



## Climate and Health E-News

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

No. 158, May 2, 2013

**Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Map** An unusual spring chum salmon catch in St. Marys, a wolf visits Anchorage neighborhood, and a snowy arrival for waterfowl. [ANTHC](#)  
You can also visit our map [archives](#) and find LEO on [Facebook](#)

**Circumpolar Climate Events Map** The snow and cold from early April caught up with many parts of the circumpolar north. Massive flooding occurred in Finland and Sweden, damaging homes and disrupting travelers and commerce. Meanwhile in Manitoba, residents of the Red River Valley were bracing for the flood season and Finland reindeer herders face tough times. [ANTHC](#)  
Click here to visit our map [archive](#).

**New study finds Northwest Alaska wetland shrinking** April 28, 2013. Scientists from the Southwest Research Institute have found that wetlands in the Kobuk Valley National Park have experienced accelerated loss of surface water over the past 30 years. The researchers compared thaw lakes and ponds which form in depressions due to permafrost thaw. Lake surface areas had declined by 14-20% and 12 lakes have drained catastrophically during the past ten years. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

**Warning system can help predict outbreaks of dengue fever** April 29, 2013. Dengue fever is widespread in more than 100 countries in the tropical and subtropical regions, where climate is warm and wet. In recent years, a species of mosquitoes that can spread dengue fever has also been found in Europe. A doctoral thesis published at Umea University reports that it is possible to forecast outbreaks of dengue up to 16 weeks in advance using precipitation and air temperature. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Finland updates sea level rise estimates** April 29, 2013. In the Gulf of Finland, the sea level is starting to rise. The Finnish Meteorological Institute has updated its estimates concerning the impact of rising sea levels on the Finnish coast. Post-glacial rebound and changes in the Earth's gravity field protect the Finnish coast against rising sea levels, especially in the Gulf of Bothnia. In the Gulf of Finland, the sea level is starting to rise. In the near future, the Finnish Meteorological Institute will update its estimates of the lowest recommended building heights, where these factors will also be considered. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Scientists advocate a simple, affordable and accurate technology to identify threats from sea-level rise** April 25, 2013  
Researchers are calling for the global adoption of a method to identify areas that are vulnerable to sea-level rise. The method, which utilizes a simple, low-cost tool, is financially and technically accessible to every country with coastal wetlands. The team seeks to establish a network to coordinate the standardization and management of the data, as well as to provide a platform for collaboration. [ScienceDaily](#)

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, click [here](#).

*Regards – Mike*

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