

Alaska Climate and Health E-News
Raising Awareness and Connecting People in the Interest of Public Health
No. 42, November 11, 2010

Alaska Climate Change Events Map, November Updates – ANTHC (November 10, 2010)
Aggressive wolves, curvy bird beaks, treacherous ice, sagging pipelines, and Tanana house relocation. [See Google Map](#)

King Crab Distributions Limited by Temperature in the Southern Ocean – ScienceDaily (November 8, 2010) King crabs are ecologically important predators and form the basis of economically significant commercial fisheries," said Dr Sven Thatje, an evolutionary ecologist at the University of Southampton's School of Ocean and Earth Science (SOES). Researchers found that gaps in king crab distributions largely coincide with regions of low water temperature. Their findings imply that even relatively small increases in water temperature due to global warming could lead to king crabs moving into new areas. [Read Story](#)

Ocean pH Dropping Faster than Expected – Nature.com (November 4, 2010) Arctic waters are already experiencing pH dips that could be harmful to sea life. This sobering conclusion was reached by researchers who met on Wednesday to discuss ocean acidification at the Geological Society of America meeting in Denver. "Models are probably underestimating at least by a few years the impact of ocean acidification in the Arctic," says Jeremy Mathis, a chemical oceanographer at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. "We don't know what the organisms' responses are yet, but the conditions are already there to potentially be disruptive to the ecosystems." Marine organisms from plankton to crabs are dependent on carbonate ions in the ocean to build their skeletons and shells. But as CO₂ dissolves in the water it lowers the pH, which shrinks the pool of such ions available for animals to use. [Read Story](#)

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 add to our [Alaska Climate Events Google 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/organization/location) information. [Click here to find past issues of E-News archived on UAA's Arctic Health website.](#)

Regards – Mike

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