



Climate and Health E-News (No. 177) October 10, 2013
Climate Change and Public Health in the Circumpolar North

Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Map – LEO welcomes our new network members from the [Inuvialuit Settlement Region](#) of Canada. You can see our new [Inuvialuit Regional map](#) as well as regional maps from Alaska at our [website](#). Visit our [archives](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#)

Climate Events in the Circumpolar North – *In Alaska*: thousands of walrus come ashore in Point Lay, a mysterious algal bloom in Homer, and the Forty Mile caribou herd crosses the Yukon River for the first time in memory. *In Canada*: game managers close caribou hunt to prevent unmanaged harvest of Forty Mile herd, starfish continue to die near Vancouver, north bound grizzlies settling at Cambridge Bay, and polar bears attacking dogs in Arviat. *In Sweden*: jelly fish have caused shut down of one of the world’s largest nuclear power plants. [ANTHC](#)

What’s that brown algae floating in Kachemak Bay? October 6, 2013. A brown sludgy plankton bloom is raising concerns on how it may impact the delicate filtration systems of shellfish and other marine life. The plankton from the group *Gymnodinium* is described as four or five feet deep in its most concentrated areas. Though NOAA, as part of the federal government shutdown, is banned for the moment from continuing the plankton inquiry, the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve is on the job conducting phytoplankton sampling with residents all around the Bay. [Homer Tribune](#)

Deadly trio may cause mass extinction of marine species October 9, 2013. Marine scientists warn that a deadly combination of warmer temperatures, acidification and decreasing oxygen levels are a looming threat to the survival of the world’s oceans. “We are entering an unknown territory of marine ecosystem change, and exposing organisms to intolerable evolutionary pressure,” scientists with the International Programme on the State of the Ocean (IPSO), wrote in the most recent report. [Arctic Journal](#)

Arctic coastlines threatened by melting permafrost October 5, 2013. Approximately 34 percent of the world’s coastlines are covered in permafrost, which absorbs the impact of ocean waves and protects against coastal erosion. Sea ice helps too, by blocking waves from reaching the shore. That buffer zone is disappearing, however, and without it coastal erosion could accelerate and threaten critical infrastructure including oil and gas pipelines – in the Arctic and elsewhere. [Barents Observer](#)

Eat locally for sustainability globally — Alaska family lives a year off only local foods September 25, 2013. “There is a misconception that Alaska can’t support its own food needs,” said Saskia Esslinger, of Anchorage, who with her family transformed a few hundred square feet of lawn in an urban neighborhood into their garden and grew rhubarb, cabbage, cucumbers, kale and other greens, zucchini and other gourds, and carrots, potatoes and other root crops, a total harvest was 1,622 pounds. The challenge also meant foraging for food, which Esslinger said was an extremely enjoyable part of the process. [Redoubt Reporter](#)

Video of the Week – Scientists probe mass die off of sea stars in BC October 6, 2013. After a population explosion of sun flower sea stars in recent years, [divers discovered](#) a mass die off occurring near Vancouver. The cause of the die off is under investigation. [The Canadian Press](#)

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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Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities