

Climate and Health E-News

Raising Awareness about Climate Change and Public Health in the North

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Understanding methane's seabed escape (*September 2, 2011*) Last week we referenced an article about a joint U.S and Russian scientific expedition to study methane emission in the Eastern Arctic. [Rianovosti](#) News on a separate Norwegian expedition is emerging and their goal to determine how methane gas escapes from beneath the Arctic seabed. Widespread pockets of gas have been discovered along with the channels that allow the gas to reach the sea floor. [ScienceDaily](#)

Fish stocks changing with warming seas (*September 19, 2011*) The first big picture study of rising temperatures in the northeast Atlantic ocean shows that major shifts in fish stocks is already underway, with some fish species benefitting. The majority of fish species (72%) are already seeing changes in abundance and three out of four species have grown in numbers because of warming. [ScienceDaily](#)

Bowhead whales meeting in Northwest Passage (*September 21, 2011*) A new study published in the journal [Biology Letters](#) reports the first observed Northwest Passage meeting of bowhead whale populations kept separate by sea ice for thousands of years. The researchers used satellite tracking to follow bowheads from the Bering, Beaufort and the Chukchi Seas and from Baffin Bay and Davis Strait. The whales entered Viscount Melville Sound in August. [Nunatsiaq Online](#)

Homemade Russian boat nearly through Northwest Passage (*September 19, 2011*) A 25 foot homemade sailing boat was southwest of Victoria Island last Thursday having crossed Canada's eastern Arctic territory Nunavut into the Northwest Territories. Their triple hulled vessel left St. Petersburg a few months ago as part of a circumpolar expedition. The crew is hoping to make repairs to their main engine in Barrow next week. [Eye on the Arctic](#)

Link between skin pigment and vitamin D deficiency explored (*September 20, 2011*) African American men in northern regions require higher doses of vitamin D supplements according to a study by Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. The study looked at Vitamin D levels in the blood of 492 men from the Chicago area and found that 63% of African American men were Vitamin D deficient, compared with 18 percent of Caucasian men. The research suggest that African American men have lower levels because increased melanin in darker skin blocks ultraviolet rays necessary to produce Vitamin D. [ScienceDaily](#)

 **Circumpolar Climate Events Map** (*September 2011*) Our map records events that have occurred in Alaska and other areas of the circumpolar north. If you know of events that we should add to our map, contact us by e-mail. [Google Maps](#)

Climate and Health E-News is received around the circumpolar north by people who are interested in climate change impacts and public 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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