

Climate Change and Health in the Circumpolar North

May 7, 2015 (No. 244)

Local Environment Observer (LEO) Network – Canada geese warming to King Cove, Alaska - see our 2015 Map. Like us on Facebook and visit our LEO Map Archive.

Circumpolar Climate Events – Find links on our <u>2015 Map</u> to reports about the benefits of a mild winter for moose in Alaska, and rabbits in Sweden. Also a curious catch in Southeast Alaska.

Alaska villages help assess climate change effects May 1, 2015. *Jillian Rogers* - Over two years, ANTHC, the Norton Sound Health Corporation and Kawerak, Inc., visited seven communities to record local observations about climate change. The <u>report</u>, *Climate Change in the Bering Strait Region* is formatted with photographs and quotes, and identifies priorities in the region. <u>Arctic Sounder</u>

The future or rural sanitation in Alaska May 5, 2015. *Joaqlin Estus* – Children in communities without running water are 11 times more likely to develop pneumonia. Bill Griffith of Alaska Village Safe Water says agencies are working on the highest public health risks first. "We've got communities that have lost their water sources or lost the water line that used to be on the beach that's eroded. We're trying to get after those first, but it's almost like a triage situation right now." KNBA

Bethel team envisions grey water recycling April 22, 2015. *Ben Matheson* - A Bethel team hopes to build and test a grey water recycling system that could cut the amount of water households need to buy and reduce the amount of sewage they produce. Their "Dump the Bucket" project aims to treat and reuse water in specific parts of the house. KYUK

Northwest Territories reports on lessons from 2014 epic fire season May 6, 2015. Garrett Hinchey – The 2014 forest fire season reached historic levels with 385 fires — 57 per cent more than average. They were fought at a cost of \$56.1 million and burned 3.4 million hectares of forest land. A new NWT report says improving updates on the status of nearby fires is one priority. CBC

Return of *The Blob* May 5, 2015 *Matt Miller*- Researchers say a giant mass of warm water in the Pacific may be responsible for unusual marine life, and some North American weather patterns. According to Nick Bond of the University of Washington, The Blob is "not due to climate change. But it's a taste of what we're going to be getting more of in future decades. I look at it as an opportunity to learn about what climate change is liable to bring us." <u>KTOO</u>

Video – Climate change extinguish 16% of wildlife. May 1, 2015. A new <u>study</u> says one-sixth of the planet's wildlife and plants are at risk to go extinct due to climate change. <u>Newsy</u>

For back issues of The Northern Climate Observer please visit our archive at the <u>Alaska Medical Library</u>. To subscribe or unsubscribe, click <u>here</u>. For more information, contact <u>Mike Brubaker</u> at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, <u>Center for Climate and Health</u>.

Photo credit: T.H Tree Services