



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

No. 171, August 22, 2013

Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Updates – Observations for this month are available on the [LEO - August Map](#) including unusual insects in Kotzebue and Pitkas Point, an amazing berry harvest in Unalakleet, spruce bark beetle concerns in White Mountain, and erosion and stream quality changes in the Golovin area. You can visit our map [archives](#) and follow LEO on [Facebook](#)

Climate Events in the Circumpolar North – The rain has returned to Alaska helping with the wildfires but too late to provide relief for farmers suffering from drought in the Tanana Valley and Matanuska Susitna Valley. Extreme rain in Eastern Russia causes flooding of 140 towns and an estimated 260 million in damages. In Chukotka and Kamchatka, hungry bears are reported to be robbing graves. CBC reports that Eastern Canada is seeing more warm water fish. See our [Climate Events Map](#).

Wet weather too late for Alaska farmers August 19, 2013. The severe drought that's gripped the Interior for most of the summer finally broke over the weekend. Rains fell throughout the region for the first time in some areas since early July. But it's probably too little and too late for most farmers, especially those who own livestock, who've have had to resort to costly measures like irrigating and importing hay from Canada and the Lower 48. [APRN](#)

No clear link between Arctic warming and extreme weather August 19, 2013. "Is the dramatic decline of Arctic sea ice, making weather more extreme? Several recent studies have made this claim, but a new study finds little clear evidence. The research, published in Geophysical Research Letters, concludes that, "the Arctic is changing rapidly, and these changes will likely have profound effects on the Northern Hemisphere," and the, "relationship between Arctic Amplification and midlatitude weather is complex." [Washington Post](#)

Has mystery illness in ice seals run its course? August 19, 2013. "The first sick seals began to appear in summer 2011. Mostly ringed seals, covered in lesions, were being discovered on Arctic shorelines. Two years later, fewer and fewer cases are being documented, and at least one Alaska researcher believes the fatal illness may have run its course. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

Vitamin D levels in Canadian Dene First Nation August 2013. Increased awareness about the importance of vitamin D has focused interest on its role in the health of Canada's Aboriginal peoples, who bear a high burden of both infectious and chronic disease. The ability to acquire vitamin D through skin is limited at northern latitudes, and the transition from nutrient-dense traditional to nutrient-poor market foods has left many Canadian Aboriginal populations food insecure and nutritionally vulnerable. See full text [IJCH](#)

Video of the Week – Rapping to preserve an Arctic language Nils Rune Utsi is the founding member of Slincraze, a rap group from Maze, a village in northern Norway. They rap in Sami, a language spoken by less than 20,000 people. Their goal is to save their language and culture and to fight stereotypes about the people of the region. [BBC News](#)

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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