



**Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Updates** – Observations are available on the [LEO - August Map](#) including unusual insects in Kotzebue, Pitkas Point, Unalakleet and Anchorage, 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** – [August Map](#): musk ox and bison illness in Canada; Russia's great flood and lost nuclear generators; *Lepidurus arcticus* in Finland, and a very wet month in Kodiak Alaska. On our [September Map](#), a very warm summer for Alaska and Norway, and icy conditions make for tough shipping in Northwest Territories.

**Alaska makes disaster declaration for subsistence walrus hunt** September 2, 2013. The walrus hunt on St. Lawrence Island has been declared a disaster by the State of Alaska. The reason - unusually wet and cold weather and sea ice packed in so tightly that hunters could not reach the herds. This year's harvest amounted to only 36% of the average. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

**Emerging avian influenza highlights importance of wild bird surveillance** August 2013. A novel strain of avian influenza virus has caused severe human illness and death in China. Because some birds migrate between continents concern was raised that infected wild birds might carry the virus with them. USGS researchers now believe that the risk is low. [GeoHealth](#)

**Fukushima's radioactive water leak: what you should know** August 7, 2013. Tensions are rising over radioactive water leaking into the Pacific from Japan's crippled Fukushima nuclear plant. Ken Buesseler a senior scientist with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution has analyzed thousands of samples from the area. While he's not too concerned that fish caught off the U.S. coast will be affected, "strontium changes the equation for Japanese fisheries, as to when their fish will be safe to eat." [National Geographic News](#)

**Is red spruce a climate change winner?** August 30, 2013. In the 1970s, red spruce was the forest equivalent of a canary in the coal mine, signaling that acid rain was damaging. Now, scientists are finding that red spruce are growing at levels almost two times the average, a growth rate never before achieved. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Video of the Week – Sea ice ends Northwest Passage rowers bid early September 3, 2013.** The four men trying to row the Northwest Passage from west to east arrived back in Vancouver this weekend. When the crew of Arctic Joule arrived in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut Wednesday night, rower Kevin Vallely said they realized it would take too long to reach Pond Inlet, Nunavut. [CBC](#)

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

*Regards – Mike*

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