

Climate and Health E-News

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

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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.

Climate change is opening up Arctic fisheries *July 21, 2012.* Canada, as one of the world's largest fish and seafood exporters (a business worth \$3.9 billion in 2010) has potential new fisheries along almost three-quarters of its coastline. Until recently, those Arctic marine shores kept many of their undersea secrets well hidden beneath meter-thick ice and harsh impassable distances. [The Globe and Mail](#)

An avian flu that jumps from birds to mammals is killing New England's baby seals *July 31, 2012.* A novel avian influenza virus has acquired the ability to infect sea mammals and was responsible for an outbreak of fatal pneumonia that recently struck harbor seals in New England. The findings have been published in [mBio](#). From September to December 2011, 162 New England harbor seals died in an outbreak of pneumonia. Sequence analysis of postmortem samples revealed the presence of an avian H3N8 influenza. [ScienceDaily](#)

Avian flu not responsible for ice seal and walrus illness *August 1, 2012.* Scientists say a type of bird flu – H3N8 – is responsible for the death of the more than 160 harbor seals on the East Coast. Reports of sick seals began in September, which coincided with the reports of diseased seals in Alaska's northern coasts. KNOM's Laureli Kinneen reports there is no relationship between the avian flu on the East Coast and the disease affecting iced seals and walrus in Alaska. [KNOM](#)

Climate change, ozone and skin cancer *July 26, 2012.* As reported in the journal science, climate change related destruction of the ozone layer could result in increased incidence of skin cancer. According to Dr. James Anderson, the research connects for the first time, climate change, ozone depletion, and skin cancer incidence. [ScienceDaily](#)

Video of the Week: abandoned Alaska walrus calves rescued. *July 27, 2012.* Over the past week three abandoned walrus calves have been rescued near Barrow Alaska ([APRN](#)). The calves were in poor health and are being treated at the Alaska Sealife Center in Seward. The cause for the abandonment is unknown. This 2 minute video shows a walrus pups receiving care at the Alaska Sealife Center. [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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