

Climate and Health E-News

Raising Awareness about Climate Change and Public Health in the North

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Circumpolar Climate Events Map (*October 2011*) Our maps document events that have occurred in Alaska and other areas of the circumpolar north during the past month. [Google Map](#) (*Note: Microsoft Explorer has trouble with Google Map. If you are having trouble, try either Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome browsers.*)

In Alaska's Arctic mysterious outbreak kills dozens of ringed seals (*October 12, 2011*) A mysterious disease is thought to be contributing to the deaths of dozens of ringed seals along Alaska's Arctic coast. Scores more are sickened. "Right now we are leaning towards it being a virus, and that could weaken their immune system," said Jason Herreman, a North Slope Borough wildlife biologist. Reports of sick seals are coming in from villages as well as from Chukotka, Russia and Northwest Canada. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

Necropsy: Killer whale that remained in Nushagak River for weeks was pregnant (*October 12, 2011*) Veterinarians said Wednesday that a killer whale that baffled biologists after swimming up a river in Alaska and remaining in the fresh water for weeks until her death had been pregnant. The female orca was part of a trio of killer whales consisting of two adult females (both dead) and a juvenile. [Associated Press / Juneau Empire](#)

Polar mission finds thin ice flows and 'warm' water in high Arctic (*October 11, 2011*) A 12,000-mile scientific research cruise that traversed the North Pole and sampled conditions across the Arctic Ocean found some of the thinnest floes yet observed at such high latitudes, offering a unique reality check on diminished polar pack during one of the most severe seasonal melts on record. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

North Slope finds some success in fall whaling season (*October 12, 2011*) Despite the lack of ice and rough seas, North Slope communities are having some success with fall whaling. Crews in Barrow, Kaktovik and Nuiqsuit have landed whales. Johnnie Aiken says the lack of fall ice makes it more dangerous. Hear [APRN](#) story.

Video of the Week: Predator: polar bears vs. seal (*December 29, 2010*) This 2 minute AnimalPlanetTV video is a short documentary about a polar bear hunting for ice seal. [YouTube](#)

Correction: the video from last week entitled "Nushagak Orcas" was posted on YouTube on *September 5, 2007*, not September 5, 2011. A short video showing a school of orcas was apparently shot in the mouth of the Nushagak and not upriver like the event near the village of Ekwok. Thank you readers for bringing this to our attention. We apologize for the confusion.

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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