

# Arctic contamination

Killer whales have deposed polar bears for the dubious honour of the Arctic's "most contaminated mammal," according to a new study by the WWF environmental group



- **Killer whale:** Grows up to 9.75m, has been timed swimming at 55.3km/h

- **Contaminants:** Found in blubber and other fat-rich tissues – represent pollution throughout food chain

- **Polychlorinated biphenyls:** **PCBs** used as coolants and lubricants in electrical equipment but now banned. Can cause anaemia, acne-like skin disorders, and liver, stomach, and thyroid gland injuries in animals

- **Pesticides:** Known to disrupt immune system and cause abnormal sexual development in fish

- **Brominated flame retardants:** **BFRs** used in electronic goods and as coatings for carpets. Have been linked to nerve disorders and reproductive malfunction in humans