



Pacific Institute
for Climate Solutions
Knowledge. Insight. Action.

MEDIA TIP
25 February 2013

Weird weather and disappearing Arctic sea ice: are they connected?

Unprecedented snowfalls, the worst drought in generations, hurricanes, and flooding – extreme weather events are increasing in frequency and intensity all across the northern hemisphere.

At the same time, the sea ice cover in the Arctic is in accelerating decline. July 2012 saw the entire surface of Greenland melt for the first time in at least 150 years, alpine glaciers are disappearing, and snow cover on Arctic land hit record lows last spring.

Are these rapid changes on top of the world linked to the rash of weird weather around the northern hemisphere? Did they contribute to the pre-Olympics record rain in northern Europe and the UK last summer, and North America's current unprecedented drought conditions?

The Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) is hosting a free public lecture with US climate scientist Dr. Jennifer Francis on Tuesday (26th February) at the University of Victoria. Dr. Francis will present new research that points to climate change, specifically in the Arctic, as a culprit in fueling the increase in extreme weather.

Francis is a research professor with the Rutgers University Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences as well as co-founder of the Rutgers Climate and Environmental Change Initiative. Her research focuses on Arctic climate change and Arctic-global climate linkages.

“Arctic warming related to sea-ice loss and earlier snowmelt in the Far North is affecting the jet stream around the northern hemisphere, with potentially far-reaching effects on the weather,” Francis says.

Media are welcome to attend the lecture. Advance interviews are available on request.

WHAT: Free public lecture by **Dr. Jennifer Francis**, Rutgers University

WHEN: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013

WHERE: Bob Wright Centre Room B150, University of Victoria

[Webcast](#)

– 30 –

Media contact: PICS Snr Communications Officer, Robyn Meyer at 250-588-4053 or rmeyer@uvic.ca

