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Russian Polar Bear Painted With 'T-34' Sparks Concern

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A polar bear with 'T-34,' the name of a famous Soviet tank model, painted on its side has gone viral after it was filmed walking around by a hunter in the Chukotka autonomous region of Russia's Far East.

Scientists are searching for the bear and warn that the paint may prevent the animal from disguising itself in the snow, making it visible to prey and potentially causing it to starve to death. The suspects behind the vandalism have not yet been identified.

Russian media have speculated that the paint was linked to local anger toward the increase in polar bears entering communities in Russia's Arctic. As ice in the region becomes more scarce, the bears are forced to move further south in search of food, often foraging in human settlements.

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