

# WWF PROJECTS IN THE ARCTIC

From past to present: The twenty years of the Arctic Programme, and the work by WWF offices before the programme existed have built a solid base for WWF's Arctic work. This map provides a sampling of the reach and diversity of WWF's current Arctic projects.



## PROTECTED AREAS

7. WWF continues its work with local people and governments to create protected terrestrial and marine areas.

13. WWF has been working with a coalition to bring permanent protection from industrial development to Bristol Bay. This area is referred to as America's "fishbasket" because of the value of the fisheries there.

21. WWF has helped establish many protected areas in Russia, including the "polar bear park" on Novaya Zemlya, Beringiya and Onezhskoe Pomor'e national parks, and a buffer zone around Wrangel Island Reserve.

24. WWF is working on the creation of protected areas around Khibiny, Rybachiy peninsula and Kolguev island, as well as several marine buffer zones around reserves in the Russian Arctic.



## CONSERVATION

2. Reducing polar bear/human conflict: WWF has helped supply polar-bear proof fences and food bins to keep them away from conflict with local people.

9. WWF has developed a species plan for Arctic whales: bowhead, narwhal, and beluga are designated as priority species by our Arctic Programme.

11. The Umky Patrol (polar bear patrol) —WWF supports Chukchi villages in their efforts to use non-lethal methods of keeping polar bears at a safe distance. The patrols have also been protecting walrus that have been showing up on shore in record numbers.

12. WWF addresses the protection of polar bears at the international, national and local levels. Internationally, we facilitate cross-border information exchanges in support of the U.S.-Russia Agreement on the Conservation and Management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population.

15. Recognizing, demonstrating and capturing the value of ecosystem services and improving management in protected areas are priorities for WWF in Kamchatka.

18. WWF is developing an Arctic-wide conservation plan for wild reindeer and caribou.

25. WWF is working with Saami to explore ways of reducing future cumulative impacts of different pressures (eg. mining, wind power, forestry, tourism and large carnivores) on reindeer herding in Sweden.

29. WWF is developing a conservation plan for atlantic walrus in the Barents, White and Kara Seas.



## SUSTAINABLE USE

6. The WWF office in Inuvik is taking part in a ground-breaking marine spatial planning exercise, along with local people and government.



## RESEARCH

1. WWF supports research on polar bears in southern Hudson Bay—this population is showing signs of stress as climate change eats away at the summer sea ice the bears need.

17. WWF has engaged international experts to advise on how the Arctic Ocean might be better regulated.



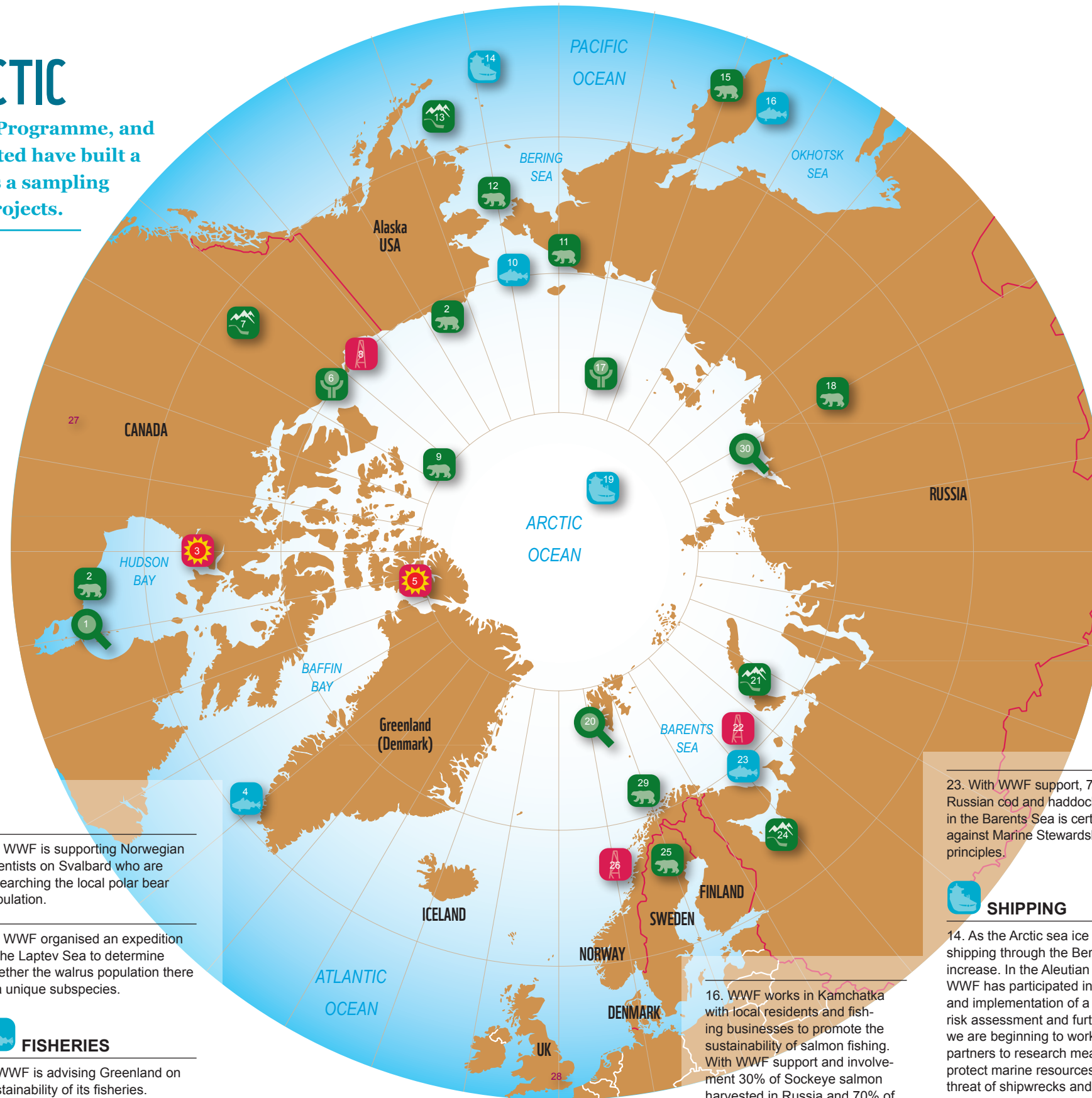
## FISHERIES

4. WWF is advising Greenland on sustainability of its fisheries.

10. WWF advocates for improved fishing practices in the Bering and Okhotsk Seas, such as the reduction of bycatch and discards in the Pollock fishery and the use of streamer lines in the Russian long line fishery to reduce seabird bycatch.

20. WWF is supporting Norwegian scientists on Svalbard who are researching the local polar bear population.

30. WWF organised an expedition to the Laptev Sea to determine whether the walrus population there is a unique subspecies.



Map: Ketill Berger, Film & Form



## OIL

8. WWF played an effective role in helping to shape the revision of offshore oil drilling regulations in the Canadian Arctic.

22. WWF's Barents Sea office tackles a variety of issues in the Barents and Kara Seas, including opposing oil drilling plans in places where there is not enough information on the impacts of a spill.

26. WWF is working in Norway to make areas such as Lofoten permanently off limits to oil drilling, because of the natural values of the region, and the economic value of the local fishery.



## CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE

3. WWF is working around the Arctic on a project to define what areas are best placed to cope with the coming level of climate change.

5. WWF supports scientific work to investigate the effects of climate change in the Arctic.



## SHIPPING

14. As the Arctic sea ice diminishes, shipping through the Bering Sea will increase. In the Aleutian Islands, WWF has participated in the design and implementation of a shipping risk assessment and further north, we are beginning to work with local partners to research measures to protect marine resources from the threat of shipwrecks and related oil spills, invasive species, ship strikes, and pollution.

19. WWF is making representations to the International Maritime Organization to ensure a stringent set of rules to govern the increasing Arctic shipping.

23. With WWF support, 70% of the Russian cod and haddock trade in the Barents Sea is certified against Marine Stewardship Council principles.

16. WWF works in Kamchatka with local residents and fishing businesses to promote the sustainability of salmon fishing. With WWF support and involvement 30% of Sockeye salmon harvested in Russia and 70% of Pollock harvested in the Okhotsk sea is certified against Marine Stewardship Council principles. We are also advocating for an end to large scale drift-net fishing in the Russian EEZ and the resulting wasteful bycatch, and fighting illegal fishing.

## GOVERNANCE

27. Canada chairs the Arctic Council from 2014-2016. WWF is an official observer at the council, and contributes to the council's work in promoting sustainability, conducting research, and in providing direction to minimize environmental damage from human activities.

28. WWF also works outside the Arctic on Arctic issues: we were part of a group that presented the British government with ideas for a set of principles that could govern the work of the UK government, and UK companies in the Arctic.