



The Northern Climate Observer

Climate Change and Health in the Circumpolar North

May 28, 2015 (No. 246)

Local Environment Observer (LEO) Network – cranes in Seldovia, an unusual bee in Chistochina and an unusual moth in Kwinhagak- see our [2015 Map](#). Like us on [Facebook](#) and visit our [LEO Map Archive](#).

Circumpolar Climate Events – Find links on our [2015 Map](#) to stories about record temperatures in Fairbanks, Western Canada fires, algal blooms in Yellowknife, a fish kill in the Sakha Republic of Russia and mosquito control in Sweden.

What we have learned from the Funny River Fire May 22, 2105. *Megan Edge* - Last summer, the fire burned through 195,858 acres of land and required a massive multi-agency response on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula. The Alaska Division of Forestry said it was started by humans but they're unsure of exactly how. Though the fire's cause remains a mystery, overall, officials say they learned plenty from the Funny River Fire about modern-day disaster response. [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

Water levels dropping in NWT due to on-going drought May 28, 2015. Ongoing drought conditions are continuing to cause water levels to drop in the lakes and rivers of the Northwest Territories. The water level in Great Slave Lake is about 20 centimeters below average. Kokelj says it will likely take several years of above average precipitation for water levels to return to average. [CBC](#)

Fish in Barents Sea changing faster than predicted May 27, 2015. *Maura Forrest & Lily Haines* - Cod, haddock, and other Atlantic fish are moving northward rapidly and numbers are increasing dramatically. Arctic fish however, like halibut and sculpin are retreating. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicted that fish would migrate at an average rate of 40 kilometers per decade. But new research shows that fish communities are moving up to four times faster. [Barents Observer](#)

Kuskokwim villages will be able to fish for king salmon under special permit May 28, 2015. Thirty-two villages including the hub of Bethel can take part in a federal community harvest program allowing up to 7,000 king, or chinook, salmon to be caught. Villages will need to limit the number of fishermen and monitor the catch to prevent them from exceeding their quota. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

Local food production plan aims to feed Nunavik communities May 26, 2015. *Sarah Rogers* Local hunter and trapper's organization in Kativik will oversee a heated chicken coop and egg production facility which will sell eggs to the community. As part of its efforts to launch bio-food projects in Nunavik, the department has helped to launch a greenhouse in Kuujjuaq, with, while efforts have also been made to create value added products from berries and fish. The KRG has also looked at raising rabbits although that community has decided against launching the project for now. [Nunatsiag Online](#)

Polar code approval timely for busy Bering Strait May 25, 2015. *Yereth Rosen* - The Polar Code will ban discharges of oily waste and noxious chemicals in all waters north of 60 degrees latitude, as well as in Antarctic waters; require ice-strengthened hulls and protective ship structures to shield fuel oil from punctures; require mariners to avoid marine mammals; and mandate better safety equipment and training for mariners. [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

Video – El Nino leaves B.C., Western Canada 'high and dry' to ignite active wildfire season May 28, 2015. Ken Lertzman, Professor at the Hakai Institute at Simon Fraser University talks about the effect of weather on the 2015 B.C. fire season and the broader implications of a changing climate on the ecosystem. [Vancouver Sun](#)

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