



**Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Map** – View our February Map to see new posts about February arrival of a Fur Seal on St. George Island. [ANTHC](#) Visit our [archives](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#)

**Climate Events in the Circumpolar North** - View our February map to see media reports from the circumpolar north. Little snow for winter races in Alaska, and hazards in Aleknagik of winter boating ; snow storm fatigue in Eastern Canada; a mild winter in Iceland; winter wildfires in Norway, cancelled ski winter events in Finland, and epic ski season and continued winter storms for Scotland and Iceland, and a curious eider die-off in the Shetlands. [ANTHC](#)

**Arctic archipelago Svalbard is heating up** February 14, 2014. *Atle Staalesen* - Usually, February is a freezing month at the far Arctic archipelago of Svalbard. But this year is different. Over the last 30 days, the average temperature has been only 1,6 degrees Celsius, almost 15 degrees above normal. Normally, the average February temperature at Svalbard is minus 16,2 degrees. “We are talking about temperatures and temperature variations, which we normally never encounter,” Trond Lien from the Norwegian Meteorological Institute says. [Barents Observer](#)

**Increase in Arctic cyclones linked to climate change** February 18, 2014 Arctic-wide decreases in sea level pressure are one of the expected results of climate change, this could increase extreme Arctic cyclone activity, including powerful storms in the spring and fall. A new study uses historical climate model simulations to demonstrate that there has been an Arctic-wide decrease in sea level pressure since the 1800's, and increases in extreme Arctic cyclones especially near the Aleutian Islands and Iceland. [ScienceDaily](#)

**New geese habitat emerging on North Slope** February 17, 2014 *Annie Ropeik* - The US Geological Survey says melting Beaufort sea ice is creating new habitat for geese on the North Slope. According to biologist John Pearce, flooding of low-lying areas is creating new coastal salt marshes that are full of plants that the black brants like to eat. [KUCB Unalaska](#)

**In Greenland, wooden micro-shelters designed to be pulled by dogs** February 13, 2014. *Matt Hickman* - As you may be already aware, trailer-bound tiny houses that can be transported to and fro with a four-cylinder vehicle are the hottest thing on four-plus wheels since the Airstream. With his Sledge Project, Dutch artist Rob Sweere has given mobile mini-shelters a decidedly Arctic-appropriate, sea ice-compatible makeover: white-painted, insulated wooden huts with integrated runners that can be towed across Greenland's vast snowy landscapes by snowmobile or dogs [Mother Nature Network](#)

**Video of the Week – Amount of “old ice” in the Arctic, 1987 to 2013** February 16 2014. It’s not a secret that the Arctic Ocean is turning from white to blue as sea ice retreats. But a video compressing 25 years of satellite data into a single minute drew gasps in a session American Association for the Advancement of Science. The movie with data from satellites and buoys, shows how each year’s sea ice cover pulses like an amoeba, expanding and contracting with the seasons—and ending almost every summer a little smaller than the year before. The video shows one reason why: The ice is getting younger. [Science](#)

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*Regards – Mike*

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*Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities*