

## APPENDIX C

### THE REAL POLAR BEAR STORY



Figure 29. The Friendly Polar Bear

The lovable polar bear has become the “poster boy” for the global warming movement, because it can evoke such sympathy from the general population. The notion that polar bears are starving to death because of man putting carbon dioxide gas into the atmosphere, is based on five very tenuous assumptions. First, that carbon dioxide is the reason for global warming. Second, that man is responsible for putting the majority of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Third, that the loss of the arctic ice cap makes it difficult for polar bears to find baby seals to feast upon. Fourth, that the polar bear population is decreasing. Fifth, that the polar bear is now an endangered species.

Let us put the record straight. As shown in the previous pages, carbon dioxide levels do not correlate with rising temperatures; in fact, it is the rising temperatures that result in the carbon dioxide increasing. Second, the 790 billion tons of carbon (from carbon dioxide in the

atmosphere) today only account for 5% of greenhouse heating of the earth or 2.95F. Of the carbon entering the atmosphere each year, man adds only 3% of it. As shown on page 29, man is responsible for only a 0.00015F rise per year, that is, if increased carbon dioxide adds any heat at all.

***The polar bear is not a distinct species.*** It is a brown bear (Reference 8). Polar bears can breed with brown bears to produce fertile hybrids called the grizzly-polar bears. About 200,000 years ago, the polar bear became distinct from the brown bear, developing a white fur coat (camouflage) over its black skin, and, because of diet, developed teeth that are more typical of a carnivore. (Just as black humans left Africa 200,000 years ago to live in the northern parts of Europe, they had no need for the dark skin pigment to protect them from the sun and became Caucasians. Polar bears are a different “race” of the brown bear population, but not a distinct species.)

Polar bears feed primarily on Ringed Seals, but their secondary choice is the Bearded Seal. They have been known to eat Harp Seals and Hooded Seals, and often scavenge the carcasses of Beluga Whales. On occasion they will attack baby walrus and Beluga Whales, and even eat small mammals, birds, and eggs.

In 1973, 6 nations signed an Agreement on Conservation of Polar Bears, agreeing to protect their ecosystems, den areas, feeding areas, and migration routes. The Agreement also restricts the number of polar bears that can be taken by hunting each year. For example, Canada allows a maximum of 600 bears to be taken by coastal Eskimos. ***So man has really been taking care of polar bears for 35 years!***

In the 1970's there were estimated to be about 10,000 polar bears, but this was later revised to 20,000-40,000 polar bears. Current estimates are 20,000-25,000 polar bears, but again, no accurate count exists. Several experts have come up with different numbers. H. Sterling Burnett, a Senior Fellow of the National Center for Policy Analysis, a conservation advocacy expert, estimated that the polar bear population grew from 5,000 in 1970 to 25,000 today.

There are 19 recognized sub-populations of polar bears. With the increased melting of the Arctic ice pack in summer, 7 sub-populations have been found to decrease in numbers, such as in the Hudson Bay area. However, 12 populations either were stabilized or increased. It is important that the cause of the population decrease or increase be understood. For example, it may be disease, migration, a diminished seal population, or it may be related to the loss of ice, making it more difficult to hunt seals.

The species from which the polar bear is a member has survived for 4.2 million years, through about 90 ice ages and interglacial warming

periods. There is no reason to think they will not survive for millions of years in the future.

Incidentally, Polar bears are excellent swimmers and have been observed swimming in open seas 60 miles from land. They are also prone to mounting a chunk of floating ice for easy transportation or to forage for seals on the ice floes.



Why Should I Swim When I Can Float?



Man, is it cold!---- But not unbearable.