

Alaska Center for Climate and Health - E-News
Raising Awareness about Climate Change Impacts on Public Health
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Scientists Seek Common Ancestor of Polar and Brown Bears – *Fairbanks Daily News Miner* (December 20, 2010) UAF scientists are studying the genetics of polar bears in hopes of determining when they split from brown bears and if they have endured warming trends in the past. According to UAF Professor Matt Cronin, who is based in Palmer, “It’s pretty well accepted that brown bears and polar bears share a common brown bear ancestry. Brown bears were in existence and a lineage split off that became polar bears.” [Read Story](#)

Warning Lights Would Mark Unsafe Shellfish - *ScienceDaily* (December 20, 2010) Red tides and similar blooms can render shellfish unsafe to eat, and it is difficult to tell whether a particular batch can cause food poisoning. A newly developed fluorescent marker helps to visually detect toxins. Using the method toxin-producing dinoflagellates could be seen glowing within the gut of live mussels even before the toxin is transferred to the mussel tissue. [Read Story](#)

Report Describes Ocean Acidification – *Oceana* (November 2010) The changing acidity of ocean water threatens to throw off the delicate chemical balance upon which marine life depends. Increased acidity is expected to lead to a shortage of carbonate, a key building block that corals, and shellfish like clams, oysters, crabs, and lobsters, use to build and strengthen their shells. [Read Report](#)

Alaska Climate Events Map, Weekly Updates – *ANTHC* (December 23, 2010) Climate has been good for lower Yukon moose, Homer Christmas birders count an unusual Asian Horned Lark [See Our Google Map](#).

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 in our *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](#) to find past issues of E-News archived at the University of Alaska Arctic Health website.

Regards - Mike

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