



Weather & Climate Summary Bering Land Bridge National Preserve Summer 2019

NPS photo, Ken Hill.

Nome Summer Weather 2019

It was the 4th warmest June in Nome since records began in 1907. The North River Fire started on June 10 northeast of Koyuk and produced smoke that restricted visibility in Nome at times. The warmest temperatures were mid-month with a maximum temperature of 79°F on June 14. An additional 16 fires ignited by lightning on the Seward Peninsula on June 19. Cooler temperatures June 21-24 preceded a significant rain event. Most of the month's precipitation came on June 26 (0.71 inches; daily record) and June 27 (0.16 inches). With 1.08 inches of rain in June, precipitation was 91% of normal for the month. Overall, the average temperature for the month was 4.8°F warmer than normal at 52.6°F.

July was warmer and wetter than normal. The average monthly temperature was 54.5°F, which is 2.3°F above normal. High temperatures were at or above 80°F July 7-9, tying the record for the longest such streak. Precipitation in July was the 8th wettest on record in large part due to three significant storms. From June 1-3, 1.61 inches fell. An additional 1.11 inches fell July 24-25 and the month ended with 1.57 inches of rain July 30-31. Overall, July rainfall totals were 207% of normal.

The wet weather continued into early August when an atmospheric river dumped a record 2.47 inches of rain in 24-hours August 1-2. Temperatures were near or below-normal the first week of the month and slightly above normal for the second week. An additional 1.95 inches of rain fell August 12-19. The high temperature for the month was 62°F on August 20. Overall, August temperatures averaged 50.1°F, which is exactly normal based on the 1981-2010 climatology. Precipitation totaled 4.61 inches, 143% of normal.

The average summer temperature at Nome was 52.4°F which is 2.4°F warmer than the 1981-2010 normal and the 8th warmest

summer on record. Each of the last four years ranks in the top 13 warmest summers on record. The total summer precipitation was 10.06 inches, 159% and the 12th wettest summer on record (Figures 1 and 2; Table 1 and 2).

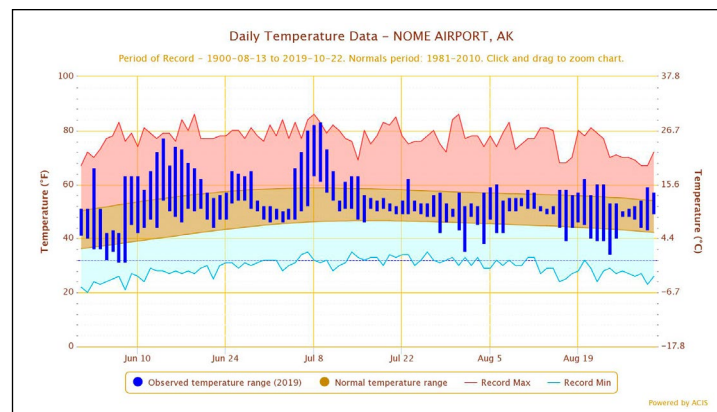


Figure 1. Summer 2019 daily temperatures at Nome showing record maximum (red), record minimum (blue), normal (brown) and observed range (blue bars). <http://xmacis.rcc-acis.org/>

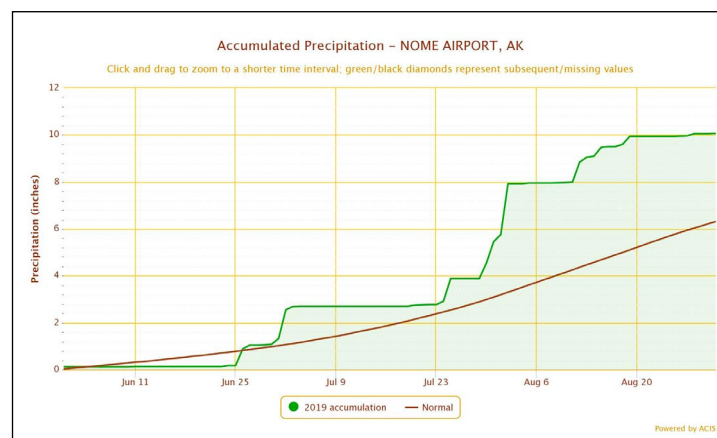


Figure 2. Summer 2019 accumulated precipitation (green) at Nome compared to normal (brown line). <http://xmacis.rcc-acis.org/>

Table 1. Temperature: Summer 2019 average monthly temperatures compared to the 1981-2010 normal.

Summer 2019	Average Monthly Temp (°F)	1981-2010 Normal (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)	Monthly High (°F / Date)	Monthly Low (°F / Date)
June	52.6	47.8	+4.8	77 / June 14	31 / June 7 & 8
July	54.5	52.2	+2.3	83 / July 9*	42 / July 28
August	50.1	50.1	0.0	62 / Aug. 20	34 / Aug. 24

Summer Season Temperature Departure from Normal: +2.4°F. *Daily record.

Table 2. Precipitation: Summer 2019 monthly precipitation totals compared to normal.

Summer 2019	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	1.08	0.98	+0.10	0.71 / June 26*	7
July	4.37	2.11	+2.26	2.11 / July 2*	11
August	4.61	3.22	+1.39	2.16 / Aug. 2*	17

Summer Season Precipitation Departure from Normal: +3.75 inches (159% of normal). *Daily record.

Record-breaking Ocean Temperatures

For the second year in a row, 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 Northern Bering Sea region were the warmest on record. Six of the ten warmest summers have occurred since 2014 indicating a complete shift in the marine ecosystem (Figure 4). Arctic-wide, the annual sea ice minimum occurred in September 2019 and ranks as the 2nd lowest in the 39-year satellite record.

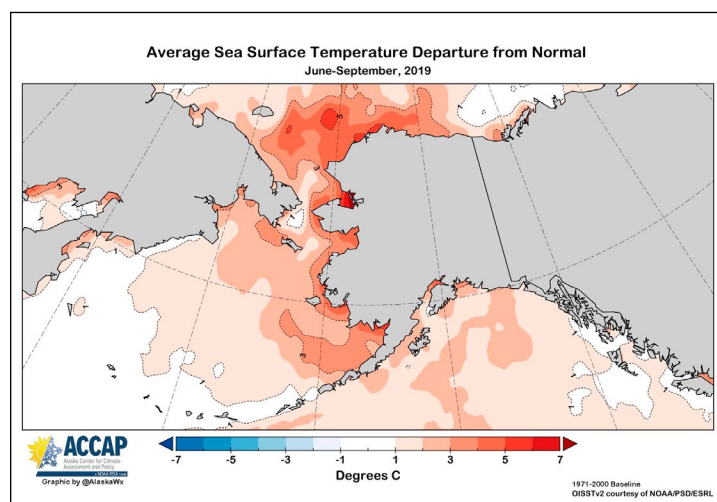


Figure 3. Sea surface temperature departure from normal June-September 2019. Graphic courtesy Rick Thoman, ACCAP.

Researchers continue to document 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 fourth consecutive year, 2019 marks another mass die-off of sea birds in the northern Bering and southern Chukchi Sea region. Scientists are working hard to understand the linkages between the climate, ocean, and terrestrial ecosystems.

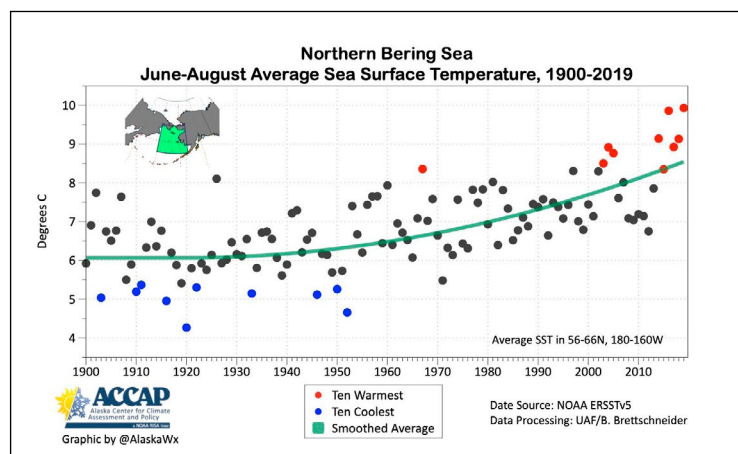
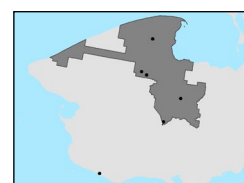


Figure 4. Summer sea surface temperatures for the Northern Bering Sea, 1901-2019. The ten warmest summers are indicated in red. Graphic courtesy Rick Thoman, ACCAP.

More Information

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[Current Weather in Bering Land Bridge N Pres.](#)

<https://www.nps.gov/im/arcn/climate.htm>

Data disclaimer: Please note that the near-real time data used to generate these reports is subject to change. QA/QC data from the NPS CANK climate stations are available at [NPS Data Store](#)