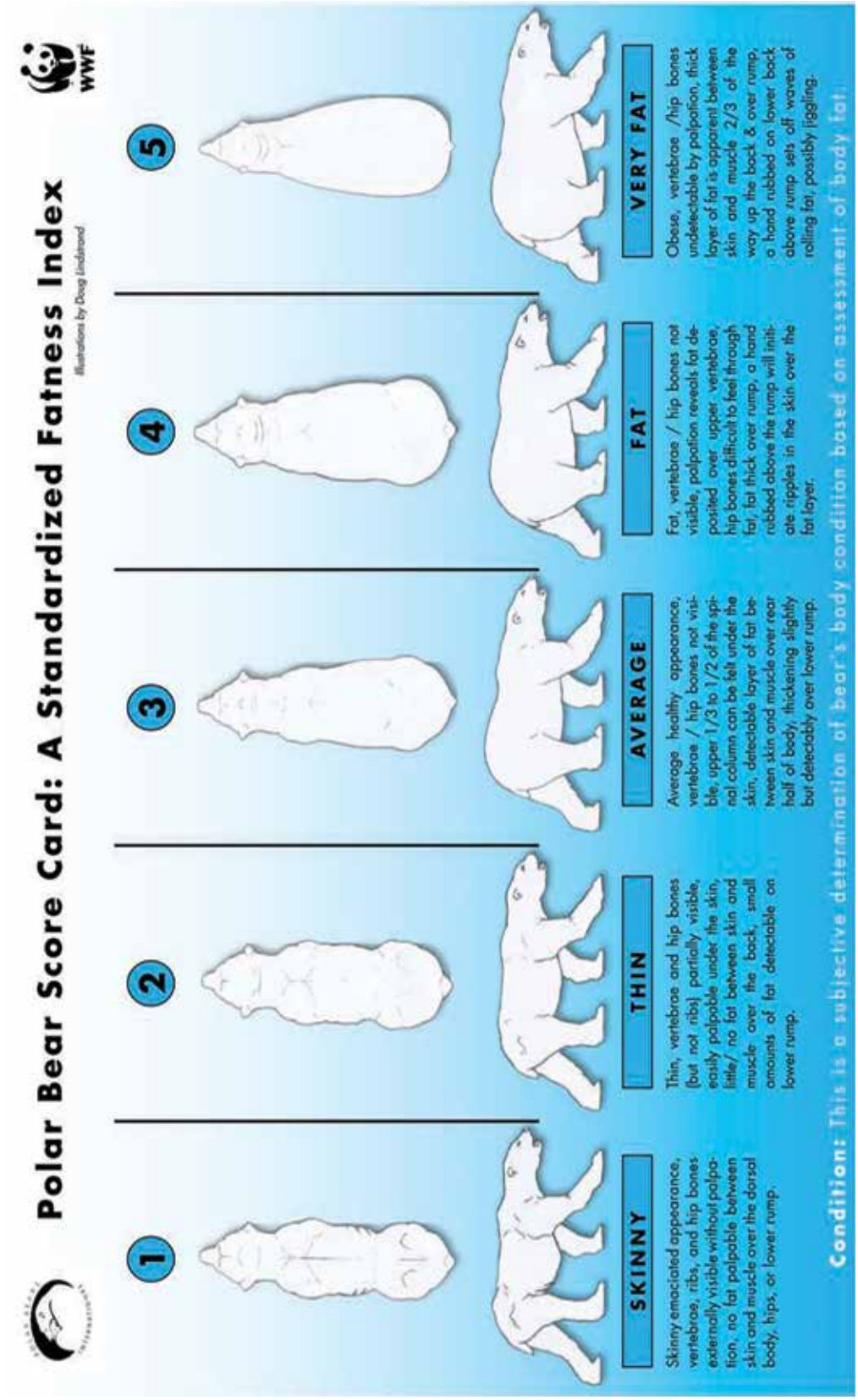
December 2009

For more information please contact:
Craig Perham or Susanne Miller
1 800/362 5148
Craig_Perham@fws.gov
Susanne_Miller@fws.gov

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Marine Mammals Management Office
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503

Visit the Marine Mammals home page:
http://alaska.fws.gov/polarbear

Appendix 3, continued



Appendix 4. *Kaktovik Visitor Information* Pamphlet

Kaktovik
Visitor Information

Notes:

Arctic Refuge Visitors:

The Arctic Refuge is managed for all Americans by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a federal agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The Refuge was created in 1960 "For the purpose of preserving unique wildlife, wilderness and recreational values..."

Wildlife- and wilderness-oriented public uses at the Refuge include hiking, camping, river floating, wildlife viewing, photography, fishing and hunting.

Please minimize your impacts on the Refuge by following the guidance provided in the Refuge's pamphlet "Strategies for Minimizing Your Impacts." Leave natural objects and artifacts where you find them unless you have a pre-approved collecting permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For more information about visiting Arctic Refuge please visit http://arctic.fws.gov/ or call 800-362-4546.

Mixed flock of waterfowl on Arctic Refuge coastal plain.

August 2010

Artwork by Flora Rexford of Kaktovik

There are no youth hostels, home stays or public campgrounds available on Barter Island. Limited options exist for visitors to purchase rooms, meals and showers. Tent spots may be available seasonally and on a limited basis. Please be respectful of the community by being aware of private lands in and surrounding Kaktovik, and by removing your trash. If you are on private lands, get permission to set up camp. It is prudent to ask a resident of Kaktovik for an appropriate camping location.

Governmental Organizations:

City of Kaktovik Office and Community Center 1
640-6313
Office hours 8:30-5 (closed for lunch)

Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation (KIC) Administrative Offices 2
640-6120
Office hours 9-5 (closed for lunch)

Native Village of Kaktovik (NVK) 3
640-2042
Office hours 9-5 (closed for lunch)

North Slope Borough (NSB) Public Works 4
640-6128
Office hours 8:30-5 (closed for lunch)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Residence 5
(Fairbanks office 1-800-362-4546)
No permanent staff in Kaktovik

Medical and Emergency Information:

NSB Fire Department 6
640-6212 (non-emergency)
call 911 after hours (rings in Barrow)

NSB Police Department 7
640-6911 (non-emergency)
call 911 after hours (rings in Barrow)

NSB Tom Gordon Health Clinic 8
640-6413
Clinic hours 1-4 walk-ins Monday-Friday
call 911 after hours (rings in Barrow)

Places of Worship:

Assembly of God Church 9
Sunday Services 11am and 7pm
Wednesday Service 7pm (All in English)

Presbyterian Church 10
Sunday Services 11am (English)
and 7:30pm (Inupiaq)

Services available during summer season:

City of Kaktovik 1
640-6313
Services: Clothing, local artwork

ERA Alaska / Frontier Flying Service 9
640-7902
or 800-478-6779 for reservations
Services: Flight services (commercial)

KIC Fuel Office 11
640-6011
Services: fuel, machine parts, camping supplies

KIC Kikiktak Store 12
640-6520
Services: General store, groceries, some clothing

KIC Marsh Creek Inn 13
640-5500
Services: Hotel rooms, meals, showers, baths

NSB Kaktovik Mayor's Office & Planning Dept. 14
640-6329
Services: public internet access (first priority to Ilisagvik College students)

NSB School District Kaveolook High School 15
640-6626
Services: open gym, library

Sims Store 16
640-6615
Services: General store, groceries, some rentals, local artwork

U.S. Post Office 17
Window hours: 8:30-4 (closed for lunch)
Mail drop: 24 hours

Waldo Arms Hotel 18
640-6513
Services: hotel rooms, meals, showers, equipment rental, flight services (air charters and commercial airline agent)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Arctic
National Wildlife Refuge

Best Practices for Polar Bear Viewing

Though polar bears may appear tame, these animals are wild and their behavior can change quickly. Viewing polar bears in the wild is an inherently dangerous activity.

By law, polar bear viewing is dependent on avoiding disturbance to bears. You have an opportunity to view polar bears because people before you used responsible and safe viewing practices. Polar bear viewing will only continue if you and other viewers are careful to keep polar bears and people safe.

Each polar bear's reactions to people vary depending on the bear itself, the viewing circumstances, and other factors. For example, one bear may tolerate viewers within 100 feet while another may leave the area when approached at 500 feet. Bears are also more likely to react to a noisy, quickly-approaching vehicle or boat than to one approaching slowly with minimal lights and noise.

Here's what you can do . . .

Follow these guidelines to ensure you have the least impact on polar bears

Before you view:

- Review the Polar Bear Viewing Information booklet with your guide
- Review your guide's safety plan to find out what to do if an emergency arises (for example a vehicle breakdown)
- Know appropriate responses if a bear approaches you in a curious, nervous, threatening, or aggressive manner
- Become familiar with wildlife alarm signals (listed in the Polar Bear Viewing Information booklet) and avoid acting in ways that stress bears

When you view:

- Arrive and leave viewing areas using the same route, proceeding slowly, with minimal lights and noise
- Always stay within earshot of your guide
- Avoid noisy conversations and sudden movements during viewing
- Use extra caution if viewing during low light conditions (one way, for example, is to have a dedicated observer watching for bears from all directions)
- Remain in your vehicle or boat unless instructed by your guide

Make sure you:

- Do not herd, follow, chase, or displace bears
- Do not attract bears with food, scents, sounds, etc.
- Do not allow physical contact between a bear and a vehicle or boat
- Never separate a mother from her cubs
- Never restrict the movements of swimming bears
- Obey all local signs, barriers, guidelines, ordinances etc. regarding bear viewing practices

Continued on the back.

Hire an authorized business when viewing polar bears from the water

If you view polar bears from the water or use a water taxi service, hire an authorized business with registered boat operators and staff. They have participated in polar bear guide workshops and have the safety training—and knowledge of conservation laws and scientific studies—to provide professional, quality polar bear viewing opportunities. These guides are required to operate and maintain their boats and equipment to professional standards.

Arctic Refuge lists authorized businesses at **http://arctic.fws.gov/pbguide.htm**.

Legal boat operators keep a copy of their Arctic Refuge business permit on their boat. The permit also lists the name of the business's Coast Guard-licensed boat operator(s). If you request, legal boat operators will show you documentation that their business is authorized. They have worked hard to maintain this authorization.

How is Arctic Refuge involved?

The Refuge is required to oversee commercial activities on the water and Refuge lands surrounding Kaktovik to protect wildlife habitat and subsistence opportunities for local residents.

Arctic Refuge and its partners provide technical assistance and training opportunities for businesses and boat operators. To find out more contact Jennifer Reed at Arctic Refuge: (907) 455-1835, or jennifer_reed@fws.gov.

Polar Bears (USFWS)

Frequently asked questions

How close is "too close" to polar bears?

- There is no legally set distance for polar bear viewing. Instead, **guides and viewers are expected to view bears in a manner that avoids disturbing them**. Each bear's reaction to humans is dependent on that bear's individual tolerance and viewer's actions.
- You are required to immediately stop your approach if a bear responds to your presence. If it continues to show signs of disturbance you must retreat.
- Viewing polar bears safely and legally requires an in-depth understanding of bear behavior. This is why you should hire guides committed to professional standards for quality polar bear viewing.

Whose job is it to decide how we view bears: the guide's or the viewer's?

- It is your guide's responsibility to choose actions that help protect both you and bears. Respect your guide's decisions. However, it is also your responsibility, as viewer, to act respectfully and legally toward polar bears, whether you are using a guide or not.

Why are some activities allowed that disturb bears, but bear viewing is so carefully monitored?

- The Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act allow for certain types of disturbance (called "take") such as for subsistence hunting, scientific research, and human safety activities. All of those instances require the hunter, researcher, or manager to minimize and report the disturbance. There is no such exception for recreational polar bear viewing, which means that it can continue only if it is done in a way that does not disturb polar bears.

Why are people allowed to hunt polar bears even though the bears are threatened?

- Polar bears were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act because of sea ice habitat loss, not because of subsistence hunting.
- The Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act provide for subsistence opportunities that allow Native coastal-dwelling peoples to hunt polar bears, recognizing this traditional use and its cultural importance. The Marine Mammal Protection Act also designates a number of Alaska Native co-management partners for polar bear conservation. Their involvement helps ensure a responsible harvest.
- The North Slope Inupiat and Canadian Inuvialuit peoples have a voluntary agreement to harvest polar bears in a responsible manner.

Do commercial photographers need a special permit?

- In most cases, yes. See the Polar Bear Viewing Information booklet for detailed information about commercial photography of polar bears. Requirements may vary depending on where and how the activity occurs.

What should I do if I see a bear in town?

- Move to safety and then call 911 to report the location of the bear.

The Arctic Refuge coast is unique because of its polar bear viewing opportunities and the role citizens play in polar bear conservation.

You have the chance to view polar bears because of the efforts of people before you to use safe viewing practices. Please do your part by following best practices when viewing polar bears.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
907/456 0250 800/362 4546
arctic_refuge@fws.gov http://arctic.fws.gov/
facebook.com/arcticnationalwildliferefuge

AMERICA'S NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM...
Conserving the Nature of America

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Arctic
National Wildlife Refuge

So beobachtet man Eisbären am besten

Obwohl Eisbären manchmal zahm erscheinen, so sind es doch wilde Tiere und ihr Verhalten kann sich schnell ändern. Eisbären in der Natur zu beobachten kann daher ein gefährliches Unternehmen sein.

Das Gesetz schreibt vor, dass Eisbären nur dann beobachtet werden dürfen, wenn die Tiere nicht gestört werden. Sie haben die Möglichkeit dazu, weil vor Ihnen Menschen verantwortungsvolle und sichere Beobachtungen durchgeführt haben. Eisbären zu beobachten kann auch in Zukunft nur möglich sein, wenn Sie und andere Beobachter sich darum bemühen, dass Bären und Menschen ungefährdet sind.

Jeder Bär reagiert verschieden auf eine Begegnung mit Menschen. Das hängt vom Bären selbst, von den Umständen und anderen Faktoren ab. So kann z.B. ein Bär Beobachter in 100 Fuss (ca 35 m) Enfernung tolerieren, während ein anderer fortgeht, wenn man sich ihm in einer Entfernung von 500 Fuss (ca 180 m) nähert. Bären reagieren auch eher auf ein Fahrzeug oder Boot, dass sich ihnen geräuschvoll und schnell nähert, als auf eines mit weniger Licht und Lärm.

Was Sie tun können . . .

Befolgen Sie diese Richtlinien, um Eisbären so wenig wie möglich zu stören:

Bevor Sie zur Bären-Beobachtung aufbrechen:

- Studieren Sie die „Bärenführer-Broschüre" gemeinsam mit Ihrem Führer
- Machen Sie sich mit dem Sicherheitsplan Ihres Führers vertraut, für den Fall, dass einmal eine Notlage eintritt (z.B. eine Fahrzeugpanne)
- Lernen Sie richtiges Verhalten, falls ein Bär sich Ihnen entweder neugierig, nervös, drohend oder aggressiv nähert
- Machen Sie sich mit Alarmsignalen der Bären vertraut (wie in der „Polar Bär Viewing Information" Broschüre beschrieben) und vermeiden Sie jegliches Verhalten, das die Bären beunruhigen kann

Während der Bär-Beobachtung:

- Nähern Sie sich dem Beobachtungsort langsam, mit so wenig Licht und Geräusch wie möglich, und verlassen Sie den Ort wieder auf demselben Weg, den Sie gekommen sind
- Bleiben Sie stets in Hörweite Ihres Führers
- Vermeiden Sie lautes Reden und plötzliche Bewegungen während der Beobachtung
- Besondere Vorsicht ist geboten bei schlechtem Licht (Hier empfiehlt es sich, einen aufmerksamen Beobachtungsposten zu haben, der in alle Richtungen nach Bären Ausschau hält)
- Bleiben Sie in Ihrem Fahrzeug oder Boot, es sei denn, Ihr Führer informiert Sie anderweitig

Zu Ihrer Sicherheit:

- Treiben Sie Bären niemals zusammen, verfolgen, jagen oder vertreiben Sie sie nie
- Locken Sie niemals Bären mit Nahrung, Gerüchen oder Geräuschen an
- Lassen Sie nicht zu, dass ein Bär mit einem Fahrzeug oder Boot körperlich in Berührung kommt
- Trennen Sie niemals eine Bärenmutter von ihren Jungen
- Behindern Sie niemals schwimmende Bären
- Befolgen Sie alle Richtlinien und Gebote, die örtlichen Barrieren oder „Verkehrszeichen" hinsichtlich der Eisbär-Beobachtungen

Buchen Sie ein autorisiertes Unternehmen, wenn Sie Eisbären vom Wasser aus beobachten wollen.

Wenn Sie Eisbären vom Wasser aus beobachten oder dazu einen Wassertaxi Service benutzen wollen, buchen Sie bei einem autorisierten Unternehmen mit registrierten Booten und Angestellten. Diese Leute haben an Führungsworkshops und Sicherheitstraining teilgenommen, sie kennen sich mit den Umweltschutzgesetzen und den wissenschaftlichen Studien aus—und können daher professionelle und hochwertige Eisbärführungen anbieten. Diese Führer sind verpflichtet, ihre Boote und Gerätschaften auf professionellem Stand zu halten.

Sie finden die Liste der vom Arctic Refuge genehmigten Unternehmen unter **http://arctic.fws.gov/pbguide.htm**.

Autorisierte Bootsunternehmen haben eine Kopie ihrer Lizenz an Bord ihres Bootes. Darauf befindet sich auch die Liste mit den Namen der offiziell zugelassenen Bootsunternehmer, die von der Coast Guard autorisiert sind. Auf Anfrage zeigen Ihnen die Bootsunternehmer diese Lizenz. Sie haben hart dafür gearbeitet.

Was tut das Arctic Refuge?

Das Refuge ist verpflichtet, die kommerziellen Aktivitäten auf dem Wasser und in den Refuge Gebieten an Land um Kaktovik herum zu beaufsichtigen, um das Habitat wilder Tiere zu schützen und die Möglichkeiten zur traditionellen Nahrungsbeschaffung für die lokale Bevölkerung zu wahren.

Arctic Refuge und seine Partner stellen sowohl technische Hilfe als auch Trainingsmöglichkeiten für Geschäfte und Bootsunternehmer zur Verfügung. Für weitere Informationen kontaktieren Sie bitte Jennifer Reed bei Arctic Refuge: Tel. (907) 455-1835, oder unter jennifer_reed@fws.gov.

Polar Bears (USFWS)

Oftmals gestellte Fragen

Wie nah ist „zu nah" am Eisbären?

- Es gibt keine offiziell festgelegte Distanz beim Eisbär-Beobachten. Es wird jedoch von den Führern als auch von den Beobachtern erwartet, dass die Bären nicht gestört werden. Wie ein jeder Bär auf Kontakt mit Menschen reagiert, hängt von seiner individuellen Toleranz und dem Verhalten des Beobachters ab.
- Wenn ein Bär auf Ihre Anwesenheit reagiert, müssen Sie sofort stehenbleiben. Zeigt er sich weiterhin gestört und beunruhigt, müssen Sie umdrehen und sich zurückziehen.
- Um Eisbären legal und sicher zu beobachten, muss man ein gründliches Wissen über das Verhalten der Tiere haben. Deshalb sollten Sie die Dienste eines Führers nutzen, der einem professionellen Standard für hochqualitatives Eisbär-Beobachten verpflichtet ist.

Wer entscheidet, wie wir Bären beobachten: der Führer oder der Beobachter?

- Ihr Führer ist verantwortlich für alles, das sowohl Ihrer Sicherheit als auch der der Bären dient. Respektieren Sie, was der Führer entscheidet. Als Beobachter tragen jedoch auch Sie die Verantwortung für respektvolles und legales Verhalten gegenüber den Bären, egal ob Sie mit einem Führer oder selbstständig unterwegs sind.

Warum sind manche Aktivitäten, die die Bären stören, erlaubt, das Beobachten der Bären jedoch so sorgfältig überwacht?

- Der „Endangered Species Act" und der „Marine Mammal Protection Act" gestatten folgende Arten von Störung („Take" genannt) wie z.B. die traditionelle Nahrungsbeschaffung, wissenschaftliche Forschung, und die Sicherheit für Menschen. In all diesen Fällen ist der Jäger, der Forscher, der Manager verpflichtet, den Bären so wenig wie möglich zu stören und einen Bericht zu erstatten. Für Freizeit-Bären-Beobachter gibt es keine Ausnahmen, und d.h. Bären können auch weiterhin nur beobachtet werden, wenn sie nicht gestört werden.

Warum dürfen Eisbären gejagt werden, obwohl sie vom Aussterben bedroht sind?

- Der „Endangered Species Act" hat die Eisbären auf die Liste der „bedrohten Tierarten" gesetzt wegen des Rückgangs des Meereises und nicht wegen des Jagens.
- Der „Endangered Species Act" und der „Marine Mammal Protection Act" gewährt den einheimischen Küstenbewohnern des Recht, Eisbären zu jagen und erkennt hiermit die Tradition und seine kulturelle Bedeutung an. Der „Marine Mammal Protection Act" ernennt ausserdem etliche co-managemant Partner aus der einheimischen Bevölkerung Alaskas zum Artenschutz der Eisbären. Ihre Beteiligung trägt dazu bei, eine verantwortungsvolle Jagd zu garantieren.
- Es besteht ein freiwilliges Abkommen mit den einheimischen North Slope Inupiat and den Kanadischen Inuvialuit, um eine verantwortungsvolle Jagd zu gewährleisten.

Benötigen Berufsfotografen eine Sondergenehmigung?

- In den meisten Fällen – ja. Genaue Informationen hierzu finden Sie in der Broschüre „Richtlinien zum Beobachten von Eisbären" Die Bedingungen können verschieden ausfallen, je nachdem wie und wo diese Fotoarbeiten durchgeführt werden sollen.

Was muss ich tun, wenn ich einen Eisbären im Ort sehe?

- Bringen Sie sich in Sicherheit und wählen Sie dann 911, um den genauen Standort des Bären mitzuteilen.

Die Küste des Arctic Refuge ist einzigartig wegen seiner Möglichkeiten zum Beobachten von Eisbären, und wegen der Rolle, die die einheimische Bevölkerung bei dem Artenschutz der Bären spielt.

Sie verdanken die Möglichkeit zum Beobachten von Eisbären Menschen, die vor Ihnen hier waren und einen Sicherheitsstandard setzten. Bitte tragen auch Sie hierzu bei, wenn Sie die Eisbären beobachten.

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AMERICA'S NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM...
Conserving the Nature of America

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北極圏
国立野生生物保護区
北極グマ(白クマ)観察の注意点

北極グマ(白クマ)は一見おとなしそうに見えても野生動物であり、行動を突然変えることがあります。ですから、野生の北極グマ観察は常に危険を伴います。

クマの観察はクマを刺激したり脅かしたりすることを避けるという前提に基づき、法律で認められています。現在みなさんに観察の機会が続けて与えられているのは,これまでの観察者が安全確保にふさわしい責任ある行動をとってきたからです。皆さん自身や他の観察者がクマや人の安全を最優先した行動をとってこそ、貴重な野生の北極グマ観察の機会を今後も続けていくことができるのです。

それぞれのクマが人に対してどのように反応するかは、クマの性格、観察時の色々な状況などにより大きく違ってきます。たとえば、人が30メートルまで近づいてもあまり気にとめないクマもいれば、150メートル以上近づくと逃げてしまうクマもいます。また、同じクマでも、大きな音を出して早いスピードで近づいて来る車やボートには敏感に反応する反面、音や光を最小限におさえてゆっくりと近づけばそれほど気にとめない傾向があります。

下記に北極グマ(白クマ)観察の際の注意点を挙げています。

これらの注意点を守っていただくことで、北極グマに与える影響を最小限にとどめることができます。

観察の前に:

- ガイドと一緒に、Polar Bear Viewing Information (北極グマ観察について説明した小冊子)をお読みください。
- 非常時(たとえば、観察中に車が故障した場合など)にどうすればよいか、ガイドの定める安全確保のための計画をよく確認しておいてください。
- クマがそわそわし出したり、あなたに興味を示したり、攻撃的、威圧的に近づいて来た場合などに、どのように対応すべきかを事前に知っておいてください。
- 野生動物は身に危険を感じると色々な兆候を見せます。(Polar Bear Viewing Information に記してあります。) そういった兆候を知っておき、クマを刺激するような行動を避けるようにしましょう。

観察する時に:

- 観察場所には光や音を最小限におさえながら、行きも帰りも同じ経路を使って、ゆっくりと近づいてください。
- あなたの声が常にガイドに聞こえる範囲内にとどまって観察しましょう。
- 観察中は大声で話したり急に動いたりするのを避けましょう。
- 薄暗い時間にクマを観察する場合は特に注意が必要です。例えば,薄暗い中で、一方向ばかりに気を取られていると、違う方向から近づいて来るクマに気がつかない恐れがあるので、全ての方向を常に見張る役の人を一人決めるなどの工夫をするのも一つの方法です。
- ガイドから特に指示がない限り、車やボートの中にとどまりましょう。

厳守すること:

- クマを追いかけたり、一カ所に追い込んだり、別の場所に追いやったり、クマにつきまとったりしないでください。
- 食べ物、におい、音などで、クマの興味を引こうとしないでください。
- クマを車やボートに接触させないでください。
- 絶対に母グマと子グマを離れさせてはいけません。
- 泳いでいるクマの邪魔をしないでください。
- 地域にあるクマ観察に関するすべての標識、囲い、決まり事などに必ず従ってください。

ボートからクマを観察する場合は公認業者をお雇いください。

ボートからクマを観察したり水上タクシーを使われる場合は公認業者をお雇いください。公認業者には、登録されたボート操業者や職員がいます。これら職員は北極グマ観察を安全に案内するための特別な研修を受け、野生動物保護のための法律や研究に関する知識も備えています。公認業者はボートや必要器具を常に高い標準に維持し、操業するように義務づけられています。

北極圏国立野生生物保護区認定の業者のリストは http://arctic.fws.gov/pbguide.htm. をご覧下さい。

公認のボート操業者はボート内に北極圏国立野生生物保護区内で操業するための許可証の控えを保管しています。許可証を取得し維持するために、これらの公認業者は色々な努力をしてきました。許可証にはアメリカ海上保安庁発行の免許を持つボート操縦者の名前も記されています。乗客が問い合わせた時には、公認の操業者はその認可証を乗客に見せることになっています。

北極圏国立野生生物保護区管理者と北極グマ観察活動との関わり

北極圏国立野生生物保護区管理者は、野生動物の生息地と地域先住民の伝統的生存狩猟活動を守るために、カクトビック周辺の保護区の陸地と水上で行われる商業活動を監督する義務があります。

北極圏国立野生生物保護区管理者及びその共同者はボート操業者やその他の業者に技術援助や研修の機会を提供しています。詳しくはジェニファー・リード (Jennifer Reed at Arctic Refuge: (907) 455-1835, or jennifer_reed@fws.gov) までお問い合わせください。

北極グマ (USFWS)

よくある質問

北極グマ(白クマ)にどのくらい近づいてもいいですか。

- 法律ではクマ観察の距離は特に定められていません。そのかわりにガイドと観察者はクマを刺激したり脅かしたりすることなく観察するように求められています。クマの行動は個々のクマの許容性や観察者の行動によって大きく左右されます。
- あなたの行動がクマの行動に影響を与えた場合は直ちに接近するのをやめてください。接近をやめてもクマがまだ落ち着かない態度を見せた場合はクマから遠ざからなければなりません。
- クマを法律にしたがって安全に観察するためには、クマの行動や生態を深く理解する必要があります。ですから、専門的な知識や経験があり、信頼できるガイドを雇うことはとても大切です。

どのようにクマを観察するかを決めるのは誰の判断であるべきですか。ガイドですか、それとも観察者ですか。

- 観察者とクマの安全を確保するために適切な行動を選ぶのはガイドの責任です。ガイドの判断を尊重し、それに従ってください。しかし、法に従ってクマを尊重することは、ガイドの有無に関わらず、観察者自身の責任でもあります。

北極グマにとって必ずしも好ましくない影響を及ぼすいくつかの活動は許されているのに、なぜ北極グマの観察はとても注意深く管理されているのですか。

- The Endangered Species Act (絶滅のおそれのある野生動植物の種の保存に関する法律) 及び Marine Mammal Protection Act (海洋哺乳類保護法) は特別な例として、先住民の伝統的生存狩猟活動、科学的調査、人命保護などが目的であれば、北極グマに影響を与える活動であってもそれらを許可しています。これらの活動に従事する狩猟者、科学者、管理者たちはクマへの影響をできる限り抑え、その活動を報告するよう義務づけられています。
- 娯楽のための北極グマ観察は上記の法律で例外を認められた活動ではありません。ですから、観察活動がクマに好ましくない影響を与えない方法で行われるという前提がなければ続けて行くことはできません。そのため、観察活動を注意深く管理しなければならないのです。

営利目的で北極グマの写真を撮るには特別な許可が必要ですか。

- ほとんどの場合、営利を目的とした写真撮影をするためには特別な許可が必要です。詳しくは Polar Bear Viewing Information (北極グマ観察について説明した小冊子) をご参照ください。撮影の行われる場所や状況によって条件が異なる場合があります。

もし北極グマを町の中で見かけたら、どうしなければいけませんか。

- 安全な場所に移動した後、直ちに911に電話し、クマを見た場所を報告して下さい。

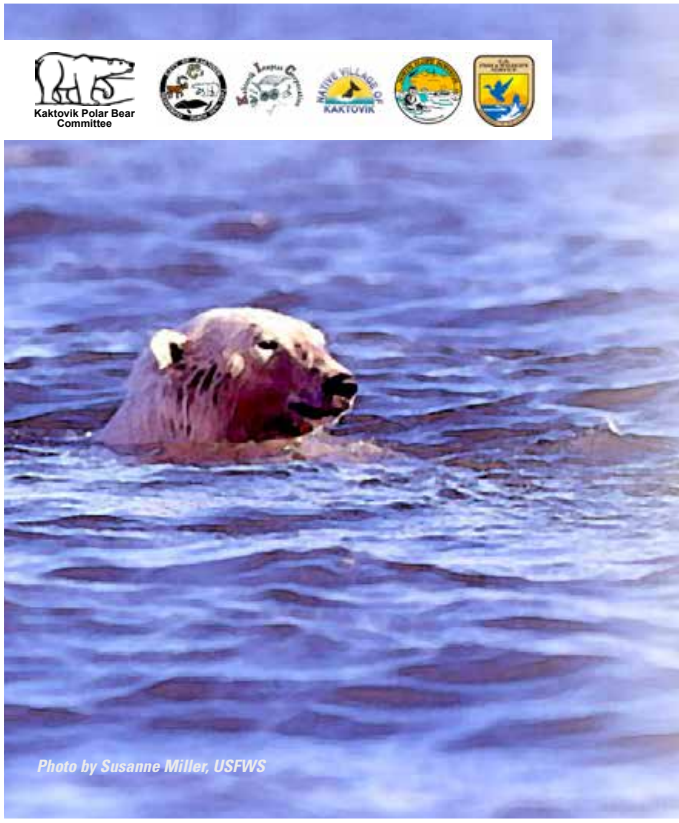
北極圏国立野生生物保護区の海岸地域は北極グマ観察の機会とクマの保護のために市民が果たす役割の重要性という点において、とても特別な地域です。

これまでの観察者が北極グマを尊重し適切な行動を取ってきたからこそ、現在も北極グマの観察の機会が与えられているのです。今後もこのような観察の機会を続けることができるよう、観察のための注意点を守って安全なクマの観察をされますように、ご協力をお願いします。

北極圏国立野生生物保護区
電話：907-456-0250 又は 800-362-4546
Eメール：arctic_refuge@fws.gov
ウェブサイト：http://arctic.fws.gov/
フェイスブック：facebook.com/arcticnationalwildliferefuge

アメリカ合衆国国立野生保護区制度
アメリカの自然を守るために

Appendix 6. *Kaktovik Guidelines & Polar Bear Information* Fact Sheet

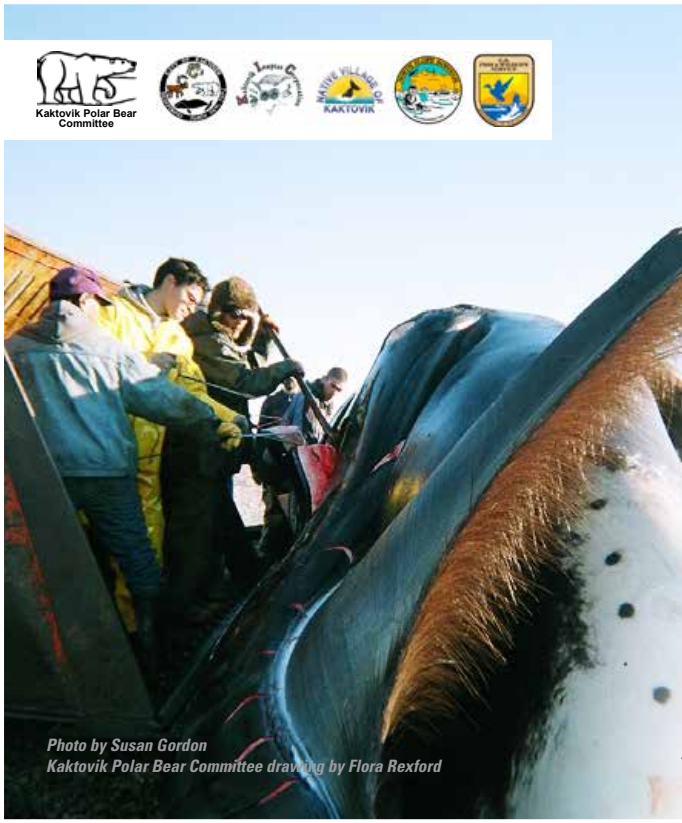


Kaktovik Guidelines for Viewing Polar Bears

It is legal to view and photograph polar bears.
It is unsafe and illegal to disturb polar bears.

- Review bear safety information before coming to bear country (at **http://arctic.fws.gov/visitors.htm**).
- View bears only during daylight hours. Be in a group and in a vehicle or boat.
- Respect bears' personal space—avoid close encounters.
- Approach slowly with minimal noise, lights, or movement.
- Stop your approach if a bear notices you. Allow it to resume what it was doing before you proceed.
- Do not herd, follow, or chase bears.
- Do not feed or otherwise attempt to attract bears.
- Do not get between a mother and her cubs.
- Allow swimming bears to pass.
- Do not allow bears to make contact with you or your vehicle or boat.

Respect bears. Your proper conduct will ensure that polar bear viewing opportunities can continue in the future. Thank you for your efforts!



Kaktovik Guidelines for Community Visitors

- Please be conscientious when visiting our community. We welcome safe and respectful viewing of polar bears and whaling activities.
- Take photos from a distance. Obey barriers set to ensure safe viewing.
- To continue the community's traditional food-gathering activities, federal law permits community members to hunt bowhead whales. Please respect these traditional activities by staying out of the way during butchering.
- When you view polar bears, use a trained guide. This will ensure safe conduct that obeys federal polar bear protection laws.
- It's OK to purchase handcrafted items made from marine mammals. The Marine Mammal Protection Act allows only Native Alaskans to sell handcrafted items made of marine mammal parts. Except for these handcrafted items, it is illegal for non-Natives to possess, transport, or sell marine mammal products. Check to ensure that *import* of marine mammal parts into your country is legal.

Respect our community. Your proper conduct will ensure that polar bear and whale viewing opportunities can continue in the future. Thank you for your efforts!

About Polar Bears

Polar bears have an important place in the cultural traditions of Alaska Natives, who recognize the bears' amazing strength, hunting ability and stealth.

Residents and visitors have a unique opportunity to see polar bears in Kaktovik. These bears are part of the Southern Beaufort Sea population, estimated at 1,500 animals. This population uses an area extending more than 800 miles along the north coast of Alaska and Canada. Polar bears prefer to be on ice but as it diminishes each summer and fall the bears come to the coast surrounding Kaktovik to rest, feed, wait for the ice to re-form, and sometimes to den and give birth.

At Barter Island, polar bears on land may encounter brown bears. Polar bears are much larger than brown bears. Adult male polar bears typically measure 8 to 9 feet from nose to tail and can weigh up to 1,320 pounds, Adult female polar bears are typically about half the size of males. Despite their larger size, polar bears are often displaced by brown bears when feeding at the bone pile.

Polar bears are specially adapted to the Arctic environment. Bears have white coloration for camouflage; water repellent guard hairs and dense underfur; black skin for absorbing warmth; small "suction cups" on the soles of their feet for traction on slippery ice; teeth specialized for a meat-eating rather than a meat-and-plant diet; and the ability to store large amounts of fat when food is available and then use it later when food is scarce. Polar bears primarily eat ringed seals but they also hunt bearded seals, walrus, and beluga whales, and will scavenge beached carcasses they find along the coast.

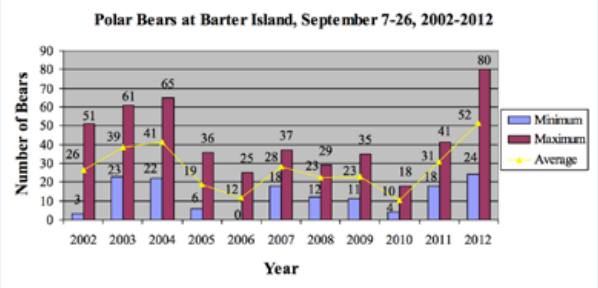
Polar bears generally live alone except when concentrating along the coast during the open water period, or when mating or rearing cubs. Pregnant females spend late October or November until late March or April in winter dens. Other polar bears do not usually den, and are active year-round. Polar bear dens are often located on land in areas where snow accumulates, such as along the coastal bluffs and river banks surrounding Kaktovik. Dens may also be excavated in pressure ridges on sea ice.

Pregnant bears give birth to 1 to 3 tiny, helpless and almost hairless cubs in mid-winter. Mother and cubs are protected within a snow den that provides relative warmth and stable temperatures, where the mother nurses and cares for her young until March or early April. Once the family emerges they move onto sea ice, where the cubs learn to hunt. Cubs stay with their mother for approximately 2½ years.

Denning is an important time for the developing polar bear cubs. Winter den disturbance can cause den abandonment and cub death. Viewing polar bears within winter denning habitat is not recommended.

A warming climate is causing the disappearance of arctic sea ice, leaving wide stretches of open water the bears must swim across when traveling between ice and land. It is common for bears to rest on land without moving for days after completing such long-distance swims. Stay away from such bears and let them rest undisturbed.

Polar Bear Numbers on Barter Island

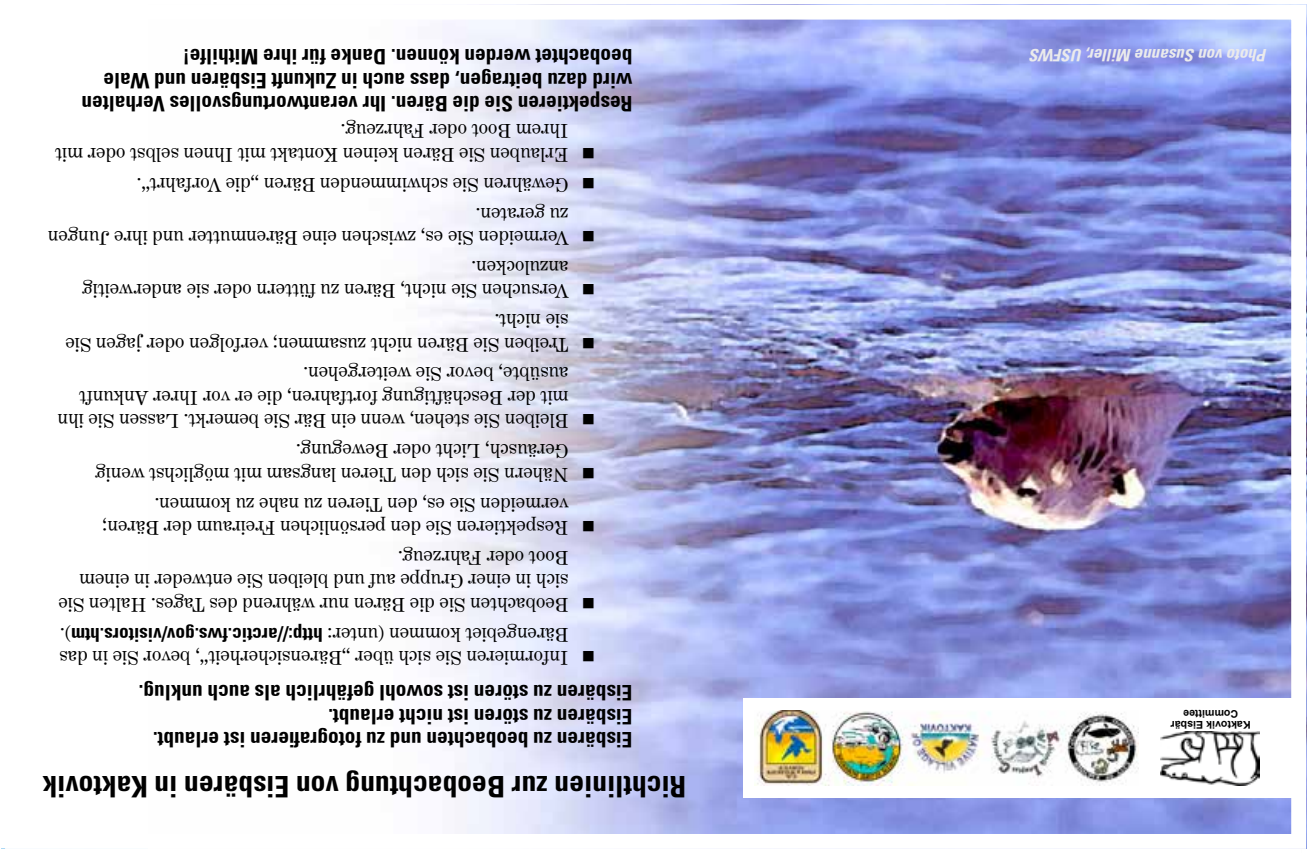


- Polar bear counts from 2002 to 2012 are variable. They don't show a clear trend at this time.
- Polar bears of all ages and both sexes use Barter Island. This area may be especially important for nutritionally stressed bears.
- Polar bears typically arrive at Barter Island in August and remain until October when the ocean freezes. Count dates were established in 2002 to estimate the number of bears using subsistence-harvested whale remains.
- Continued monitoring is needed and is on-going.

Why Polar Bears Visit Barter Island

- During fall, the highest density of polar bears along the north coast of Alaska and western Canada occur around Barter Island.
- The number of polar bears on shore seems to be closely correlated to the distance of ice from shore. Reductions in sea ice could result in increasing land use by polar bears.
- One reason polar bears are attracted to Barter Island is because of the subsistence whale carcasses here.
- Another reason polar bears are attracted here may be because the density of ringed seals, one of their preferred foods, is higher here than elsewhere along the coast. The ice freezes here first in the fall, providing a good platform from which they can hunt for the seals.

Appendix 6b. *Kaktovik Guidelines & Polar Bear Information* Fact Sheet (German)



Wissenwertes über Eisbären

Eisbären haben einen wichtigen Platz in der kulturellen Tradition der einheimischen Bevölkerung Alaskas. Sie schätzen die bemerkenswerte Kraft, das Jagdgeschick und die List der Bären.

Einwohner und Besucher haben eine einmalige Gelegenheit, Eisbären in Kaktovik zu beobachten. Diese Bären sind ein Teil der Southern Beaufort Sea Gruppe, geschätzte Anzahl: 1,500 Tiere. Diese Gruppe bewohnt ein Areal, das sich mehr als 800 Meilen entlang der Nordküste Alaskas und Kanadas erstreckt. Das Eis ist die bevorzugte Heimat der Eisbären, aber da es im Sommer und Herbst abnimmt, kommen die Bären an die Küste, um sich auszuruhen und zu fressen; sie warten auf die Rückkehr des Eises. Später im Jahr graben sich auch manche eine Geburtshöhle, um darin Junge zu bekommen.

Auf Barter Island treffen Eisbären manchmal auf Braunbären. Eisbären sind viel grösser als Braunbären; ein erwachsener männlicher Eisbär misst gewöhnlich ca. 2½ - 3 Meter von der Nase bis zum Schwanz, und er kann ein Gewicht von bis zu ca. 600 kg erreichen. Erwachsene weibliche Tiere sind meistens nur halb so gross wie die männlichen. Trotz ihrer Grösse werden Eisbären oft von Braunbären verscheucht, wenn sie an dem Walknochen-Haufen fressen.

Eisbären haben sich besonders ihrer arktischen Umgebung angepasst. Sie sind weiss zur Tarnung, haben ein wasserabweisendes Fell und dichtes Unterhaar, schwarze Haut, um Wärme zu absorbieren, kleine „Saugnäpfe" an ihren Fusssohlen zum Laufen auf glattem Eis; ihre Zähne sind für's Fleisch-Fressen und nicht für eine Fleisch-Pflanzen Diät spezialisiert; und bei einem reichlichen Nahrungsangebot können sie grosse Fettreserven in ihrem Körper anlegen, um im Notfall wieder darauf zurückgreifen zu können. Die Hauptnahrung der Eisbären sind Ringelrobben. Sie jagen jedoch auch Bartrobben, Walrosse und Belugawale, und sie fressen am Strand angespülte Kadaver, die sie entlang der Küste finden.

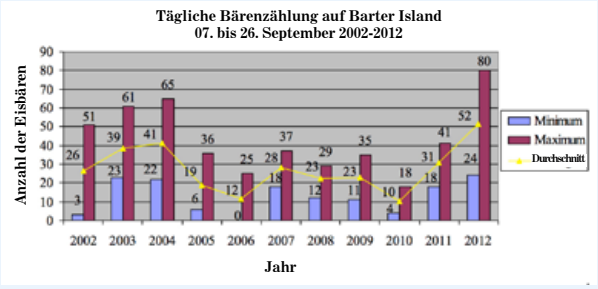
Normalerweise sind die Eisbären Einzelgänger, ausser wenn sie sich zur eisfreien Zeit am Ufer versammeln, oder zur Paarungszeit und wenn sie Junge aufziehen. Trächtige Bärinnen verbringen die Zeit von Ende Oktober/ Anfang November bis zum späten März oder April in ihren Winterhöhlen. Andere Eisbären benutzen normalerweise keine Höhle, sondern sind das ganze Jahr über aktiv. Die Höhlen der Eisbären liegen oftmals an Land, wo viel Schnee angehäuft ist, so z.B. an den Steilküsten oder den Flussufern nahe Kaktovik. Auch in Schnee- und Eisverwehungen auf dem Meereis werden manchmal Höhlen gegraben.

Trächtige Bären gebären 1 bis 3 winzige, hilflose und fast nackte Junge in der Mitte des Winters. Mutter und Junge sind in einer Schneehöhle geschützt, in der es bei gleichbleibender Temperatur relativ warm ist. Dort säugt die Mutter ihre Jungen bis März oder Anfang April. Sobald die Familie die Höhle verlässt, begibt sie sich auf das Meereis, wo die Jungen die Jagd erlernen. Junge bleiben ca. 2 ½ Jahre bei ihrer Mutter.

Die Zeit in der Geburtshöhle ist sehr wichtig für die Entwicklung der Eisbär-Jungen. Wird eine Winterhöhle gestört, kann die Folge das Verlassen der Höhle und den Tod der Jungen bedeuten. Von Bär-Beobachtungen in der Nähe der Winterhöhlen ist abzuraten.

Die Klimaerwärmung führt zum Schmelzen des arktischen Meereises. Dadurch entstehen breite eisfreie Wasserflächen, die die Bären durchschwimmen müssen, wenn sie zwischen Meereis und dem Land unterwegs sind. Es ist üblich, dass die Bären sich an Land einige Tage ausruhen, nachdem sie solche Langstrecken geschwommen sind. Halten Sie Abstand zu solchen Bären, damit sich die Tiere ungestört ausruhen können.

Anzahl der Eisbären auf Barter Island



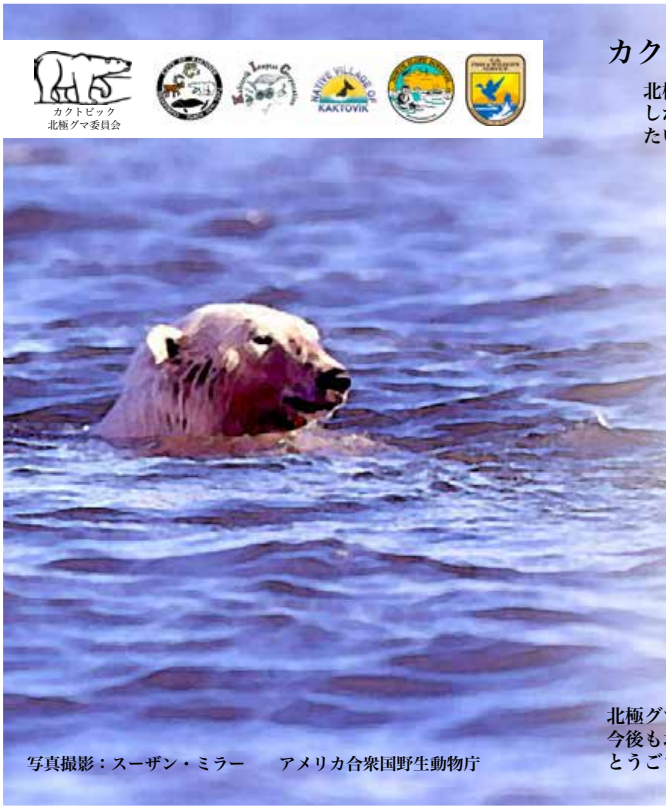
- Eisbär-Zählungen von 2002 bis 2012 brachten unterschiedliche Ergebnisse. Es zeichnet sich in dieser Zeit keine klare Tendenz ab.
- Eisbären beiderlei Geschlechts und jeden Alters kommen nach Barter Island. Diese Gegend ist möglicherweise besonders günstig für nicht ausreichend ernährte Bären.
- Für gewöhnlich erscheinen die Eisbären im August auf Barter Island und bleiben dort bis zum Oktober, wenn das Meer wieder zufriert. Zählungsdateien wurden im Jahr 2002 erstellt, um die Anzahl der Bären zu schätzen, die sich von den Resten der Wale ernähren, die mit traditioneller Technik zur Nahrungsbeschaffung erlegt wurden.
- Weitere Beobachtungen/Zählungen sind notwendig und werden durchgeführt.

Warum kommen Eisbären nach Barter Island

- Im Herbst versammelt sich die grösste Anzahl von Eisbären, die es an den Küsten von Alaska und West-Kanada gibt, um Barter Island.
- Die Anzahl der Bären am Ufer scheint mit der Entfernung des Meereises zum Land zusammenzuhängen. Der Rückgang des Meereises könnte zur Folge haben, dass die Eisbären sich vermehrt an Land aufhalten.
- Ein Grund dafür, dass Barter Island eine solche Anziehungskraft auf die Bären ausübt sind die Walgerippe, die von der traditionellen Nahrungsbeschaffung übrig bleiben.
- Ein weiterer Grund ist vermutlich die grosse Anzahl von Ringelrobben, die hier grösser ist als in anderen Küstengebieten. Sie sind die bevorzugte Nahrung der Eisbären. Im Herbst gefriert das Eis hier am ehesten und bietet ihnen eine gute Plattform, von der aus sie die Robben jagen können.

Appendix 6c. *Kaktovik Guidelines & Polar Bear Information* Fact Sheet (Japanese)

カクトビック
北極グマ委員会



写真撮影：スーザン・ミラー　　アメリカ合衆国野生動物庁

カクトビックでの北極グマ(白クマ)観察注意点

北極グマ(白クマ)の観察，及び写真撮影は法律で認められています。しかし、クマを刺激したり，おどかしたりすることは違法であり、たいへん危険な行為です。

- 北極グマの生息地を訪れる前に、安全のための注意を説明しているウェブサイト（http://arctic.fws.gov/visitors.htm）をご覧下さい。
- クマの観察は昼間の明るい時間帯だけにしましょう。単独でなくグループで、車内かボート内から観察してください。
- クマの行動を妨げることのないよう，十分な距離を置き、けっして近づきすぎないようにしましょう。
- 音、光、動きを最低限におさえて、ゆっくりとクマに近づいてください。
- クマが、接近行為に気がついた場合は，ただちに動きを止めましょう。そしてクマが元の行動に戻るまで静かに待ちましょう。
- クマを呼んだり，クマについて回ったり，追いかけたりしてはいけません。
- クマにえさをやろうとするなど、クマを故意に自分に向かせるような行為はしないでください。
- 母グマと子グマの間には絶対に入ってはいけません。
- ボートから観察中に、泳いでいるクマの進路を妨げないようにしてください。
- クマを車やボート，人体に接触させないようにしてください。

北極グマ(白クマ)を尊重し適切な行動を取っていただくことにより、今後も北極グマ観察の機会を継続することができます。ご協力ありがとうございます。

カクトビック
北極グマ委員会

写真撮影:スーザン・ゴードン
カクトビック北極グマ委員会　挿絵:フローラ・レックスフォード

カクトビック地域へお越しの皆様へのお願い

- この地域へお越しの際は地域住民への配慮を忘れず北極グマ(白クマ)の観察や捕鯨の見学をされますようにお願いします。
- 写真撮影は離れた場所からお願いします。安全の確保のための囲いや目印がある場合はそれらに従って観察してください。
- この地域の伝統的な食物収集活動を続けるために、アメリカ合衆国法はカクトビック地域住民のホッキョククジラ捕鯨を許可しています。この伝統を尊重し、クジラの解体作業中は作業の妨げにならないように気をつけて観察してください。
- 北極グマの観察は研修や実習を受けたガイドを伴ってください。それによって、法律にしたがった安全な観察をすることができます。
- 海洋生物を素材とした工芸品の購入は許されていますが海洋生物保護法により、海洋生物の工芸品を販売することができるのはアラスカ先住民だけです。先住民でない者が先住民から購入した工芸品以外の海洋生物製品を保持、運搬，販売することは違法です。また、ここで先住民から正規に購入した工芸品であっても、それらを他国に持ち帰ることが合法であるかどうかは、入国先によって異なりますので事前にご確認ください。

この地域を尊重し適切な行動を取っていただくことにより、今後も北極グマの観察や捕鯨の見学の機会を継続することができます。ご協力ありがとうございます。

北極グマ(白クマ)について

北極グマはアラスカ先住民の伝統文化にとても重要な位置を占めています。北極グマの強靭さ、獲物に忍び寄る狩りの能力はアラスカ先住民が認め賞賛してきました。

カクトビックでは、住民や訪問者が北極グマを観察する珍しい体験ができます。ここで見られるクマは、ビューフォート海南部に生息するおよそ１５００頭のクマの一部です。これらのクマはアラスカとカナダ北部の８００マイル（約１２８７キロ）にわたる海岸地区を利用して生活しています。北極グマは氷上を好みますが、氷が減る夏と秋には海岸で休息し、食べ物を探し、海に再び氷が張るのを待ちます。時にはここで巣穴を作り出産するクマもいます。

バーターアイランドでは、陸にいる北極グマがヒグマに遭遇することがあります。北極グマはヒグマよりもかなり大きく、大人のオスは鼻先から尾まで８フィートから９フィート（２．４から２．７メートル）ほどあり、体重は１３２０パウンド（約６００キロ）さらに大きいものでは１７６０パウンド（約８００キロ）にもなります。大人のメスは、オスの半分ほどの大きさが普通です。その大きさにもかかわらず、バーターアイランドにある捕鯨後のクジラの残骸が積み上げられている餌場では、よく北極グマがヒグマに場所を譲る光景が見られます。

北極グマは北極の環境に適応して暮らしてきました。北極グマの白さはカモフラージュになります。外側には防水効果のある粗い毛、内側には保温のための密集した毛、そして熱を吸収する黒い皮膚があります。足の裏には小さな吸盤のようなものがあり、滑りやすい氷の上の滑り止めになっています。歯は肉食草食両用ではなく、肉食のみに最適な構造をしています。食べ物が豊富な時には大量の脂肪を体に蓄えて、食べ物が不足しても、蓄えた脂肪を使うことができます。北極グマは主にワモンアザラシを食べますが、他にもアゴヒゲアザラシ、セイウチ、シロイルカなども食べ、海岸にうちあげられた生き物の死骸を探してまわったりもします。

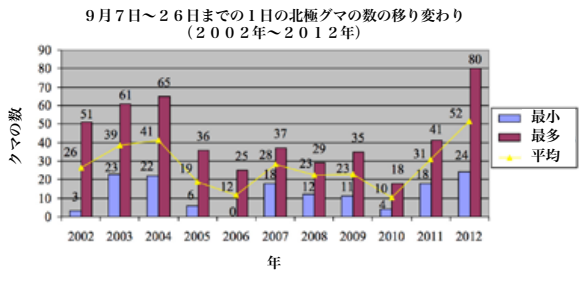
海に氷が張らない時期に海岸線近くに多く集まる時や繁殖期、子育て中を除き、北極グマはたいてい単独で生活します。妊娠中の母グマは１０月末か１１月ごろから３月末か４月ごろまで、冬の巣穴で過ごします。他のクマは巣穴に住むことはほとんどなく１年中活動します。母グマの巣穴はカクトビック周辺の川岸や海岸の崖に沿った、雪が多く積もった陸地によくあります。また、圧力で盛り上がった氷海上に掘られたものもあります。

妊娠した母グマは真冬になると、かよわい、ほとんど毛の生えていない、とても小さな子グマを巣穴の中で１～３匹生みます。雪に守られた巣穴は一定の暖かさを保ってくれ、母グマは３月か４月まで巣穴の中で子グマを母乳で育てて過ごします。巣穴から出た後は母グマと子グマは氷海上に移り子グマは狩りの仕方を習い始めます。子グマはおよそ２年半ほどを母グマと生活します。

巣穴に住む時期は子グマの成長にたいへん重要です。冬に巣穴をおびやかすことは母子を巣穴から追い出し、子グマの死につながります。ですから、冬に北極グマの巣穴に近づくことは避けるべきです。

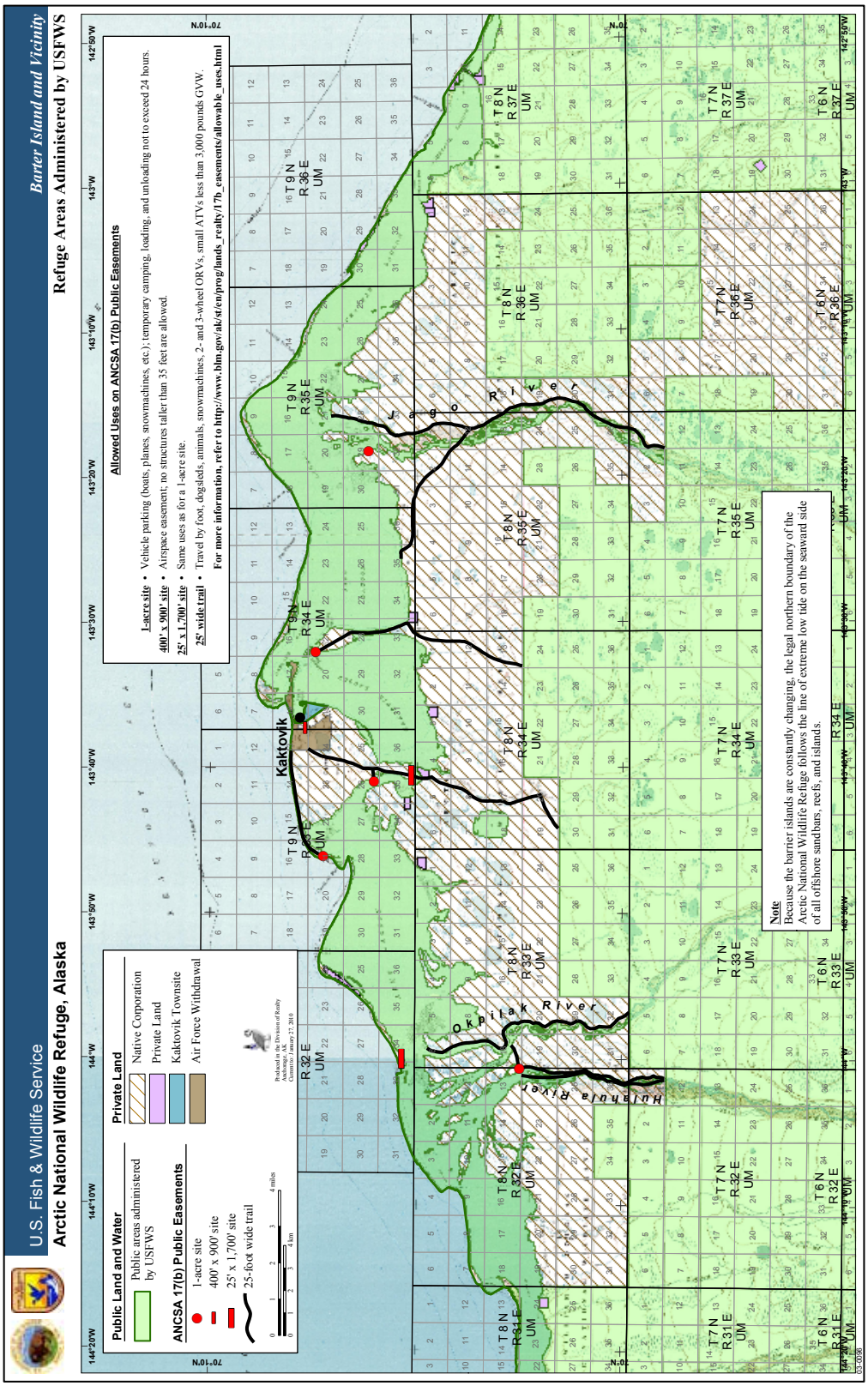
近年の気候の温暖化によって海氷がとけてきたために北極グマは氷と陸の間を長時間泳いで渡らなければならなくなりました。長時間泳いだ後で、クマが何日も動かずに陸上で休むことはめずらしくありません。そのようなクマを見かけた場合、近づかないで静かに休ませておくようにしてください。

バーターアイランドの北極グマ (白クマ) の数



- ２００２年から２０１２年の間のクマの数はまちまちで一定の傾向はみられません。
- オス、メスともに幅広い年齢層のクマが、バーターアイランドを訪れます。ここは栄養不足のクマにとっては特に重要な地域と言えそうです。
- 北極グマはたいていバーターアイランドに８月頃現れ１０月に海が凍るまでとどまります。バーターアイランドでは文化と伝統に根ざした先住民生存捕鯨が行われています。そのクジラの残骸に集まるクマの数を推計するため、２００２年にクマの数を調べる日が設定されました。
- クマの数を継続して調査することは重要であり、現在も続けられています。

北極グマがバーターアイランドを訪れる理由

- アラスカの北海岸からカナダの西部にかけて、北極グマが秋に一番多く集まるのは、バーターアイランド周辺です。
- 海岸部で見られるクマの数と、陸から海氷までの距離は密接に関係しているようです。今後、海氷が減り、陸との距離がさらに伸びれば、陸地を使う北極グマはさらに増えると思われます。
- 北極グマがバーターアイランドに集まる大きな理由の一つは、捕鯨の後のクジラの死骸があることのようです。
- もう一つの理由は、おそらく、クマの主な食べ物であるワモンアザラシがバーターアイランド付近には他のどの海岸地域よりも多く生息しているからでもあるでしょう。秋になるとここでは真っ先に海が凍り、ワモンアザラシを捕るために都合のよい狩り場ができるのです。

Appendix 7. *Lands and Waters near Barter Island Administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*