

**Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Map** – View our December map for a new observation about the unusually warm weather and the absence of snow in the Yukon / Kuskokwim community of Quinhagak. [ANTHC](#) Visit our [archives](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#)

**Climate Events in the Circumpolar North** - View our December map to see media reports from around the circumpolar north. In USA, a successfully late whaling season on St. Lawrence Island, some unusual river flooding and continued bear activity in Anchorage, and snowy owls in Albany. In Finland and Sweden, a cold snap sets records and shuts down train system. [ANTHC](#)

**With warm December winds, shaken faith in Arctic weather** December 10, 2013. It's raining again. Was that a pop song from the '80s? I don't know -- I just wish it would stop. This is December, after all, and in a place that used to be cold and our people called it the Arctic. Andrew Greene and I had planned to head up the Noatak to set hooks under the ice today. We're not going anywhere in this rain. We haven't exactly cancelled -- I think we're too depressed about the warm weather to even bother. [Anchorage Daily News](#)

**Avian cholera kills hundreds of birds in Alaska** December 7, 2013. Avian cholera is to blame for the birds found dead on the beaches of St. Lawrence Island, 200 miles from the mainland, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The disease is common elsewhere, including in California, Nevada and Texas. "It's super, super common," said Kimberlee Beckmen, a Fish and Game wildlife veterinarian. "The only unusual part is us finding a die-off in Alaska." [Anchorage Daily News](#)

**Permafrost along Alaska Highway gradually disappearing** December 8, 2013. Permafrost along the Canadian portion of the fabled Alaska Highway is disappearing, and coverage is steadily moving north, a newly published [research paper](#) reports. Testing in 1964 found permafrost at 57 percent of sites examined along an 825-mile stretch of highway running from Fort St. John, B.C., to Whitehorse, Yukon. But in 2007 and 2008, only 29 percent still had permafrost. The outcome is a range of thaw-related problems for the road system. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

**Sea ice change allows for broadband expansion in Alaska** December 5, 2013. In another sign of how climate change is transforming the Arctic, a Toronto-based company is planning to lay a fiber-optic cable through Canada's Northwest Passage, and to bring faster internet to Prudhoe Bay, Barrow, Wainwright, Point Hope, Kotzebue, and Nome. "We're planning to build through areas that are now ice free for at least part of the season that in past years the ice never went out, or went out of any significance, so definitely climate change and the recession of ice in the north has made this project possible," Pierce said. [Alaska Public Media](#)

**What did your father eat? Father's diet before conception crucial in offspring's health** December 10, 2013. Mothers get all the attention. But a study led by McGill's Sarah Kimmins suggests that the father's diet before conception may play an equally important role in the health of their offspring and raises concerns about Western diet and of food insecurity. "Our research suggests that fathers need to think about what they put in their mouths, what they smoke and what they drink and remember they are caretakers of generations to come," said Kimmins. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Video of the Week – Athabascan Fiddlers** December 5, 2013. The Athabascan Fiddle Festival had its first show 31 years ago, in 1983. Since then it has grown and seen changes. This short video talks about the fun, history and healthy environment that have been carefully cultivated around this annual festival. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

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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