

Is Defrosting Pole a Problem for Pollutants in Predators?

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Climate change is expected to impact species at high latitudes directly through physical changes to the environment and indirectly through changing interactions between species. Vertical interactions, also known as predator-prey interactions, are thought to be particularly important, and are also the major route of exposure to predators of key contaminants of Arctic concern, including mercury and persistent organic pollutants. A series of studies will be presented showing how climate-driven changes in species interactions can affect pollutant exposures of top Arctic marine predators, underscoring the need to consider multiple stressors facing wildlife in a changing polar environment.