

Adopted on the inaugural meeting of the Bilateral Commission, Moscow, 25 Sept 2009

## The Structure of the Scientific Working Group under the U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Commission

The Scientific Working Group under the U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Group ") is established in accordance with Paragraph 8 of Article 8 of the Agreement between the Governments of the United States and Russian Federation on the Conservation and Management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement").

### I. Purpose of the Group

The Group shall assist the U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission") in resolving questions pertaining to the protection and management of the Alaska-Chukotka polar bear population.

### II. Responsibilities of the Group

The Group is charged by the Commission with providing expert guidance in the following areas of the Commission's work:

1. Determination of an annual sustainable harvest level for polar bears based on reliable scientific data, including traditional knowledge of native peoples.
2. Determination of annual take limits not to exceed sustainable levels.
3. Identification of measures to restrict taking of polar bears with the goal of conserving the population and supporting the traditional way of life of native peoples within the annually-established harvest limits, which shall include periods open for hunting, restrictions as to age, sex and other parameters, in addition to Paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Agreement.
4. Determination of the boundaries of the Chukotka-Alaska population.
5. Determination of critical polar bear habitat areas and development of recommendations to conserve them.
6. Consideration of scientific-research programs, including joint ones, for the study, conservation and monitoring of polar bears, as well as preparation of

recommendations for their implementation and determination of criteria for reporting and verifying polar bears taken.

7. Developing recommendations on captive maintenance of orphaned and rehabilitated polar bears.
8. Collection and study of information and scientific data on polar bears, including information about harvested bears and cases where threats to human life have arisen.

### III. Composition of the Group

1. The Group shall consist of an equal number of members from the U.S. and Russia.
2. Each side shall propose the membership of its section of the Group. The specific composition of the Group, or any changes thereto, shall be confirmed by the Commission either at one of its regular meetings, or by correspondence.
3. The Commission has selected co-Chairpersons who shall be responsible for organizing the groups work. In addition the group will select a member from the host country to serve as Secretary on a rotating basis. The duties of the Chairperson and the Secretary shall include organizing the Group's work.
4. The group may call upon other experts as needed to address specific topics.

### IV. Organization of the Group's Work

1. The Group's Co-Chairpersons shall receive assignments from the Commission, and shall carry out those assignments in an efficient and timely manner.
2. The Group's Co-Chairpersons shall inform the Commission of the results of assignments carried out, by report, or analytical materials and documents.
3. The Group shall conduct a working meeting at least once a year.
4. Funding for the work of the U.S. and Russian sections of the Group shall be provided by the U.S. and Russian sides, respectively.