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Several Polar Bears seen in the vicinity of Sisimiut



This polar bear female (2.40 meters high) was shot by the crew on the trawler "Uilog" 1st of February

Photo: Holger Petrussen

By Marianne Langvardt and editorial staff



Polar Bears appear to be going into town to find food

Six polar bears seen in the vicinity of Sisimiut, some very close to town

No one knows how many polar bears stray around Sisimiut town at the present time. But Mrs. Maria Aarup doesn't doubt, she saw several bears on the fjord of Amerloq on Tuesday. A few trawlers who defy the ice at the harbour approach reported about at least two polar bears on a small Island just before the harbour.

- I was drinking coffee with a friend, living close to the Amerloq Fjord, I was the first person who grabbed the binoculars when we got an SMS telling there were polar bears on the Fjord, I got a good photo of the bears, but later on the sea mist was too heavy and they disappeared from sight.
- Thursday morning more polar bears were again seen around the Airport area and there were reported tracks at the garbage dump.

According to the head of police Mr. Hans Falck Petersen in Sisimiut, no bears have been close to people yet and no bears have been shot in self-defence so far.

But he pointed out: If you see a bear inside the town limits you have to report it to the police rapidly and if you feel threatened or see other people in troubles then you are allowed to shoot the bear in self-defence. The best advice I can give said Mr. Hans Falck Petersen, be careful and look around for the bears, if they are hungry they lose their natural instinct and are no longer shy as normal, but when they are hungry they eat everything they can find on land, normal food is seals.

Hunting consultants at the Municipality of Sisimiut Mr. Otto Berthelsen point out that the quota of polar bears (from Ummanaq in the North to Nuuk in the south on the west coast) is only 10 polar bears. Bears killed in self-defence included. Only 6 hunters have licence to kill polar bears in Sisimiut Municipality and one was already shot the 1st of February.

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