

**Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Map** – View our February Map to see new LEO posts: an early fur seal on *St. George*, and the lack of snow in *Bethel*, and the slushy ice conditions in *Nightmute*. Also a LEO Youth shares concerns from *Wasilla* about fire hazards and the low snow pack. [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. Early return of migratory birds in *Finland*, low snow in *Sweden*, frozen water pipes in *Canada*, winter wildfires and drilling ice holes in *Russia's*, Volga River to save fish. [ANTHC](#)

**Mass stranding of marine mammals blamed on toxic algae: clues unearthed in ancient whale graveyard** February 25, 2014. Scientists examined a large fossil site in the Atacama Desert of Northern Chile - the first definitive example of repeated mass strandings of marine mammals in the fossil record. Toxins generated by harmful algal blooms most likely poisoned many ocean-going vertebrates through ingestion of contaminated prey or inhalation, causing relatively rapid death at sea. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Could toxic algae concentrated in sand lance cause die-offs of marine life?** February 14, 2014. *Alex Demarban* – A scientist who has spent much of his career studying paralytic shellfish poisoning plans to test a theory on the decline of marine mammals and fish in Alaska. Bruce Wright want to find out if fish like sand lance could be accumulating toxic algae and causing death in the marine food chain. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

**Acid water blamed for West Coast scallop die-off. Nanaimo-based Island Scallops shuts down processing plant** February 25, 2014. *Randy Shore* Ten million scallops in the waters near Qualicum Beach are the latest victims in a series of marine die-offs that have plagued the West Coast for a decade. High acidity interferes with the ability of baby scallops to form a protective shell, making them more vulnerable to predators and infection. Nanaimo-based Island Scallops has shut down its processing plant and laid-off one third of its workforce. [Vancouver Sun](#)

**Climate change won't reduce deaths in winter, British study concludes** February 23, 2014. A study published in the journal *Nature Climate Change* debunks the view that warmer winters will cut the number of deaths. As climate change progresses, the UK is likely to experience increasing weather extremes, including a greater number of less predictable periods of extreme cold. Says Dr. Phillip Staddon: "Efforts to combat winter mortality due to cold spells should not be lessened, and those against flu and flu-like illnesses should also be maintained." [ScienceDaily](#)

**Video of the Week – Fishing in Astrakhan, Russia** May 13, 2013. Two articles (see [Climate Events Map](#)) came out this week about climate related problems in the Astrakhan Region, at the mouth of Russia's Volga River. Dry conditions are contributing to winter wildfires and thick ice is causing a die-off of fish. Volunteers there have drilled tens of thousands of holes in the ice and are using reeds to increase oxygen levels in the water. This got us thinking about the environmental conditions of the Astrakhan Region. A short video on the area is provided. [YouTube](#)

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*Regards – Mike*

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