

# Northern Climate Observer

Climate Change and Health in the Circumpolar



ALASKA NATIVE  
TRIBAL HEALTH  
CONSORTIUM

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**LEO Network** - See observer posts about unusual events from the Local Environmental Observer Network. Leopard slugs in Sand Point, chum salmon in St. Mary's, rose rust on Turnagain Arm, and more. [ANTHC](#)

**Clime Map** - See news articles about climate related events around the circumpolar north. Heavy rains and floods in Canada, spruce aphid in Juneau, wildfires in Interior Alaska, and more. [ANTHC](#)

**Thanks to Climate Change, the Arctic is Turning Green** June 28, 2016 Chris Mooney - Earlier this month, NASA scientists provided a visualization of a startling climate change trend - the Earth is getting greener, as viewed from space, especially in its rapidly warming northern regions. And this is presumably occurring as more carbon dioxide in the air, along with warmer temperatures and longer growing seasons, makes plants very, very happy. [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

**Allergies Got You Down? Don't Blame Cottonwood Fluff** June 27, 2016 Jill Burke - When the snowy white fluff from cottonwood trees starts to fly through the air, blanket the ground and clog our window screens (and just about everything else), many allergy-sufferers hit system overload. Although the onset of sneezing, wheezing and watery eyes seems to coincide with this "summer snow," it's not the culprit. [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

**The Arctic's Pretty but Alarming Strawberry-Pink Snow** June 23, 2016 Ben Guarino - What may look like an Arctic accident involving gallons of pink lemonade is, in fact, reddish algae blooming in the snow. The unusual phenomenon is also found in high altitudes, and sometimes called watermelon snow or blood snow. [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

**Permafrost soil under North Slope lakes is about to thaw** June 18, 2016 Yereth Rosen - In northernmost Alaska, permafrost is steadily warming and large amounts of thaw are expected by the end of the century. But for some spots, the thaw is about 70 years ahead of that predicted pace, new research shows. [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

**As Peatlands Dry Out from Climate Change, Wildfire Risk Increases** June 28, 2016 Jimmy Thomson - Peatlands are one of the staples of the boreal forest that sweeps across Canada. The 185 billion tons of mossy wetlands across the country can act as firebreaks, literally dampening the flames as they move across the landscape. But when dried, the peatlands are a tinderbox — and a new study says the latter is becoming more and more common as the climate warms. [CBC News](#)

**'Smart' Greenhouse Nabs Yukoner Prize for Innovation** June 29, 2016 CBC News - A Yukon inventor [Maxime Dugre-Sasseville] has won this year's Yukon Innovation Prize to help develop his concept for a greenhouse intended to extend the northern growing season. [CBC News](#)

**Want to Know How a Changing Climate is Affecting Polar Bears? Look at What They're Eating** June 16, 2016 Yereth Rosen - Polar bears off the northern coasts of Alaska and Norway are breaking away from their traditional seal-based diets, behavior that correlates with reduced sea ice and tracked through chemistry. [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

**Video – "NASA Studies Details of a Greening Arctic"** NASA scientists used almost 30 years of data from the NASA/U.S. Geological Survey Landsat satellites to track changes in vegetation in Alaska and Canada. Of the more than 4 million square miles, 30 percent had increases in vegetation (greening) while only 3 percent had decreases (browning). [Youtube.com](#)

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