



## The Northern Climate Observer

Climate Change and Health in the Circumpolar North

March 13, 2015 (No. 236)

**Local Environment Observer (LEO) Network** – Please see our [2015 Map](#) for new observations about early bees in King Cove, the lack of ice in Shishmaref, and a deformed fish in Toksook Bay. We hope you will like us on [Facebook](#) and visit our [LEO Map Archive](#).

**Circumpolar Climate Events** – Find links on our [2015 Map](#) to articles and news stories about winter glacier hazards in Alaska, the roaring Arctic storm that hit Siberia and northern Alaska, and unusual ice conditions in the Bering Sea. See also our [map archive](#).

**BC seagull population down by half** February 28, 2015. *Tiffany Crawford* - Seagulls in the Strait of Georgia has declined by half in the past three decades, according to the University of B.C. "These birds are the ultimate generalist — they can eat whatever's around," said Louise Blight. "If they are experiencing a population decline, the gulls may be telling us that there have been some fairly profound changes to local marine ecosystems." [Vancouver Sun](#)

**Cod bones mercury and climate change** March 1, 2015. *Yereth Rosen* – As rising seas once inundated the Bering Land Bridge, naturally occurring mercury that was locked in dry or frozen land became free and dispersed in the expanded marine waters. As sea levels rose, so did levels of mercury in the marine food chain. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

**BC bighorn at risk from emerging disease** January 23, 2015. Larry Pynn - Surveys of bighorn sheep populations in Southern BC show a 50-per-cent reduction from 2006 to 2013. The cause, psoroptic sheep mange, is relatively new to Canada and responsible for at least one herd die-off in the Western U.S. BC is urging a helicopter company to help reduce stress by curtailing training flights over important habitat in a protected area. [Vancouver Sun](#)

**Alaska youth petition Governor on climate change** March 10, 2015. *Alexandra Gutierrez* - A group of teenagers are calling on Gov. Bill Walker to create a climate change task force. [Alaska Youth for Environmental Action](#) delivered a petition with more than a thousand signatures to the governor's office on Tuesday. [APRN](#)

**Video – A warm ceremonial start to Iditarod** March 7, 2015. The short film by Alaska Dispatch News, documents the rain, wind and shine, mushers and fans experienced for the Iditarod ceremonial start in Anchorage. The official start was moved to Fairbanks because of the lack of snow on the southern route. [YouTube](#)

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