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

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