ALASKA:
2017 CLIMATE HIGHLIGHTS REVIEW
2017-18 WINTER SO FAR

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2017 Alaska Weather & Climate Highlights

Community Temperature Extremes

- Warmest: 93F Skagway on August 05
- Coldest: -59F Tanana on January 19

Nome June 4-10 avg temp 61.8F, warmest week so early in the summer

Kusko River
Delayed barges from very low water level into mid-summer

St. Paul Warmest Nov since 1926, avg temp 39.4F

Cold Bay -6F on Feb 20 was lowest Feb temp in 70 years

Barrow flooding late Sept, warmest Oct-Dec, avg temp 15.6F

Bettles warmest any month, July avg temp 64.4F

Upper Yukon: 410,000 acres burned, most since 2009

Fairbanks Oct 9-10 record 1.54” rain/snow

McGrath warmest Dec, avg temp: +19.3F

Anchorage “The Dome” collapsed Jan 21 from heavy snow

Kodiak Jan-Mar 31% normal precip

Juneau Oct 27 record flooding on Jordan Creek

Annette warmest April of record, avg temp 48.7F

Kotzebue warmest Dec, avg temp 18.0F

Data sources: NWS, NCEI and AICC, preliminary and subject to change
2017: Yearly Temperature Ranking (since 1925)
2017: Yearly Precipitation Ranking (since 1925)
Alaska Average Yearly Temperature

Alaska Statewide
Average Annual Temperature, 1925-2017

Degrees F


Data source: NOAA/NCEI
River and Sea Ice in 2017

Chukchi: early melt, record late freeze-up

Bering: low spring, record early melt, slow autumn

North Slope & NW: early spring, late fall

Yukon drainages: near normal spring, near to late fall

North Slope & NW: early spring, late fall
Kuskokwim River at Bethel Spring Break-up Date

Data source:
NWS/Alaska-Pacific RFC & Kusko Ice Classic
Bering Sea Spring Ice Melt

Bering Sea Ice Spring Meltout
1979-2017

First Date when extent < 10% of 1979-2017 mean max (83,000 km²)

Data source: NSIDC Regional Sea Ice Index v3
Autumn 2017: Late Ocean Freeze-up

Beaufort Sea Ice-Over Date
1979-2017

Chukchi Sea Autumn Ice-Over Date
1978-2017

Data source: NSIDC Regional Sea Ice Index v3
Persistent Warmth

Arctic Alaska 2017-18
Average Daily Temperature Departure from Normal

Barrow
Avg Dep: +12.4F (6.9C), 91% of days above normal

Deadhorse
Avg Dep +11.4F (6.3C), 84% of days above normal

Kotzebue
Avg Dep +9.1F (+5.1C), 81% of days above normal

Data source: NOAA/NCEI & NWS
Reference base period: 1981-2010
Updated through Feb 18, 2018
Persistent Warmth

Western Alaska 2017-18
Average Daily Temperature Departure from Normal

Nome
Avg Dep: +7.0°F, 77% of days above normal

Bethel
Avg Dep +9.0°F, 80% of days above normal

King Salmon
Avg Dep +6.2°F, 78% of days above normal

Data source: NOAA/NCEI & NWS
Reference base period: 1981-2010
Updated through Feb 18, 2018
Less Persistent Warmth

Western Alaska 2017-18
Average Daily Temperature Departure from Normal

Fairbanks
Avg Dep: +5.4F, 62% of days above normal

Anchorage
Avg Dep +2.8F, 57% of days above normal

Juneau
Avg Dep -2.2F, 36% of days above normal

Data source: NOAA/NCEI & NWS
Reference base period: 1981-2010
Updated through Feb 18, 2018
Snowpack Early February

February 18, 2018

Source: NWS Alaska-Pacific RFC
Recent Mid-February Ice Concentration

Feb 17, 2016

Feb 18, 2017

Feb 18, 2018
Sea-Surface Temperatures

Sea Surface Temperature Analysis
NWS Alaska Sea Ice Program
Sunday 18 Feb 2018
Bering Sea Ice Extent

Bering Sea Daily Ice Extent
Percentage of 1981-2010 Average (Median)

Winter of:
- 2017-18
- 2015-16
- 2016-17
- 2011-12

Data source: NSIDC Regional Sea Ice Index v3
Updated through Feb 18, 2018