

Alaska Climate and Health E-News
Raising Awareness and Connecting People in the Interest of Public Health
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Toxic Algae Killing California Sea Otters – *Environmental News Network (September 13, 2010)* A toxin produced by a type of cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, has been devastating a colony of sea otters. In a paper published in the journal, PLoS ONE, researchers link the deaths of over 21 California sea otters to toxins from algae transferred from the land in runoff to the sea. [Read Story](#)
E-News note: Blooms that turned the water bright green in Kotzebue Sound (summer of 2009) were sampled by the Native Village of Kotzebue and confirmed to be nontoxic cyanobacteria. Warming is expected to cause more blooms in both fresh and salt water systems.

Arctic Climate Change, Parasites and Shifting Boundaries - *Acta Veterinaria Scandinavica (2010)* This paper by Lydden Polley, Eric Hoberg, Susan Kutz provides a framework for connecting climate change, parasites, people, and wildlife in the circumpolar North. Central to understanding the relationships is the ability to detect and measure shifts in the parasites and hosts, and to assemble data either establishing or refuting links to climate change. Challenges include our limited understanding about parasites (including diversity and distribution), and their health significance, especially in the absence of obvious disease or death. A recently initiated and very promising approach is to recruit, train and fund northerners, particularly harvesters as health monitors. [Read Paper](#)

Arctic Research Commission Hears of Wildfires and Reindeer - *Nome Nugget (October 14, 2010)* The U.S. Arctic Research Commission convened for three days of [meetings](#) at the University of Alaska Fairbanks last week. Acting commission chair Buck Sharpton is one of three Alaskans on the seven-member panel. The panel heard of UAF researchers dealing with wildfires. Climate warming is blamed for an increase in the occurrence of lightning that's making North Slope tundra more vulnerable to wildfire. UAF Reindeer Program Manager Greg Finstad held a presentation on how to revive Alaska's reindeer ranching business as a means to improving the economy and life in rural Alaska. [Read Issue](#)

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. To join the E-News mailing list, just respond to this message with your contact (e-mail/name/location) information. Click [here](#) for the UAA Arctic Health Library and then scroll down for link to the E-News archive.

Regards – Mike

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