

No. 291 August 19, 2016

LEO Network - See posts about unusual environmental events from the Local Environmental Observer Network. A huge thaw crater on the Chandalar River, sea butterflies in Seldovia, sheerwater die-off near Pilot Point, invasive plant in Kokhanok , and more. [ANTHC](#)

Clime Map - See news articles about events around the circumpolar north. Bird Mortality at +80% in Iceland, heavy rains washout dozens of road sections on the Dempster Highway, the warmest month on record, and more. [ANTHC](#)

Shishmaref Votes to Relocate from Eroding Barrier Island to Mainland August 19, 2016 Lisa Demer - Residents of the coastal Alaska village with some of the worst erosion in the state voted this week to relocate rather than stay and protect the land they already have. The advisory vote in the village of Shishmaref was fairly close, with 94 voters who picked relocating to one of two nearby sites on the mainland, and 78 who said they would rather "protect in place." [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

What We Can Learn From Remarkable Smith Bay August 10, 2016 Henry Huntington - Each spring, black guillemots arrive in Smith Bay to nest and lay their eggs, but the food web is shifting, and in 2009, only one chick survived to fledge and leave the island. Marine ecologist Henry Huntington looks at why this unique region needs protection. [Arctic Deeply](#)

Luxury Cruise Ship Sets Sail for the Arctic August 22, 2016 Brady Dennis, Chris Mooney - The once forbidding Arctic region, home to polar bears and ice-covered seas, has melted enough that this summer, it's open not only for shipping but high-end tourism. The proof lies in the Crystal Serenity cruise, a luxury tour of the Arctic that promises to carry passengers through the storied Northwest Passage and across the roof of the world. The controversial cruise was scheduled to set sail Tuesday from Seward, Alaska, and dock 32 days later in New York City. [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

Historically Robust Natural Ecosystems Could Collapse Due to Climate Change, Human Activity August 11, 2016 European Commission, Joint Research Centre - Global change will strike the oldest and most complex ecosystems of the world hardest, regardless of their past stability. The finding is reported in a JRC-led article published in Nature Communications. The authors hypothesized that invasive species, the warming climate and environmental degradation have altered natural habitats so deeply that species adaptation to historical conditions may not be helpful under these new circumstances. [Science Daily](#)

Arctic Fish Populations Changing as Ice Dwindles, Report Says August 13, 2016 Yereth Rosen - Pacific cod, walleye pollock and some types of salmon have been found in more areas of U.S. Arctic waters and sleeper sharks are now established there, according to a new report released by the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

Gloomy Lingonberry Forecast for Northern Sweden August 11, 2016 Radio Sweden - There will be a lot fewer lingonberries in the north of Sweden this year compared to last, according to the latest forecast from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). In the north of the country there will only be 60 percent of the red berries, which Swedes traditionally turn into jam and eat with meatballs, compared to a normal year. [Eye on the Arctic](#)

Video: Facts about Greenland and climate change Greenland is the world's largest island at nearly 2.17 million square kilometers, with three-quarters of it covered by a permanent ice sheet. It has been described as "ground zero for climate change threats to the world's ice sheets." [Vancouver Sun](#)

For back issues of The Northern Climate Observer please visit our archive at the [Alaska Medical Library](#).

For more information, or to subscribe or unsubscribe, [click here](#).

Editor: M. Brubaker / Geographer: M. Tcheripanoff / Writer: G. Goodwin III / Proof Reader & Circulation: M. Mullan