



# NALUNAAARUTIT

## 2023

Nr. 5

6. marts 2023

### **The self-government's executive order on the capture and protection of polar bears**

*Pursuant to § 2, subsection 4, § 8, §§ 11-13, § 15, subsection 4, and §§ 17-18, in County Parliament Act No. 12 of 29 October 1999 on trapping and hunting, and § 5, § 6, subsection 2, § 35, §§ 60-61 of Landsting Act no. 29 of 18 December 2003 on nature protection, as well as § 4, § 6, §§ 7-9, §§ 11-14, § 16 and § 18 of Inatsisartutlov no 19 of 3 December 2012 on concessions for tourist activities in selected rural areas and subsequent amendments,*

*stipulates:*

#### *Field of application*

*§ 1. The order applies to the capture, protection and non-capture paid tourism of polar bears (Ursus maritimus) on Greenland's land and fishing territory.*

#### *Definitions*

*§2 In this executive order is understood by:*

- 1) "Cubs" are polar bear cubs that, regardless of the cubs' age, are in a dependent relationship with the mother.
- 2) "A quota year" is the period from and including 1 January to and including 31 December.
- 3) "Inhabited area" is a town or settlement, sheep farm, summer residence, military or research stations.
- 4) "Problem polar bears" are polar bears that, despite previous attempts to scare them away, repeatedly return to inhabited areas and can pose an obvious risk to people, collected supplies and assets of particular economic importance.
- 5) "Paid tourism without trapping" is a collective term for activities within tourism activities associated with polar bears, where trapping is not practiced.
- 6) "Resident with a permit or concession" is a Greenlandic person residing in Greenland.

#### *Conservation*

*§ 3. Polar bears are protected on Greenland's land and fishing territory, however cf. § 5.*

PCS. 2. Polar bears are protected from 1 July to and including 31 August from and including Qaanaaq to and including Nanortalik management area. In Ittoqqortoormiit and Tasiilaq administrative areas, the conservation period is from 1 August to 30 September inclusive.

PCS. 3. The polar bear population in Southeast Greenland is protected throughout the year.

PCS. 4. Cubs that are in a dependent relationship with the mother, and females accompanied by one or more cubs, are protected throughout the year.

PCS. 5. It is forbidden to disturb, including excavating, polar bears that are in dens.

#### *Disturbance of polar bears*

§4. It is forbidden to lure, seek out, pursue or otherwise disturb polar bears.

PCS. 2. However, it is permitted to seek out and pursue polar bears if this is done in connection with legal trapping and hunting, cf. §8, or as part of an attempt to scare a polar bear away from an inhabited area, cf. subsection 4.

PCS. 3. It is also permitted to seek out polar bears if this is done in connection with paid tourism without trapping together with a resident person with a permit or concession approved by the Self Government of Greenland, cf. Act on Concession for Tourist Businesses. A distance of at least 200 meters must be kept from polar bears.

PCS. 4. It is forbidden to prevent or interfere with the work of police, hunting officers, municipal officers or other authorized persons in scaring problem polar bears away from an inhabited area.

PCS. 5. It is prohibited to use drones to film or otherwise pursue polar bears.

#### *Determination of quotas for catching*

§ 5. Naalakkersuisut can set an annual quota for catching polar bears in Greenland. Quota determination takes place taking into account international agreements, biological advice, knowledge of catcher and user as well as consultation with the members of the Catch Council and the municipalities.

PCS. 2. The Department of Fisheries and Hunting can determine that the total national polar bear quota is deducted from the polar bears that are killed in accordance with the law of emergency.

PCS. 3. A quota can be limited for biological reasons and taking into account the stock to animals of certain sex and age groups and certain hunting periods.

PCS. 4. The distribution of the annual quotas for catching and the applicable conditions for this are published on the website of Naalakkersuisut and via press release.

PCS. 5. It is prohibited to use drones to film or otherwise pursue polar bears.

#### *Determining catch areas based on stock delimitations*

§ 6. The stocks are geographically delimited and they are defined as listed in appendix 1. Subsection 2. Within a geographically defined stock, quotas can be set at the municipal level level, administrative area level or village level.

*Consultation and distribution of quotas for catching*

PCS. 3. Determining catch areas is done on the basis of the latest biological knowledge about how the stocks are geographically delimited.

PCS. 4. It is not permitted to conduct fishing across the geographically defined stock areas, cf. appendix 1.

§ 7. Allocation of quotas is carried out by Naalakkersuisut after consultation with the members of the Fishing Council and municipalities.

PCS. 2. The Department of Fisheries and Fisheries can instruct the municipal council to take care of the necessary administrative management in connection with the municipal quota.

PCS. 3. The Department of Fisheries and Hunting can reduce the municipality's quota for the relevant or the following quota year, if it is established that there has been an overfishing of the polar bear quota or illegal fishing of polar bears has taken place in a municipality. PCS.

4. The Department of Fisheries and Fisheries may transfer polar bear quotas that have not been used up within a geographically defined population to the total quota for the same population in the following quota year. The method of transfer of unused allowances is non-cumulative.

*Fishing rights, issuance and distribution of licences, etc.*

§ 8. Only persons who are in possession of a license issued pursuant to § 10, subsection 1, must catch polar bear.

PCS. 2. A license gives access to capture 1 polar bear in the quota year in which the license is issued.

PCS. 3. The license must be carried together with a valid commercial hunting certificate during capture and presented on request by the police, hunting and fishing officers, their assistants or other authorized person for inspection.

PCS. 4. It is forbidden to hunt polar bears for a fee.

PCS. 5. If a person, cf. subsection 1, is transported by or is a paid companion of persons who do not is in possession of a valid commercial hunting licence, it is not permitted to catch polar bears.

§ 9. A license to catch polar bears is personal and may not be transferred or sold.

PCS. 2. Persons who have been granted a license and cannot or will not use it must return the unused license to the licensing authority as soon as possible.

§ 10. Numbered licenses for catching polar bears are issued upon application by the municipal council in the municipality where the applicant in question has a registered address.

PCS. 2. Applicants must have a valid commercial hunting certificate at the time of application in order to participate in the distribution of licences.

§ 11. If the number of qualified applicants, cf. § 10, exceeds the number of licenses the municipal council can issue, the municipal council may decide on a rotation scheme between cities/settlements in connection with the distribution of licences. The list with rotation arrangements must be published by posting or in a similar way.

§ 12. The municipal board can set a time limit for collecting allocated licences.

PCS. 2. Licenses which have not been collected within the set time limit can be redistributed before for the administrative area according to an official waiting list established by the municipal council. The time for redistribution is announced by the municipal council before the start of the catch period.

§ 13 The municipal board must monitor quota consumption closely and stop fishing immediately when the allocated municipal quota or the geographically limited quota has been used up.

PCS. 2. The municipal board must contact the Department of Fisheries and Catches in writing without delay when an allocated quota has been used up.

*Fishing methods and non-fishing paid tourism*

§ 14 Airplanes, helicopters and motor vehicles, incl. snowmobiles and ATVs, as well as vessels, which, according to their measurement certificate, is more than 15 meters long overall, may not be used during polar bear hunting or for transport to and from the hunting area. It is prohibited to use drones during polar bear hunting.

PCS. 2. Airplanes, helicopters and motor vehicles, incl. snowmobiles and ATVs, as well as drones may not be used during paid tourism without catching.

PCS. 3. In connection with polar bear hunting, it is prohibited to arrange paid tourism without hunting.

PCS. 4. It is forbidden to use poison, self-shots, scissors, foot snares or other technical aids for holding polar bears.

PCS. 5. Polar bears may only be caught using a rifle, the minimum legal caliber of which is 30.06. The use of fully automatic rifles for polar bear hunting is prohibited.

PCS. 6. All meat, skin and other usable parts of a dead polar bear must be brought back from the capture site or deposited. Before leaving the catch site, residues must be disposed of as far as possible.

*Use, procurement and sale of the catch*

§ 15 Polar bears may not be sold from local boards or other loose sales before the municipality or the village office has registered the catch by stamp on the licence.

PCS. 2. Outside the municipal or village office's opening hours, sales can take place before the stamped license, if the registration is made immediately after the office has opened.

PCS. 3. In the case of resale, it must be possible to present documentation showing that the catch has been registered by a municipal authority.

PCS. 4. Sales directly to companies, institutions and eateries may only be made by commercial trappers who can present a valid commercial hunting certificate and stamped licence.

PCS. 5. Those in subsection The companies, institutions and eateries mentioned in 4 must be able to document that the meat is purchased from commercial trappers with a valid commercial hunting license and stamped license.

PCS. 6. Documentation, cf. subsection 5, is a signed invoice with a copy of a valid commercial hunting license and stamped license.

PCS. 7. Only persons with a valid commercial hunting license and stamped license may buy or sell meat, hides, skulls, bones, claws, teeth and stomachs. A note with

license number must be tied around each individual part. However, shops etc. resell these parts of the polar bear, if they are in the possession of the person in subsection 5 listed documentation.

PCS. 8. It is forbidden to buy or receive meat and skins as well as other parts of illegally caught polar bears.

PCS. 9. The Department of Fisheries and Hunting can decide that all or parts of an illegally caught polar bear or a polar bear euthanized as an emergency right or guardian can be awarded to public institutions and the local population.

#### *Catch party*

§ 16 A municipality can, in cooperation with local fishing and fishing associations, draw up a municipal statute on local catch party rules (ningerneq). The municipal statute is confirmed by Naalakkersuisoq for Fisheries and Catching.

#### *Catch reporting and control*

§ 17 All polar bear catches, incl. polar bears euthanized as a result of an emergency must be reported to the home municipality after each catch on the form in appendix 2 of the executive order. Likewise, all charges must be reported. If a tag with a number or a radio transmitter is found, this is handed in together with the form. The form is handed in at the same time as the license is stamped.

PCS. 2. If parts of the polar bear are not to be sold, cf. § 15, the catch must be reported via the form to the home municipality without unnecessary delay.

PCS. 3. In case of joint catch, the catch is only reported by 1 designated manager for the joint catch, who is responsible for reporting, e.g. the license holder, stating the names and CPR number of all participants in the catch.

PCS. 4. The municipal board submits the received forms as soon as possible after receipt, cf. appendix 2 of the executive order, as well as the stamped license, cf. section 15, subsection 1, to the Department of Fisheries and Catching.

#### *Biological samples*

§ 18 Anyone who has caught a polar bear must submit biological samples in the form of a tongue tip and the small tooth behind the canine tooth. The biological samples must be handed in to the municipal office together with information about the catch. The biological samples must be placed in one of the plastic containers with salt water provided by the Greenland Institute of Nature.

PCS. 2. The municipal office must forward the submitted biological sample and a copy of the catch reporting form to the Greenland Institute of Nature, Box 570, 3900 Nuuk, immediately after receipt.

### *Emergency right*

§ 19. If a polar bear is killed as a result of an emergency, cf. the provisions of the Criminal Code, the capture is deducted from the municipality's quota from the same stock demarcation for the year in question or the next quota year, if the management area's quota has been used up. If the polar bear is killed by a commercial trapper with a valid license, the polar bear belongs to the commercial trapper in question. If the polar bear is killed by the hunting officer, the police, the municipal bailiff or another person, the meat must be distributed locally if it is practically possible, while all the remaining parts of the polar bear belong to the Self-Government of Greenland.

PCS. 2. In the event of an emergency killing, the Department of Fisheries and Hunting must be notified immediately by the person who killed the polar bear. Reporting is done by contacting the Department by telephone, followed by a written catch report on a reporting form, cf. appendix 2.

PCS. 3. When observing or meeting a polar bear, reference is made to the Department of Fisheries and Fisheries' guidelines for observing polar bears.

### *Problem polar bears*

§20. Polar bears that repeatedly, despite previous attempts to scare them away, returns to inhabited areas and poses an obvious risk to people, collected supplies and property of particular economic importance may be destroyed, cf. subsection 5. If the problem polar bear is killed by a commercial trapper with a valid license, the polar bear belongs to the commercial trapper in question. If the problem polar bear is killed by the hunting officer, the police or the municipal bailiff, the meat must be distributed locally, while all remaining parts of the polar bear belong to the Self-Government of Greenland.

PCS. 2. The Department of Fisheries and Hunting must be contacted immediately in the event of any scare away of polar bears from inhabited areas.

PCS. 3. If a polar bear is killed by a commercial trapper as a problem polar bear, the catch is deducted from the municipality's quota from the same stock demarcation for the year in question or the next quota year, if the management area's quota has been used up.

PCS. 4. Females with one or more cubs are not covered by subsection 1.

PCS. 5. Only hunting officers, the police, municipal bailiffs, authorized commercial trappers or other persons authorized by the Department of Fisheries and Hunting may kill polar bears in accordance with subsection 1.

### *Municipal statute*

§ 21. A municipal council may, by municipal statute, establish further regulations in accordance with Section 7, Sections 10-12, Section 15, subsection 9 and § 16, as well as issuing statutes for hunting in certain areas within the municipality. Municipal statutes must be approved by Naalakkersuisoq for Fisheries and Catching.

### *Labeling and export*

§ 22. Sampling, marking, immobilization and other work in connection with scientific experiments with live polar bears may only be carried out by the Greenland Nature Institute, after approval from the Department of Fisheries and Hunting.

PCS. 2. It is forbidden to keep polar bears in captivity without permission from Naalakkersuisut. PCS. 3. The export of live polar bears from Greenland is prohibited.

PCS. 4. The export of polar bear meat, gall bladder or parts thereof is prohibited.

### *Dispensation and additional conditions for catching*

§ 23. For scientific purposes, including photographic/film-based documentation of polar bears or polar bear habitats as part of the purpose, or as part of mapping Greenland's fishing resources, the Department of Fisheries and Fisheries may grant an exemption from the rules of the executive order.

Section 24. The Department of Fisheries and Hunting may issue a written dispensation from the rules of the executive order, if a female polar bear with one or more cubs is assessed to be a problem polar bear.

PCS. 2. Dispensation in accordance with subsection 1 must be notified by the Department prior to killing the polar bears.

PCS. 3. Only hunting officers, the police or other persons authorized by the Department of Fisheries and Hunting may kill polar bears in accordance with subsection 1.

PCS. 4. If polar bears are killed in accordance with subsection 1, all parts from the polar bears shall belong to the Self-Government of Greenland. The self-government notifies the police, municipal clerk, the local authorities and other relevant parties of how the killed polar bear or polar bears are subsequently handled.

### *Measures*

§ 25. In case of violation of § 3, § 4, § 8, § 9, subsection 1, § 14, § 15, subsection 1-7, § 16, § 17, subsection 1, § 18, subsection 1, § 19, § 22 and § 24, subsection 2-4, measures in the form of a fine may be imposed.

PCS. 2. The Criminal Code's rules on confiscation are applied accordingly.

PCS. 3. In the event of a breach of the municipal by-laws issued pursuant to the executive order, the municipal by-laws may stipulate measures in the form of fines and confiscation in accordance with the Criminal Code.



PCS. 4. The decision on the use of confiscated parts from polar bears is made by the Department of Fisheries and Hunting.

PCS. 5. Fines accrue to the Landskassen.

*Entry into force*

§ 26. The executive order comes into force on 7 March 2023.

PCS. 2. At the same time, the Self-Government's executive order no. 3 of 14 September 2018 on protection and capture of polar bears in Greenland.

*Grønlands Selvstyre, den 6. marts 2023*

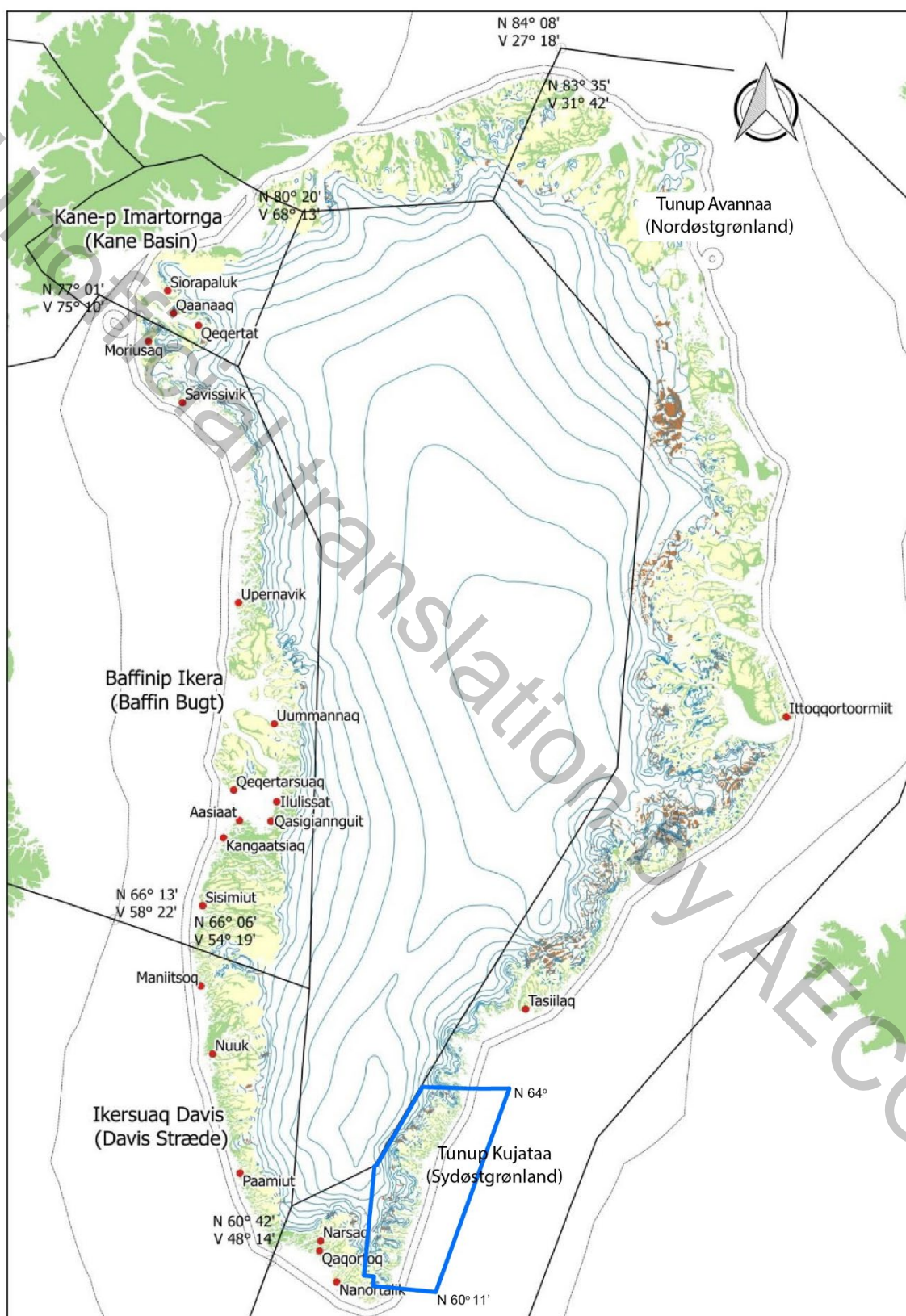
**Karl Tobiassen (sign.)**

Naalakkersuisoq for Fiskeri og Fangst

/ Jørgen Isak Olsen (sign.)

Bilag 1

Oversigt over bestandsafgrænsningerne




# FANGSTRAPPORT FOR ISBJØRN

## RAPPORTERING OM: (sæt kryds)

Fangst: ☐ Anskydning: ☐ Nødret aflivning ☐

(UDFYLD ALLE FELTER MED BLOKBOGSTAVER)

NAVN:	CPR-NR.:
BYGD:	BY:
LICENS-NR.:	
FANGSTDATO:	Tlf. Nr.:
FANGSTSTED: (kaldenavn)	
POSITION: _____ grader _____ min. nordlige bredde _____ grader _____ min. vestlige længde	
BEFORDRINGSMIDDEL: (anfør længde, hvis transportmiddel er en båd) _____	
KØN:	HAN: <input type="checkbox"/> HUN: <input type="checkbox"/>
ALDER: Unge (afhængighedsforhold til moder – ca. 0-2 år) <input type="checkbox"/> ; Ung (uafhængig af moder – ca. 3-4 år): <input type="checkbox"/> ; Voksen: <input type="checkbox"/> ; Gammel: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Var der radiosender?	Ja: <input type="checkbox"/> Nej: <input type="checkbox"/> Nr. _____
Var der mærke?	Ja: <input type="checkbox"/> Nej: <input type="checkbox"/> Nr. _____
Radio/mærke afleveres sammen med skemaet.	
Der skal sendes prøver fra isbjørnen, som skal sendes til Grønlands Naturinstitut. Der skal tages 0,5 cm af tungespidsen, samt 1 af de små tænder bag hjørnetænderne	
	Følgende prøver er sendt:  Tungespids <input type="checkbox"/> 1 tand <input type="checkbox"/>
UDFYLLERENS UNDERSKRIFT:	DATO:
EVT. ØVRIGE MEDFANGERES NAVNE OG CPR-NR.:	

Ved fællesfangst rapporteres fangsten kun af 1 udpeget rapporteringsansvarlig med angivelse af samtlige fangstdeltageres navne og cpr.nr.

Skemaet afleveres til bygde- eller kommunekontoret i udfyldt stand umiddelbart efter fangsten/anskydningen. Kommunen indsender de modtagne skemaer til Departementet for Fiskeri og Fangst i slutningen af hver måned.