

Climate and Health E-News

Raising Awareness about Climate Change and Public Health in the North

No. 90, November 11, 2011

Circumpolar Climate Events Map (*October 2011*) Our map documents events that have occurred in Alaska and other areas of the circumpolar north during the past month. [Google Map](#) (*If you have map problems, try using Firefox or Google Chrome browsers.*)

The difference between a hurricane and Alaska's mega storm (*November 10, 2011*) The huge storm hitting Alaska's west coast is not hurricane but rather a, "extra tropical cyclone." Nevertheless, the massive storm spanning 1700 miles has been packing category-3 hurricane force winds. The fact that Alaska's coast is largely ice-free this year means that the destructive force of the storm can be greater than in the past years. [Eye on the Arctic / Alaska Dispatch](#)

Seabirds signal climate change in Arctic regions (*November 7, 2011*) Migratory birds are staying in Sweden through the winter, and certain bird species are moving farther north in the country. The warming climate and milder winters are believed to be contributing factors. [SamiRadio](#)

Mysterious seal disease worries subsistence hunters (*November 3, 2011*) Lethargy, skin lesions and hair loss – those are the symptoms that plague mostly ringed seals across the Arctic, from Canada to the USA and even Russia. Since July there have been 135 cases, from Barrow to Hooper Bay (*see attached [map PDF](#)*). Subsistence hunter Glenn Nayokpuk said that he has observed the same symptoms on young oogruk (bearded seal), spotted and common seals. "It looks like someone took sandpaper over patches of the fur. It is all gone." [Nome Nugget](#)

Canadian sale of seal meat to China on hold (*November 9, 2011*) Canadian Fisheries Minister says that a deal that would allow Canada to export seal meat to China is on hold. The deal would give Canada access to the world's most populous country and would breathe life into the struggling [seal industry](#). No reason for the delay has been provided. [Eye on the Arctic](#)

Video of the Week: Bering Sea Storm (*November 9-10, 2011*) Here are two short YouTube clips. First footage by Mackay Enterprises of the storm battering the coast on [Diomedede](#), and second, a clip by Halfsmoked99835, showing the aftermath of the storm in [Nome](#).

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*

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