

***Alaska Climate and Health E-News***  
***Raising Awareness about Climate Change and Public Health***  
***No. 75, July 28, 2011***

**Invasive species caught in Norton Sound crab pot** *July 21, 2011* A species of crab never before documented in Norton Sound was harvested recently in the red king crab pot pulled up by fisherman Tony Shelp. NSEDC fishery biologist Charlie Lean identified the crab as *Paralithodes brevipes*, also known as Hanasaki crab, a luxury food item in Japan and mostly found in more southern areas on the Asian side of the Bering Sea and the North Pacific. Lean said that the finding was “quite stunning” because it indicates that the species has crossed the deep ocean trenches from Asia. [Nome Nugget](#)

**National community water vulnerability report profiles Homer** *July 22, 2011* In their report, “[Thirsty for Answers](#),” the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) looked at how climate change may impact water in 12 communities including Homer, Alaska. Factors considered in the report include sea level rise, habitat destruction, fisheries, drought, floods and algal blooms, among others. The report states that [Homer](#) is likely to experience increased precipitation, greater impacts on fisheries, and possibly more erosion and problems with water supply. [Huffington Post](#)

**Unusual heat and lightening activity in Finland** *July 27, 2011* This summer in Finland has been the warmest in 23 years, and the high temperatures have been accompanied by a sharp increase in the number of lightning strikes. There has been seven days when the number of strikes has exceeded 10,000. The average is only one day per year with that many strikes, and in many years there are none. [Eye on the Arctic](#)

**Melting ice linked to increasing levels of toxins in the Arctic** *July 25, 2011* An international team of scientists are finding increases of a wide range of pollutants in the atmosphere, including PCBs and DDT. According to the study published in *Nature Climate Change*, higher summer temperatures and low sea ice cover are contributing to mobilization of pollutants that were previously trapped, and increasing the levels of these pollutants in the environment. [CBC News](#)

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

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

*Regards - Mike*

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