

**Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network** – View our July map for observations from LEO Network members including: interesting insects in Nome and Anchorage, a sea otter stranding on McDonald Spit, an unusual catch in Golovin, early season berries for Jakalof Bay and King Cove, a brilliant bloom of yellow flowers in Togiak, and flooding and erosion in Evansville. [ANTHC](#). Visit our map [archive](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#).

**Climate Events in the Circumpolar North** - View our July map to see news reports from across the circumpolar north. Heat waves, wildfires, smoke and poor air in Canada. In Alaska, a collapsed ice cave, and a blue crab; in Iceland a landslide and a blue salmon; and in Sweden restrictions on burning, water use, and cooling problems at the nuclear plant [ANTHC](#). See our map archive [here](#).

**At Kuskokwim River fish camp, smokehouses fill with fish and tradition** July 19, 2014. *Lisa Demer* – On a sunny summer day the quiet of a remote fish camp became a crazy-busy place of heading and gutting, cutting and hanging. The salmon were running and Bethel elders Roy and Ida Alexie and their extended family were catching them. But this year’s camp began slowly and stressfully. Like everywhere in Alaska, the number of kings returning to the rivers had dropped dramatically. [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

**The curious case of a giant crater at the ‘end of the world’** July 17, 2014. *Terrence McCoy* - Under no circumstance is the Russian peninsula of Yamal considered hospitable. The sun rarely shows in winter, and to locals called the Nenets, the name of the place translates to “the ends of the Earth.” As uninviting as all that sounds, it just got even less enticing. For reasons no one has yet figured out, a massive, 300-foot-wide crater has just appeared. Seemingly out of nowhere. [Washington Post](#)

**Vitamin D deficiency raises risk of schizophrenia diagnosis** July 22, 2014. Schizophrenia is a mental illness with symptoms that can include delusions and hallucinations. Since schizophrenia is more prevalent in high latitudes and cold climates, researchers have theorized vitamin D may be connected to the disorder. According to a new study published in the Endocrine Society's *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*, vitamin D-deficient individuals are twice as likely to be diagnosed with schizophrenia as people who have sufficient levels of the vitamin. [ScienceDaily](#)

**In Siberia, students study permafrost thaw and building cracks** July 15, 2014 *Amelia Jaycen* - Students from Russia, U.S., Norway, Germany, Italy, China and U.K. arrived this week in Norilsk, Russia where they will spend two weeks in a field school to assess the effects of permafrost thaw on Russian urban infrastructure. “A substantial population resides in permafrost regions, especially in Russia, and they see the impacts of thawing first-hand. They are at the frontier of those changes, so to speak,” said field school instructor Dmitry Streletskiy. [Barents Observer](#)

**Video of the Week – Addressing rural sanitation needs in Alaska.** ANTHC operates the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage, assists hospital and clinics across Alaska, and provides community health and environmental health and engineering services. This is a recruitment video by the Division of Environmental Health and Engineering (DEHE) but also describes some of the needs, services and the mission for those who work on rural sanitation in Alaska. [ANTHC](#)

The 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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