

IAN MCTAGGART-COWAN LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2021 – Dr. Ian Stirling



Dr Stirling has conducted research on the ecology and behavior of polar bears and polar seals (Arctic and Antarctic) for 55 years. Related areas of research interest include the evolution of relationships between predators and polar seals, the biological importance of polynyas, and the conservation and management of polar marine mammals and ecosystems. While an unpaid Adjunct Professor, he focused time and resources to the supervision and training of several young Canadian graduate students with a desire to conduct research on polar marine mammals on the long term. Formally, he retired in 2007 but has continued to be active in research and writing. For his work, he has won several awards, including the Canadian Northern Science Award, appointment as an Officer in the Order of Canada, elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, awarded the Norris Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Society for Marine Mammalogy, and Honorary Doctorates of Science from the Universities of Alberta and British Columbia. He has authored or co-authored over 300 scientific articles (>250 in peer-reviewed journals) and 5 books on bears for the general public. His most recent book, for both scientists and the lay public is: *Polar Bears: The Natural History of a Threatened Species*, which won the outstanding publication award in wildlife ecology and conservation in the Book Category from The Wildlife Society in 2013.