

Climate Change Effects on Community Health

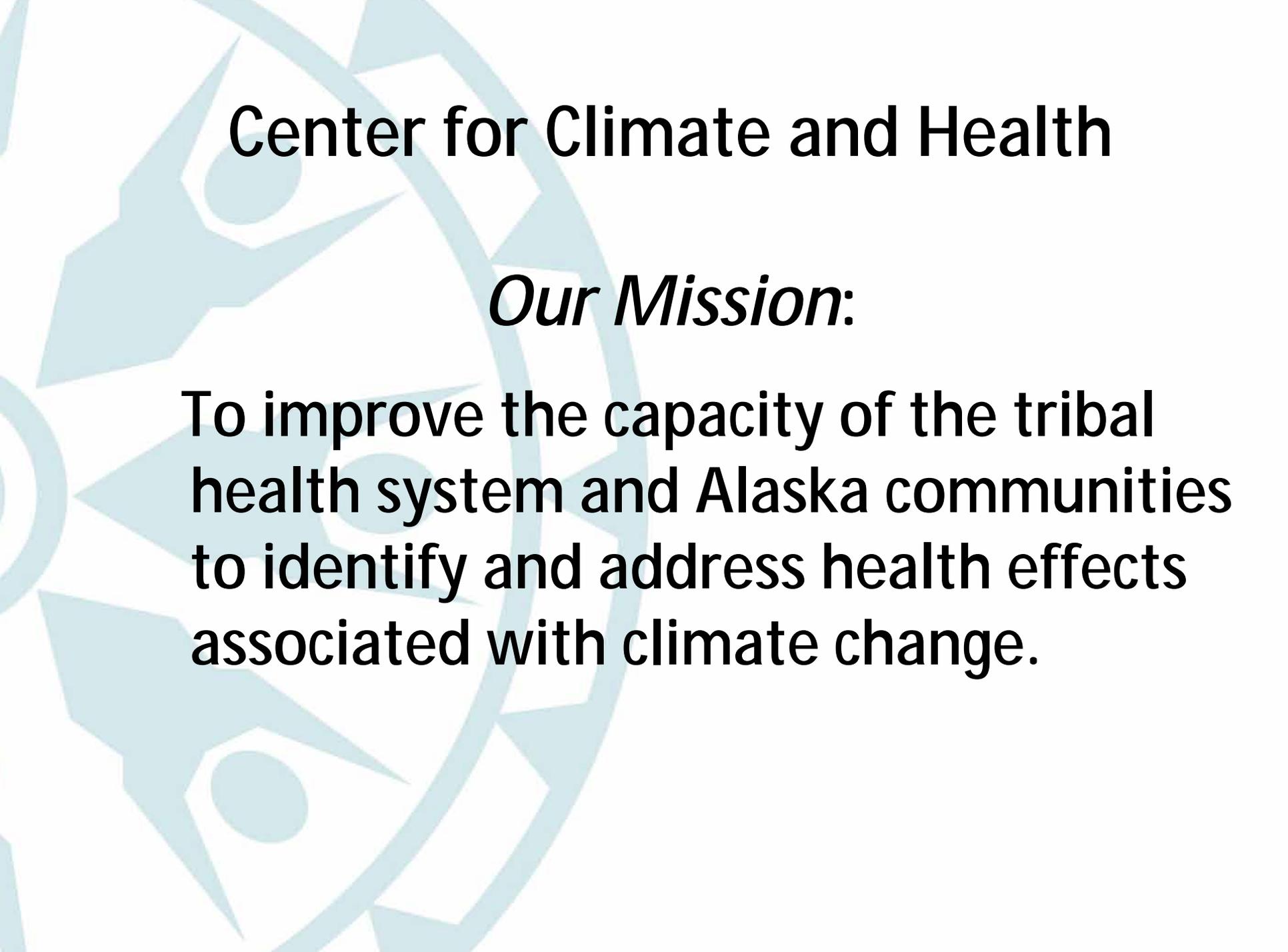
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Center for Climate and Health

Our Mission:

To improve the capacity of the tribal health system and Alaska communities to identify and address health effects associated with climate change.

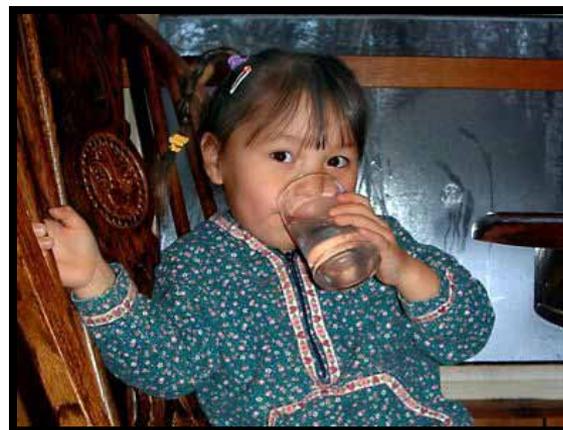
What do we do?

1. Climate Change Health Assessments
2. Technical Assistance
3. Adaptation Planning Assistance
4. Climate and Health List Serve mbrubaker@anthc.org
5. Climate and Health Web Resource Library
6. Climate Change Engineering Atlas
7. Environmental Demonstration Grants
8. Educate about climate change effects on health.

The Take Home Lessons

1. Climate change can effect community health in many ways.
2. Effects are not well understood; we are learning more about climate – health mechanisms every day.
3. Local records, observers, and traditional knowledge are critical for understanding community conditions and impacts.
4. By better understanding impacts, we can begin to develop responses that protect community health.
5. Preventing negative health effects requires the expertise of many people both inside and outside of the health field.

Four Types of Climate Change Health Effects



What are potential health risks?

- **Acute Disease:** giardia, PSP, WNV, brucellosis
- **Chronic Disease:** heart disease, diabetes, cancer
- **Injury:** falls, vehicle accidents, insect stings
- **Behavioral Health:** stress, anxiety, depression
- **Health Infrastructure:** damage, disruption

What are the potential health benefits?

- **Acute Disease:** decreased indoor, increase outdoor
- **Chronic Disease:** improved diet, exercise
- **Injury:** reduced falls, vehicle accidents
- **Behavioral Health:** adaptation reduces stress
- **Health Infrastructure:** longer water-making season



**Climate change results in extreme,
and unpredictable weather.**



It changes ice conditions,



It can change the
availability of food
resources,





**influencing food
safety, and
security.**





It can bring in new plants,



and new animals.

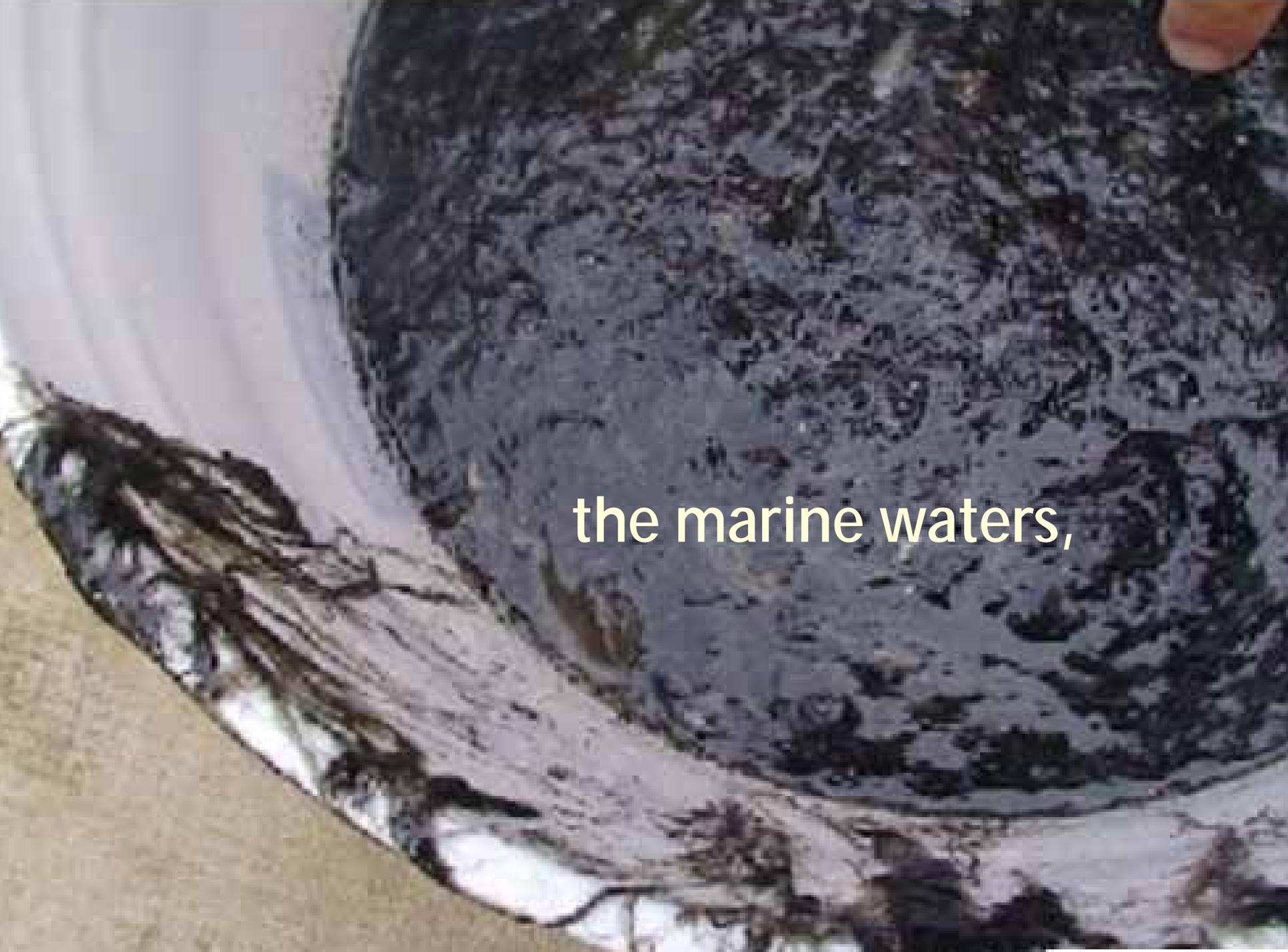


Giardia lamblia

A wide, flat, gravelly beach stretches across the foreground and middle ground. The beach is composed of dark, smooth, rounded stones and pebbles. In the foreground, there are several clumps of green grass growing from the gravel, some with exposed roots. A piece of bleached, white driftwood lies on the beach near the water's edge. To the right, a calm river flows, its surface reflecting the clear blue sky. The far bank of the river is lined with a dense line of green trees and shrubs. The sky is a uniform, clear blue, indicating a bright, sunny day.

It can change rivers,





the marine waters,



the land ...

Photo: Yuri Gorokhovich



the forests,



and the air.

It can damage infrastructure,





change water resources,

Photo: Vladimir Romanovsky



and interrupt local services.

It can mobilize pollutants,



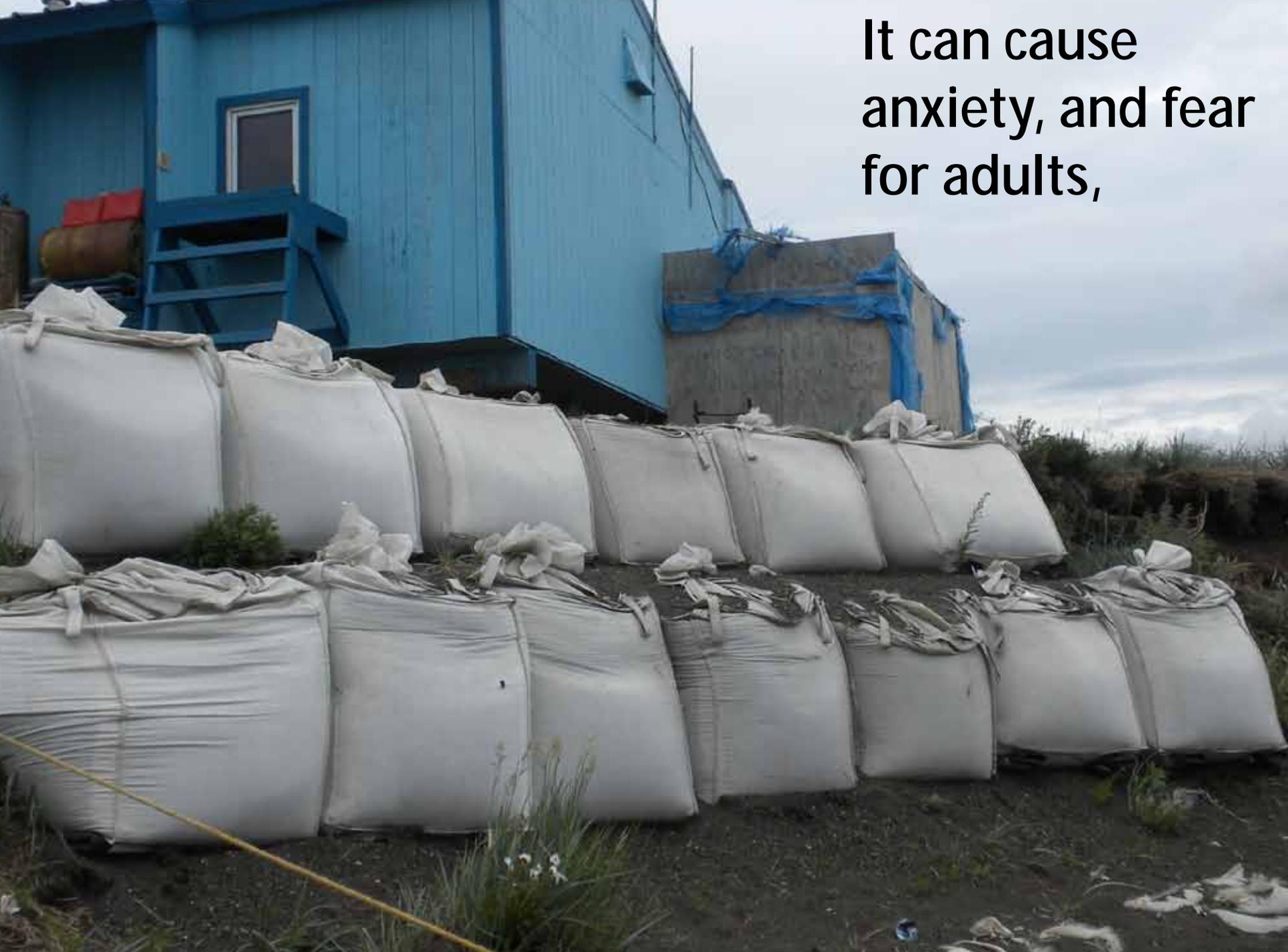
providing new pathways to
the sea,



and into the diet.



It can cause
anxiety, and fear
for adults,



and for children.



How is climate effecting health?







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