

Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Map – View our November map for a new observation about unusually warm weather and open water on the Yukon River, a krill die-off in Metlakatla, delayed winter in Nondalton, rising PSP levels in King Cove, outcomes from the storm in Western Alaska and a novel outbreak of the bird disease, Avian cholera on St. Lawrence Island [ANTHC](#). Visit our [archives](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#)

Climate Events in the Circumpolar North - View our November map to see media reports from around the circumpolar north. In *USA*, a massive bird die off on St. Lawrence Island, balmy temperatures in Barrow, and another late season bear in Juneau. In *Finland*, windstorms, record snowfall in the north, and mild weather in the south. [ANTHC](#)

Bird die-off on St. Lawrence Island December 3, 2013. Hundreds of dead birds began washing onto St. Lawrence Island beaches on November 20th. Residents immediately collected samples and sent them on to the UAF Marine Advisory Program Agent in Nome. A sample of a thick billed murre, a northern fulmar, and a crested auklet was sent to the National Wildlife Health Center for analysis. The quick response demonstrates a mounting capacity for dealing with unexpected environmental events in the region. [Alaska Public Media](#). *E-News Note: An Alaska Department of Fish and Game press release on December 4th reporting that the cause of the die-off is Avian cholera, the first time it ever reported in Alaska. For content from the press release please see our [November LEO Network Map](#).*

Weather changes disrupt Northern subsistence hunts December 4, 2013. A study published in the December issue of *Arctic* reports that hunting in Wainwright Alaska has been made more difficult in recent years due to rough weather. Hunters use boats to harvest bowhead whales in the spring and caribou in the summer. While high winds are good for opening leads in the ice, they also make boat travel difficult. Winds below about 13 mph are needed for good hunting conditions. There are about seven fewer suitable spring days to harvest bowhead whales and about seven fewer suitable summer days to harvest caribou compared to 1971. According to lead author Winslow Hansen, problems arise when winds reach about 24 mph. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

Rainfall to blame for decline in Arctic peregrines December 3, 2013. A University of Alberta study published in *Oecologia* is among the first to directly link rainfall to survival of wild birds in Canada. A nest-box experiment provided "unequivocal evidence" that gradual changes in Arctic temperature and precipitation are responsible for a long-term decline in reproduction for the peregrine, a top predator in the Arctic. Nestlings died from hypothermia and in some cases from drowning in their flooded nests. [Science Daily](#)

Cranberry – an antioxidant super food November 25, 2013. Julie Cascio a home economist with the UAF Cooperative Extension Service is co-author for study published in the *International Journal of Circumpolar Health* about the benefits of 16 wild Alaska wild berries. Cranberries also known as lingonberries, scored highest on the Oxygen Radical Absorption Capacity (ORAC) scale, a way of measuring antioxidant properties that fight cancer and other diseases. Forty is considered a very high ORAC count. Sampled cranberries scored an impressive 203, higher than any other Alaska wild berry. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

Video of the Week – Greenland, the world's newest frontier November 10, 2013. This short video considers the huge reserves of minerals, oil and gas buried under this icebound nation, the emerging potential for resource extraction, Greenland's tiny population, and concerns about the impacts on Greenland lifestyle. [The Telegraph](#)

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Regards – Mike

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