

Agreement for the Conservation of
Polar Bears

Done at Oslo, November 15, 1973

Signed by Canada November 15, 1973

Canada's Instrument of Ratification

deposited December 16, 1974,

accompanied by the following

declaration:

In depositing this Instrument of Ratification
the Government of Canada declares as
follows:

1. The Government of Canada interprets
the phrase "scientific purposes" in
Article III, paragraph 1(a), as including
scientific "research" and scientific
"management" and considers that the term
"taking" in Article III, paragraph 1,
includes the capturing and killing of polar
bears by the use of various means, including
"aircraft and large motorized vessels", in
order to meet the requirements of Article
VII, despite the general prohibition of such
means contained in Article IV.

2. As regards the hunting rights of local
people, protected under Article III,
paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs (d) and (e),
Canadian practice is based on the
following considerations:

(a) Research data, compiled annually by
the Federal Provincial Polar Bear
Technical Committee, indicate that there
is, in Canada, a harvestable quantity of
polar bears. On the basis of these
biological data, the Committee
recommends annual management quotas
for each sub-population.

(b) The polar bear hunt in Canada is an
important traditional right and cultural
element of the Inuit (Eskimo) and
Indian peoples. In certain cases this hunt
may extend some distance seaward.
Traditional methods are followed in this
hunt.

(c) In the exercise of these traditional
polar bear hunting rights, and based on
the clause "in accordance with the laws
of that Party", the local people in a
settlement may authorize the selling of a
polar bear permit from the sub-

population quota to a non-Inuit or non-
Indian hunter, but with additional
restrictions providing that the hunt be
conducted under the guidance of a native
hunter and by using a dog team and be
conducted within Canadian jurisdiction.
The Government of Canada therefore
interprets Article III, paragraph 1, sub-
paragraphs (d) and (e) as permitting a token
sports hunt based on scientifically sound
settlement quotas as an exercise of the
traditional rights of the local people.

3. The Government of Canada interprets
the requirement to "consult" in Article
VII, as applying only when any other
Party requests such consultation, not as
imposing a requirement to hold consultations
annually.

Amended Text of Article VII of the
Convention on Facilitation of International
Maritime Traffic, 1965

Adopted at London, November 19, 1973

Canada's Instrument of Acceptance

deposited December 19, 1974

Protocol relating to an Amendment to
Article 56 of the Convention on
International Civil Aviation

Done at Vienna, July 7, 1971

Canada's Instrument of Ratification

deposited December 3, 1971

In force for Canada December 19, 1974