

**Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Map** – Observations for September include: unusual spider in Chignik Lagoon, an epic berry harvest and late caribou in Kiana, an unusual bird sighting in Shishmaref, a fish kill on Lake Illiamna, and new erosion discoveries in St. Michael. [ANTHC](#) Visit our [archives](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#)

**Climate Events in the Circumpolar North** – Anchorage ties record for consecutive days of rain, flooding and erosion at Eklutna Lake increasing moose in southeast, and measures to protect walrus at Point Lay; Canada's starfish and crow mysteries, another mola fish in New Brunswick; responding to the floods in Eastern Russia; and moth response to climate change in Finland. [ANTHC](#)

**Alaska hunts oil as Arctic damage shows most change from climate.** October 2, 2013. When Jerry Otto started hunting for Alaskan oil in 1980, his tractor-trailers barreled along ice roads as much as 10 feet thick for 180 days every year. Last winter, when he set out to drill 80 miles south of the Arctic Ocean, regulators opened the roads for 126 days. The rest of the time, warm weather left the routes too mushy for vehicles. [Bloomberg Markets](#)

**Caribou herd keeps Selawik hunters guessing.** September 27, 2013 There is something a little different about this year's tardy arrival of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. Unlike previous years, where a lead pack of caribou would make an appearance in the Kobuk Valley before the main herd, this year there has been none. "They're more than a little late," said Fish and Game caribou biologist Jim Dau from Kotzebue. Since 2000, the herd, Alaska's largest, is getting less and less predictable coming off its summer grounds on the North Slope. [Arctic Sounder](#)

**Caribou may be indirectly affected by sea-ice loss** October 1, 2013. While plants can adjust the timing of their growth based on temperature, caribou reproductive cycle is based on seasonal changes in daylight. Because of this mismatch in timing, a study published in [Nature Communications](#) finds that warming temperatures may be leading to fewer births and higher calf mortality in Greenland caribou. Warmer temperatures have been causing plants to emerging earlier, and they tend to be older and past their peak nutritional value by the time the hungry caribou arrive to eat them. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Year old Fire Island wind power project on track to double capacity.** October 1, 2013. Fire Island near Anchorage is the new site of an eleven turbine wind farm. Last week Fire Island Wind LLC exceeded their annual goal by producing 51,800 megawatts, enough electricity to power 4000 homes. This week they begin construction on phase two, eleven more 1.6 MW turbines. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

**Video of the Week – Jelly fish close nuclear power plant in Sweden October 1, 2013.** [Jelly fish blooms](#) have been associated with stressed conditions in marine environments. Too many jelly fish can become a big problem for fisheries, tourism and power plants. A huge cluster of jellyfish forced shut down of one of the world's largest nuclear power plants. Operators shut the plant down when pipes were clogged conducting cool water to the turbines. [ITN](#)

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*Regards – Mike*

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