



The Northern Climate Observer

Climate Change and Health in the Circumpolar North

June 4, 2015 (No. 247)

Observations - [LEO Network Map](#) See new posts about some unusual insects in Kwinhagak and Goodnews Bay, a bee die-off in Chistochina, and a time lapse video from Unalakleet.

Events – [Circumpolar Climate Events Map](#) See news stories about unseasonably cold and rainy weather in Iceland, Norway and Sweden, a bumper harvest of turbot in Nunavut, cougars in YT, and an early jökulhlaup and water shortage in Southeast Alaska.

Trending - The Blob expands from Gulf of Alaska to Baja California. June 2, 2015. Matt Miller
Scientists are studying the impacts of a warmer North Pacific. The Blob may have been generated by a lingering high pressure system preventing the ocean surface from normal cooling. Unusual sightings include blue and thresher sharks, and sunfish. [Alaska Public Media](#)

Trending - Arctic snow geese numbers stabilizing, but still high. May 21, 2015 Bob Webber
After devastating huge swaths of Arctic tundra, snow geese populations may have finally stabilized. But the flocks are still at unheard-of levels. [The Canadian Press](#)

Research- Sudden draining of Greenland glacial lakes explained. June 3, 2015
The icy bottoms of lakes atop the Ice Sheet can crack open and drain within hours. Water lubricates the interface between ice and rock, allowing the ice sheet to slide faster toward the coast. [Science Daily](#)

Research - Warming, pollution combine to hurt Alaska's wood frogs May 30, 2015 Yereth Rosen
A mysterious disorder has been deforming and killing Wood Frogs. A study found tadpoles vulnerable to dragonfly predation in warm water containing trace levels of copper. [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

Analysis - Anatomy of the worst fire year in Alaska May 29, 2015 Ned Rozell
In the summer 2004, a Vermont-sized patch of Alaska burned, the most extreme fire year in a half century. Here's how it happened. [Arctic Sounder](#)

Adaptation - Unmanned aircraft scouts ice conditions for whalers. May 29, 2015 Jillian Rogers
Before spring whaling can start, crews chip away at the sea ice to make trails to open water. When UAF offered to use drones to find routes, whaling captains in Barrow were all for it. [Arctic Sounder](#)

Video – Frozen Wood Frog survives the winter in Alaska. June 11, 2011. Steven Downer
Alaska's only frog (so far) *Rana sylvatica*, survives the winter in suspended animation. A sequence filmed for the PBS series *The Living Edens*. [YouTube](#)

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