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Climate Change



1/2

A warming Arctic is changing animal migrations, decades of tracking shows

By Liz Kinnear



The newly launched Arctic Animal Movement Archive (AAMA) includes 28 years of terrestrial and marine/marine tracking studies on more than 80 species across the Arctic, Arctic marine, and subarctic (including boreal forest and tundra).

"The Arctic is undergoing some of the most rapid climate change on the planet," one author said. The resulting warmer winters, earlier spring snowmelt, and the loss of ice are affecting animal movement.



29 Likes

always.frozen DAY 4: Spending time here is really opening my eyes to climate change in the Arctic. For example, a lot of the glaciers in southern Alaska are retreating, and here in the tundra, the soil is frozen year-round, called "permafrost", and this permafrost is thawing. The warmer conditions have increased the length of the fire season, drying up plants and starting tundra fires. Local communities who forage and hunt are spending more and more time looking for food because today's wildlife patterns have become so different from what they were in the past. In Nuiqsut, the city is worried about thawing permafrost eroding rivers and damaged buildings. I'm worried about this beautiful place and the people who live here and I hope my research can help the world understand these changes.

#Alaska #climatechange #globalwarming #climate



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2/2

World / News / Canada

How climate change could be making polar bears healthier and more dangerous

Climate change is pushing polar bears along the Yukon/Alaska border ashore, where they live on whale carcasses and frighten local residents as they search for food

Michael Thompson



On the Yukon/Alaska border, a polar bear takes a break from growing on whale meat. STEVE GRANITZ/AP (2)



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Colville River Site C



84 Likes

always.frozen DAY 5: Today the high was 44 degrees. Did you know, Nuiqsut is technically considered a wetland? Even though it isn't raining, I am glad I packed a pair of waterproof shoes. Each day, I follow the same routine: In the morning, I make eat two eggs and fresh fruit. I check my weather station to make sure everything is running smoothly. Then I visit the river, to check the stream gauges and take measurements. During lunch, I like to eat while enjoying the view from my research site. In the afternoon, I spend time reading research papers and writing about the data I collected. The coolest part about being a scientist is that I always learn something new and I have a lot of fun doing it! When it is time for me to return to camp in the evening to make dinner, I always remember to fill my water before leaving the river so I have water for the next day.
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Nuiqsut, AK



79 Likes

always.frozen DAY 6: Today I visited Nuiqsut to pick up groceries. Nuiqsut 30 miles south of the coastline and the population here is 446 – much smaller than Columbus, Ohio! Down the street from the airport is a post office, two churches, the grocery store, and a school. Almost all the residents here are Iñupiat (in-you-pea-at) and everyone here depends on hunting and fishing for food. Many residents here work for Kuukpik, a local company that helps support the community and their culture.

When I went into the grocery store, I realized why local Alaskans rely so much on hunting and foraging – everything is SO expensive! My grocery cart was: 1 gallon of milk (\$10), a bottle of olive oil (\$20), a box of cereal (\$8), two rolls of toilet paper (\$3 each), avocado (\$5), a tomato (\$4), and a 1/4 slice of watermelon (\$17).



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Nuiqsut, AK



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always.frozen DAY 6: I also picked up fresh caribou meat, locally foraged berries, and bird eggs from the local market. Because Nuiqsut is far in the tundra, is it very hard for food to be shipped here; even though there is a highway, Nuiqsut is the northernmost town with road access, the highway is only open FOUR months of the year. Most items arrive by plane. People here save money by doing their own hunting and foraging, but it is also part of their culture. Their ancestors have lived this way for thousands of years. I've heard that there are often celebrations connected to hunting, but unfortunately, I won't have a chance to experience any of them during this visit.

With a bag full of groceries and a lot less money than before, I returned to camp to make dinner.

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Alaska



15 Likes

always.frozen DAY 7: It has been exactly one week since I arrived at the research site! I just returned from filling my water bottle in the river and treating it, and I'm sitting in my tent waiting for my dinner to finish cooling off. I can't stop thinking about how I am going to miss this place. I have really enjoyed the tundra weather and being out in nature. Tomorrow my last full day at this site before I pack up camp and head home.

In other news, my weather station recorded the hottest temperature so far this month! I definitely did not have the proper clothing with me, as I expected cooler Arctic weather – not this hot sunny day! Tomorrow is forecasted to be even WARMER! Speaking of the weather station, it sounded like it fell over. I am going to leave my tent to investigate and see what I find!!

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