



**Local Environment Observer (LEO) Network** – Please see our [2015 Map](#) for observations about the unseasonable weather in Bethel and winter plant growth in Togiak. See also [LEO Map Archive](#)

**Circumpolar Climate Events** – Find links on our [2015 Map](#) to reports and stories about the die-off of Auklets in BC, thaw-related damage to a school in the Yukon, and extreme weather impacts in Norway and Finland. See also [CCE Map Archive](#)

**Mollusk fossils reveal parasite from climate change** January 12, 2015. A paleobiologist has found indications of a greater risk of parasitic infection due to climate change in ancient mollusk fossils. His study of clams from the Holocene Epoch indicates that current sea level rise lead to an upsurge in [parasitic flatworms](#). He cautions that an outbreak in human infections could occur. [Science Daily](#)

**More die-offs in fish, birds, and marine invertebrates** January 12, 2015. There have been more catastrophic animal die-offs over the past 75 years. These mass kills appear to have hit birds, fish and marine invertebrates harder than other species. Ways to improve documentation of such events in the future, including the use of citizen science to record mass mortality events in real time. [Science Daily](#)

**Why Alaska's Arctic tundra is slowly sinking** January 10, 2015. *Ned Rozell* - Tundra is a gathering of hardy shrubs, sedges, grasses, mosses and lichen that live in knee-high communities above soil frozen as hard as concrete. Some of Alaska's tundra is slowly sinking and in at least one place it has tripled in weight. [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

**Port Heiden brings reindeer to help address caribou shortage** January 9, 2015. *Mollie Murray* - Though reindeer populations dwindled in the late 1930s, people in Port Heiden still remember the herds and those who tended them. Today the reindeer are meant to spur economic development on the peninsula and increase the amount of meat available. [Bristol Bay Times](#)

**Coping with a snowless winter** January 15, 2015. *Holly Brooks* – Olympic Nordic skier Holly Brooks describes the challenges of being a winter sport athlete and competitor in Alaska this year, and provides sound advice for staying in shape, physically and mentally. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

**Video of the Week – Iditarod sled dog race officials hope for change in weather** January 13, 2015. The last great race officially starts in about 50 days, but where it begins, that is the question. [KTUU](#)

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