

Climate and Health E-News

Connecting People and Raising Awareness in the Interest of Public Health

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During a visit last week to Kotzebue, I attended a talk by USF&W Wildlife Biologist, Dr. Eric Regehr who is studying polar bears in the Chukchi Sea region, and provided an overview of some of the preliminary 2009-2010 findings. Dr. Regehr reported that the 59 bears they captured this Spring were healthy and in good condition. They spotted lots of bears in the vicinity of Point Hope, including females with older triplets, and an enormous 1500+ pound male. Unusual however, was that there were no sightings of females with young "cubs of the year," perhaps indicating a lack of ice conditions appropriate for denning. For more information visit the [USF&W Polar Bear Website](#). Polar bear behavior is a public health concern when there are decreased subsistence opportunities for Alaska Natives, or an increase in dangerous human-polar bear interactions. Here are some recent polar bear stories from the Anchorage Daily News, and two Canadian sources.

As Arctic Ice Recedes, Polar Bear Patrols are Vital - With nowhere to go, polar bears are staying on land and increasingly creating hazards for communities. Kyle Hopkins, Anchorage Daily News, 05-03-10 > [full story](#)

Polar Bears in Hudson Bay Take Up Rock Climbing to Find Eggs - In 2004 on southern Southampton Island, a well-nourished adult female wandered from nest to nest in a snow goose colony, scooping up the entire contents of each nest, noted Smith and co-authors in a paper published in a recent edition of Polar Biology. This pillage of bird colonies appears to be a new phenomenon. The polar bear stayed in the area for a few days, wiping out some 400 nests. Nunatsiaq News, 04-30-10 > [full story](#)

Bear Killed by Inuit Hunter Confirmed as Grizzly / Polar Bear Hybrid - Biologist in the Northwest Territories have confirmed that an unusual-looking bear shot earlier this month near Ulukhaktok, N.W.T, was a rare hybrid grizzly-polar bear. CBC News, 04-30-10 > [full story](#)

If you have an observation or an update you would like to include in our E-News or have added to our [Alaska Climate Events Map](#), you can e-mail me at mbrubaker@anthc.org

Regards - Mike

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