

***Climate and Health E-News***

***Raising Awareness about Climate Change and Public Health in the Circumpolar North***

***No. 95, December 23, 2011***

[Circumpolar Climate Events Map](#) - documenting climate incidents and events around the circumpolar north. (If you have problems viewing, try using Firefox or Google Chrome browsers.)

**Ringed seal die-off deemed, “unusual mortality event”** (December 20, 2011) Deaths of ringed seals in the Arctic and Bering Strait region have been declared an [unusual mortality event](#), a status that provides additional resources to investigate the cause. A similar designation is being considered for walrus, and both are important subsistence species for Alaskan Natives. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

**Sea Lions hauling out in unusual places** (December 15, 2011) Observations from hunters in Gambell, Alaska indicate that Stellar sea lions are now staying in the northern Bering Sea into late November and December. Some animals have traveled thousands of miles from as far away as Southeast Alaska. [Nome Nugget](#) (p. 5)

**Kaktovik seeks to reduce polar bear conflict** - In the last *Climate and Health E-News*, we featured a [CBC](#) article entitled, “Polar bears may endanger humans as climate changes”. Just last week a bear – human encounter in Nunavut resulted in a mauling and the death of a sow with cubs [CBC](#). USF&W have been working to minimize human-bear conflicts, and have maintained low number of “defense of life” takes of polar bears during a period when bear use in the Kaktovik area has been increasing. [USF&W](#)

**West Coast shellfish growers meet acidic water challenge** (December 17, 2011) In 2005, oystermen first noticed failures in larvae production in southern Puget Sound, followed by failures at two of four of the region’s major shellfish hatcheries. Acidification mostly from coal power plants was the culprit. But shellfish growers have learned to adapt their operations and recover their productive fishery; providing an important lesson in a time of increasing ocean acidification. [adn.com](#)

**Our favorite holiday video:** Hallelujah Chorus -Kuinerrarmuit Elitnaurviat 5th Grade (December 20, 2010) This 3 minute clip from Quinhagak, Alaska was a school project intended for the other Yupiq villages. Much to the villagers' shock, over a million people have viewed it. **Happy Holidays!** [Youtube](#)

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, Director

[Center for Climate and Health](#)

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

907-729-2464