



ALASKA NANUUQ COMMISSION

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Current Legal Polar Bear Hunting Requirements For the Chukchi-Bering Sea Population



Legal Requirements:

1. The subsistence harvest of polar bear is only allowed by coastal-dwelling residents that are one quarter or more Alaska Native.
2. The harvest cannot be wasteful: at least the hide and skull must be salvaged.
3. Once a bear is harvested, hunters **must report the harvest** and have **both the hide and skull tagged within 30 days**.
4. Hides, claws, skulls and bones can only be given or sold between Alaska Natives. If these parts are significantly altered into handicrafts they can be given or sold to a non-Native.
5. Edible portions (for example: meat) may be given or sold in an Alaska Native village by the hunter to anyone for consumption.
6. Hunting of females with cubs present, cubs-of-the-year, and denning bears is prohibited.
7. Sport hunting, and hunting with aircraft or large motorized vessels and vehicles are prohibited.
8. Harassment of polar bears is prohibited.
9. Killing a polar bear is allowed in defense of human life.

Background information:

Polar bears of the Bering/Chukchi Seas population, also known as the Alaska-Chukotka population, are co-managed by the Alaska Nanuuq Commission (ANC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the ***US-Russia Bilateral Agreement*** are laws that help manage and protect polar bears. These laws allow: 1. Subsistence harvest of polar bear is only allowed by coastal-dwelling residents that are one quarter or more Alaska Native.; or 2. killing polar bears for defense of human life.

A detailed harvest management plan, for the Bering/Chukchi Seas population, is being developed between the ANC and FWS that will help ensure continued subsistence opportunities under a new, multi-year quota system. The harvest management plan is not yet finalized but a total quota of 58 bears has been set. Alaska and Russia will share the total quota, allocating 29 bears to each country.

**For more information, to report a polar bear harvest, or to contribute samples,
Please contact one of the following:**

Alaska Nanuuq Commission: Contact Rhonda Sparks @ 907-443-5044, or 855-877-5044, (Nome) or find your local Alaska Nanuuq Commissioner.

Local Tagger: Contact Brad Benter or Forrest Hannan (Anchorage) at 800-362-5148 to find a Tagger in your community

USFWS Office of Law Enforcement: 907-443-2479 (Nome), or 907-456-2335 (Fairbanks), or 907-786-3311 (Anchorage)