

Climate and Health E-News

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

No. 113, May 11, 2012

Circumpolar Climate Events Map To view our Google map of event this month click [here](#). You can also post a map comment [here](#), or visit our [archive](#) back to June 2009.

Climate warming changing water cycle, causing bigger storms *May 3, 2012*. In the high Arctic, warming climate has gone beyond tinkering with the water cycle and triggered “weird weather” throughout the Northern Hemisphere. As sea ice retreats, sunshine that would have been reflected back to space by the bright ice is instead absorbed by the ocean. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

Ottawa experiences the winter that wasn't *May 9, 2012*. Environment Canada has confirmed that this was truly the year of the winter that wasn't. Looking all the way back to 1889 when the records begin, there has never been a winter in Canada's capitol city, Ottawa like this. Not only were the temperatures extremely mild, but there was also only a fraction of the normal snowfall. In fact, nine of Canada's 11 regions had one of their warmest winters ever. [Ottawa Citizen](#)

Can fish wheels save the Yukon king salmon fishery? *May 9, 2012*. No one really knows what's causing one of Alaska's most prized catches to slowly disappear, but the failure of the Yukon king salmon fishery is threatening the livelihoods of the Alaskans that depend on them. In 1997 the Yukon saw more than 300,000, but by 2000 the run had plummeted to 100,000. By using fish wheels, some communities are finding ways to harvest the chum salmon efficiently while successfully returning kings to the river. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

Report says more grasslands and less tundra in Alaska's future *May 4, 2012*. A new report by University of Alaska Fairbanks predicts that prairie like grasslands will displace much of the tundra habitat in Alaska and neighboring parts of Canada. Says author Nancy Fresco, “this will probably cause stress to wildlife, stress to vegetation and possibly some entire shifts in biomes.” [Chicago Tribune](#)

Video of the Week: Extreme Ice. *November 5, 2008*. This 3 minute video provides an overview of the [Extreme Ice Survey](#) (EIS) founded by photographer James Balog; a project that is using photography to document changes to glaciers all around the world. Cool! [YouTube](#)

Climate and Health E-News is looking for correspondents – to help us identify climate events in news media around the circumpolar north. We want to improve our mapping of events and are looking for volunteer correspondents who would send links of important news stories from their areas. If you would be interested in being a volunteer correspondent, just respond to this e-mail.

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

Michael Brubaker

[Center for Climate and Health](#)

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities