Climate Change and Health in the Orcumpolar North

## No. 294 September 9, 2016

**LEO Network** - See posts about unusual environmental events from the Local Environmental Observer Network. Low salmon numbers in Unalakleet, an unknown butterfly in Toksook Bay, mold on a lawn in Anchorage, and more. <u>ANTHC</u>

Clime Map - See news articles about events around the circumpolar north. ANTHC

A Year After Obama's Visit, Exit Glacier Makes Big Retreat September 4, 2016 Yereth Rosen - A year ago, President Obama stood at the toe of retreating Exit Glacier and proclaimed it a beautiful but vulnerable sight, an obvious "signpost" of climate change. "We want to make sure that our grandkids can see this," he said then during a Kenai Fjords National Park tour that was part of the unprecedented presidential trip to Alaska. <u>Alaska Dispatch</u> <u>News</u>

Whale Hunters of the Warming Arctic September 22, 2016 Tom Kizzia - On a trip to the ice edge, Tariek Oviuk, a hunter from Point Hope, felt a strange sensation: the lift of ocean waves beneath his feet. The older men, nervous about the rising wind, hurried back toward shore, but the younger hunters remained, stripping blubber from a few small beluga whales. Then the crack of three warning shots came rolling across the ice, and the hunters scrambled for their snowmobiles. The New Yorker

**As Waters Warm, Arctic Fish Populations Change** September 2, 2016 Zoë Sobel - A new report shows more fish are moving to Arctic waters. The U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management teamed up to create the inventory, which describes more than 100 species of fish found in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas — including 20 species new to the region. <u>Alaska Public Media</u>

White Gulls Dependent on Ice Are Disappearing From the Arctic September 9, 2016 Emily Benson - As Arctic sea ice dwindles, a gull that depends on it seems to be disappearing from the ocean around Greenland. Ivory gulls range throughout the Arctic, spending their lives on or near pack ice in the far north. They survive on whatever food they can turn up: fish and invertebrates, the feces of other animals, scavenged bits of seals killed by polar bears. But the Canadian population of nesting Ivory Gulls is known to be in steep decline. <u>New Scientist</u>

'Like a Red Carpet:' Master Pickers Make Huge Cranberry Haul in Whitehorse September 8, 2016 Katherine Barton - Charlotte Kay says she and her friends are well known for their berry picking skills. "We always get jokes from everybody in the region about our picking," she laughs. But this summer's harvest has been especially "excellent," Kay says. Last week she and three friends drove to Whitehorse for two days of almost straight cranberry picking. <u>CBC News North</u>

With the Climate Changing, UAF Researchers Look to Spring Wheat as a Potential Crop September 6, 2016 - Could fields of wheat be Alaska's next big grain crop? With Alaska's growing season lengthening as a result of higher temperatures, researchers at the University of Alaska Fairbanks have been studying whether it's possible to develop a more resilient type of wheat that matures quickly and is suitable for Alaska climates. In Fact, last month UAF professor Mingchu Zhang began harvesting spring wheat from a 1-acre plot at the university's Fairbanks experiment farm. <u>Alaska Dispatch News</u>

**Boom Time for Whales in the Arctic Driven by the Loss of Sea Ice** September 7, 2016 Laura Hampton - Sue Moore at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Seattle has analyzed 30 years of whale survey information gathered in the Chukchi Sea – which separates Russia and Alaska – and the surrounding area. She realized that three species of plankton-eating baleen whales – humpback, fin and minke – are now routinely spotted in the region, even though surveys in the 1980s never encountered these species there. <u>New Scientist</u>

**Video:** LEO: The Eyes, Ears, and Voice of Our Changing Environment - Climate change observations can be made through the LEO Network, a network of local observers and topic experts who share knowledge about unusual animal, environment, and weather events. This video and article discusses how you can help make observations and contribute. The LEO Network

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