

# Northern Climate Observer

Climate Change and Health in the Circumpolar North



ALASKA NATIVE  
TRIBAL HEALTH  
CONSORTIUM

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**LEO Network** See new posts about unusual environmental events from the Local Environmental Observer Network. High PSP in Sand Point, early thaw in Nulato, sea otters are stranding in Chignik Lagoon and early salmonberry blossoms in Ouzinkie. [ANTHC](#)

**ClimeMap** See news articles about events around the circumpolar north. Sightings include early bear emergence, a north Pacific giant warm water blob, and accelerated permafrost decline. [ANTHC](#)

**Local Observers Track Environmental Health Trends** March 8, 2016 Hannah Hoag - The LEO Network encourages Alaska residents - sometimes living in remote locations - to log unusual animal, weather, and environmental events, so that they can be studied and made sense of in the context of environmental change. LEO sees itself as the “eyes, ears and voice of (Alaska’s) changing environment.” [Arctic Deeply](#)

**‘Blob’ of Warm Water Threatens Marine Mammals in the Pacific** March 14, 2016. Matt Miller - Biologists and ecologists reported on their latest observations at a two-day workshop held in January on the University of Washington campus. One leading theory being considered by marine researchers and biologists centers on the warm water mass’s apparent ability to deprive fish, seabirds and seaweed of their normal food sources. Water temperatures down to a depth of 300 feet have ranged from 2 to 8 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. [Alaska Public Media](#)

**Toxins in the Food Chain** March 10, 2016 Rachel Becker - Dr. Kathi Lefebvre, a research scientist at the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Washington State, found domoic acid in the bodily fluids and gastrointestinal contents of 13 Alaskan marine mammal species, including whales, seals, sea lions, walruses and sea otters. She also found signs of saxitoxin (a different algae-produced toxin that can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning in humans) in 10 of the 13 species.

[Hakai Magazine](#)

**Alaska Science Forum: Coyotes are Everywhere, Even in Alaska** March 11, 2016 Ned Rozell - Coyotes have been in Alaska since at least the early 1900s. “People are always surprised to hear about coyotes, but they are certainly around.” said Mike Taras, an expert tracker and outreach specialist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks. [Juneau Empire](#)

**Feathered Frequent Fliers Set Records** March 5, 2016 Vala Hafstead - Since the year 1921, close to 681,000 birds of 154 species have been banded in Iceland, according to the website of the Icelandic Institute of Natural History. [The Iceland Review Online](#)

**Global warming? Kurilskoye Lake Freezes for the First Time in 10 Years** March 1, 2016 The Siberian Times reporter - With thermal waters, and the warming effect of the nearby Sea of Okhotsk, this unusual lake normally does not freeze over. [The Siberian Times](#)

**Video: Polar bear habits - Wild: Polar Bear Diary** - Scientists are still learning new polar bear habits and are constantly surprised by their coping skills in a hostile habitat. Malcolm Ramsey, a scientist who has been researching these bears for the past 20 years, is still amazed by their internal GPS systems and their ability to return home in an ever changing landscape. [BBC Youtube](#)

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