

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

1997 – Ian Sterling



Position: Research Scientist Emeritus, Retired

Ian has had a long and distinguished career within the Wildlife Research Division of Science and Technology Branch, Environment Canada and as Adjunct Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta. He gained a B.S. and M.S. from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and a Ph.D. from the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, where he studied the population ecology of Weddell seals in Antarctica. He is one of the world's top authorities on polar bears. He studied polar bears throughout the Canadian Arctic for over 37 years with the Canadian Wildlife Service. His long-term studies of polar bears in Western Hudson Bay, one of the world's most southerly populations, confirmed the negative effects of climate warming. Dr. Stirling has also studied the bears of the Southern Beaufort Sea and Canadian High Arctic for several decades as well their interrelationships with seals and sea ice. Stirling has written five books and more than 150 articles published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. He is the author of including *Polar Bears: The Natural History of a Threatened Species*, considered the definitive work on the biology of the polar bear. He remains a member of the IUCN Polar Bear Specialist Group and Scientific Advisor, Polar Bears International. Dr. Sterling was awarded the Weston Family Award for Lifetime Achievement in Northern Research in 2015, Norris Award for lifetime achievement in Mammal Science, Society for Marine Mammalogy in 2013, became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2007, and was Officer of Order of Canada in 2000.