



Climate and Health E-News (No. 220) October 9, 2014
Climate Change and Public Health in the Circumpolar North

Southwest caterpillar bonanza – photo courtesy Julia Pinnix

Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network – Please see new LEO posts on our [August](#) map and also [July](#) map about thousands of fuzzy black and gold caterpillars and interesting moths in Southwest Alaska. Visit our map [archive](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#).

Climate Events in the Circumpolar North - View our [October Map](#) for news reports from across the circumpolar north. Caribou harvest troubles in Northwest Territories Canada and Northwest Alaska, walrus populations rising in Norway, and lots of sea ice in causes shipping problems for Churchill Manitoba. See our map archive [here](#).

Gypsy moths threaten survival of Russia's Amur tigers October 8, 2014. Russia's federal veterinary watchdog has warned that moths in the country's Far East pose a threat to the endangered Amur tigers, and to the ecosystem as a whole. Scientists say the huge number of gypsy moths this year stems from favorable weather conditions for the insects in 2012-13. [St. Petersburg Times](#)

Jellyfish die-offs baffle fisheries biologists October 7, 2014. *Joseph Robertia* - The Northern sea nettle or brown jellyfish can be found along the entire west coast and the Gulf of Alaska north to the Chukchi Sea. This year, we had catches that were enormous," says Kristin Cieciel of NOAA. This isn't particularly out of the ordinary for jellyfish, but two things did strike her as odd. The surface temperatures were much higher than average and many of the jellyfish she was seeing were already beginning to die. [Redoubt Reporter](#)

Climate change and health in Nuiqsut Alaska August 2014. The North Slope Borough and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium have published a new report about climate change and health effects in the community of Nuiqsut. This is the 11th report in the [series](#). The report covers topics including landscape change and food and water security. Nuiqsut residents are challenged by extreme weather, permafrost thaw, erosion, river change and impacts to subsistence practices. PDF: [ANTHC](#)

Norway's radioactive reindeer October 8, 2014. *Emma Jarratt* - A major spike in radioactivity has been detected in central Norway's reindeer. Scientists say it's because of the long, humid summer that produced a lot of gypsy mushrooms (a favorite reindeer food) and a nuclear accident that occurred nearly 30 years ago. [Barents Observer](#)

Hunters feeling the pinch of declining Northwest Alaska caribou herds October 3, 2014. *Jillian Rogers* - The Western Arctic Caribou Herd is on the move in the Northwest Arctic with eager hunters taking aim, ready to stock up for winter. But the odds are stacked against hunters, and caribou, for several reasons. Last week, area biologist Jim Dau, who has been studying the herd for more than a quarter-century, said the number of caribou at Onion Portage recently was the lowest he's ever seen. [Arctic Sounder](#)

NWT Tlicho cancel fall caribou hunt – unable to find any October 3, 2014. The Tlicho have cancelled this fall's community hunt. So far, three separate groups have gone out looking for the animals, but haven't been able to find any. "We don't know what's going on," says Behchoko Chief Clifford Daniels. [CBC](#)

Video of the week – Woodland Caribou, October 20, 2011. Woodland caribou numbers are declining across Canada and five key threats have been identified for populations found in the mountain national parks. Parks Canada is working hard to reduce these threats and keep woodland caribou on the mountain landscapes. Understanding the plight of Woodland caribou may provide insights to challenges in caribou manage further north as well. [YouTube](#)

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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