**Why the New Sea Level Alarm Can't Be Ignored**

Climate has changed naturally even within human history, that study said, and sea level has changed with it—but [not as fast as we’re changing it now](http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2013/09/rising-seas/folger-text).

A polar bear stands atop an iceberg near the island of Spitsbergen, in Norway's Svalbard archipelago.

# Corals Are Dying on the Great Barrier Reef

Australian government issues emergency response level and warns that bleaching may be linked to climate change.

Scientists have discovered an [unprecedented die-off](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/media-room/latest-news/coral-bleaching/2016/coral-mortality-rises-in-remote-far-north) in the world's largest reef, the [Great Barrier Reef](http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/05/great-barrier-reef/holland-text), prompting the Australian government to issue its highest response level.

# The First Official Climate Refugees in the U.S. Race Against Time

A Native American tribe struggles to hold on to their culture in a Louisiana bayou while their land slips into the Gulf of Mexico.

Since 1955, the island has lost 98 percent of its land. Island Road, pictured, frequently washes out.