



Bering Land Bridge N Pres. • Cape Krusenstern NM
Gates of the Arctic NP & Pres. • Kobuk Valley NP • Noatak N Pres.

Summer 2018

Weather & Climate Summary Bering Land Bridge National Preserve Summer 2018

Nome Summer Weather 2018

June was warm and dry in Nome with temperatures well above normal for most of the month and only one notable precipitation event mid-month. On June 8th the high temperature was 70°F, the highest of the month. Temperatures never dropped below freezing, even early in the month, which is unusual. Total rainfall for the month was 0.28 inches, only 29% of normal. It ranked as the 13th driest June on record. Overall, the average temperature for the month was 3.1°F warmer than normal at 50.9°F. June 2018 was the 8th warmest on record (1907-2018).

July was slightly warmer and drier than normal. The average monthly temperature was 53.4°F, which is 1.2°F above normal. The high temperature of the summer was 72°F on July 7. Monthly precipitation was below normal, totaling 1.50 inches. Measurable precipitation occurred on 13 days. Overall, July rainfall totals were 71% of normal.

Overall, August temperatures averaged 50.1°F, which is exactly normal based on the 1981-2010 climatology. The high temperature for the month was 63°F on August 2nd and August 13th. Minimum temperatures dropped down close to freezing on the 29th and 31st with values of 34°F. Rainfall totals were 79% of normal with 2.54 inches for the month. August was the wettest summer month, which is typical.

The average summer temperature at Nome was 51.5°F which is 1.4°F warmer than the 1981-2010 normal. Interestingly, the average summer temperatures for 2016, 2017, and 2018 were within a tenth of a degree of each other. Each of the last three years ranks in the top 12 warmest summers on record. The total

summer precipitation was 4.32 inches, 69% of normal and the driest summer since 2002 (Figures 1 and 2; Table 1 and 2).

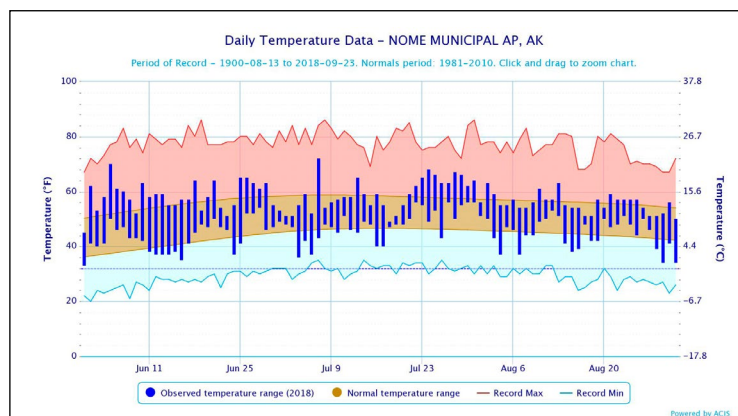


Figure 1. Summer 2018 daily temperatures at Nome showing record maximum (red), record minimum (blue), normal (brown) and observed range (blue bars).

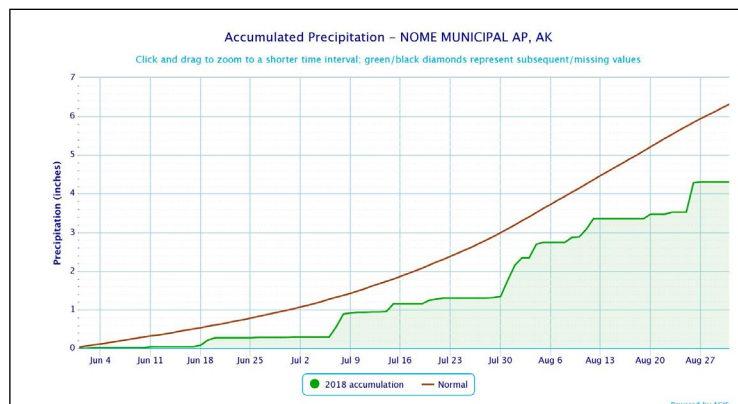


Figure 2. Summer 2018 accumulated precipitation at Nome (green) compared to normal (brown line).

Table 1. Temperature: Summer 2018 average monthly temperatures compared to the 1981-2010 normal.

Summer 2018	Average Monthly Temp (°F)	1981-2010 Normal (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)	Monthly High (°F / Date)	Monthly Low (°F / Date)
June	50.9	47.8	+3.1	70 / June 5	33 / July 1
July	53.4	52.2	+1.2	72 / July 7	36 / July 4
August	50.1	50.1	0.0	63 / Aug 2 & 13	34 / Aug 29 & 31

Summer Season Temperature Departure from Normal: +1.4°F.

Table 2. Precipitation: Summer 2018 monthly precipitation totals compared to normal.

Summer 2018	Total Monthly Precip. (in.)	1981-2010 Normal (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)	Greatest 24 -hr. total (in. / Date)	# Days with ≥ 0.01 in. water
June	0.28	0.98	-0.70	0.13 / June 19	6
July	1.50	2.11	-0.61	0.42 / July 31	15
August	2.54	3.22	-0.68	0.76 / Aug 26	12

Summer Season Precipitation Departure from Normal: -1.99 inches (69% of normal).

What About the Ocean?

Summer ocean surface temperatures in waters surrounding the Seward Peninsula were more than 4°C above normal and the warmest on record dating back to 1901 (Figure 3). Zooming out, sea surface temperatures in the Central and Eastern Bering Sea region were also much warmer than normal. Nine of the ten warmest summers have occurred in the last two decades (Figure 4). Arctic-wide, the annual sea ice minimum occurred in September 2018 and ranks as the 6th lowest in the 39-year satellite record. Researchers are documenting rarely seen species of invertebrates, fish, and marine mammals and fewer individuals for some common marine species in these ocean waters indicating changes throughout the food web. For the third consecutive year, a seabird die-off event has been documented in the northern Bering and southern Chukchi Sea and 2018 marks the seventh mass die-off in Alaska since 2013. Scientists are working hard to understand the linkages between the climate, ocean, and terrestrial ecosystems.

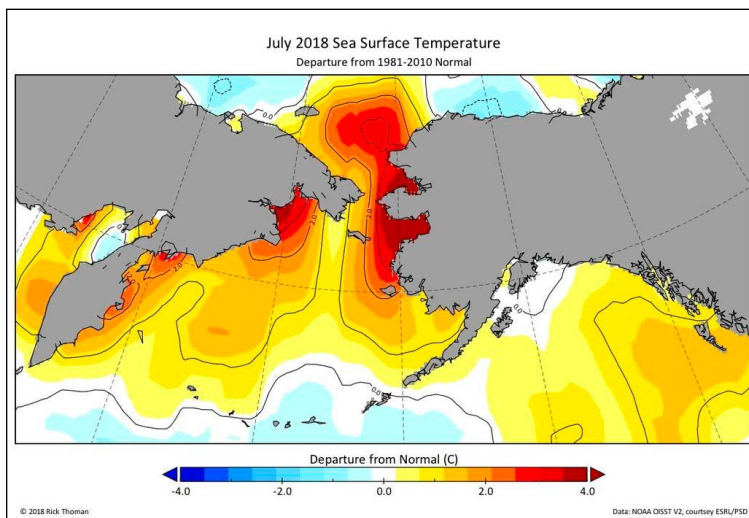


Figure 3. Sea surface temperature departure from normal July 2018. The northern Bering Sea ranked as the warmest summer on record since 1901. Graphic courtesy Rick Thoman, NOAA.

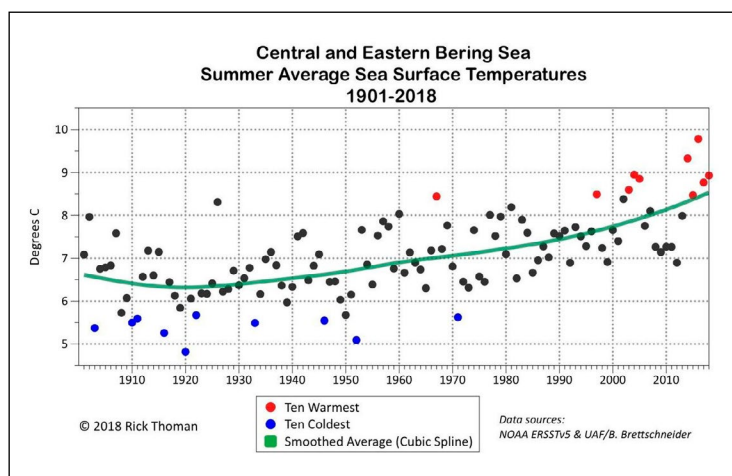


Figure 4. Summer sea surface temperatures for Central and Eastern Bering Sea, 1901-2018. The ten warmest summers are indicated in red. Graphic courtesy Rick Thoman and Brian Brettschneider, NOAA.

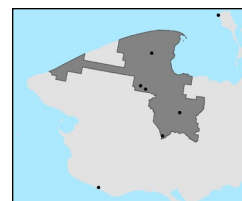
Climate Monitoring in Bering Land Bridge

NPS climate stations in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve (BELA) complement the long-term record from the National Weather Service station in Nome. NPS stations are located at Serpentine Hot Springs, Midnight Mountain, Devil Mountain, and Ella Creek.

More Information

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