

Management of polar bears in Norway

Polar Bear Range States Meeting
Shepherdstown, 26 – 28 June 2007



Directorate for
Nature Management

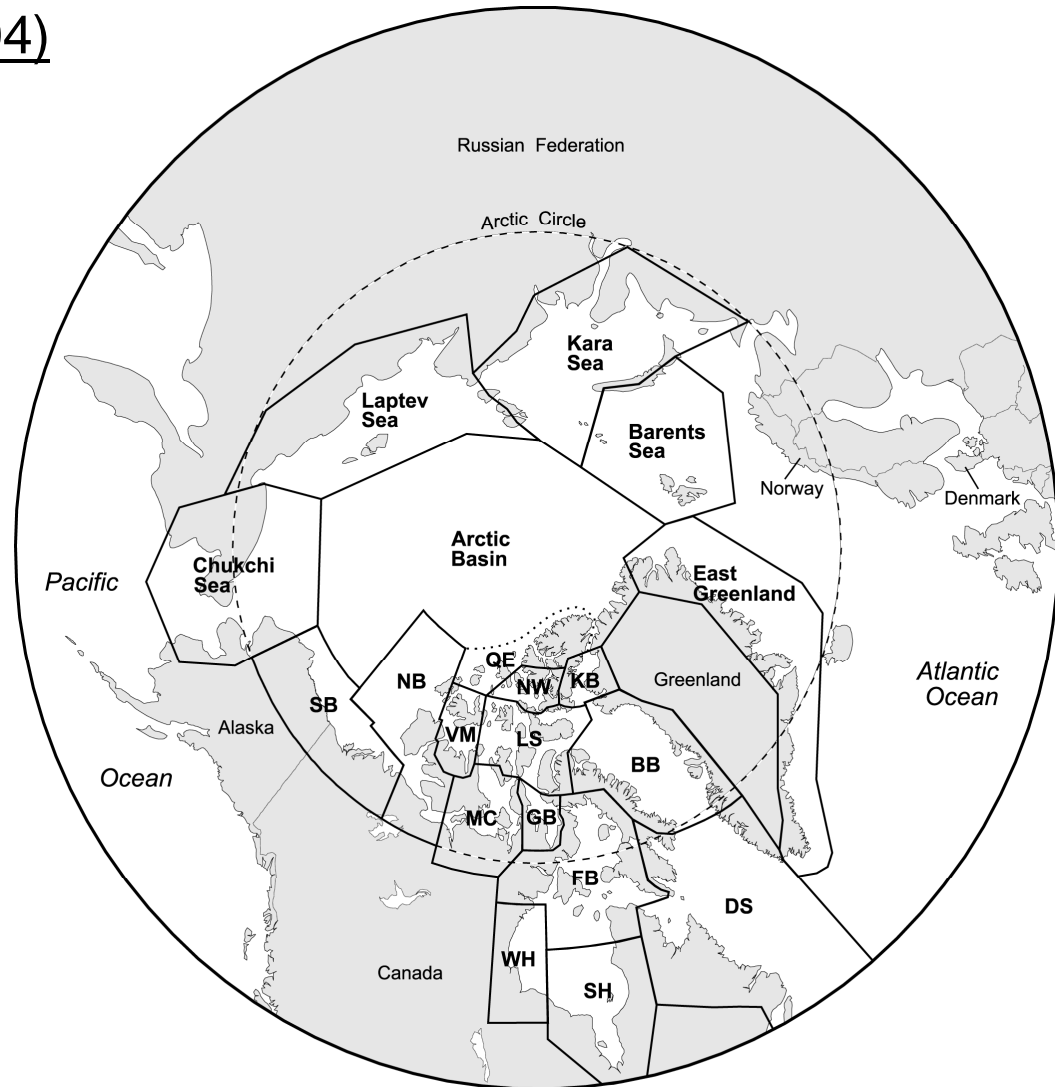


Barents Sea subpopulation

Population estimate (2004)

2997 individuals

95% CI (2299-4116)



A scenic landscape photograph featuring a range of rugged, snow-capped mountains under a pale, hazy sky. The foreground shows a dark blue sea. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

Policy and legal framework
Management responsibilities

Policy and legal framework

Svalbard

- High environmental policy objectives (1999)
- Strict and modern regulation in the Svalbard Environment Act (2002)

Barents Sea

- Policy framework set in the management plan for the Barents Sea (2006)
- Regulation through various thematic Acts

Management responsibility

- Overall policy:
Ministry of the environment
- Overall management:
Directorate for nature management
- Daily management in Svalbard:
Governor of Svalbard
- Main adviser on polar issues:
Norwegian Polar Institute

An aerial photograph showing a vast colony of birds, likely terns, flying over a coastal landscape. The birds are scattered across the sky, with a dense concentration near a sandy beach on the left side. The ocean is visible at the bottom of the frame. The text "Habitat protection" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Habitat protection

Habitat protection - Svalbard

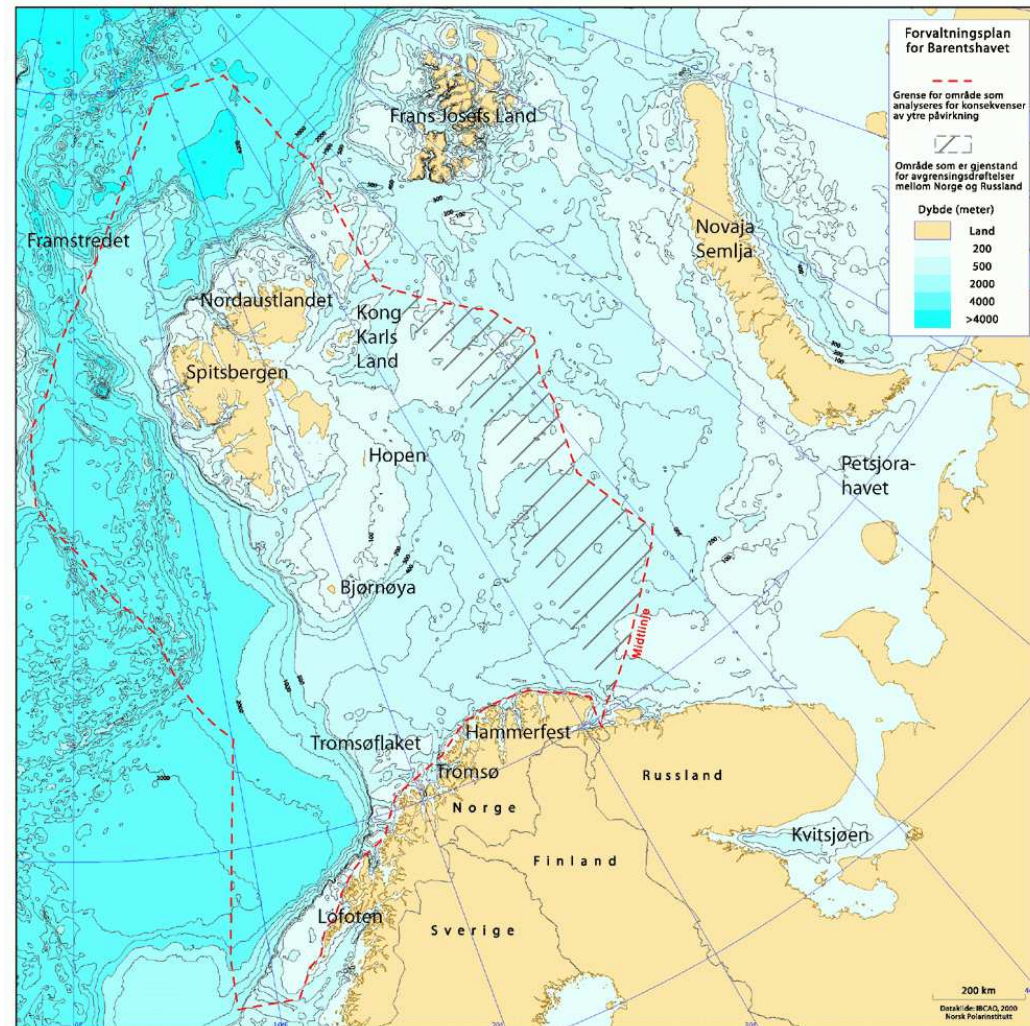
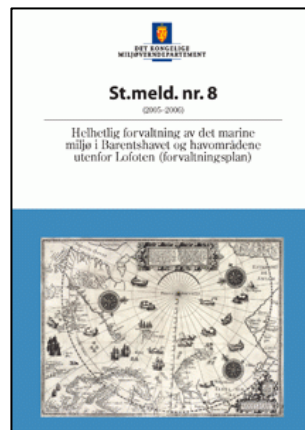
- most important denning areas inside nature reserves
- protected areas extending to territorial border at 12 nm (territorial borders changed from 4 to 12 nm in 2004)
- all other areas within territorial border covered by Svalbard Environmental Law



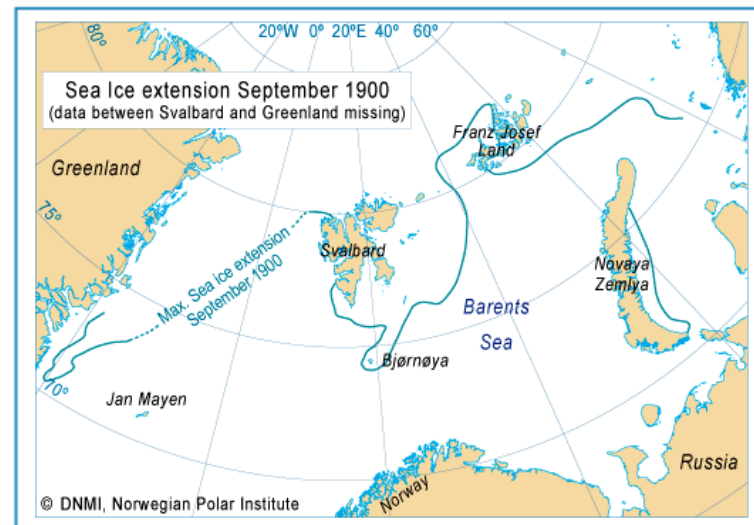
Habitat protection – Barents Sea/marginal ice zone (MIZ)

*From white paper No. 8 –
Management plan for the Barents
Sea and the areas outside Lofoten:*

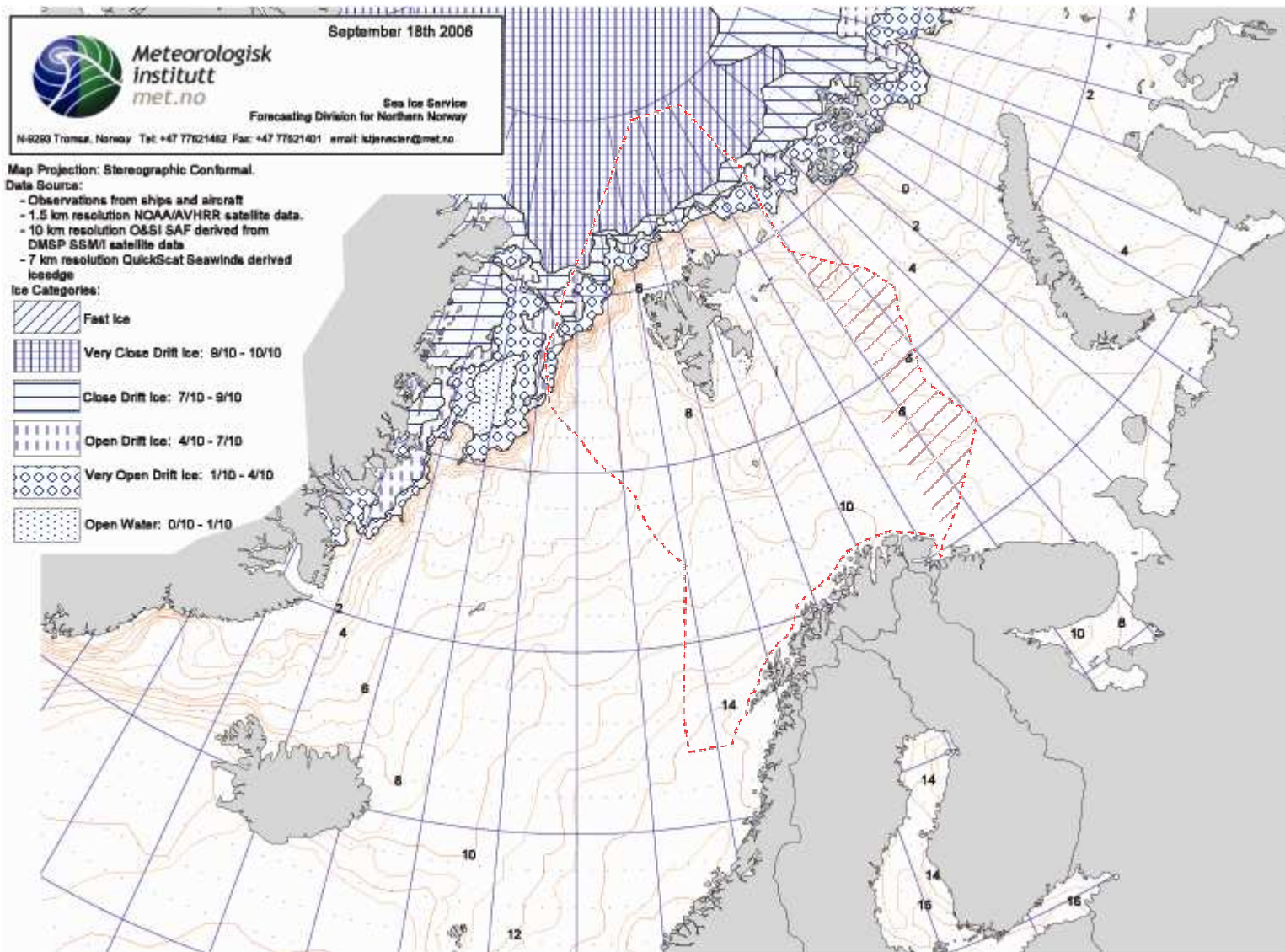
The MIZ is classified as a Particularly valuable and vulnerable area. In these areas “special caution will be required and special considerations will apply to the assessments of standards for and restrictions on activities”.



Habitat protection – MIZ



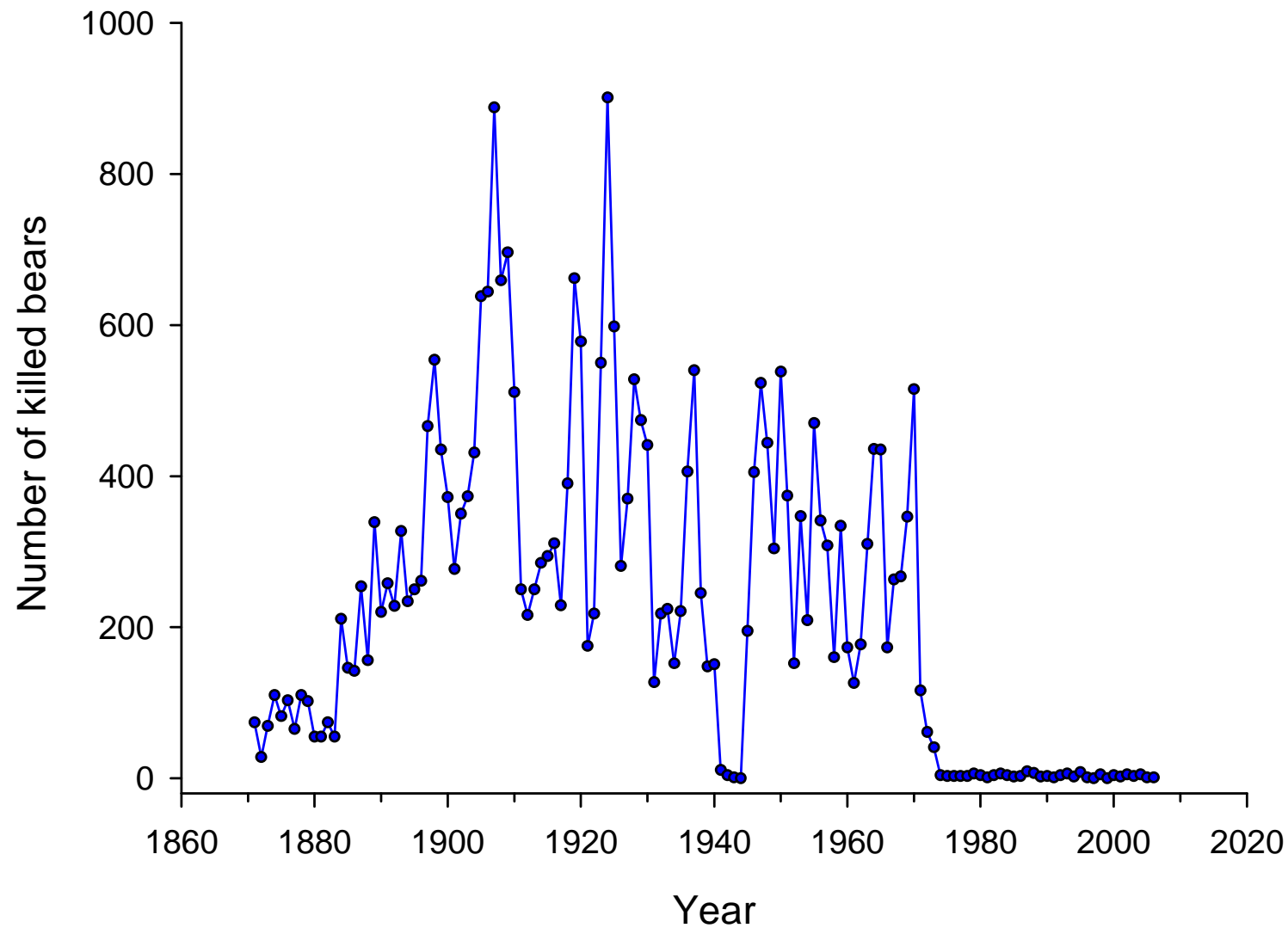
Habitat protection – MIZ



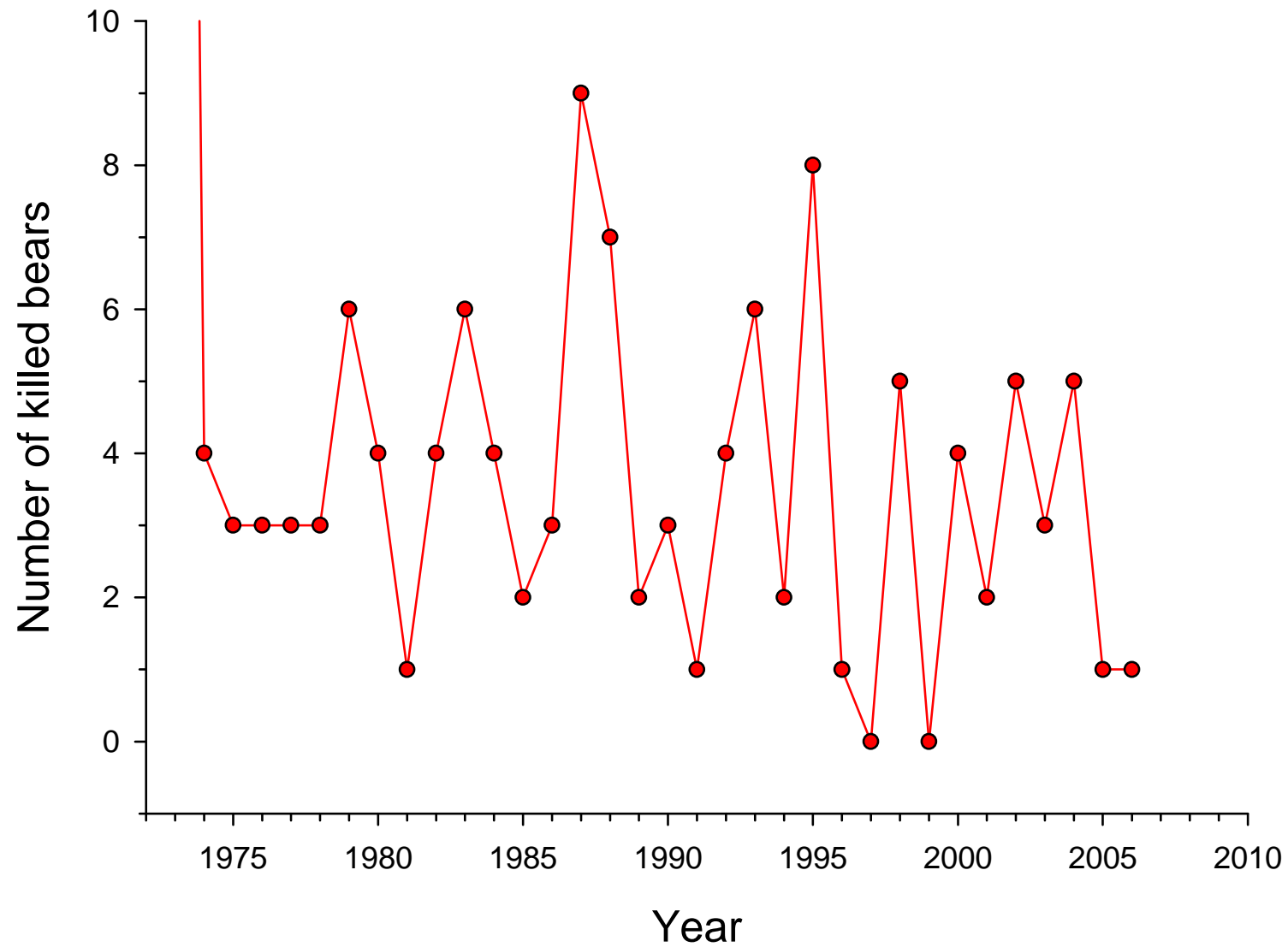
Polar bears killed in Svalbard



Bears killed in and around Svalbard since 1870



Bears killed in Svalbard 1974-2006



Import and export



CITES permits for export, import and re-export

Year	Import	Export (All scientific samples)	Re-export
2005	30 skins (28 from CA and 2 from GL) and 2 bone ornaments	2 skins (1 to AUS and 1 to ES)	7 skins to DK, DE, IT, RU, ES (2) and CHINA (all origin CA)
2006	37 skins (34 from CA and 3 from GL) and 810 teeth from CA (scientific samples)		3 skins to IR, SE, DE (origin CA) and 4 skins to DK, IT (2), SE (origin GL)
2007	16 skins (all from CA) – so far...		



Daily management in Svalbard



Daily management procedures – Governor of Svalbard

- Issuing of permits to kill problem bears
- Handling/killing of problem bears
- Information towards the public and tourists
- Ranger services
- Legislative control and action



Other management issues



Other management issues

- Reference areas for scientific research
- Regulation of tourism and traffic
- Information activities
- Follow-up Barents Sea Management Plan
- ...





International co-operation

International cooperation

- Global and regional conventions
 - Climate change
 - Pollution and contaminants
 - Biodiversity and species issues
- Regional co-operation
 - Arctic Council
 - Norwegian-Russian Environmental Commission



Monitoring

Monitoring

- Repetition of population estimate in 2009
- Focus on circumpolar monitoring issues through cooperative effort CBMP/PBSG
- ...



All large photos: Morten Ekker