

peoples (e.g. the Inuit of **Nunavut**). Extensive scientific studies (Ramsay and Stirling, 1982, 1990; Stirling *et al.*, 1993), media coverage (Comeau, 1997; Eliot 1998), and **climate change** campaigns (see **WWF**) have made the coastal community of Churchill, in northern Manitoba, Canada the 'polar bear capital of the world' for both researchers and wildlife tourists. Polar bears concentrate each year along the shores of western Hudson Bay in late autumn (October to November) as they await the formation of sea ice. Helicopters, snow-vehicles (e.g. bombardiers), seasonal mobile lodges and tundra vehicles – large mobile vehicles that have the ability to traverse the subarctic environment in relative safety and comfort – facilitate access for tourists to this coastal area. Due to these technological innovations, tourists now have access to two remote protected areas (i.e. the Churchill Wildlife Management Area (848,813 ha) adjacent to Wapusk **National Park** (1.14 million ha)) that were relatively inaccessible prior to the 1980s.

The growth of the polar bear-viewing industry in the coastal community of Churchill, Manitoba over the past 25 years is an amazing story. Even more remarkable is the fact that in the late 1970s only a few wildlife photographers were visiting the area; today, conservative estimates place annual visitor numbers at 2100 to 3000. If we consider that each visitor takes an average of three viewing outings per visit, then individual trips accordingly increase to approximately 6300 to 9000 annual tundra vehicle rides. These figures do not include helicopter rides or photographic excursions into the denning area of Wapusk National Park in the winter. It is also estimated that the industry generates, on average, Can\$2 million per season (October to November).

While polar bears are generally not negatively impacted by the tourism industry, such anthropogenic factors as pollution (biomagnification), climate change, over-harvesting and, according to some indigenous peoples, fervent extensive scientific research, are having impacts.

Related internet sources

Alaska Department of Fish and Game: <http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/pubs/notebook/marine/polarbear.php>
 Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service – Species At Risk: http://www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca/search/speciesDetails_e.cfm?speciesID=167#distribution

Environment Canada: Hinterland Who's Who: <http://www.hww.ca/hww2.asp?id=99>

Polar Bear International: <http://www.polarbearsinternational.org>

The Polar Bear Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission: <http://pbsg.npolar.no>

Nunavut Parks: http://www.nunavutparks.com/visitors_centre/polar_bear_safety.cfm

State of the Environment Norway: Polar Bears http://www.environment.no/templates/themepage_2798.aspx

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Polar Tourism: *see* **Antarctic Tourism, Arctic Tourism**

Pole Fishing Pole fishing is a primitive form of **fishing** that does not use the more familiar rod and reel. The most basic approach is to use a flexible pole and, at one end, simply tie a line, float and hook. The hooked fish is pulled out of the water by lifting the rod. This type of fishing typically occurs on the bank of a stream or pond within 4–6 m of the shore, or even from **docks**. For example, in certain rural and coastal areas of south-eastern USA, cane-pole fishing (so called because sugarcane stalks are used for rods) is a common pastime. There are many derivations of this kind of approach, including the use of fibreglass or graphite poles with internal elastic strings, and multitudes of floats with differing levels of sensitivity to fish interest within the bait (Toombs and Purnell, 1998). One of the basic appreciations of this type of fishing is the user's sensitivity to the feel of the action at the end of the line by the action of a fish.

In the UK and New Zealand, pole fishing is the most precise type of coarse fishing. 'Coarse fishing' was a British term coined to describe angling for freshwater fish that were not considered 'gamefish' (i.e. salmonids).

Related internet sources

Advanced Pole Fishing: <http://www.fishing.com/Magazines.asp?Action=ViewandID=778CF61226164EC692D01A6EE442D0>

Pole fishing: <http://www.coarsefish.net/pole.htm>

Pole fishing in rivers and lakes: <http://www.anglinguk.net/beginners/pole/general.htm>

Cane pole fishing: http://espn.go.com/outdoors/general/columns/sutton_keith/2030437.html

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