

***Climate and Health E-News***

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

***No. 114, May 18, 2012***

**Circumpolar Climate Events Map** Click [here](#) to view this month's Google map. You can also post a map comment [here](#), or visit our [archive](#) back to June 2009.

**Arctic seabirds adapt to climate change** *May 15, 2012.* Little auks are among the smallest and most common seabirds in the North Atlantic. They have managed so far to adapt to the effects of warming surface waters in the Greenland Sea by altering their diet and extending the duration of their foraging trips at sea. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Warm weather may bring paralytic shellfish poisoning to new places** *May 2012.* Toxic algae blooms increase with warmer ocean conditions, rainfall and calm waters. That much seems to be associated with climate. A testing program created by Native organizations and the Marine Advisory Program has resulted in a baseline on paralytic shellfish poisoning in some Alaska communities. [KNBA Radio](#)

**Arctic ice reflecting less sunlight, fueling warming** *May 17, 2012.* The on-going reduction in multi-year ice is causing more sunlight to be absorbed and helping to fuel the process of warming in the Arctic. According to a recent study in Geophysical Research Letters, rapid warming will boost some forms of sea life while advancing the destruction of the seasonal ice cap. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

**What is causing hair loss in Southeast Alaska's deer?** On May 1, 2012, Brian Holter Jr., a Local Environmental Observer ([LEO](#)) from Craig, Alaska, posted the following [observation](#): "We have been seeing Sitka black tailed deer with large patches of fur hanging from their bodies and bald spots the size of place mats." The cause of the hair loss is a mystery and more study into this issue is needed. One possibility is parasites such as ticks that target deer or moose. Could this be evidence of "winter ticks" be expanding their territory into Alaska? Some researchers ([Zarnke et al, 1990](#)) have in the past been studied this possibility. Let's hope not. The *Video of the Week* (below) highlights the impacts of winter tick infestation on moose in Alberta, Canada.

**Video of the Week: Winter Tick and Alberta Moose.** *March 4, 2008.* This 5 minute National Geographic video provides an overview of the devastating effect of winter tick on moose in Alberta, Canada. [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*

**Michael Brubaker**

[Center for Climate and Health](#)

**Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium**

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