

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 map. You can comment on our map [here](#), or visit our [archive](#).

Rusty dust from spruce trees linked to red colored bay waters *September 12, 2012.* If proof of a colder, wetter summer was needed in these parts, look no further than the rusty tips on your nearest spruce tree. The burnished dust spread to Kachemak Bay waters and lakes to cast what at first alarmed observers as a possible red tide. Robin Mulvey, a forest pathologist with USDA Forest Service confirmed the origin was spruce needle rust. [Homer Tribune](#)

Testing all clams – study establishes toxin levels on Kenai Peninsula. *September 10, 2012.* Whether the shellfish from Ninilchik to Port Graham is safe from toxins has never been extensively tested until this summer. Thanks to a three-year study and \$120,000 awarded to the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve, shellfish on all the main beaches were tested in July and August and will continue to be tested for the next three years. [Homer Tribune](#)

Anthrax Outbreak Cancels Northwest Territory Bison Hunt *September 5, 2012.* The N.W.T. government in Canada has cancelled this season's bison hunt due to the anthrax outbreak in the Mackenzie herd this summer. There were 15 non-aboriginal hunters whose names were picked in the annual draw for bison tags, along with nine tags reserved for outfitters. At least 440 animals were killed by the disease this year, about one third of the Mackenzie herd. It was the [largest outbreak](#) ever recorded in the territory. Anthrax bacteria are found naturally in soil in the region and when hot, dry weather follows a dry season, bison can inhale their spores and become infected. [CBC](#)

Warming Arctic climate may mean trees for Nunavut *September 13, 2012.* A Université de Montreal graduate student studying a fossilized forest on Nunavut's Bylot Island says the climate conditions that existed there about 2.7 million years ago are similar to what scientists predict will exist again in a hundred years. In other words, what goes around comes around: it's possible that small trees, similar to the willow, pine and spruce that now grow at the tree line near James Bay in Quebec, might one day grow again in the High Arctic. [Nunatsiaq Online](#)

Video of the Week: Northwest salmon people face a future without fish *July 17, 2012.* The Swinomish tribe of Washington has depended on salmon for generations. But with changes in climate, the salmon are affected at every stage of their life cycle. Now the tribe is learning how to cope as their traditional food source is changing. PBS News. 7 minutes. [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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Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities