

Climate and Health E-News

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

No. 141, December 14, 2012

Circumpolar Climate Events Map - Click [here](#) for this month's map or visit our [archive](#).

Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Map - Click [here](#) for this month's map or visit our [archive](#). You can also visit us on [Facebook](#).

Climate modelers predict warmer, wetter winters for Northeast US *December 12, 2012*. A new high-resolution climate study, the first to apply regional climate models to examine likely near-term changes in temperature and precipitation across the Northeast United States, suggests temperatures are going to be significantly warmer in all seasons in the next 30 years, especially in winter. Also, they project that winters will be wetter, with more rain likely than snow. [Science Daily](#)

Disappearing Minnesota moose may get listing as 'species of concern' *December 11, 2012*. Minnesota's moose population is at all-time lows. In the Northeast region of the state, populations have dropped sharply since 2005, when an aerial survey estimated a little more than 8,000 moose in the region. By 2012, that number had dropped to 4,230. Things were even more dire in the northwest, where fewer than 100 moose are estimated to remain. And the culprit of choice among state officials? Not hunting. Not predation. Rather, climate change. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

Reindeer populations in decline *December 7, 2012*. Reindeer and caribou are in dramatic decline in the far north. Jeff Flocken of the International Fund for Wildlife explains that changing weather makes food hard to obtain for some caribou. Also indigenous communities depend on the herds for food and as a cultural touchstone. George Rich, an elder of the Innu tribe in northern Canada, tells host Steve Curwood that he doubts his tribe can survive without a healthy caribou population. [Living on Earth](#)

Scientist catalogs effect of climate change on birds near Barrow *December 9, 2012*. When biologist George Divoky was measuring eggs and placing bands on the legs of black guillemots with cold fingers in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, the far north was changing faster than anywhere else in the world. Summer is now one month longer than when Divoky started his study, and Barrow has warmed by 3 degrees centigrade. This warmth, and the melting of snow and shrinking of sea ice that came with it, profoundly affected his birds. [Fairbanks Daily News Miner](#)

Student sues State of Alaska over climate change *December 10, 2012*. The snow is coming later in Kipnuk. The river doesn't stay frozen all winter. And the riverbank is quickly eroding. Those are just a few of the changes 18-year-old Nelson Kanuk says he sees in his western Alaska hometown. [KCAW Sitka](#)

Video of the Week: Nelson Kanuk Shares His Story. Nelson Kanuk is a 16 year old Mt. Edgecomb student from the village of Kipnuk. He has filed a lawsuit against the State of Alaska (see above story) to encourage more action on climate change. This eight minute film documents climate change concerns in Kipnuk, as well as the hopes held by one inspiring young man, that our State and our society and will find ways to help. [YouTube](#)

Climate and Health E-News is received around the circumpolar north by people who are interested in climate change and public health. For back issues click [here](#). To subscribe or unsubscribe, please click [here](#).

Regards – Mike

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