



## No. 168, July 22, 2013

**Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Updates** – We have two North Slope updates on our [June Map](#) including a post about effects of wind and ice conditions on whaling in Barrow, and a lightning storm in Atkasuk. On our [July Map](#) we have new posts about an unusual insect in Kotzebue, low water conditions in Shaktoolik, a red tide and road erosion near Seldovia, and about the high numbers of mosquitoes in Southcentral Alaska. Visit our [map archives](#) or follow LEO on [Facebook](#)

**Circumpolar Climate Events Updates** - High temperatures across Canada are causing water shortages in Nova Scotia, algal blooms in Ontario and Alberta, and wildfires in the Yukon Territory and across the country. In Alaska, the Canada wildfires caused the sky in Juneau to turn red. See our [Climate Events Map](#)

**Snow and Arctic sea ice extent plummet as globe bakes** July 18, 2013. June 2013 was among the top five warmest on record dating back to the late 1800s. But, more remarkable, was the incredible snow melt that preceded and the sudden loss of Arctic sea ice that followed. In April, hefty Northern Hemisphere snow cover ranked 9th highest on record (dating back to 1967), but then plummeted to the third lowest on record during May. Half of the existing snow melted away." [Washington Post](#)

**Smoke from Canadian wildfires observed in Europe** July 12, 2013. This summer, Canada is experiencing unusually extensive wildfires. This week alone, 341 new [forest fires](#) have consumed a total area of 616,000 hectares. The smoke clouds produced by the fires in Canada have now reached Europe and on some days were visible with the naked eye. [Science Daily](#)

**Air pollution responsible for more than 2 million deaths worldwide each year, experts estimate** July 12, 2013. More than two million deaths occur globally each year as a direct result of human-caused outdoor air pollution, a new study has found. Many of these deaths are estimated to occur in areas of Asia, where population is high and air pollution is severe. While climate change can exacerbate the effects of air pollution and increase death rates, the study found only a small proportion of current air pollution deaths are related. [ScienceDaily](#)

**UAF professor uses drone fleet to monitor air quality** July 21, 2013 Professor Cathy Cahill has captured and examined the particles floating in air breathed by U.S. servicemen and women in far-off deserts. She now commands a fleet of 161 unmanned aerial vehicles that will sniff the air around volcanoes and inside wildfire plumes. [Anchorage Daily News](#)

**New Atlas of Community Based Monitoring in the Arctic** July 2013. A new online atlas has been launched to showcase community-based monitoring projects and initiatives across the circumpolar world. The atlas is an initiative of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), the Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic (ELOKA), Brown University, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami's Inuit Qaujisarvingat: Inuit Knowledge Center, and Carleton University, and is connected to the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON). [Arctic Community Based Monitoring](#)

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*Regards – Mike*

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