



## The Northern Climate Observer

Climate Change and Health in the Circumpolar North

May 1, 2015 (No. 243)

**Local Environment Observer (LEO) Network** – See our [2015 Map](#) for an observation demonstrating rural surveillance capacity for bird health in St. Marys, and unusual weather in King Cove, Alaska. Like us on [Facebook](#) and visit our [LEO Map Archive](#).

**Circumpolar Climate Events** – Find links on our [2015 Map](#) to reports about break-up on the Nenana River, wolf declines in Denali, lower moose mortality along the Alaska Railroad, a rare water spout near Vancouver, and spring flood disaster in Central Russia.

**Southwest Alaska's healthy sea stars could shed light on wasting** April 24, 2015. *Annie Ropeik* - A mysterious virus that's been wiping out sea stars on the West Coast since 2013 has spread all the way to Southeast Alaska — but it hasn't made it to Southwest. That's what a group of researchers found last month in Unalaska and Kodiak. [KUCB](#)

**Massive water-diversion scheme revisited** April 23, 2015 *Stephen Hume* - Last week, the USDA reported severe drought in 11 states. Now an old idea is being revisited - to create water security by diverting flows from the Yukon and Mackenzie River watersheds. [Vancouver Sun](#)

**United States takes charge of the Arctic Council, prioritizes the environment** April 29, 2015. *Lily Haines* - Secretary of State John Kerry took the reins of the Arctic Council last week. During its two-year chairmanship, Canada focused largely on economic development. The U.S. will focus the council's efforts on combating climate change and safeguarding the Arctic Ocean. [Barents Observer](#)

**Sea lice limit young salmon's ability to get food** May 1, 2015 *Shawn Connor* - A new study by a Simon Fraser University found a link between sea lice infestation and the ability of juvenile salmon to forage for food. "This is the first study that investigates any ecological significance of an interaction between sea lice and sockeye salmon in the wild," Godwin said. [Vancouver Sun](#)

**Researches breed Arctic cod, species vulnerable to warming** April 30, 2015. Scientists want to know how Arctic cod will respond to warming ocean temperatures. NOAA scientists' estimate that sea surface temperature in the Chukchi is warming at 1.8 degrees per decade. At 35.5 degrees, Arctic cod are "rapidly outpaced" by other Bering Sea species. Arctic cod eggs also are vulnerable. A temperature of 41 degrees is lethal. [Fairbanks Daily News Miner](#)

**Video – Climate Change and an optimistic future.** April 22, 2015. Professor Richard Muller, of Berkeley Earth Foundation, discusses his views on climate change and how he hopes we can leave a better planet for our children. [GoPro](#)

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