

***Alaska Climate and Health E-News***  
***Raising Awareness and Connecting People in the Interest of Public Health***  
***No. 38, October 13, 2010***

**Northwest Caribou Season Follow-up:** last week *E-News* reported on delays in the caribou season for some communities in the Northwest Arctic, a possible climate related impact. An update is provided in our [Climate Events Map](#), based on local environmental observer reports. Caribou bulls are now beginning to rut and the rivers to freeze, limiting the availability and access to game. Season delay has increased cost and risk for subsistence in the Northwest Arctic, as hunters travel farther and make more trips after seal, whale, caribou and other food staples. At the Alaska Conference on Tribal Environmental Management in Anchorage this week I spoke with a Daniel Douglas from Kiana who provided some insight into the personal impacts of the delayed caribou season and the implications for food security: *"Last year I made eight trips up river and got eight caribou. This year I made thirty trips up river and got two. With gas and oil, it is costing me about \$175.00 / lb."*

**Juneau Biologists Produce Alaska Seaweed Guide** - *The Associated Press (October 13, 2010)* – The University of Alaska Sea Grant Program has published a book for anyone who has wondered about different kinds of seaweed. Juneau biologists Mandy Lindeberg and Sandra Lindstrom are the authors of "Field Guide to Seaweeds of Alaska." Lindeberg says there are more than 100 seaweed species in Alaska and nearly all are described with full-color photos in the new field guide. The guide is the first of its kind for Alaska seaweeds and it took Lindeberg nearly 15 years to compile. Besides seaweeds, the guide features sections on seagrasses and marine lichens. The book is available via the [Alaska Seagrant](#) website.

**UAA Receives Climate Change and Health Grant** - The University of Alaska Anchorage's Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies (ICHS) was recently awarded a grant from the Centers for Disease Control to develop a surveillance and response system for three Alaskan regions to promote climate change observation and adaptation planning. The project will train lay observers in the Southeast, Interior, and Northwest to collect structured observations of climate change related events of public health significance. The observations will be integrated and analyzed at the ICHS, and the results will be provided to participating communities along with adaptation planning recommendations. A meeting October 7 - 8, brought together government and academic stakeholders, such as Health Canada, Trent University, CDC, EPA, ANTHC, and UAA/UAF, to develop metrics that capture the health effects and adaptation strategies associated with climate change. For more information contact: Dr. Tenaya Sunbury [sunbury@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:sunbury@uaa.alaska.edu), (907)786-6585.

**Invasive Shrubs Increase Risk of Human Disease** – *University of Wisconsin News (October 11, 2010)*. Invasive shrubs are increasingly being found in Alaska, especially the Southeast. A recent study from the University of Wisconsin found that invasive shrubs in the Lower 48 can increase the risk of vector-borne human disease. As deer move through shrubs, they are exposed to larval ticks which can become infected with pathogenic bacteria when feeding on deer blood, and can then pass infections when they then feed on a human. New research shows that the presence of bush honeysuckle substantially increases the risk of human disease. The study found that the density of white-tailed deer in honeysuckle-invaded areas was roughly five times that in areas without honeysuckle, and the density of nymph life-stage ticks infected with bacteria that cause human disease was roughly 10 times higher. [Read Article](#)

*The Climate and Health E-News is received around the circumpolar north by people who are interested in climate change impacts on health. If you have an observation or an update you would like to include or add to our Alaska Climate Events Map, please send a message to [mbrubaker@anthc.org](mailto:mbrubaker@anthc.org). To join the E-News mailing list, just respond to this message with your contact (e-mail/name/location) information. Click [> here](#) for our E-News archives at the UAA Arctic Health Library.*

***Regards – Mike***

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