

Act relating to amendments to Act no. 79 of 15 June 2001 on Protection of the Environment in Svalbard (The Svalbard Environmental Protection Act)

The following amendments are made to

Act no. 79 of 15 June 2001 on Protection of the Environment in Svalbard:

I

Section 30

The third paragraph shall read as follows:

No one may use ship sirens, fire shots or produce other loud noises closer than one nautical mile from a bird cliff in the period 1 April to 31 August. *No one must use unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) closer than 500 m to a bird cliff in the period 1 April to 31 August*

The fourth paragraph is repealed. The fifth and sixth paragraphs will be the new fourth and fifth paragraphs.

Section 30 a

The new heading and new first, second and third paragraphs shall read as follows:

Section 30 a. *(Protection of polar bears and safety measures in respect of polar bear attacks)*

It is forbidden to pursue or otherwise actively seek out polar bears.

No one must be or stay closer than 500 metres to a polar bear. Anyone who discovers a polar bear closer to them than 500 metres is obliged to retreat so that the minimum distance is observed. The minimum distance does not apply in inhabited areas, at research stations, cabins, in tents or similar facilities.

Any person travelling or staying outside inhabited areas, except for participants in tourist activities, is obliged to know what safety measures to take in respect of bear attacks. The necessary measures shall be taken to ward off a polar bear attack without injuring or killing the animal.

Anyone travelling or staying outside inhabited areas, except for participants in tourist activities, shall be equipped with the appropriate means of frightening and chasing off polar bears.

The current third paragraph will be a new fifth paragraph.

II

The amendments will apply from the time the King decides.