

**Climate and Health E-News**

***Connecting People and Raising Awareness in the Interests of Public Health***

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**Changing climate impacts gray whales, walrus locations**

The Arctic Sounder published this article by Victoria Barber about the observed effects of sea ice change on gray whales and walrus. This is from a report by Sue Moore (NOAA), who presented at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in Anchorage last week. "There has been a 42 percent loss of multi-year thick ice between 2004 and 2008, and 2007 posted the most extreme retreat of sea ice on record." Grey whales may be benefiting, taking advantage of a longer ice-free season, while walrus are being forced to adapt by relocating from ice flows to land.

*Climate and Health Note:* Grey whales and walrus are hunted for subsistence in Alaska and other parts of the circumpolar Arctic. Sea mammals are an important food source and provide many nutritional benefits for Arctic indigenous populations.

For more information about trends in Arctic sea ice conditions, see the [linked story](#) or the series of [satellite images](#) from NASA's Goddard's Scientific Visualization Studio. Also see the recent [Science Daily](#) story on rotten ice conditions in the Beaufort Sea.

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