



# Regulations relating to harvesting of the fauna on Svalbard

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The fauna shall be managed in such a manner that the natural productivity and diversity of species and their habitats are maintained, and Svalbard's natural wilderness is protected for future generations. Controlled and limited harvesting may take place within this framework.

*The translation is not official; it is provided for information purposes only. In the event of any inconsistency, the Norwegian version shall prevail.*

Implementing legislation: Adopted by the Ministry of the Environment (now the Ministry of Climate and Environment) on 24 June 2002 under sections 31 and 32 of the Act of 15 June 2001 No. 79 relating to the protection of the environment in Svalbard (Svalbard Environmental Protection Act).

Amendments: amended by the regulations of 24 June 2002 No. 1085, 28 July 2008 No. 922, 29 June 2012 No. 746, 12 May 2013 No. 469, 15 March 2013 No. 284, 20 December 2013 No. 1687, 19 December 2013 No. 1757.

## Chapter I. Introductory provisions

### Section 1. (*purpose*)

The fauna shall be managed in such a manner that the natural productivity and diversity of species and their habitats are maintained, and Svalbard's natural wilderness is protected for future generations. Controlled and limited harvesting may take place within this framework.

## **Section 2. (*scope*)**

These regulations govern the harvesting and collection of eggs and down of species of wild fauna, with the exception of saltwater fish and crustaceans, as well as marine mammals that do not show site fidelity in Svalbard.

Subject to the limitations imposed by international law, these regulations apply to the entire land area of Svalbard and its waters out to the territorial limit.

## **Section 3. (*definitions*)**

For the purpose of these regulations, the following definitions apply:

- a. *permanent resident*: a person who at the time of applying for a permit and during harvesting is validly entered in Svalbard's population register;
- b. *harvesting*: hunting, trapping and fishing;
- c. *fauna*: single-celled animals, invertebrates and vertebrates that naturally occur in the wild in Svalbard;
- d. *marine mammals*: all species of seals and whales that show site fidelity in Svalbard;
- e. *river systems*: lakes, pools, rivers, tributaries, streams and canals. Freshwater lagoons are also considered to form part of river systems;
- f. *anadromous salmonids*: salmonid fish that migrate between the sea and freshwater and that are dependent on freshwater for reproduction, as well as eggs and fry of such fish. Escaped or released farmed salmonids that may migrate between the sea and freshwater are considered to be anadromous salmonids when they are living in a free state in the sea or a river system.

## **Section 4. (*administrative authorities*)**

The administrative authorities under these regulations are the Ministry of Climate and Environment, the Norwegian Environment Agency and the Governor of Svalbard. For marine mammals, the administrative authorities under these regulations are the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, the Directorate of Fisheries and the Governor of Svalbard.

## **Chapter II. General provisions on harvesting and collection of the fauna**

### ***Section 5. (the principle of general protection)***

All species of fauna, including their eggs, nests and lairs, are protected.

Harvesting and collection of eggs and down are only permitted in accordance with provisions laid down in or under these regulations. Harvesting must not significantly alter the composition and development of the stocks in question.

### ***Section 6. (humane harvesting and collection techniques)***

Harvesting and collection shall be carried out without inflicting unnecessary suffering on the fauna and without putting human life in danger or causing any risk of damage to property.

### ***Section 7. (mammals and birds that may be harvested, Arctic char and other anadromous salmonids)***

The following species may be hunted between the following dates:

Species	Hunting season
Arctic fox <i>Alopex lagopus</i>	1 November–15 March
Svalbard reindeer <i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	15 August–20 September
Svalbard ptarmigan <i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	10 September–23 December
Pink-footed goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	20 August–31 October
Fulmar <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	21 September–31 October
Black guillemot <i>Cephus grylle</i>	1 September–31 October
Ringed seal <i>Phocis hispida</i>	1 February–20 March and 20 May–30 November
Bearded seal <i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	1 February–27 April and 5 June–30 November

Trapping of Arctic foxes is permitted in the period 1 November–15 March.

In accordance with section 5, the Governor may by regulations permit fishing for Arctic char and other anadromous salmonids in the sea or in specific river systems or areas of sea. If fishing is opened, an annual quota shall be set for each river system, and the regulations shall specify which types of fishing gear may be used and the open seasons for fishing.

### **Section 8. (collection of eggs and down)**

The Governor may issue permits for the collection of down from eider ducks (*Somateria mollissima*), barnacle geese (*Branta leucopsis*) and pink-footed geese (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), and the collection of eggs from eider, glaucous gulls (*Larus hyperboreus*) and great black-backed gulls (*L. marinus*).

### **Section 8a. (experimental fisheries)**

The Governor may carry out or issue permits for experimental fisheries for Arctic char and other anadromous salmonids in specific river systems for the purpose of knowledge generation. An experimental fishery must not significantly alter the composition and development of the stocks in question. Conditions shall be attached to permits.

### **Section 9. (hunting, trapping and fishing licences)**

Harvesting may only be carried out by a person who holds a hunting, trapping or fishing licence. The licence indicates the species to which it applies and any quota limits, rules on gear types, and the dates between which and the areas where the person is entitled to hunt, trap or fish. The licence is personal and may not be transferred. The Governor may in special cases issue a licence to an association, society or the like in the name of its chair or head. In cases where a licence is issued to an association, society or the like, it may only be used by persons authorised by the chair or head.

A fee shall be paid for a licence if the Ministry has laid down a schedule of fees, cf. section 35. The Governor is responsible for issuing licences and collecting fees.

A hunting, trapping or fishing licence, and if relevant an authorisation in accordance with the first paragraph, shall be carried during harvesting activities, and the holder shall produce the licence or authorisation at the request of the Governor or the instance authorised by the Governor.

#### **Section 10. (*quotas and restrictions on hunting areas*)**

The Governor may by regulations lay down hunting and trapping quotas for individual species and specific areas, and may restrict harvesting in certain areas.

Quotas for Svalbard reindeer shall be set each year.

#### **Section 11. (*harvesting reserved for permanent residents*)**

Only permanent residents in Svalbard may hunt Svalbard reindeer, hunt or trap Arctic foxes and fish for Arctic char and other anadromous salmonids with gill nets, and these activities require special permits from the Governor. A permit may be included as part of a hunting, trapping or fishing licence, cf. section 9. A permit shall apply to a specific area and within specific dates. A permit is personal and may not be transferred, with the exception of the special cases mentioned in the first paragraph, fourth and fifth sentences, of section 9. The Governor may lay down conditions in individual permits, including the quantity that may be harvested and the techniques or equipment that may be used.