Climate and Health E-News
Raising Awareness and Connecting People in the Interest of Public Health
No. 30, August 15, 2010

Greenland's Ice Island Could Threaten Oil, Shipping - August 10, 2010, USA Today. A University of Delaware researcher reports that an "ice island" four times the size of Manhattan has calved from Greenland's Petermann Glacier. The last time the Arctic lost such a large chunk of ice was in 1962. Anything in the path of the drifting island is in danger and researchers are scrambling to plot its course towards west towards Canada. Read Story

Another Symbol (Walrus) of the Arctic's Complex Ecosystem Finds Itself on Thin Ice — August 10, 2010 New York Times. For generations, Yupik and Inupiat hunters have depended on the Pacific walrus. They ate the walrus' meat and whittled its bones into tools. Walrus skin covered their boats, and walrus intestines, stitched into raincoats, covered their backs. But as the Arctic warms, the landscape upon which both walruses and people depend is changing. Read Story

Greenlanders Link Climate Change to Food Insecurity – International Journal of Circumpolar Health. Food Insecurity occurs when food systems are stressed, compromising people's ability to acquire foods in adequate quality or quantity. Researchers surveying Greenland Inuit found that climate change has become an important factor affecting the harvest of traditional foods. "The role of changing ice regimes, shifting animal migration patterns, reduced availability of seal populations in recent years and projected climatic changes could therefore have a disproportionate effect on the food security of women, elders and others relying on food sharing networks" Read Article

If you have an observation or an update you would like to include in our E-News or have added to our Alaska Climate Events Map, send a message to mbrubaker@anthc.org. To join the E-News mailing list, just respond to this message with your contact (e-mail/name) information. Click here for prior E-News archived at the Arctic Health Library.

Regards - Mike

Michael Brubaker
Center for Climate and Health
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
7033 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
Tel. (907) 729-2464
http://www.anthc.org/chs/ces/climate/index.cfm
Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities