



Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network – Please see new posts on our [August map](#) including a funnel cloud sighted near Nightmute, abundant flowers and bees in Eagle River and Sand Point, the fish die off on the Kobuk River and a new bird die off and possibly related bloom in the Bering Sea.

[ANTHC](#) Visit our map [archive](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#).

Climate Events in the Circumpolar North - View our [August map](#) to see news reports from across the circumpolar north. A shrinking mountain in Sweden. Rains bring crop loss in Sweden and Finland. A fish die-off on the Kobuk River and Dall sheep join moose and caribou on the list of declining Northwest Alaska land mammal species. See our map archive [here](#).

Sparser, thinner Arctic Ocean ice enabling new phytoplankton blooms September 1, 2014. Yereth Rosen. Reduced ice cover is stimulating a new phenomenon in the Arctic -extra blooms of phytoplankton occurring in the fall, just before freeze-up, in addition to the usual springtime blooms, new research finds. A study, led by scientists at Canada's Laval University and published online in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*, describes the autumn blooms that have become more frequent in the past 15 years. [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

Southeast high bush cranberry plant leaves inflicted by invasive fungus July 2014. Highbush cranberry (*Viburnum edule*) grows throughout much of Alaska and produces red or orange berries that turn ripe in late summer and early fall. Recently, the [Forest Health Protection staff of State & Private Forestry](#) has documented a fungal disease on the stems and leaves of these shrubs along Windfall, Herbert Glacier, and Brotherhood Trails in Juneau. [National Forest Service](#)

Caribou habitat in Alberta ravaged beyond repair August 25, 2014. This stretch of foothills still looks like pristine, trackless boreal forest when seen from the highway. But back roads into the bush reveal a patchwork of clear-cuts, well pads, access roads and seismic lines so extensive that gravel and green greet the eye almost equally. Scientists are trying to remediate the lines that help wolves get deep into the forest of Alberta's foothills and are partly responsible for vanishing caribou herds, but there are so many that they're focusing on which ones would do the most good. [The Canadian Press](#)

Parasites remind hunters that bear meat must be thoroughly cooked September 2014. Riley Woodford A party of successful out-of-state hunters left Alaska earlier this year with bear meat - and a load of parasites. The incident is a good reminder that the trichinellosis roundworm is widespread in bears and meat needs to be thoroughly cooked, said Dr. Louisa Castrodale, an epidemiologist and veterinarian with the Alaska Department of Health. [Alaska Fish and Wildlife News](#)

Video of the week – Gulf of Maine, symbol of warming oceans September 3, 2014. Scientists say the Gulf of Maine is warming faster than more than 99 percent of the world's oceans, prompting fears from environmentalists and commercial fishermen about the future of one of the Atlantic Ocean's most unique ecosystems. [Associated Press](#)

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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