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LEO Network See posts about unusual events from the Local Environmental Observer Network—unseasonable warm weather in Kivalina, common murrens in Anchorage and Chistoshina, and Port Graham, and also a new post from 2008 of a mountain lion near Venetie. [ANTHC](#)

ClimeMap See news articles about climate relevant events around the North - murre die-off in Whittier, managing growing pike populations near Huslia, and the snow drought in Whitehorse. [ANTHC](#)

Streptococcus Syndrome Main Cause of Sea Otter Deaths December 28, 2015. Daysha Eaton — Tests results are back on dead sea otters from Kachemak Bay. About 82% of them had streptococcus syndrome. The Fish and Wildlife Service has been tracking a streptococcus illness in Kachemak Bay area otters for some time and otters with the illness usually appear sickly and emaciated. [Kbbi AM 890](#)

World's Lakes Are Warming Surprisingly Quickly Due to Climate Change December 17, 2015. Emily Chung — Lakes around the world are warming surprisingly quickly due to climate change, threatening the global water supply. The warming waters can lead to problems like toxic algae blooms that make water undrinkable, declines in fish populations that people rely on for food and other serious problems, warns the international team of researchers that released the study this week. [CBC News](#)

First Brain Scans of Sea Lions Give Clues to Strandings December 14, 2015. University of California - Davis — Brain scans and behavioral tests of California sea lions that stranded on shore show how an algal toxin disrupts brain networks, leading to deficits in spatial memory. Blooms of the toxic algae typically occur in the spring and fall along the California coast, but have been increasing in frequency and severity. Hundreds of sea lions strand on California beaches every year with symptoms of domoic acid poisoning, including disorientation and seizures. [Science Daily](#)

Tlcho Winter Road-Builders Face 'Challenges' This Year January 11, 2016. The Trailbreaker — Warm winters and the impact of forest fires are making it difficult for ice road building. DOT in the NWT is switching to lighter equipment and using ground penetrating radar and other technologies. [CBC News](#)

Video —Dead Birds Wash Up on Alaskan Coast. The US Geological Survey has reported that 8,000 common murrens have washed ashore emaciated, likely due to starvation. Murre die-offs have occurred in previous winters, but not at the rate that has happened this year in Alaska. [YouTube](#)

For back issues of The Northern Climate Observer please visit our archive at the [Alaska Medical Library](#). To subscribe or unsubscribe, click [here](#). For more information, contact the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, [Center for Climate and Health](#). The Northern Climate Observer staff includes: Mike Brubaker, George Goodwin III, Oxcenia O'Domin, Mary Mullan, and Moses Tcheripanoff