



Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership

Dear MCCIP news subscriber,

MCCIP website has recently been updated with new marine climate change news and events. Below is a brief summary of the new items that have been added. For more details on all of the items listed below, simply go to www.mccip.org.uk and go to the relevant links in the 'news and events' box on our homepage. Please note that the material presented in MCCIP news does not necessarily reflect the views of MCCIP.

- **[Met Office "suggests climate change link to storms"](#)**

Climate change is likely to be a factor in the extreme weather that has hit much of the UK in recent months, the Met Office's chief scientist has said. Dame Julia Slingo said the variable UK climate meant there was "no definitive answer" to what caused the storms.

- **[New tool for assessing fish vulnerability to climate change](#)**

A new web portal is helping NOAA Fisheries Service with its assessment of how vulnerable fish stocks are to climate change. The Ocean Climate Change Web Portal is an online system that provides an easy way to display maps of climate data, such as ocean temperature and salinity, over portions of the globe. For example, it can allow a user to view how the temperature in the North Atlantic would change in the 21st century as compared with the 20th century. Users can zoom in and create plots for any region of interest on the planet.

- **[A changing climate can make some species homeless](#)**

The paper, "Geographical limits to species-range shifts are suggested by climate velocity", released in the journal *Nature*, sheds more light on the likely effects of climate change on biodiversity. "When, in a particular location, temperatures exceed the upper limit for a certain species, that species can no longer live there. Likewise, when temperatures in another place become warmer than a species' lower limit, that place can become newly habitable" said lead author Professor Mike Burrows, a marine ecologist at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS). This paper highlights the regions where these species relocations are likely to occur. ([Burrows, M.T. et al. \(2014\) *Nature*](#).)

[doi: 10.1038/nature12976](https://doi.org/10.1038/nature12976))

- **[Climate change causes diseases in marine mammals in the Arctic](#)**

With fewer days below freezing in the arctic, marine mammals such as gray seals, ringed seals, and beluga whales are increasingly experiencing problems. The latest issue for the creatures has been the emergence of the disease *Sarcocystis pinnipedi* in the Arctic waters. The disease has been infecting gray seals, killing 406 of them in Nova Scotia back in 2012. *S. pinnipedi* has a greater chance of thriving in the warmer Arctic waters. And since the warmer waters are forcing fish such as cod and capelin farther north, the gray seals have to travel to find food. This traveling is allowing the gray seals to come into contact with ringed seals, thus further spreading the disease.

- **[No warming hiatus for extreme hot temperatures](#)**

While there are claims that there has been a hiatus in global average temperatures, no such hiatus has occurred at the extreme end of the temperature spectrum. New research shows extremely hot temperatures over land have dramatically and unequivocally increased in number and area despite claims that the rise in global average temperatures has slowed over the past 10 to 20 years.

News stories: If there are any relevant news items or events that you would like to highlight on the MCCIP website please contact Georgia Bayliss-Brown at office@mccip.org.uk. New items will be added to the website next month.

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