

Alaska Center for Climate and Health - E-News
Raising Awareness about Climate Change Impacts on Public Health
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Polar Bear Harvest Limits Set for Native Hunters *February 11, 2011* - An international treaty will set the first-ever limit on the number of polar bears that Natives in Northwest Alaska can harvest while also legalizing polar bear hunting in Russia for the first time in decades. Details are still being worked out, but the Russia-U.S. commission governed by the treaty agreed last spring to let Native subsistence hunters in each country take 29 bears, for a total of 58, from the Alaska-Chukotka polar bear population. [Arctic Sounder](#)

Polar Bear Births Could Plummet with Climate Change *February 8, 2011* - Researchers have studied the reproduction of polar bears in Hudson Bay and have linked declining litter sizes with loss of sea ice. Using data collected since the 1990s researchers looked at the changing length of time Hudson Bay is frozen over (the polar bear's hunting season) and the amount of energy pregnant females can store up before hibernation and birthing. [ScienceDaily](#)

Development of a Pan-Arctic Monitoring Plan for Polar Bear *January 2011* –There is little or no population trend data available for 11 of the 19 recognized subpopulations of polar bears, nor is there much understanding about how polar bears have and will continue to respond to a rapidly changing climate. Annual legal (circumpolar) harvest of polar bears is between 700 and 800 or 3-4% of the estimated size of the total population of about 20-25,000 animals. This report prepared by the Circumpolar Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group of the Arctic Council, lays out a plan for monitoring polar bears across the Arctic. [CAFF Report](#) (PDF)

Alaska Climate Events Map – Visit our [Google Map](#) to see incidents and events that have occurred around Alaska this month, with relevance for climate and / or health.
Note: ANTHC staff - click "back arrow" once generic map appears to view our February map.

The *Climate and Health E-News* is received around the circumpolar north by people who are interested in climate impact on health. For back issues or to join the mailing list visit our [website](#) or contact us via e-mail or by phone.

Regards - Mike

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