

# **SUIVI DES OURS de la Baie d'Hudson 2015/2016, par Ron Togunov**

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**Ce journal de bord présente l'évolution de la répartition des ours polaires équipés de collier Argos dans la baie d'Hudson au cours de l'hiver 2015/2016.**

**Les dates sont chronologiquement inversées (du plus récent au plus ancien) et les écrits sont en anglais.**

**Sur le site d'Argonautica\*, vous pourrez trouver en détail les déplacements de trois de ces ours, nommés *COPine*, *Diamant*, *Luna* et *Sakary*.**

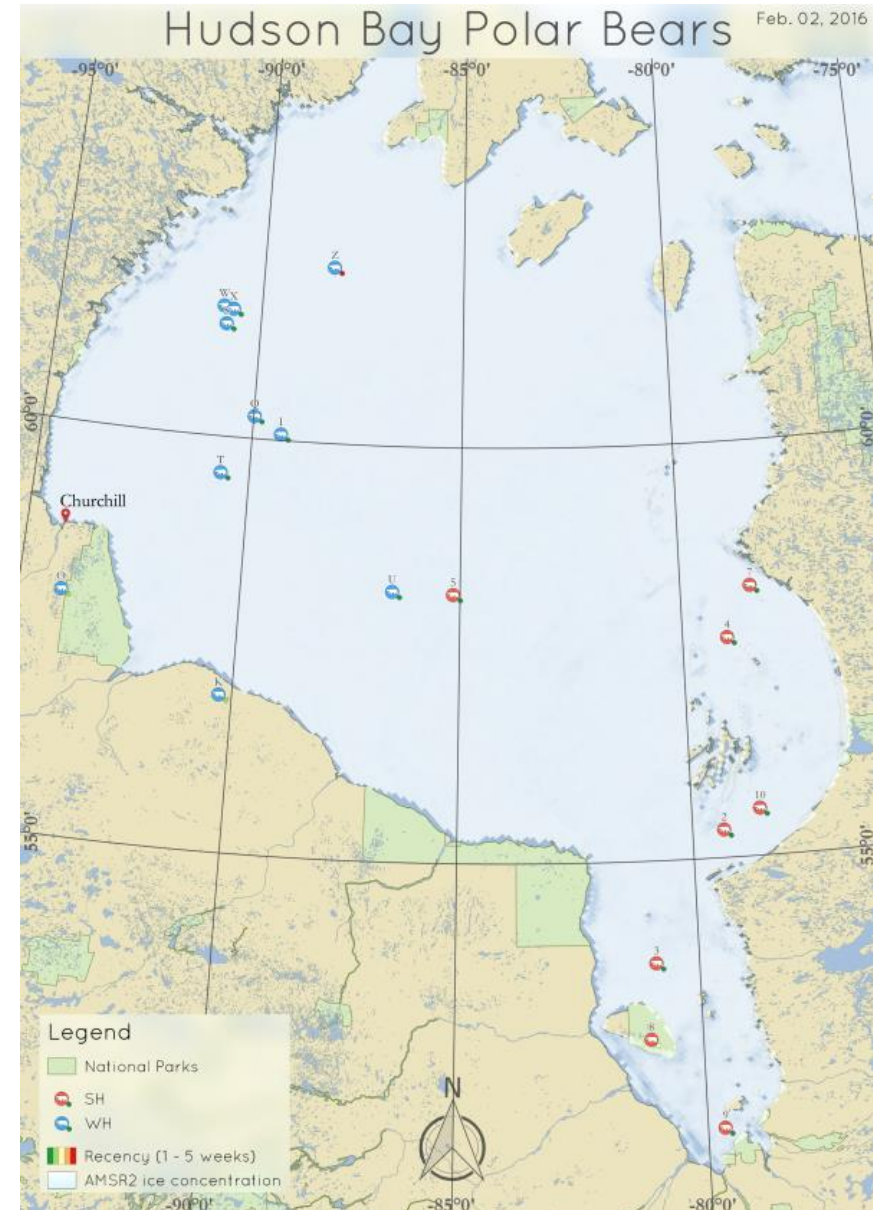
# 2/2/2016

Hi all,

I've attached the latest map. We got a new location from on-shore collars O and K at some point last week. So the two collars are still working (these are the two that might be on denning bears). In Two months we'll know for sure what's going on with these. Fingers crossed that they continue to transmit.

**Breakup date** is usually defined by when sea ice concentrations fall below 50%. As a rule of thumb, we consider this to be a threshold for polar bears beyond which hunting is unfavourable.

I should note that this threshold is somewhat arbitrary and other studies have used other sea ice concentrations to represent breakup when studying polar bear behaviour. For example, a paper by Seth Cherry found the date of 30% sea ice concentration to be the best predictor of when polar bears return to shore.

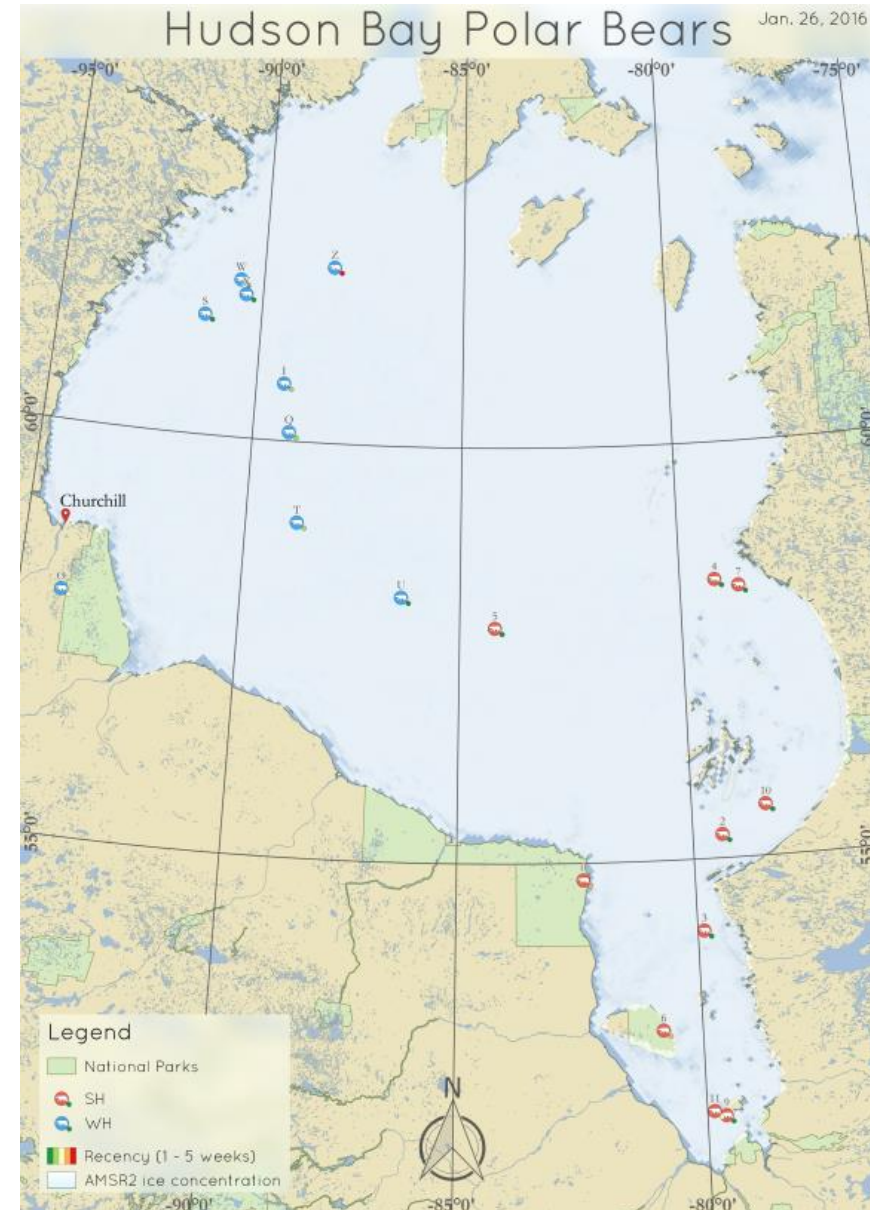


# 26/01/2016

Hi all,

I've attached the latest map. This week, the SH bears have begun to really spread out. Interestingly, one of the bears (number 11, who's last location was in southern James bay) is equipped with a video collar. That would be a great way to visually verify some behaviours that were inferred from GPS movement.

Also really exciting is that we got some more locations from bear O of WH in Wapusk. This is one of the bears collared in 2014 with a yearling which may very well be denning. The location is the same as the last location from October (which is when she may have entered the Den). With this recent location, we know the collar is still functional and in a couple month we may see this bear (and a couple others) appear in Wapusk and make their way to the Bay \*fingers crossed\*.

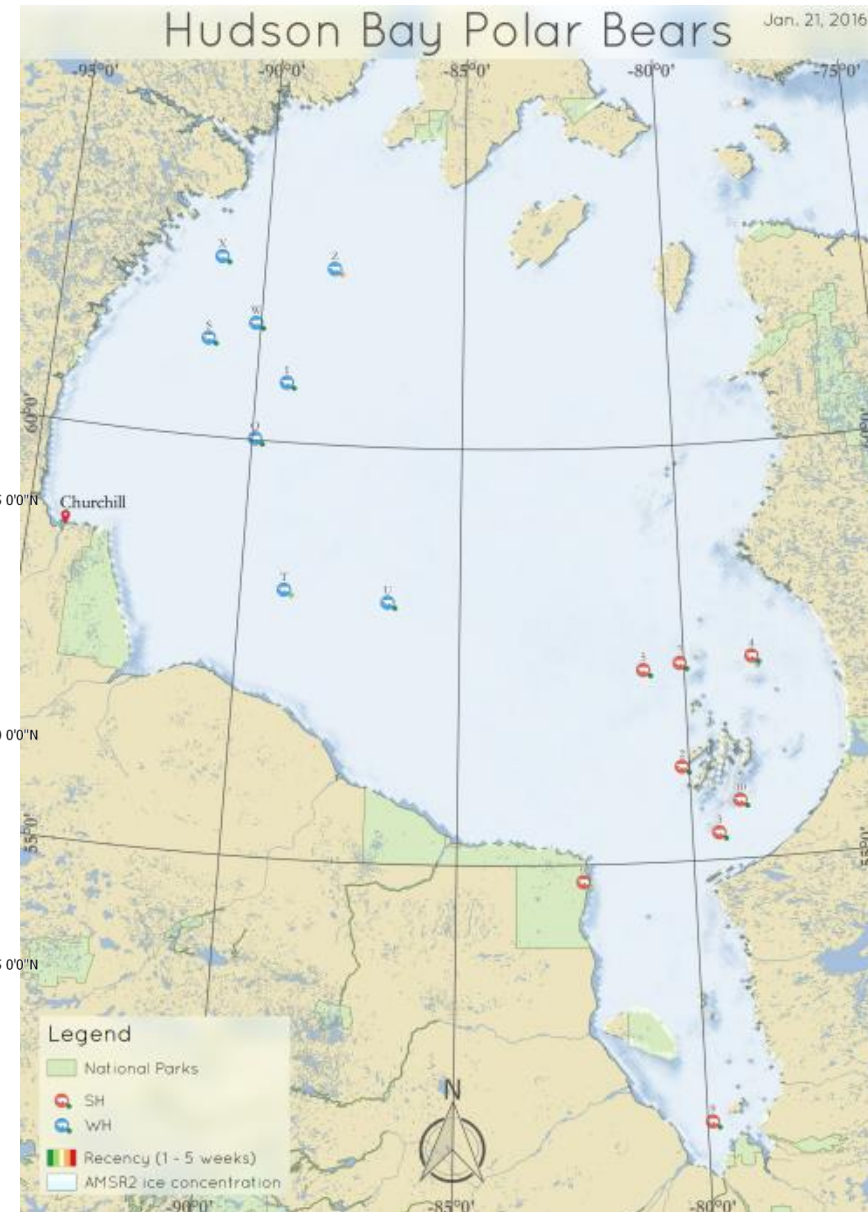
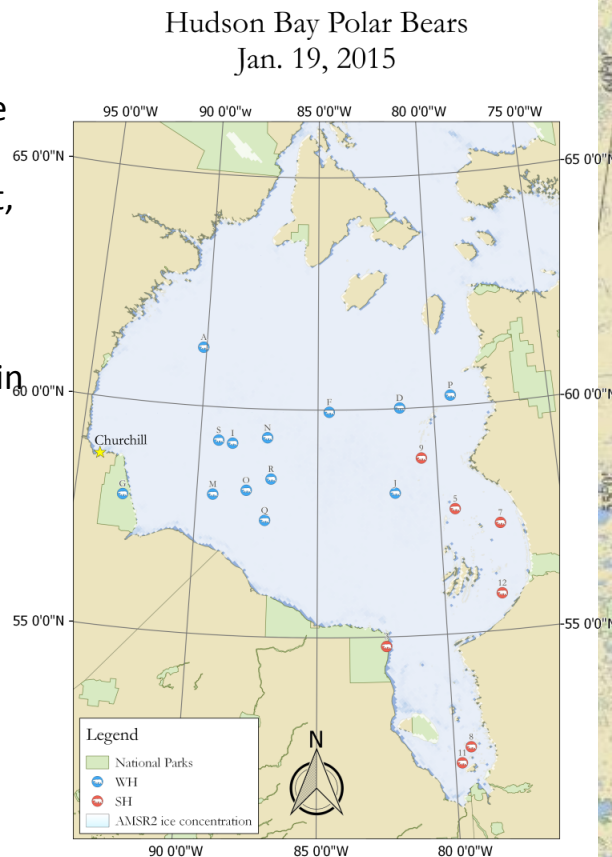


# 21/01/2016

Hello,

I have returned to civilization and can resume sharing the weekly treks of the WH and SH polar bears. I've attached the latest map as of today.

In the last two weeks, the WH bears have spread out more towards the east and south. There is still a very large distance between the two populations. For context, I've also attached the map for this time last year (**note the date of the file**), the difference in distribution is very dramatic and is likely a direct result of the pattern of ice freeze-up.



# 4/01/2016

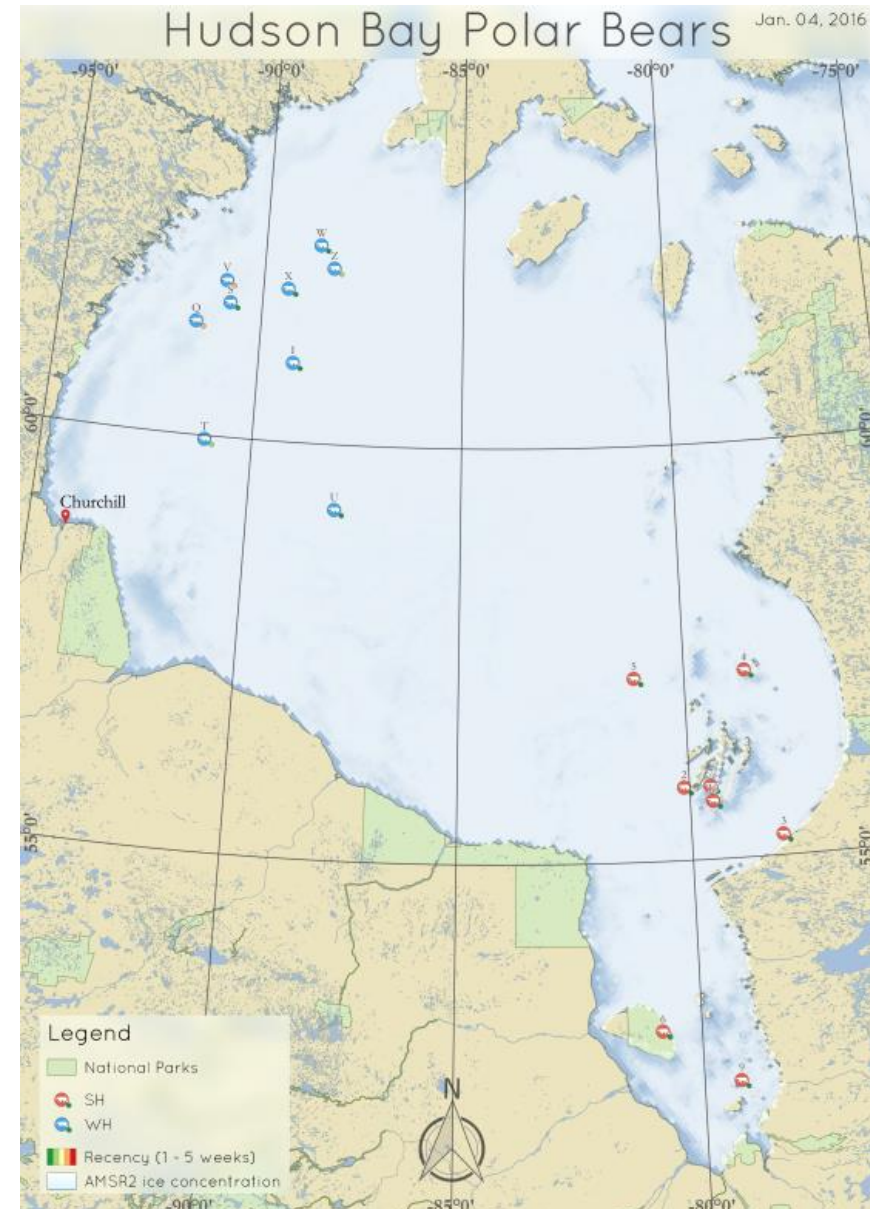
Happy new year!

I've attached the latest map. Not much movement among the WH bears. Except bear I and U travelled about 200 km North and South-east, respectively.

A much different story with the SH bears, which have all travelled about 300 km North-east since last week as James Bay and Eastern Hudson Bay have finally frozen over.

Hopefully the delayed freeze-up didn't affect them much.

Cheers,



# 28/12/2015

Hello everyone,  
I've attached the latest map.  
Most of the Bay has frozen over,  
though there are still large areas of  
open water in the East. The WH bears  
have spread out since last week. SH  
bears were finally able to make it out  
onto the ice and are headed north. It's  
a late start for all the bears. Hopefully  
the mild weather doesn't advance the  
breakup date too much this year.  
I hope you are all enjoying your  
holidays and getting to spend time  
with family and friends. All the best in  
the coming year.

Ron Togunov



# 21/12/15

Hello,

Map for this week is attached. Evidently, bear I was not denning as originally thought, which also means she might have a yaerling whom she was with in 2014, but we can't know for certain.

The 4 bears that may be denning are no longer showed on the map because last locations were >40 days ago, however if they come on line in February/March, they'll be back on the map.

The Bay is still not frozen over, but there is plenty of territory for the WH bears.

There's not as much options for SH bears just yet, but they should be off land by now with the ice that has formed.

Cheers,



# 14/12/15

Hi,  
I've attached the latest locations. Ice formed a bit more in the Northwest, however there is still significantly less ice now than same time last year (see attached). The cover now resembles Dec 1, 2014. Collar 'I' has come back on-line with a location several days ago. This doesn't tell us much.

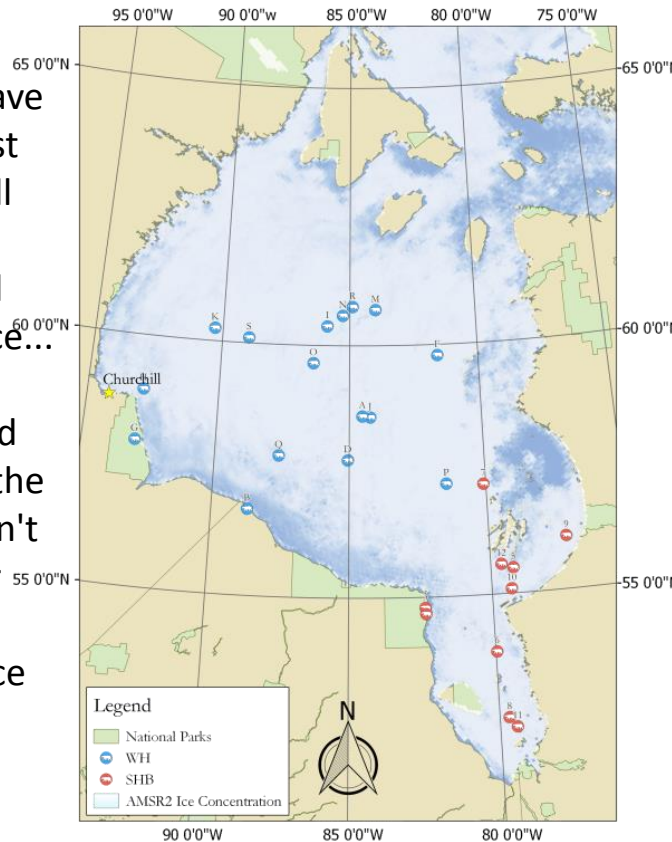
All WH bears (excluding 'T') have moved Northeast and are now well into the Bay.

SH bears are still waiting on the ice...

People may be enjoying the mild weather across the country, but I can't say the same for the bears.

Time for a rain ice dance?

Hudson Bay Polar Bears  
Dec. 15, 2014



# 7/12

Hey,

I've attached this week's map. Looks like all the WH bears are moving north (besides T, who's been in the Bay for over 2 weeks). The ice is not forming very fast along the Western coast.

The WH bears that were inland that might be denning haven't had locations in 40 days, so have been removed from the map, but if they come back online, I'll have them back on the map (would be a very cool to see bears with new cubs come out in March).

Bear 5 of SH made a big trip North despite there not being very much ice in James Bay. The other bears have also made it into the Bay onto whatever ice has formed there. Until next week,  
Ron Togunov



# 30/11/15

Hello,

The ice has advanced around Churchill and all but 2 WH bears are on the ice. There was a lot of ice formation in the Northern region which has allowed bear T to travel over 200km east in the last 2 weeks. Bears in James Bay are still waiting on the ice to form.

Cheers,



# 26/11/15

Hello,

I'm sending out an extra map this week because the bears near Churchill have made their way off shore and are now following the advancing ice. A couple of the bears still inland have moved a bit north; otherwise nothing new.

Until Monday,  
Ron Togunov



# 23/11/2015

Hello,

I've attached the latest map. looks like all the bears have moved further north to meet the advancing ice. Interestingly, bears T and R have also moved north (and consequentially closer to shore even though they are already on the ice - I can't explain this. I have heard the ice off Churchill has pulled away from shore, so the bears will have to wait a little while longer before they can head out.

November 19th has historically been the mean departure date. Thankfully breakup was late last year and the bears are in good condition.

Cheers,

Ron Togunov



# 16/11/2015

Hello,  
I've attached the map for this week. All the bears which updated in the last week have moved north since last Monday. Bears R and T are now in the Bay following the advance of the newly formed ice. There has been nearly no increase in the ice along Manitoba's coast since November 2nd. Let's hope that changes soon. Until next week,  
Ron Togunov



# 9/11/15

Hello

I've attached the map for this week. Bear R made the longest trip travelling 300km North over 2 weeks and is now (along with bear T; which is I will ) on the ice that has formed near Tavani, Nunavut. Bear T was the first and only bear I collared, so I may give her special attention ? .

I've also added 9 SH bears to the map which are all on Akimiski Island at the moment. Thanks to Martyn Obbard and Kevin Middel at the OMRN for sharing this data with us for these maps.

Until next week,  
Ron



# 2/11/15

Hello,

I've attached the map for this week. I've got 3 more collars on the map and it's looking great; new locations on all but one of this year's collars. All updated collars show the bears have moved north. I wonder if they are anticipating the new ice, or whether they are responding to a common environmental factor.

Have a great week,  
Ron

