

Climate and Health E-News

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

No. 162, May 30, 2013

Map update for Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network posts Sea ice conditions make for a tough hunting season in Wales, and a new invasive slug documented in Sand Point. [ANTHC](#) You can visit our map [archives](#) or follow LEO on [Facebook](#)

Map update of Circumpolar Climate Events posts In Alaska: devastating Yukon floods results in evacuation of Galena, and a reduced harvest mandated for Kenai Peninsula razor clams. In Canada: flooding in Northwest Territories, a freak snowstorm in Newfoundland and permafrost thaw damage to the airport in Iqaluit Nunavut. In Norway: severe flooding in the southeast. In Sweden: innovative methods deployed to discourage predation of livestock by wolves. In Russia: ice loss results in rapid evacuation of Arctic research station. [ANTHC](#)

Plants exposed by retreating glaciers re-growing after centuries in ice May 28, 2013. Catherine La Farge of the University of Alberta has overturned a long-held assumption that all of the plant remains exposed by retreating polar glaciers are dead. In the lab, La Farge was able to regrow samples of bryophytes (mosses) that had been beneath a glacier for over 400 years. La Farge says the finding amplifies the critical role of bryophytes in polar environments and has implications for all permafrost regions of the globe. [ScienceDaily](#)

The North Pole is on the move due to rapidly melting ice sheets May 16, 2013. The North Pole's surprise trip toward Greenland is due to Earth's rapidly melting ice sheets, a new study finds. The distribution of mass across the planet determines the position of Earth's poles. Because Earth is a bit egg-shaped, the North Pole is always slightly off-center. It's also been slowly drifting south, responding to long-term changes since the last Ice Age, as the enormous ice sheets that once covered large swaths of the planet melted and parts of the Earth rebounded from the lost weight. [The Weather Channel](#)

Alaska Natives are first climate refugees May 13 2013. With climate change occurring rapidly in the far north, the typical picture of the climate refugee is set to become more diverse. Sea ice is in retreat, the permafrost is melting, bringing the effects of climate change in real time to residents of the remote villages of Alaska. Alaska Natives will be America's first climate refugees. [The Guardian](#)

Russia evacuates melting Arctic research station May 24, 2013. Russia's environment ministry has ordered the urgent evacuation of 16 scientists from a research station on an Arctic ice floe near Canada because the ice around it is disintegrating at an alarming rate. The emergency has sparked a wider debate over how to continue work amid rapidly changing climate conditions, and in an atmosphere in which the race for newly uncovered Arctic resources has become one of the most politically charged issues on the international agenda. [Christian Science Monitor](#)

Video of the Week: Last of the Norway's wild salmon fishers May 28, 2013 Anne Kristiansen is from Per Larsavik in the county of Nesseby, Norway. Anne has been fishing for wild salmon with her father since she was a child. As a sea salmon fisher, she is facing an insecure future in a dying profession. [Vimeo](#)

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