



## The Northern Climate Observer

Climate Change and Health in the Circumpolar North

April 9, 2015 (No. 240)

**Local Environment Observer (LEO) Network** – See our [2015 Map](#) for new observations about PSP levels in Sand Point, water supply in Nanwalek, and early golf in Palmer. You can Like Us on [Facebook](#) and visit our [LEO Map Archive](#).

**Circumpolar Climate Events** – Find links on our [2015 Map](#) to reports about creeping lake ice in Finland, a very warm spring in Sweden, and algal blooms on Lake Baikal in Russia. See also our [map archive](#).

**Scientists predict gradual, prolonged permafrost greenhouse gas emissions** April 8, 2015. In the 1980s, the temperature of permafrost in Arctic regions averaged almost 18 F. Now it is over 28 F. A new study suggests a gradual, prolonged release of greenhouse gases from permafrost thaw in the Arctic and may afford society more time to adapt to environmental changes. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Massive wildfires speed loss of northern trees** April 2, 2015. *Elizabeth Harball* - According to the Global Forest Watch initiative, Russia and Canada saw the two highest tree cover losses in the world between 2011 and 2013. Wildfires were likely the biggest driver and higher temperatures and dry conditions were linked to climate change as key factors behind the trend. [Scientific America](#)

**Land-based food won't sustain polar bears in a low-ice Arctic** April 1, 2015. *Yereth Rosen* - As ice diminishes in the Arctic Sea, polar bears spending more time on shore have been spotted eating eggs, nesting birds, land animals and edible plants. But terrestrial foods are, for the most part, the wrong kind for fat-dependent polar bears, and there is too little of them. [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

**The warm blob in Canada's Pacific Ocean** (comment) April 4, 2015. *Tom Okey* - In 2014, a warm water anomaly nicknamed "The Blob" spread across the Gulf of Alaska before moving into near-shore waters. Reduced Arctic sea ice cover causing reduced North Pacific winds can explain The Blob, as well as the decades-long declines in North Pacific productivity. [Times Colonist](#)

**One heck of a high tech hothouse** March 20, 2015. *Ashley Joannou* - Glenn Scott is the creator of the North's first aeroponics agridome, which sits in a field behind the Yukon Research Centre's laboratory. It's a project to try and grow cheaper produce year-round in the North. Scott's theory is that the best way is to make it a dome, get rid of all the soil, and flip everything on its side. [Yukon News](#)

**Video – President Obama on climate and public health** April 7, 2015. Climate change isn't just affecting weather, it's harming Americans' health, President Barack Obama said as he announced steps to better understand and deal with the problem. [YouTube](#) See also article by Juliet Eilperin. [Washington Post](#).

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