

**Climate and Health E-News**

**Raising Awareness about Climate Change and Public Health in the Circumpolar North**

**No. 101, February 10, 2012**

**Circumpolar Climate Events Map** – See weekly events including: *landslides in Haines, collapsing roofs in Anchorage, an exodus of Snowy owls from Arctic Canada, and a paralyzing cold snap in Europe.*

[Center for Climate and Health](#)

**Ice seal illness team releases update** *February 1, 2012.* An intergovernmental team investigating the ice seal and walrus illness, reports that there have been few sick seals observed since November of 2011. Whether this indicates a decline in illness is uncertain as poor weather conditions have hampered both hunters and observers. The investigation into the illness is ongoing. [NOAA](#)

**Yellow-cedar trees are dying in Alaska and Canada: scientists now know why** *February 1, 2012.* Yellow-cedars have been dying off across large expanses of Alaska and Canada for over 100 years. An article published in the journal *BioScience* finds that the die-off that affects 60-70% of the trees is caused by a form of deep root freeze. Without adequate snow cover the roots are extremely vulnerable to freezing, and snow changes are related to shifting climate. [Science Daily](#)

**New maps show range of parasitic worms that infect seafood and people** *January 25, 2012.* Each year about 20,000 people are infected by nematodes of the genus *Anisakis* and suffer from gastrointestinal diseases or allergic reactions. The illness often occurs from eating uncooked seafood. Fish, cephalopods (octopus, squid etc.) and crabs are intermediate hosts and the final hosts are Baleen and toothed whales. As reported in the journal *PLoS ONE*, new maps are providing insights into the range of *Anisakis* as well as the human populations that may be at risk. [Science Daily](#)

**Video of the Week: *Snowy Owl Exodus*** – Snowy owls have been leaving the Arctic this winter and are being observed as far south as Oklahoma and even [Hawaii](#). Here is a news clip from Kansas City that provides a local view of this unprecedented event [KBC9 News](#).

Climate and Health E-News is received around the circumpolar north by people who are interested in climate change impacts and public health. For back issues click [here](#). Click [here](#) if you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe.

*Regards - Mike*

**Michael Brubaker**

**Center for Climate and Health**

**Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium**

**Tel. 907-729-2464**

**<http://www.anthc.org/chs/ces/climate/index.cfm>**

***Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities***