

Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Map – View our February Map to see new LEO posts including: an early fur seal on *St. George*, lack of snow in *Bethel*, slushy ice in *Nightmute*, and parasites in *Chefornak* subsistence fish. 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 March map to see media reports from across the circumpolar north. Record breaking cold and winter floods in Canada, low snow conditions causes ski race cancellations in Finland, and the Iditarod Trail conditions wreak havoc in Alaska. [ANTHC](#)

Iditarod mushers swap survival tales, nurse wounds in Nikolai March 4, 2014. *Casey Grove* -After fighting their way down the icy Dalzell Gorge and across the snowless Farewell Burn, a wave of Iditarod mushers hit this checkpoint Tuesday telling tales of survival, not racing. Some openly criticized the Iditarod Trail Committee board of directors' decision to keep the race on its traditional route, rather than move the restart from Willow to Fairbanks and avoid portions of the trail made miserable by mild weather. [Anchorage Daily News](#) Note: see also pre-race trail footage from [Happy River](#), and [Dalzell Gorge](#), and [interviews with mushers Jake Berkowitz](#) and [Christian Turner](#).

Arctic ice free season growing by five days each decade March 4, 2014. The ice-free season across the Arctic is getting longer by five days per decade. New analysis of satellite data shows the Arctic Ocean absorbing ever more of the sun's energy in summer, leading to a later appearance of sea ice in the autumn. In some regions, autumn freeze-up is occurring up to 11 days per decade later than it used to. [ScienceDaily](#)

30,000 year old virus comes back to life March 4, 2014. *Rebecca Morelle* - An ancient virus has "come back to life" after lying dormant for at least 30,000 years, scientists say. It was found frozen in a deep layer of the Siberian permafrost, but after it thawed it became infectious once again. The French scientists say the contagion poses no danger to humans or animals, but other viruses could be unleashed as the ground becomes exposed. [BBC News](#) See also September 2013 *Ria Novosti* article about permafrost thaw and pathogens.

A green energy future for Svalbard March 4, 2014. *Trude Pettersen* - Scientists are now looking into the potential for electricity production from geothermal energy reservoirs in Svalbard. Further, they are considering the possibility of combining this with carbon dioxide capture and storage. [Barents Observer](#)

Extreme cold reopens the ice caves of Lake Superior February 5, 2014. *Bill Chappell* - This winter's intense cold has brought a fringe benefit to people who live around southern Lake Superior: They can walk to the uniquely beautiful, and currently frozen, sea caves of the Apostle Islands. It's the first time the lake's ice in that area has been thick enough to walk on since 2009. [NPR](#) See also [AP Video](#)

Video of the Week – On the importance of sled dogs May 13, 2013. Dog teams are an important part of Inuit culture. Radio Canada International journalist Eilis Quinn interviews Canadian Inuit hunter and musher Joulie Sanguya about dog behavior, communication, and the important role of the sled dogs for the Inuit. [Radio Canada International](#)

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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