



Climate and Health E-News (No. 199) April 3, 2014
Climate Change and Public Health in the Circumpolar North

Melting snow in Anchorage.

Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network – View our March map to read about *Toxoplasma gondii*, beluga whales and food safety in Point Hope. Also, the lack of snow in Golovin and a nuthatch in Anchorage with an elongated beak. [ANTHC](#) Visit our map [archive](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#).

Climate Events in the Circumpolar North - View our April map to see media reports from across the circumpolar north. Record high temperatures break 100 year mark in Eastern Siberia. Elsewhere the winter challenges continue for some, including heavy snowfall and flooding in the Eastern Canada. [ANTHC](#) See our map archive [here](#).

Warming climate puts humans in Arctic, around the globe at risk March 31, 2014. *Yereth Rosen* - Climate change, already well underway, poses dangers for people around the world and for biological resources on land and in the oceans, said a sweeping report issued Monday by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The report, titled "Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptations, and Vulnerabilities," was released at a meeting of the IPCC's Working Group II in Yokohama, Japan. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

Northern sea route will have 125 days of navigable conditions by 2050 April 1, 2014. *Thomas Nilsen* - The Northern Sea Route is currently open about 50 days per year. According to the IPCC, this may increase to 125 days by 2050. Shipping from major European ports to Shanghai is 40 percent shorter via the Northern Sea Route compared with the Suez Canal. Shorter shipping distance cuts emissions, but increases the probability of shipping accidents in the Arctic during the breeding season for sea mammals and sea birds. [Barents Observer](#)

Why Arctic river ice is disappearing more rapidly than expected April 2, 2014. A new study has discovered unexpected climate-driven changes in the breakup of Mackenzie River ice. Researchers from Simon Fraser University found that just slightly warmer spring air temperatures combined with snowfall declines can drive earlier-than-expected ice breakup in Arctic rivers. The study may help resolve the complex puzzle underlying why Arctic ice is disappearing more rapidly than expected. [ScienceDaily](#)

Scientists focus on polar waters as threat of acidification grows March 31, 2014. *Jo Chandler* - Scientists say that frigid polar seas are the front line for the most dramatic change in ocean chemistry in a million years. Areas at the floor of the Arctic shelf are now inhospitable for some marine organisms due to higher acidity and lower oxygen levels. Arctic specialists warn that 10 per cent of northern polar surface waters will be corrosive for aragonite, a form of calcium carbonate, by 2018, and that these hostile conditions will spread over the entire Arctic Ocean by the end of the century. [Yale360](#)

Video of the Week – Iceland from the air March 20, 2014. The use of remote controlled aircraft is providing new opportunities for observing landscapes in the Arctic. This four minute video, shot using a DJI Phantom drone Quadcopter with a GoPro Hero 3, provides a unique view of some of Iceland's natural wonders. [YouTube](#)

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](#).

Michael Brubaker, Director
[Center for Climate and Health](#)
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
907-729-2464

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