



Winter Weather Briefing

For Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

January 30, 2026
8:15 AM EST

Decision Support Briefing #5

→ As of 8:15 AM Friday January 30, 2026

NEW

Important Updates

- **New:** Winter Storm Watch has been upgraded to a Winter Storm Warning.
- **New:** A Cold Weather Advisory has been issued for parts of the area tonight through early Saturday evening. An Extreme Cold Watch remains in effect for early Saturday evening through Monday morning.
- **New:** Snow onset is trending earlier (Saturday morning)
- High confidence in extremely cold air for the area this weekend, creating significant, rare wind chills.
- Increasing confidence for significant snow and associated impacts.
- High confidence in hazardous winds and seas for the coastal waters over the weekend, creating dangerous conditions for mariners.



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Key Messages

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

January 30, 2026
8:15 AM EST

- Dangerous cold seeps in tonight, with single digit wind chills Saturday night and Sunday night.
- Confidence continues to increase of significant snowfall across much of the forecast area.
- The potential for heavy snow banding may produce localized swaths of heavier snowfall, especially north of the Cape Fear region.
- Dry and powdery snow combined with strong and frequent wind gusts of 25 to 35 mph will result in particularly dangerous driving conditions, causing poor visibility and reduced traction. Scattered power outages expected.
- Gale force winds likely over the coastal waters late Saturday into Sunday, with a few gusts up to storm force possible, particularly from Surf City, NC to Little River Inlet, SC.



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Winter Weather Headlines

January 30, 2026
8:15 AM EST

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

Winter Storm Warning & Gale Watch

Weather Forecast Office
Wilmington, NC
Issued Jan 30, 2026 3:09 AM EST



→ A **Winter Storm Warning** is in effect for the following counties:

- ◆ Williamsburg
- ◆ Georgetown
- ◆ Horry
- ◆ Marion
- ◆ Florence
- ◆ Dillon
- ◆ Darlington
- ◆ Marlboro
- ◆ Columbus
- ◆ Brunswick
- ◆ New Hanover
- ◆ Pender
- ◆ Bladen
- ◆ Robeson

→ This warning will go into effect late tonight, continuing through Sunday afternoon.



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Dangerous Cold Expected This Weekend

January 30, 2026
8:15 AM EST

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

Cold Weather Advisory

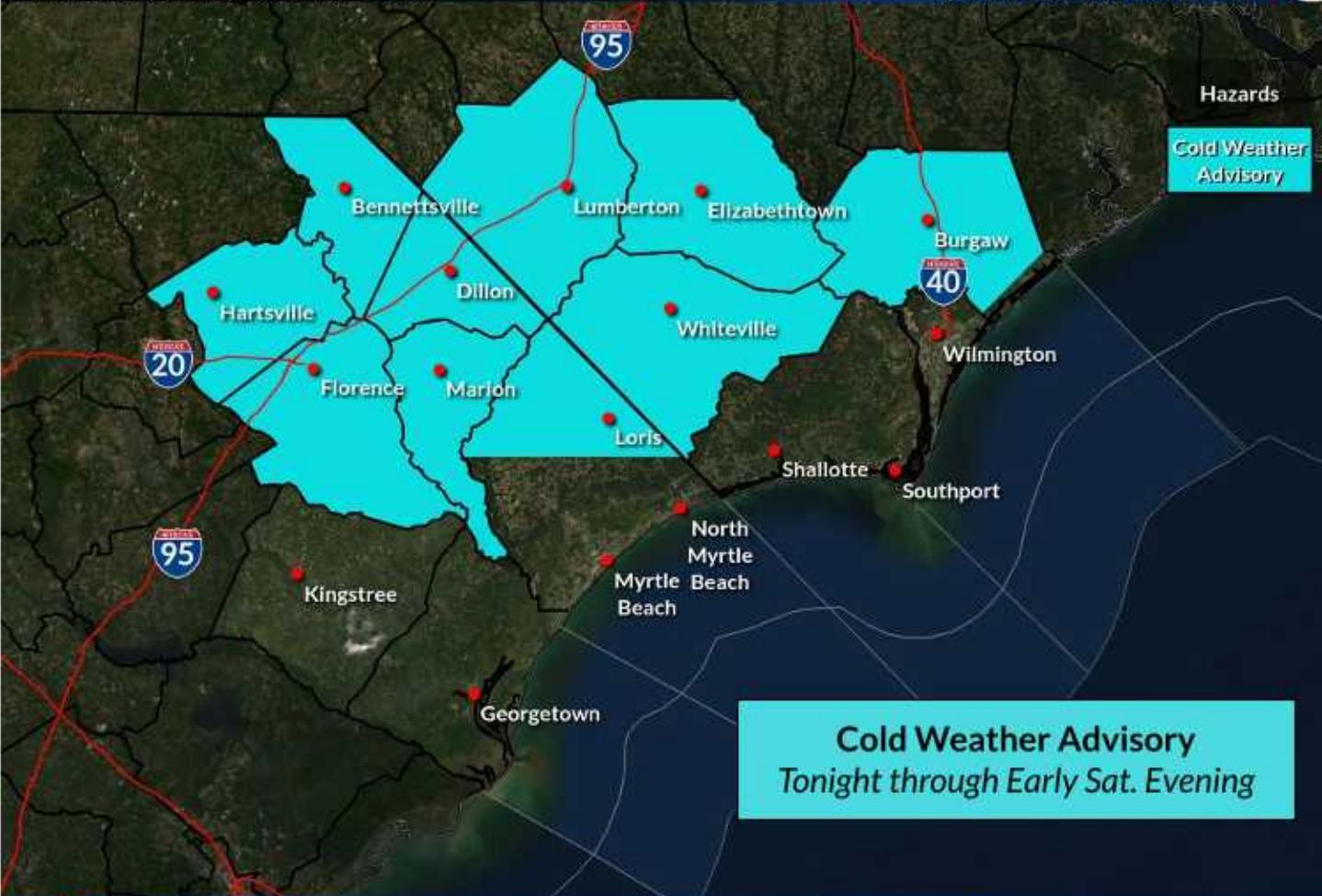
Tonight through Early Saturday Evening

Weather Forecast Office
Wilmington, NC

Issued Jan 30, 2026 3:52 AM EST



Hazards
Cold Weather
Advisory



Extreme Cold Watch

Early Saturday Evening through Monday Morning

Weather Forecast Office
Wilmington, NC

Issued Jan 30, 2026 3:51 AM EST



Hazards
Extreme Cold
Watch



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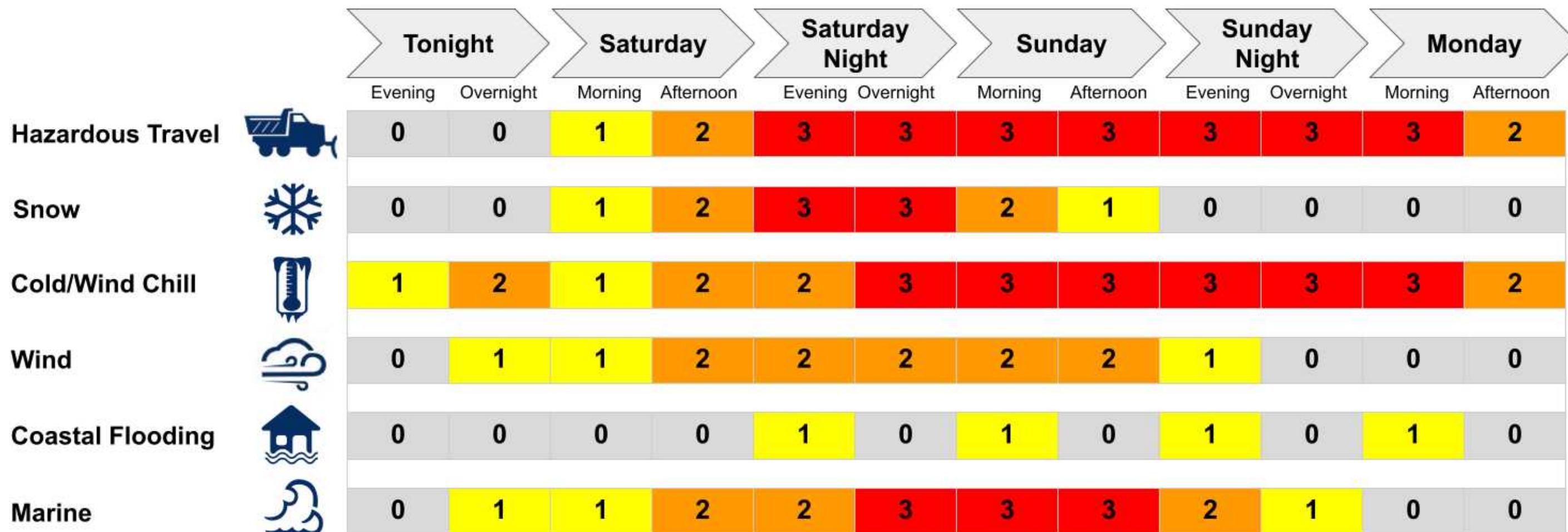
National Weather Service
Wilmington, NC



Threat/Impact Levels and Timing

January 30, 2026
8:15 AM EST

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina



Effects & Impacts Legend

- 0 - Little to no impact
- 1 - Minor Impact
- 2 - Moderate Impact
- 3 - High Impact
- 4 - Extreme impact



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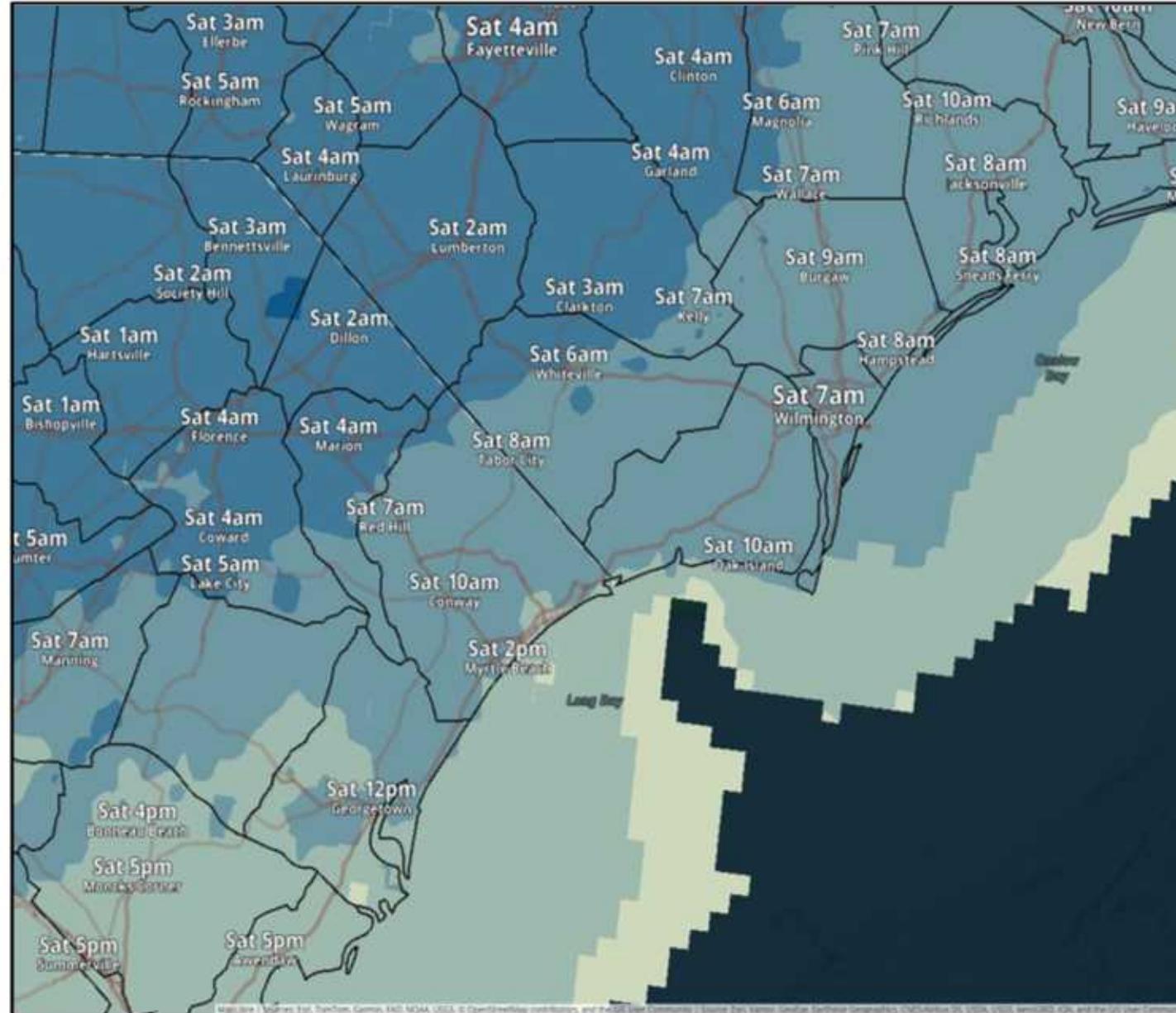


Onset Timing Of 0.50" Snow or More

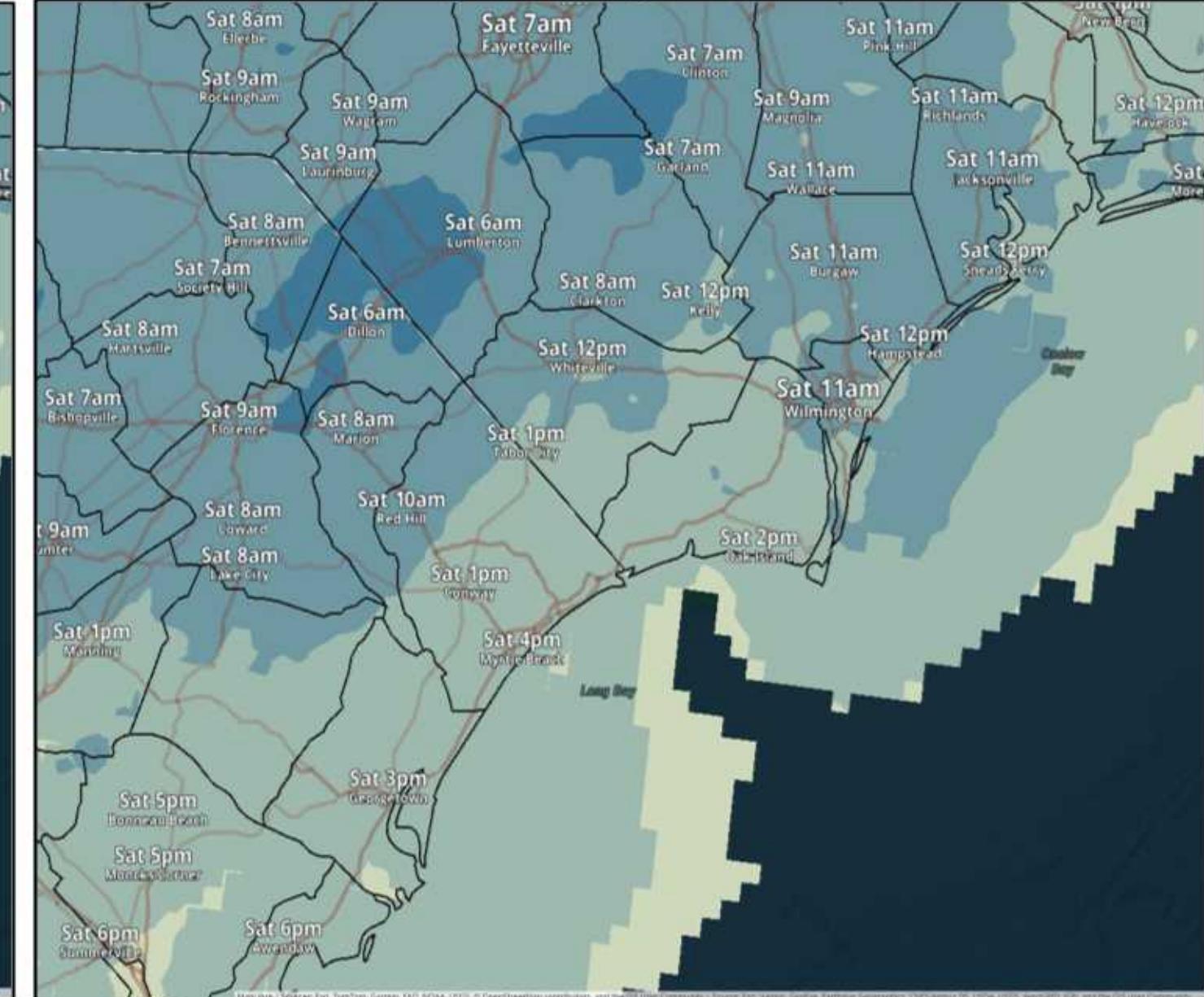
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Earliest Reasonable Arrival



Mostly Likely Arrival



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Situation Overview

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8:15 AM EST

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

Hazard	Impacts	Location	Timing
Snow 	Dangerous driving conditions likely in some spots. Widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.	Northeast SC & Southeast NC	Saturday into Sunday. Hazardous driving conditions will continue into Monday.
Cold/Wind Chill 	Frostbite on exposed skin and hypothermia can occur.	Northeast SC & Southeast NC	Each night Friday through early next week. Saturday night and Sunday night will be the worst.
Strong Winds 	25-35 mph gusts will cause blowing snow, lowering visibilities. Scattered power outages expected.	Northeast SC & Southeast NC	Saturday afternoon into Sunday
Coastal Flooding 	Low-lying roads and adjacent tidal creeks may observe minor inundation.	Along the coast and the lower Cape Fear River at downtown Wilmington, NC	Morning and evening high tide cycles Saturday and Sunday.
Marine 	Very strong winds and elevated seas will be hazardous to mariners. Damage to vessels possible.	Coastal waters from Surf City, NC to South Santee River, SC out 20 nm	Saturday through Sunday night



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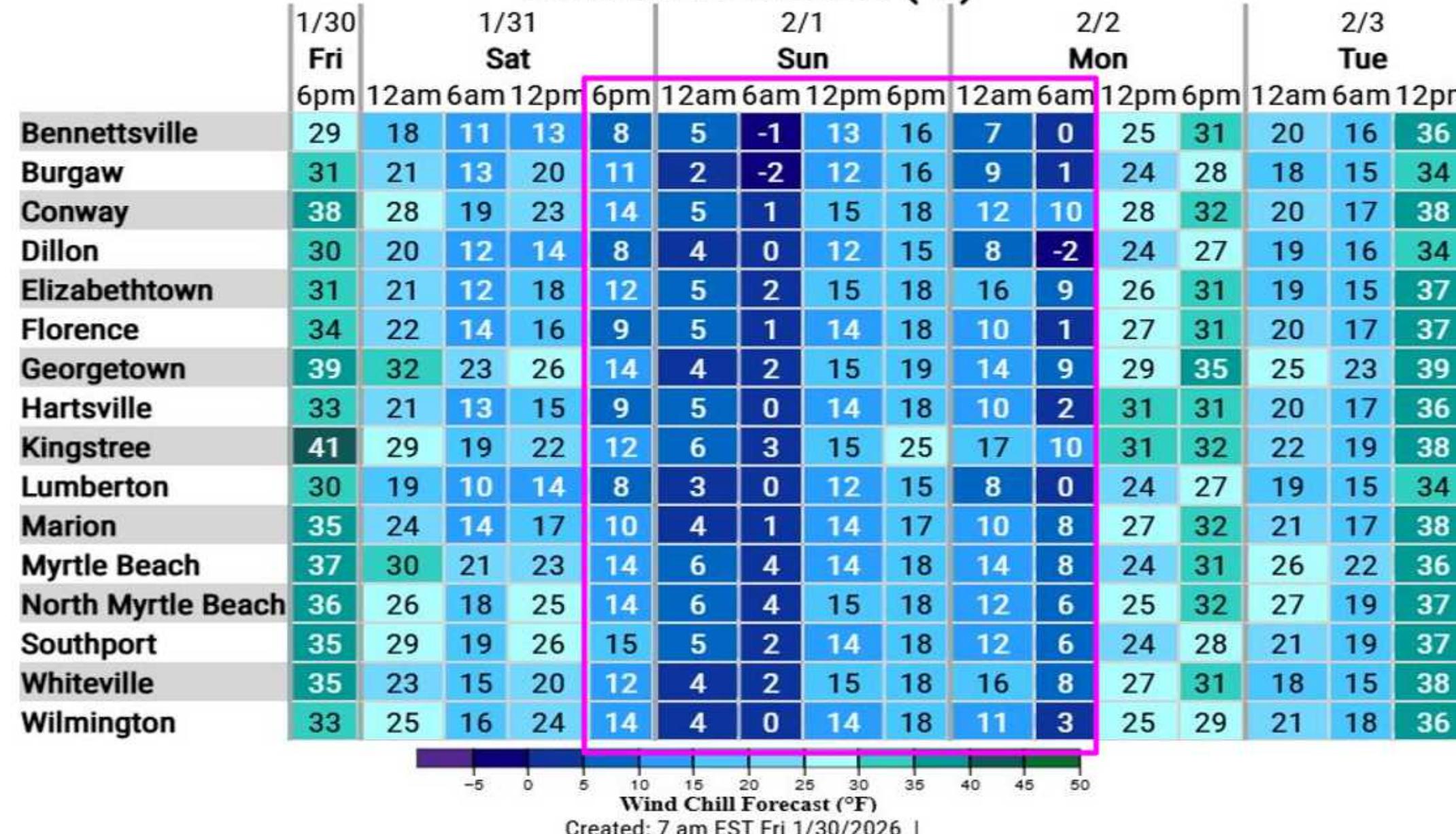


Dangerously Cold

January 30, 2026
8:15 AM EST

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

Wind Chill Forecast (°F)



Timing

→ Dangerous wind chills expected throughout the weekend, especially at night, where wind chills could drop down into the negatives.



Impacts

→ This extreme cold will cause significant concerns for frostbite to exposed skin and hypothermia.



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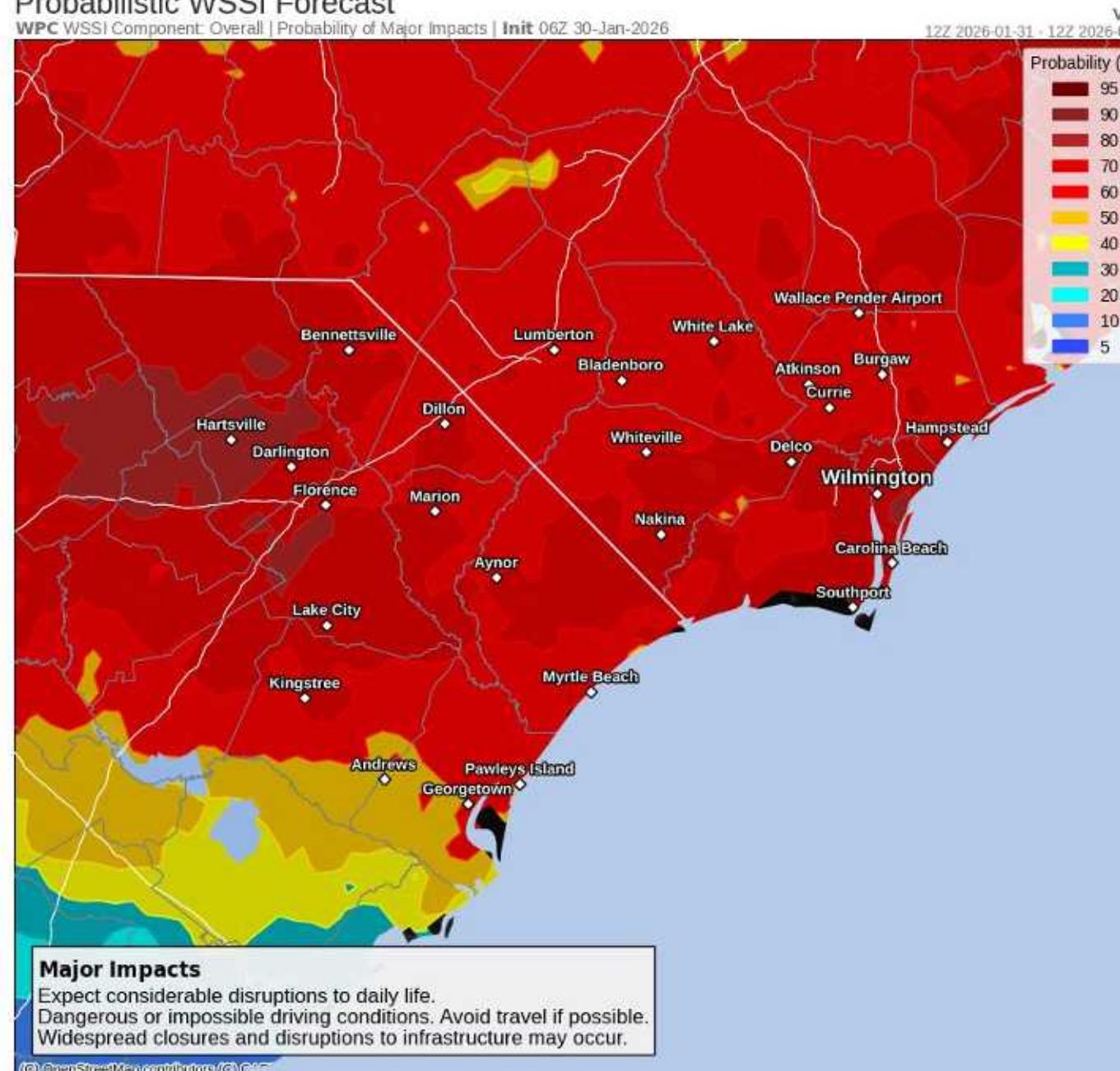
Winter Storm Severity Index

January 30, 2026
8:15 AM EST

Potential for Major Winter Weather Impacts

Probabilistic WSSI Forecast

WPC WSSI Component: Overall | Probability of Major Impacts | Init 06Z 30-Jan-2026



- Between the extreme cold and the potential snow, there is a 60-80% chance for at least major winter weather impacts across most of the area. Chances linger near 40-50% in the far southern portions of the Grand Strand.
- Major impacts:
Expect considerable disruptions to daily life.
Dangerous driving conditions possible. **Avoid travel if possible.**
Widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.



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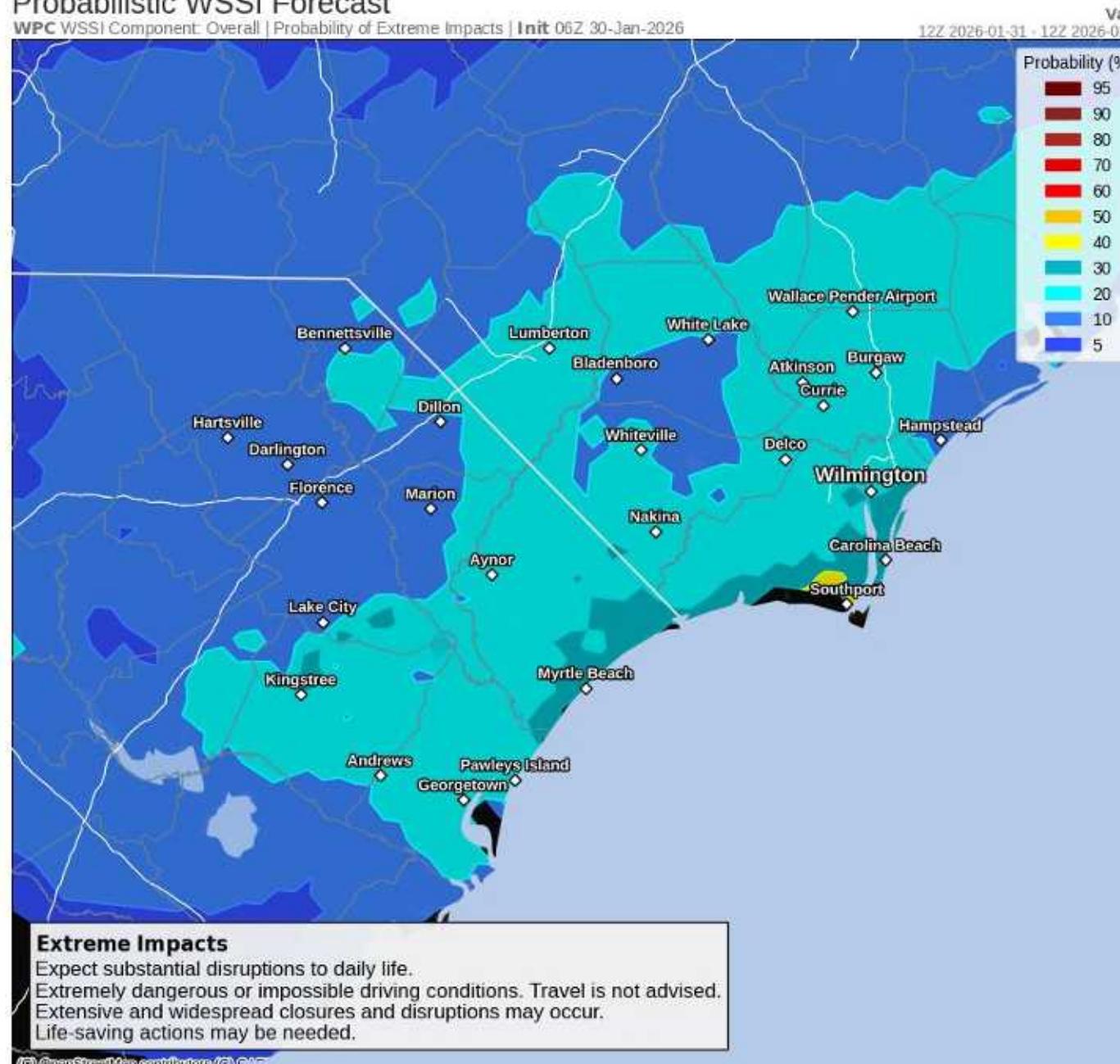
Winter Storm Severity Index

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Potential for Extreme Winter Weather Impacts

Probabilistic WSSI Forecast

WPC WSSI Component: Overall | Probability of Extreme Impacts | Init 06Z 30-Jan-2026



- Between the extreme cold and the potential snow, there is a 30-40% chance for extreme winter weather impacts across parts of southeast NC, 10-20% in northeast SC.
- Extreme impacts:
Expect substantial disruptions to daily life.
Extremely dangerous or impossible driving conditions. **Travel is not advised.**
Extensive and widespread closures and disruptions may occur.



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Expected Snowfall

January 30, 2026
8:15 AM EST

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

Expected Snowfall: Official NWS Forecast

Valid 1 AM Fri Jan 30, 2026 through 7 PM Sun Feb 1, 2026

Weather Forecast Office
Wilmington, NC

Issued Jan 30, 2026 5:27 AM EST



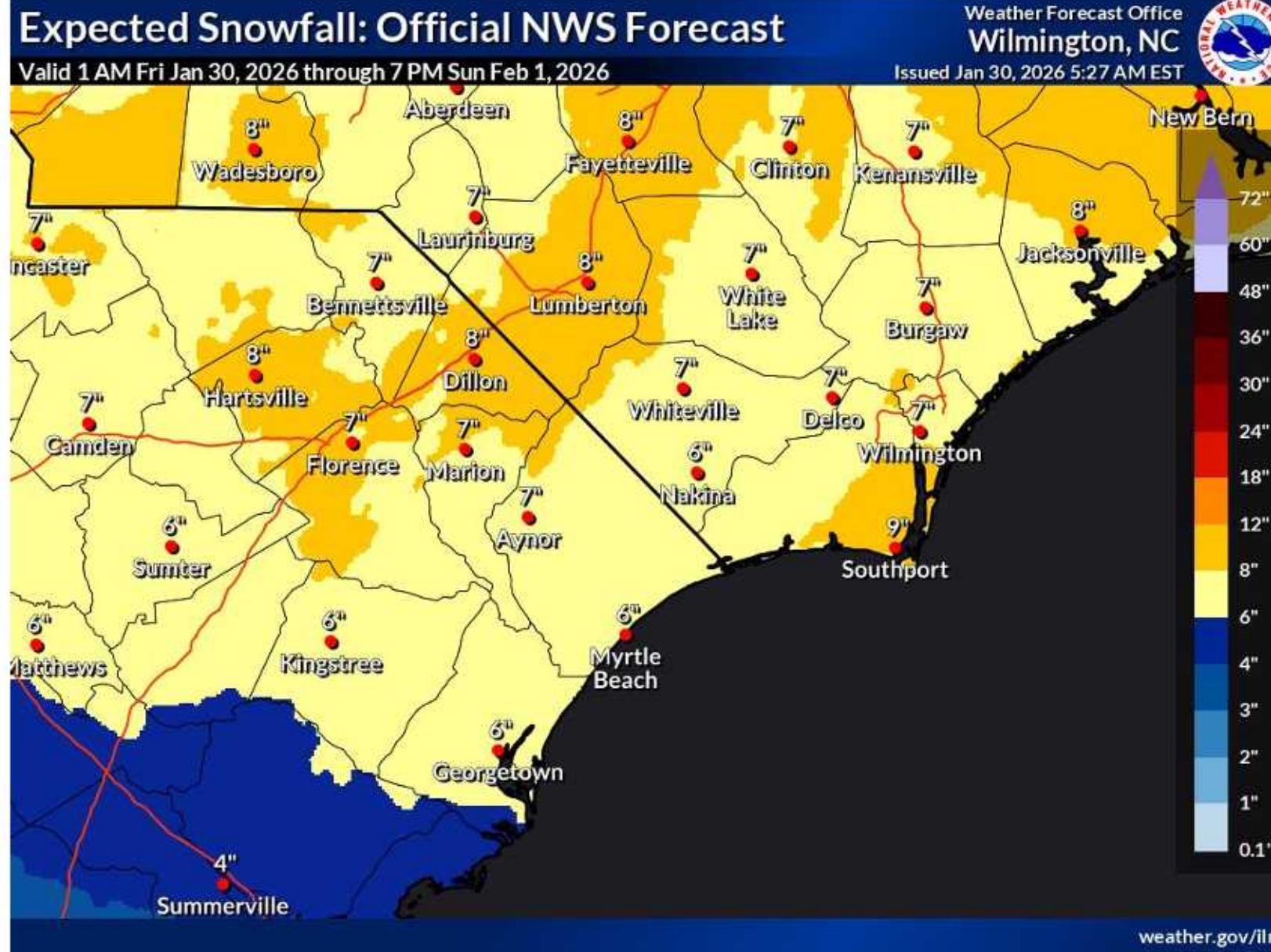
Timing

- We could see a rain/snow/sleet mix build in as early as Saturday morning before sunrise, transitioning to all snow later in the morning.
- Bulk of the snow should occur late Saturday into early Sunday morning, tapering off shortly thereafter.



Impacts

- Dangerous driving conditions possible. Cannot rule out whiteout conditions in isolated heavy snow banding.



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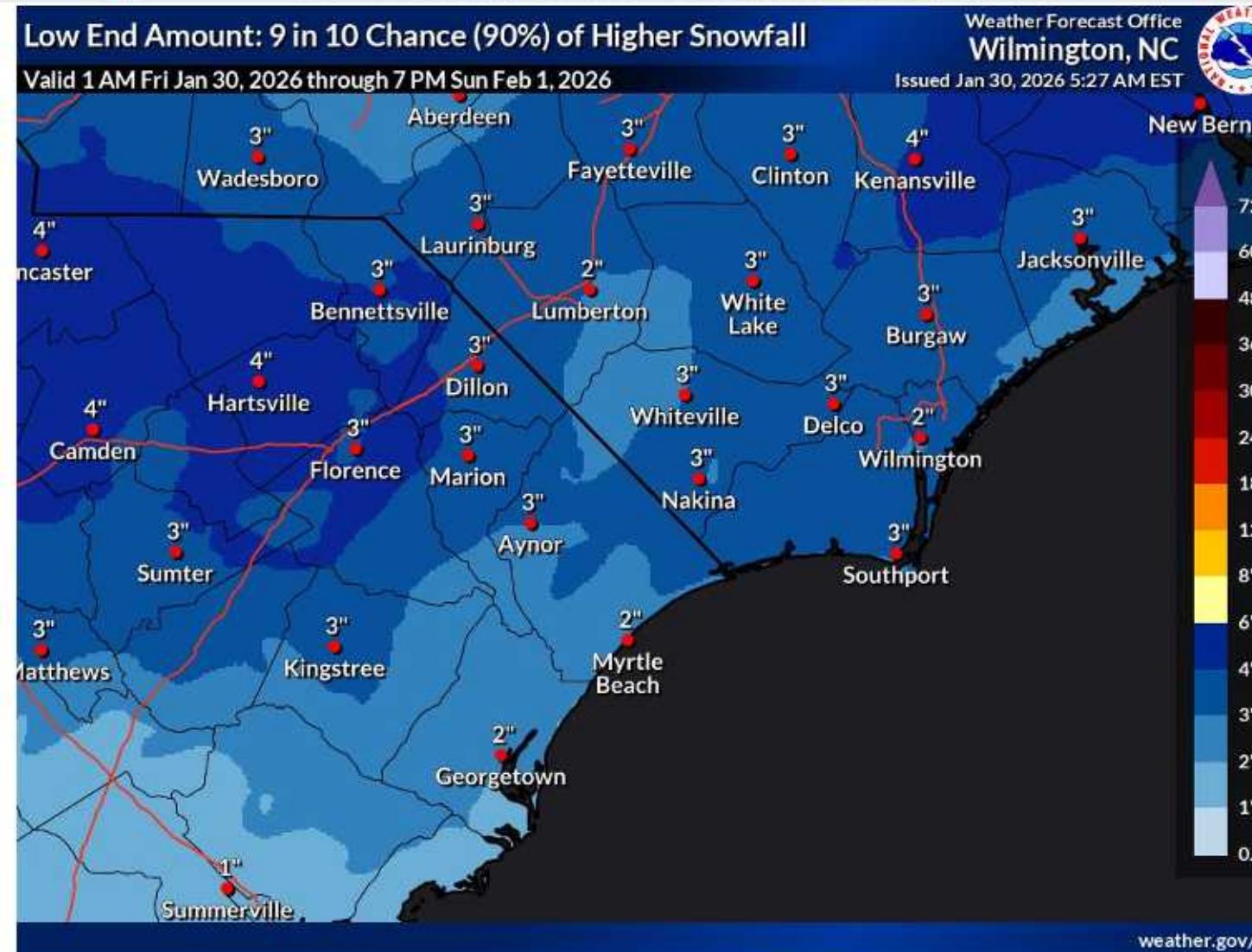




Range of Snowfall Possibilities

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Low End, or Minimum Amount



High End, or Maximum Amount



Key Points:

- The image on the left shows the minimum amount of snow you should expect.
- The image on the right shows the reasonable worst-case scenario for snow accumulation.



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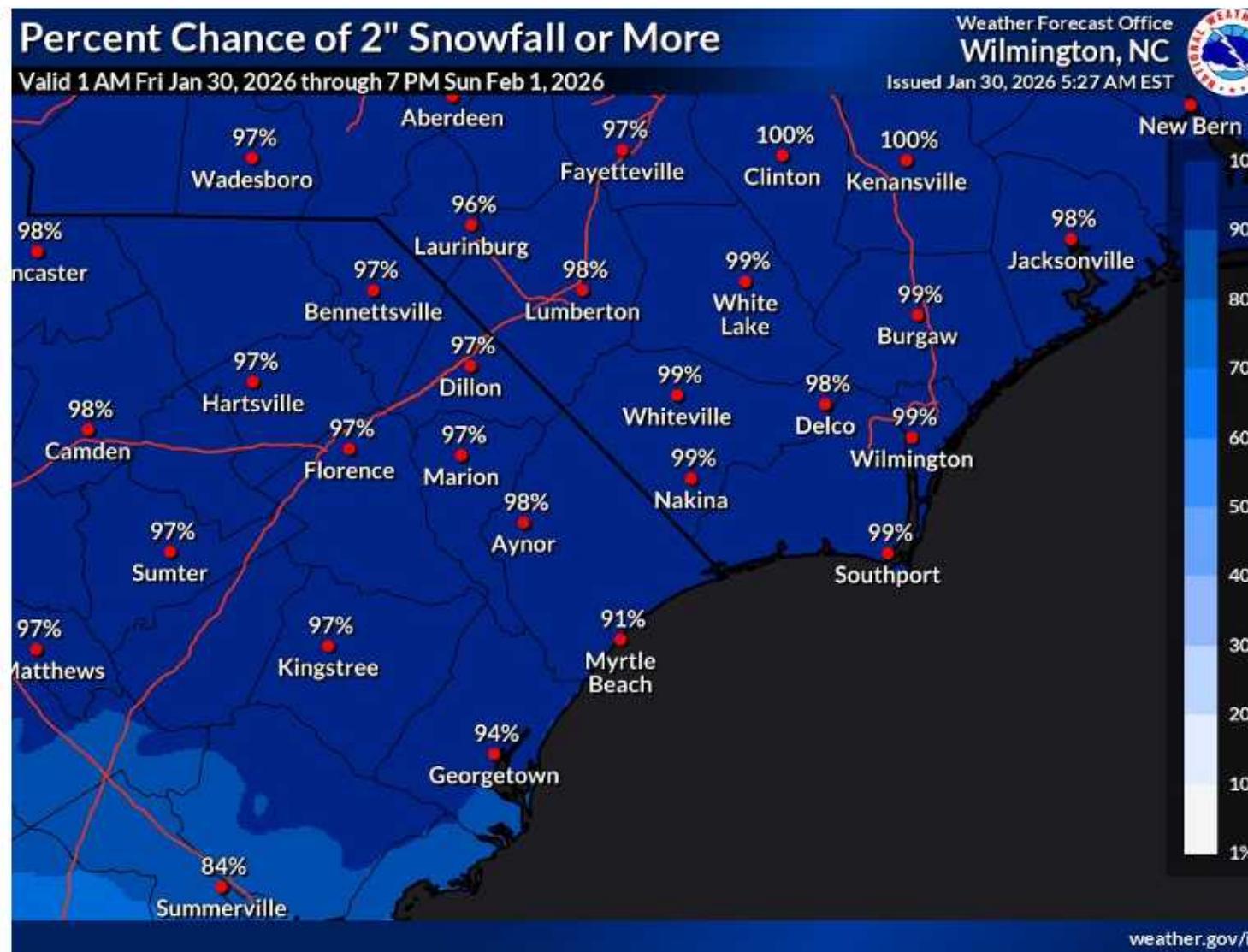


Probability of Snow Amounts

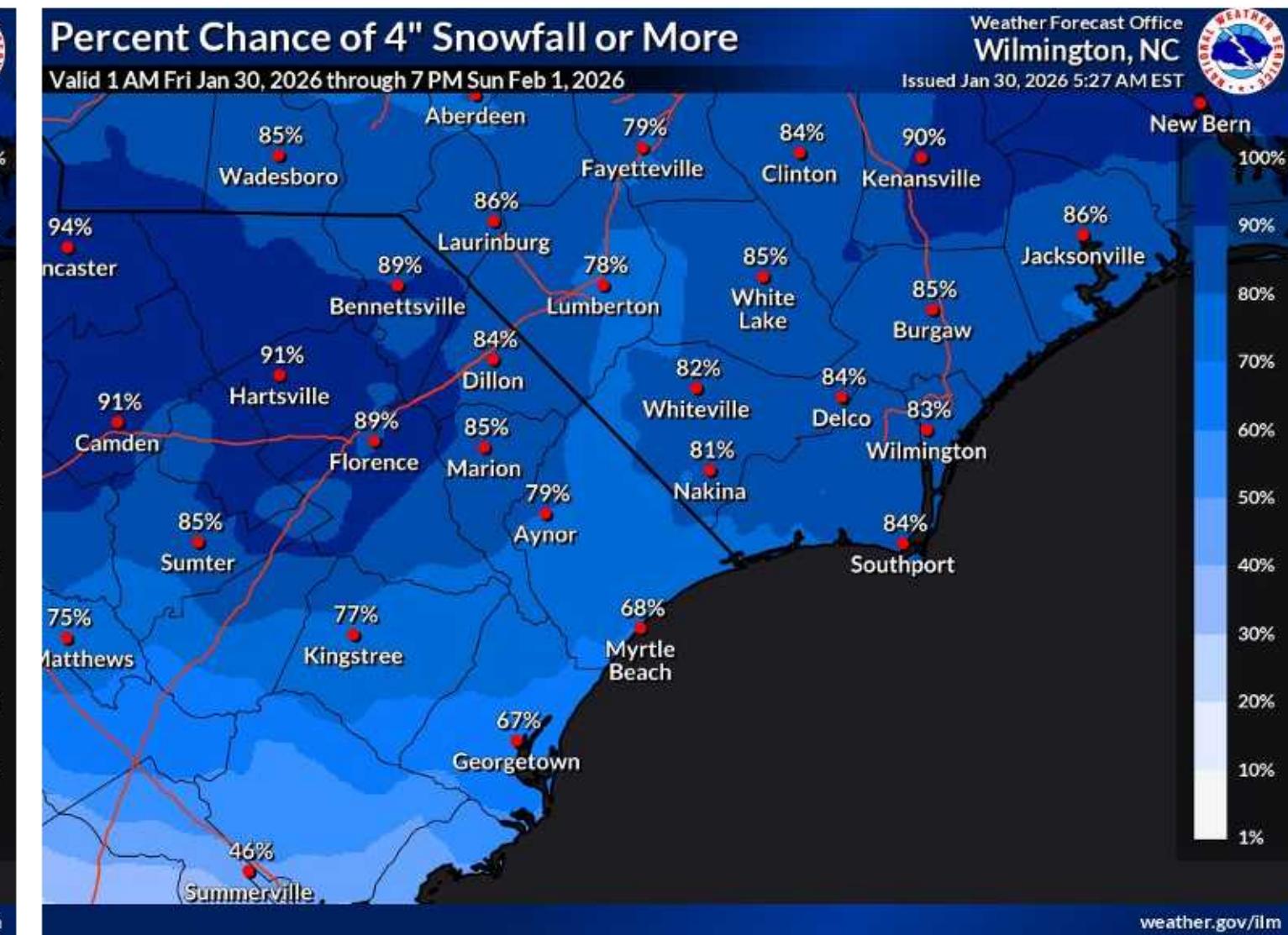
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Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

Percent Chance of 2" Snow or More



Percent Chance of 4" Snow or More



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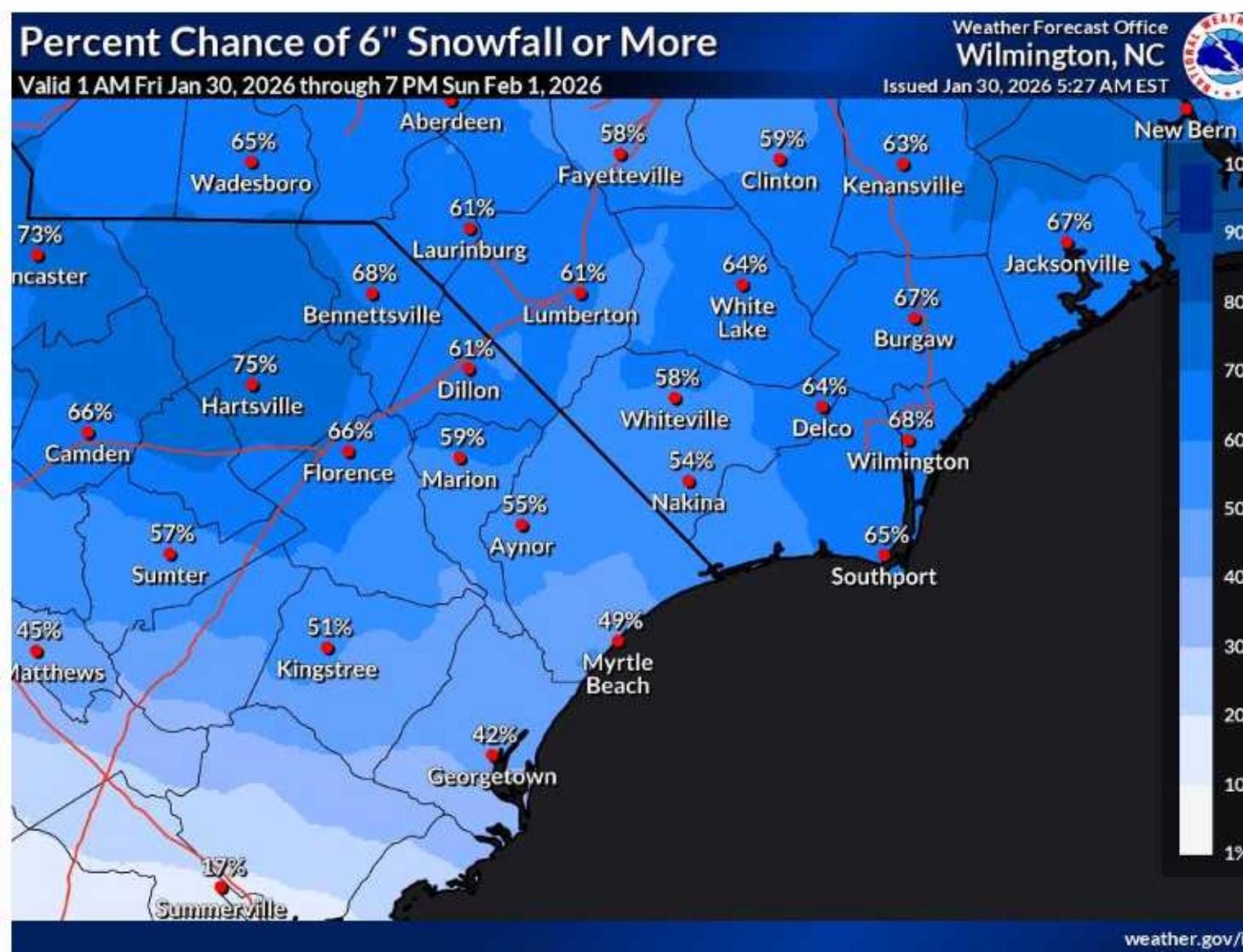


Probability of Snow Amounts

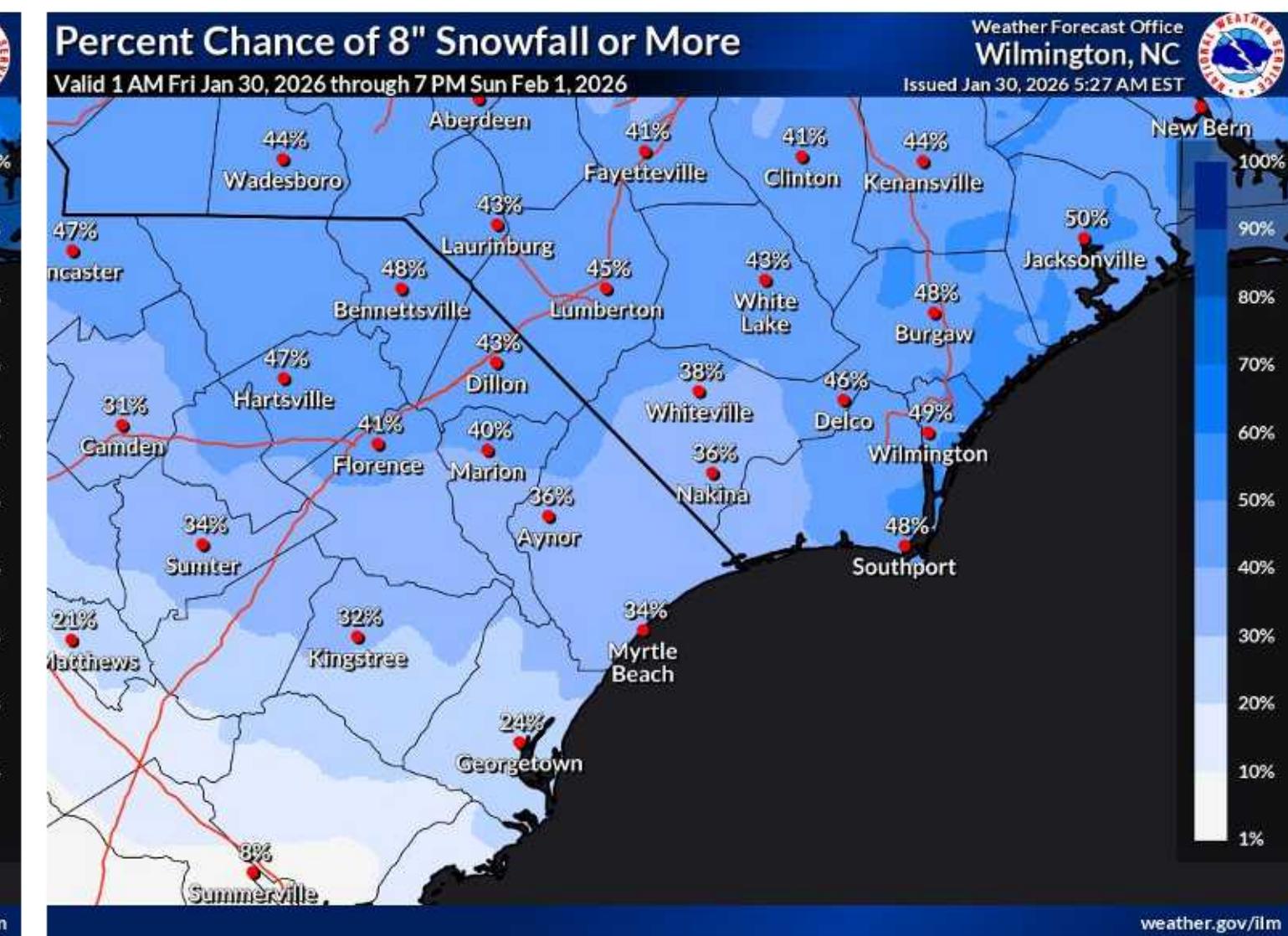
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Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

Percent Chance of 6" Snow or More



Percent Chance of 8" Snow or More



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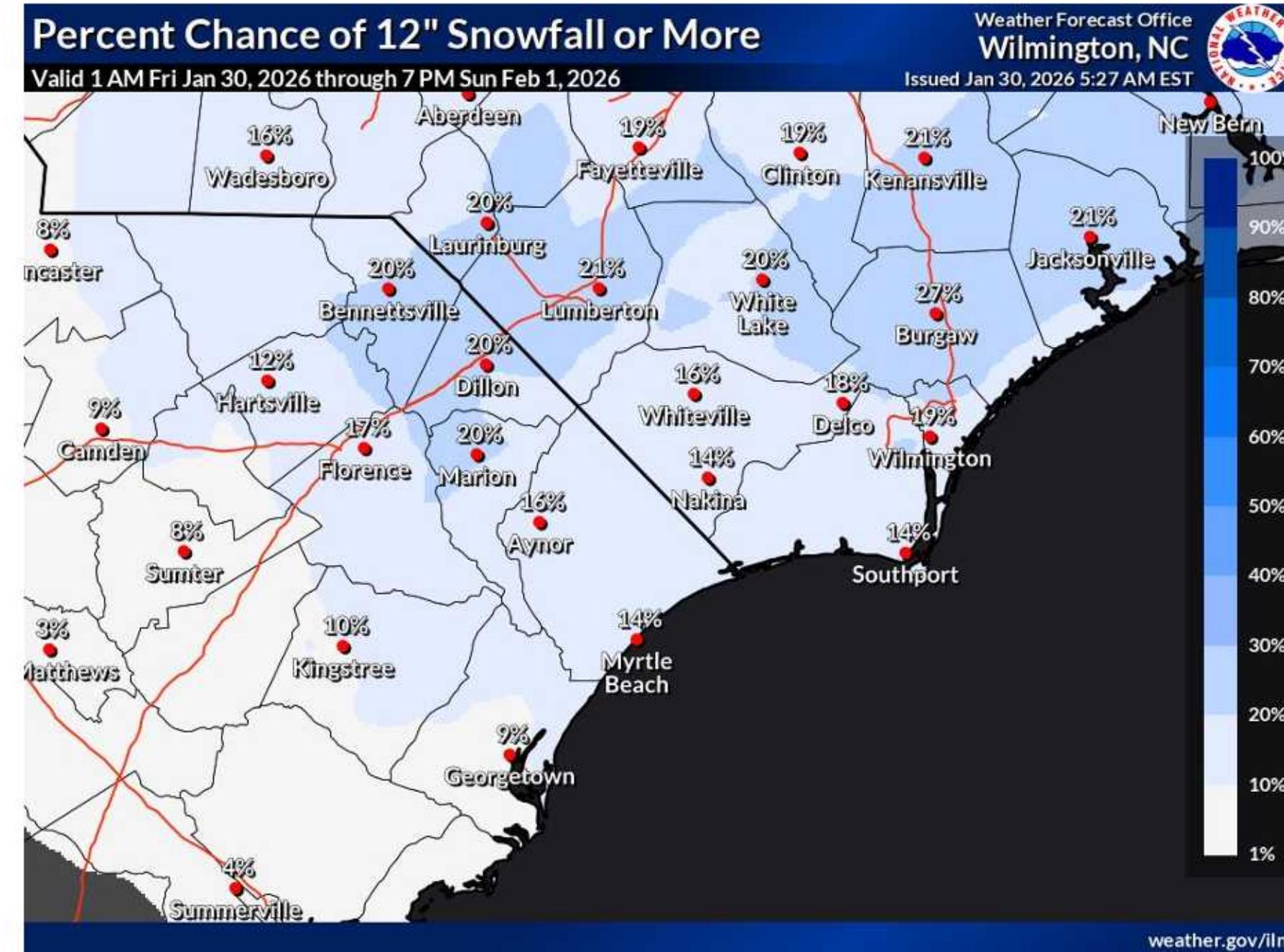
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Probability of Snow Amounts

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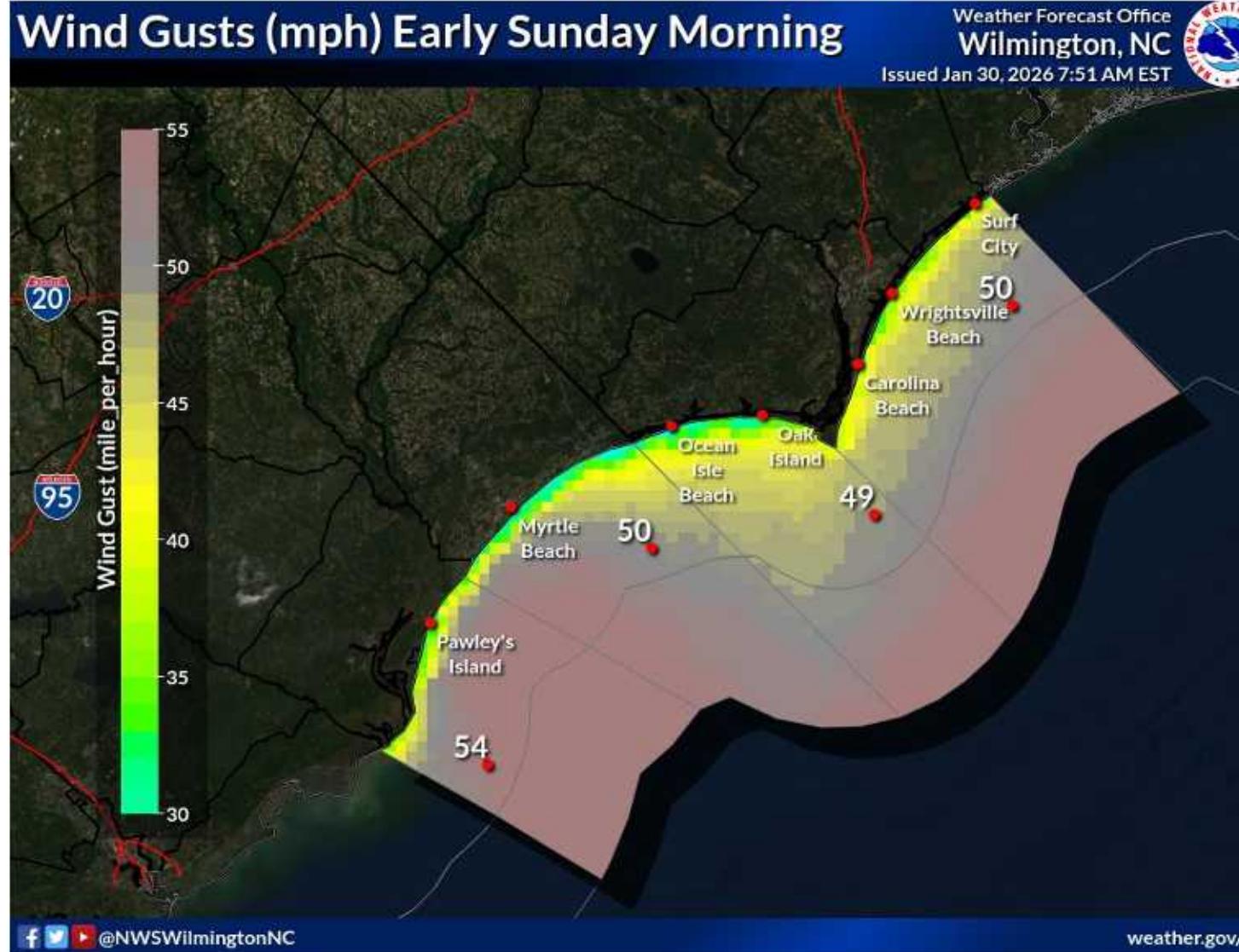


Marine Forecast

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

January 30, 2026
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Wind Gust Forecast



Timing

- Hazardous winds and seas start building in late Friday night, continuing through Sunday night.
- Gale force winds (≥ 34 kts) are most likely late Saturday into Sunday. Occasional storm force gusts (≥ 48 kts) possible, particularly from Surf City, NC to Little River Inlet, SC out 20 nautical miles.



Impacts

- Strong winds will cause hazardous seas, which could capsize or damage vessels and reduce visibility.



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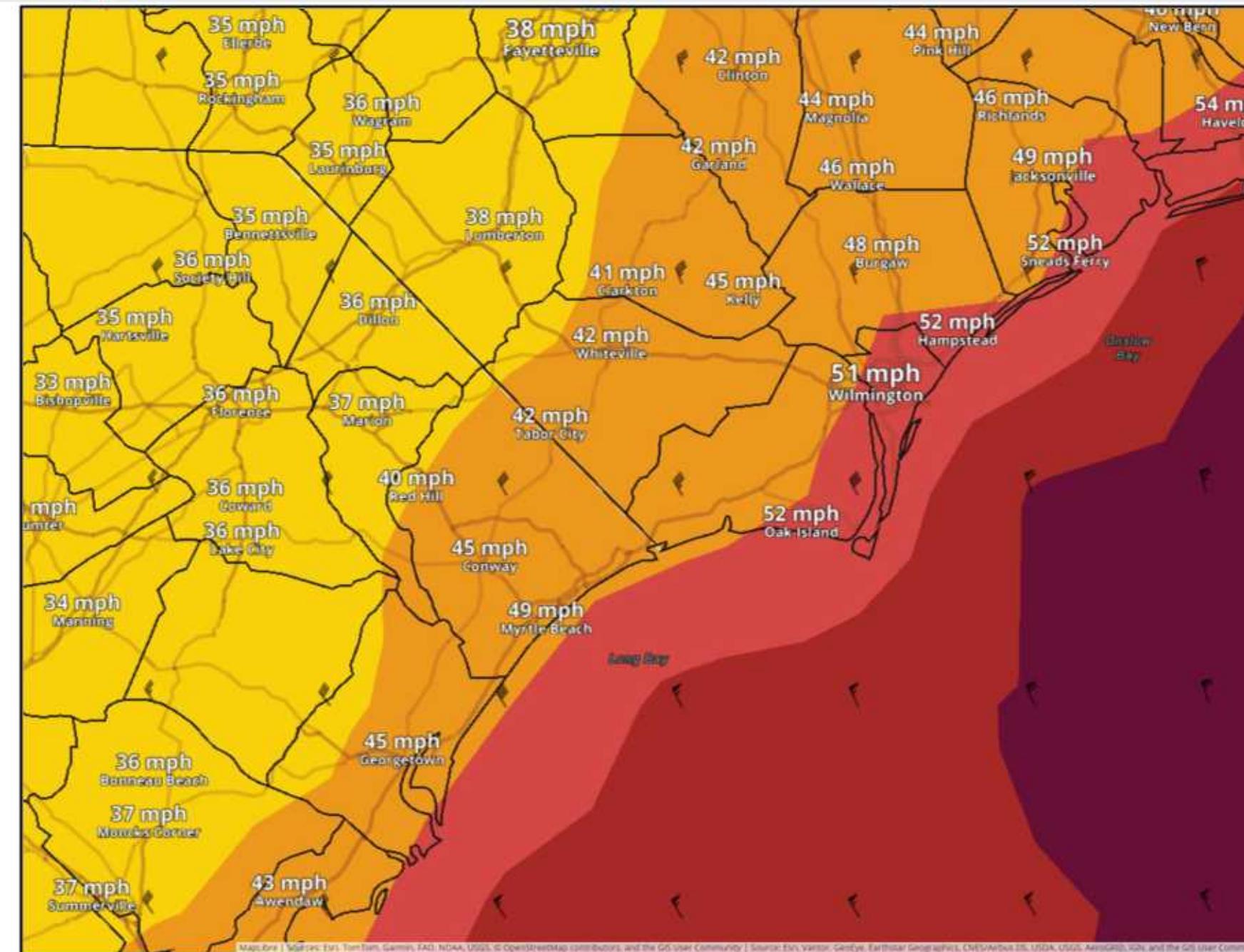
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Maximum Wind Gust

January 30, 2026
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Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina



Timing



Strong and frequent gusts of 25 to 35 mph expected, with gusts of 40 to 45 mph possible late Saturday through Saturday night.

Impacts



May lead to blowing snow, further reducing visibilities and hindering snow removal on roads. Scattered power outages also possible.



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Key Take-Aways

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Confidence is HIGH that the event will occur



Significant snow is possible across northeast SC and southeast NC. Heavy snow banding may produce significantly higher local amounts, particularly north of the Cape Fear region.



Extremely cold temperatures bring wind chills well into the single digits, potentially into the negatives Saturday night and Sunday night.



Due to expected prolonged cold, hazardous travel conditions could extend through the early to middle part of next week.



Strong gusty winds will result in blowing snow, possibly periods of white out conditions, causing poor visibility and reduced traction. Scattered power outages also possible.



Dangerous marine conditions expected across the coastal waters, with potential for storm-force wind gusts.



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Preparedness/Safety Info

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Visit weather.gov/winter



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Contact and Next Briefing Information

January 30, 2026
8:15 AM

 **Next Briefing:**
Friday 4:30 PM EST



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