

Climate and Health E-News

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

No. 103, February 24, 2012

Circumpolar Climate Events Map – See this week’s news events including: *thin lake ice conditions, snow removal budget woes and new seal illness reports.* [Center for Climate and Health](#)

Ice seal illness radionuclide update *February 17, 2012.* There have been a few reports of sick seals recently including from Nome and Japan ([see January map posting](#)) and from Togiak in Bristol Bay ([see February map](#)). There have been no reports of related human illness anywhere. Last week NOAA and US Fish and Wildlife released their preliminary report on analysis of tissue samples for radionuclides. The levels in the tissues samples of tested sick seals were within the typical background range for Alaska. [NOAA](#)

Subsistence fishing practices in Northwestern Alaska, a total environment of change *January 2012.* A recent UAF study details prominent environmental changes in Selawik and Noatak Alaska and the effects on subsistence fishing. The report explores changing climate as well as the broad social, economic, cultural, and political factors that create a total environment of change for Northwest subsistence fisheries. [Ecology and Society](#)

Sea level rise underestimated says BC scientists *February 20, 2012.* Scientists at an international conference in Vancouver, warn that estimates of sea level rise in British Columbia are too conservative and that sea level could rise by as much as one meter over the next century threatening homes, property and infrastructure. Recommendations were made for dikes, sea walls, and phased relocation. [CBC](#)

Video of the Week: Sick seals in Japan. *January 21, 2012* This six minute clip is the only video footage that we are aware of that documents seals that appear to be suffering from the symptoms shared by some sick seal and walrus in Eastern Russia, Alaska, Northern Canada, and now Japan. For more information on the outbreak see [NOAA](#). This footage was shot in Abashiri, Hokkaido Japan. [Youtube](#)

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](#). To subscribe or unsubscribe, please click [here](#).

Regards – Mike

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