

***Alaska Climate and Health E-News***  
***Raising Awareness about Climate Change and Public Health***  
***No. 67, May 27, 2011***

**Ice-forecasting project uses Facebook to improve safety for sea mammal hunters** *May 24, 2011* Marine mammal hunters can now acquire satellite images of ice conditions on their cell phones. The Sea Ice for Walrus Outlook (SIWO) project utilizes National Weather Service forecasts, satellite imagery and local observers in four coastal communities to improve safety about sea ice conditions. [Arctic Sounder](#)

**High concentrations of bacteria in hailstones** *May 25, 2011* Researchers have discovered high concentration of bacteria in the center of hailstones, suggesting that airborne microorganisms may also be involved in other weather events. Precipitation requires a nucleating particle to allow for aggregation of water molecules. This study adds to the evidence that bacteria and other biological particles can serve as the nuclei. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Tribes discuss climate change impacts in Dillingham workshop** *May 20, 2011* Representatives from several Bristol Bay tribal organizations gathered this week to learn about climate and how change is impacting the natural environment and the health of residents. Representatives from nine communities shared local observations about changes to subsistence foods, flooding, erosion and weather during a three-day workshop. KDLG's Melati Kaye attended the event and recorded the following story. Listen to KDLG Story

**Dual parasitic infections deadly to marine mammals** *May 25, 2011* A study of tissue samples from 161 marine mammals that died between 2004 and 2009 in the Pacific Northwest reveals an association between severe illness and co-infection with two kinds of parasites normally found in land animals, *Sarcocystis neurona* and *Toxoplasma gondii*. *S. neurona* is thought to have been introduced by opossums and has gradually been moving northward from California, while *T. gondii* is introduced through the feces of cats. Necropsies were performed on 151 marine mammals including otters, seals, sea lions, dolphins, porpoises and three species of whale. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Ocean temperature effects growth of inshore fish species** *May 20, 2011*, A study published in *Nature Climate Change*, describes effects of ocean warming on the banded morwong, a long-lived inshore fish species. By measuring the growth of otoliths, bony structures used by fish for orientation, researchers compared growth and water temperatures in different regions. Rising temperatures caused growth to increase in populations located in Australia, the middle of the species' range where water is still relatively cool. Growth however, decreased in New Zealand, the warmer northern edge of the species' range. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Faces of Climate Change** – This 6 minute video is the third in a series about changes in Alaska's marine ecosystem. This video highlights the marine mammals and birds and how they depend on Arctic sea ice. View film: [Life on the Ice](#)

**Alaska Climate Events Map** – Visit our [Google Map](#) to see climate incidents and events that have occurred around Alaska during the past month.

*Climate and Health E-News* is received around the circumpolar north by people who are interested in climate impacts on health. For back issues or to join the mailing list, visit our [website](#). Please click following link if you would like to [subscribe or unsubscribe](#).

*Regards - Mike*

Michael Brubaker  
Center for Climate and Health  
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium  
Tel. 907-729-2464