



Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network – View our April map to read about challenging ice conditions, both for travelers on the Kuskokwim river out of Bethel, and for whalers on the sea ice near Barrow. [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. Break up is causing ice problems across the north - ice jam flooding in Canada and in Alaska, stranded seal hunters in Kwigillingok and dredge miners in Nome. [ANTHC](#) See our map archive [here](#).

Nunavut community looks to the sky to power new community freezer April 29, 2014. *Sarah Rogers* – As the hours of sunlight lengthen each day, Kugaaruk is getting ready to plug in. By the end of next month, hamlet officials hope to get their new community freezer up and running on solar energy, captured by 14 panels installed at the local hockey arena. “We’ll be the first,” said the hamlet’s senior administrative officer Greg Holitzki, referring to Kugaaruk as the first community in Nunavut to attempt to power a public building with solar power. [Nunatsiaq Online](#)

Ocean acidity is dissolving shells of tiny snails off U.S. West Coast April 30, 2014. Biologists have found the first evidence that acidity of continental shelf waters off the U.S. West Coast is dissolving the shells of tiny free-swimming marine snails, called pteropods, which provide food for pink salmon, mackerel and herring, according to a new article. The percentage of pteropods with dissolving shells has doubled in the nearshore habitat since the pre-industrial era and is on track to triple by 2050. [ScienceDaily](#)

Swell and sea in the emerging Arctic Ocean *Jim Thomson and W. Erick Rogers* - Ocean surface waves are generated by winds blowing over a distance (fetch) for a duration of time. In the Arctic Ocean, fetch varies seasonally from zero in winter to hundreds of kilometers in recent summers. This study combined ocean observations, satellites imagery and wave models to understand wave energy in the central Beaufort Sea. The study suggests that reductions in sea ice will result in larger waves and provide a mechanism to accelerate ice retreat. [Geophysical Research Letters](#)

Study finds many Canadians unprepared for extreme weather April 29, 2014. The year 2013 was the worst ever for severe weather insurance losses in Canada. The largest disaster was flooding in southern Alberta following torrential rains in June, causing more than \$1.74 billion in insured damage. Record rain and flash floods in Toronto in July caused an estimated \$940 million in damage payouts, while ice storms in southern Ontario and Atlantic Canada last December caused more than \$200 million in insured losses — elevating the total of severe-weather payouts to policyholders in 2013 to \$3.2 billion. Despite the increased risk, only 9% of Canadians surveyed said they had taken precautions for extreme weather. [The Canadian Press](#)

Research suggests Alaska seaweed may be potent weapon against diabetes, obesity. April 27, 2014. *Yereth Rosen* – Plants growing in Southeast Alaska have got to be tough, and toughness it turns out can result in health benefits for people who eat the plants, according to emerging research from North Carolina State University. The study looked at seaweeds and tidal plants. All had potent antioxidant powers which could provide protection against conditions like obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

Video of the Week - Barrow sea ice season in time lapse June 4, 2011 – This video by the Sea Ice Group at the UAF Geophysical Institute provides a time lapse record of the 2009 to 2010 Chukchi sea conditions with one image per day from the webcam in downtown Barrow, Alaska. [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 at the Alaska Medical Library, click [here](#). To subscribe or unsubscribe, click [here](#).

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