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## Summary of polar bear population status per 2014

The present table was discussed during late fall and early winter 2014, and agreed upon by the group Jan 20, 2015. This status table will be updated whenever there are new information available that is considered credible and valid by the group.

This year's status table includes two new columns with metrics for sea ice change:

1. **Change in date of spring sea ice retreat and change in date of fall sea ice advance (days per decade)** over the period 1979-2014. Each year the area of sea ice reaches a maximum in March and a minimum in September. In order to measure the timing of the seasonal change in sea ice, we find the date each spring when the area of sea ice has dropped to a specific threshold and the date each fall when the area has grown back to that same threshold. The region-specific threshold is halfway (50%) between the mean March sea-ice area and the mean September sea-ice area over the period 1979-1988 for each subpopulation region.
2. **Change in summer sea ice area (percent change/decade, June 1 – October 31)** relative to the average summer sea ice area during 1979-1988. Sea ice area was calculated as the sum, over all grid cells with >15% sea ice concentration, of the grid cell area multiplied by the grid cell sea ice concentration.

Press the subpopulation hyperlink and more information will appear.

[Download the status table \(PDF 98.7 kB\)](#)

Subpopulation	Size			Trend		Sea ice metrics		Human-caused removals 2010-2014			
	Estimate / 95% CI	Year	Method	Relative to historic level (approx. 25-yr past)	Current (approx. 12-yr period centered on present)	Change in spring ice retreat / Change in fall ice advance (days per decade)	Change in summer sea ice area (percent change per decade)	5-yr mean		Last year	
								Potential	Actual	Potential	Actual
<a href="#">Arctic Basin</a>	Unknown			Data deficient	Data deficient	-3.2/8.0	-6.7				
<a href="#">Baffin Bay</a>	1546 690-2402	2004	PVA (Based on physical capture-recapture estimate from 1998)	Data deficient	Declining	-7.3/5.2	-18.9	144	149	132	137
<a href="#">Barents Sea</a>	2644 1899-3592	2004	Distance sampling	Data deficient	Data deficient	-16.6/24.2	-16.0	NA	2	NA	3
<a href="#">Chukchi Sea</a>	Unknown			Data deficient	Data deficient	-3.4/4.2	-18.8	58	30 (U.S.) + approx. 32 (Russia)	58	23 (U.S.) + approx. 32 (Russia)
<a href="#">Davis Strait</a>	2158 1833-2542	2007	Physical capture-recapture	Data deficient	Stable	-7.7/9.7	-19.9	99	99	103	105
<a href="#">East Greenland</a>	Unknown			Data deficient	Data deficient	-6.2/5.5	-6.5	62	63	64	65
<a href="#">Foxe Basin</a>	2580 2093-3180	2009/10	Distance sampling	Not reduced	Stable	-5.3/5.8	-14.2	97.8	104	71	85
<a href="#">Gulf of Boothia</a>	1592 870-2314	2000	Physical capture-recapture	Not reduced	Stable	-6.9/8.3	-12.2	60	58	58	52
<a href="#">Kane Basin</a>	164 94-234	1994-1997	Physical capture-recapture	Data deficient	Declining	-7.2/5.6	-12.2	11	6	11	5
<a href="#">Kara Sea</a>	Unknown			Data deficient	Data deficient	-9.2/7.6	-18.6		NA		NA
<a href="#">Lancaster Sound</a>	2541 1759-3323	1995-1997	Physical capture-recapture	Data deficient	Data deficient	-5.6/5.1	-7.7	93	84.8	102	83
<a href="#">Laptev Sea</a>	Unknown			Data deficient	Data deficient	-8.2/6.5	-14.7		NA		NA
<a href="#">M'Clintock Channel</a>	284 166-402	2000	Physical capture-recapture	Reduced	Increasing	-3.9/5.8	-9.0	3	3	3	3
<a href="#">Northern Beaufort Sea</a>	980 825-1135	2006	Physical capture-recapture	Not reduced	Stable	-5.8/3.3	-5.9	65	37.4	65	43
<a href="#">Norwegian Bay</a>	203 115-291	1997	Physical capture-recapture	Data deficient	Data deficient	-1.3/4.3	-2.3	4	2.2	4	3
<a href="#">Southern Beaufort Sea</a>	907 548-1270	2010	Physical capture-recapture	Reduced	Declining	-8.7/8.7	-20.5	76	35.6	73	42.3
<a href="#">Southern Hudson Bay</a>	951 662-1366	2012	Distance sampling	Not reduced	Stable	-3.1/4.1	-11.4	60	62	60	56
<a href="#">Viscount Melville Sound</a>	161 121-201	1992	Physical capture-recapture	Data deficient	Data deficient	-4.7/7.4	-6.1	5.6	7	6	7
<a href="#">Western Hudson Bay</a>	1030 754-1406	2011	Distance sampling	Reduced	Stable	-5.2/3.6	-16.3	22.6	23.2	28	32