



**Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Map** – View our January map to see our most recent posts from Local Environmental Observers, including the lack of snow in Alaska’s Bering Straits. [ANTHC](#) Visit our [archives](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#)

**Climate Events in the Circumpolar North** - View our January map to see media reports from the circumpolar north. From North America, record high temperatures in Alaska, and record lows in the eastern U.S. and Canada. Wayward snowy owls again (!) this year. High PSP levels in southeast Alaska shellfish. A windstorm causes damage from Ketchikan to Saskatoon, and delayed hibernation of bears from Juneau to Denali Park. In Europe, extreme storms hammer Scotland, and mild weather raises concerns about lake flooding and the economy in Finland. [ANTHC](#)

**North Slope brants thriving amid changes** January 11, 2014. Some geese on Alaska’s North Slope are benefiting from climate change, according to a new study published in the latest issue of Environmental Research Letters. Brant geese favor the salt-tolerant sedges that are replacing upland sedges that wither and die when permafrost thaw and subsidence cause lands to be exposed to salt. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

**Cod continues to move north into Arctic** December 17, 2013. Cod shoals appear to be moving further north and well into the Arctic Ocean. Marine scientists from five countries concluded that cod stocks in the Barents Sea are at record levels. Norwegian oceanographer Alf Håkon Hoel said in a recent article that some of the most important fisheries in the world take place in waters around the North Pole. [Fish Update](#)

**Europe to suffer from more severe and persistent droughts** January 9, 2014. As Europe is battered by storms, new research suggests that by the end of this century, droughts may be more frequent and intense. "Our research shows that many river basins, especially in southern parts of Europe, are likely to become more prone to periods of reduced water supply due to climate change," says Giovanni Forzieri. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Safe havens revealed for biodiversity in a changed climate** January 13, 2014. Researchers have found a way to project future habitat locations under climate change, identifying potential safe havens for threatened plant species. "We found it very likely that some refugia will be found in sites receiving greatest water runoff below granite outcrops, as well as areas where a reduction in rainfall is offset by deeper soil," Dr Wardell-Johnson said. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Video of the Week** – Polar bears and goose eggs nests as reported in the above Alaska Dispatch story, climate change is improving forage conditions for brant geese on Alaska’s North Slope. The rise in geese populations may also be benefitting polar bears, which as seen in this video, have been documented foraging on bird eggs in Northern Canada. This short video by David Lles documents some of the new discoveries in the foraging behavior of polar bears. [National Geographic](#)

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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