



Winter Weather Briefing

January 31, 2026
3:06 PM EST

For Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

Decision Support Briefing #8

→ As of 3:06 PM Saturday January 31, 2026

NEW

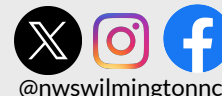
Important Updates

- **Winter Storm Warning** in effect through Sunday afternoon.
 - **Cold Weather Advisory** in effect inland counties through this evening.
 - **Extreme Cold Warning** has been extended through Monday morning.
 - **Gale Warning** in effect through 7pm Sunday
-
- Still in line for Event total snow of 4-8" across the area.
 - Extremely cold air for the area this weekend, creating dangerous wind chills.
 - High confidence in hazardous winds and seas for the coastal waters over the weekend, creating dangerous conditions for mariners.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

www.weather.gov/ilm



National Weather Service
Wilmington, NC



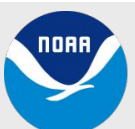
Key Messages

January 31, 2026

3:06 PM EST

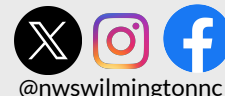
Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

- Heaviest snow and greatest impacts expected this evening and overnight. Event total snowfall of 4-8 expected. Heavy snow banding may produce localized higher amounts.
- Dangerous cold through Monday, with single digit wind chills tonight and Sunday night.
- 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 from fallen trees may occur but widespread outages are not 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.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

www.weather.gov/ilm



National Weather Service
Wilmington, NC



Winter Weather Headlines

January 31, 2026
3:06 PM EST

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina



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

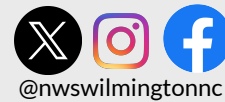
- ◆ Williamsburg
- ◆ Georgetown
- ◆ Horry
- ◆ Marion
- ◆ Florence
- ◆ Dillon
- ◆ Darlington
- ◆ Marlboro
- ◆ Columbus
- ◆ Brunswick
- ◆ New Hanover
- ◆ Pender
- ◆ Bladen
- ◆ Robeson

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



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

www.weather.gov/ilm



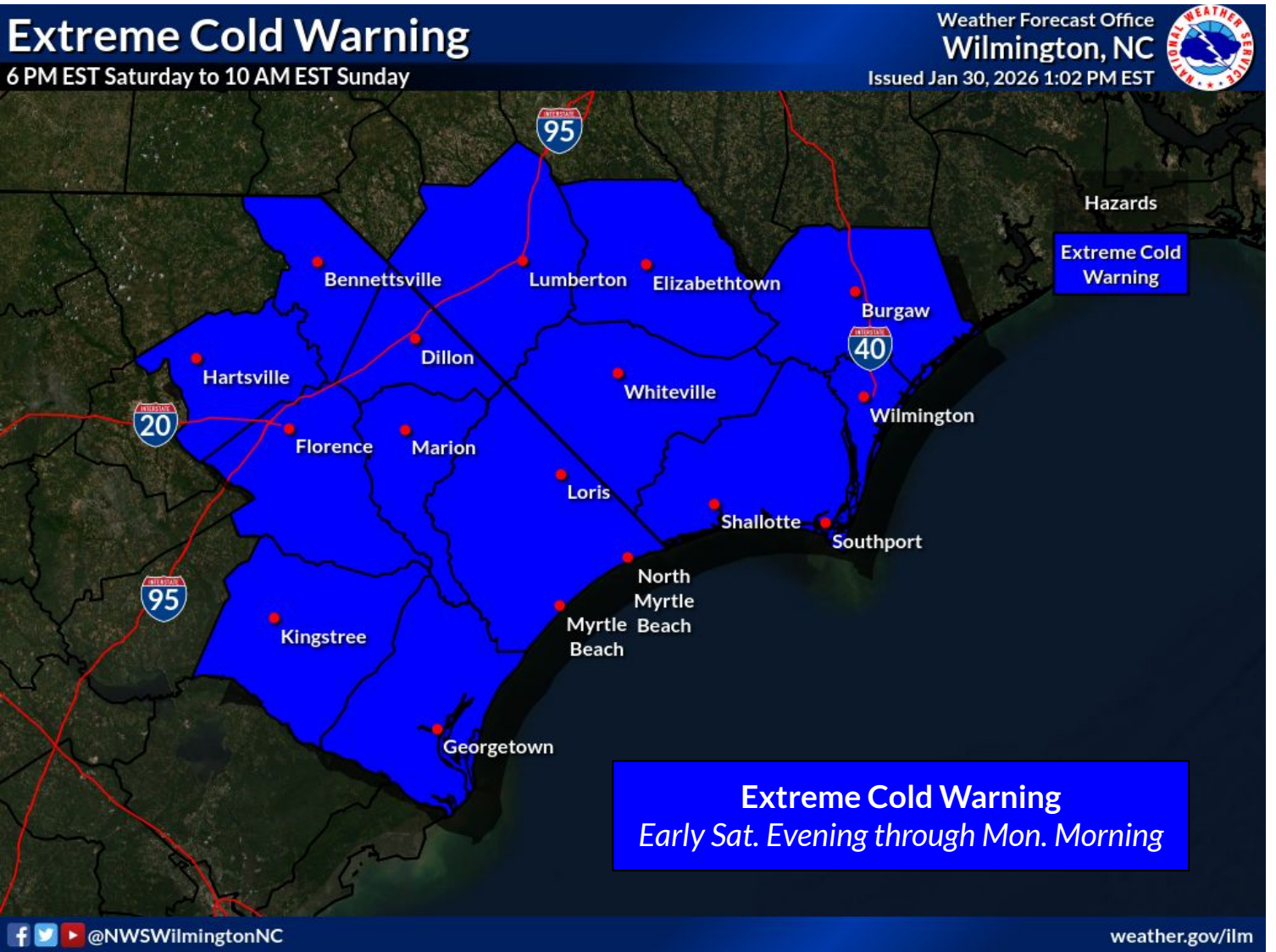
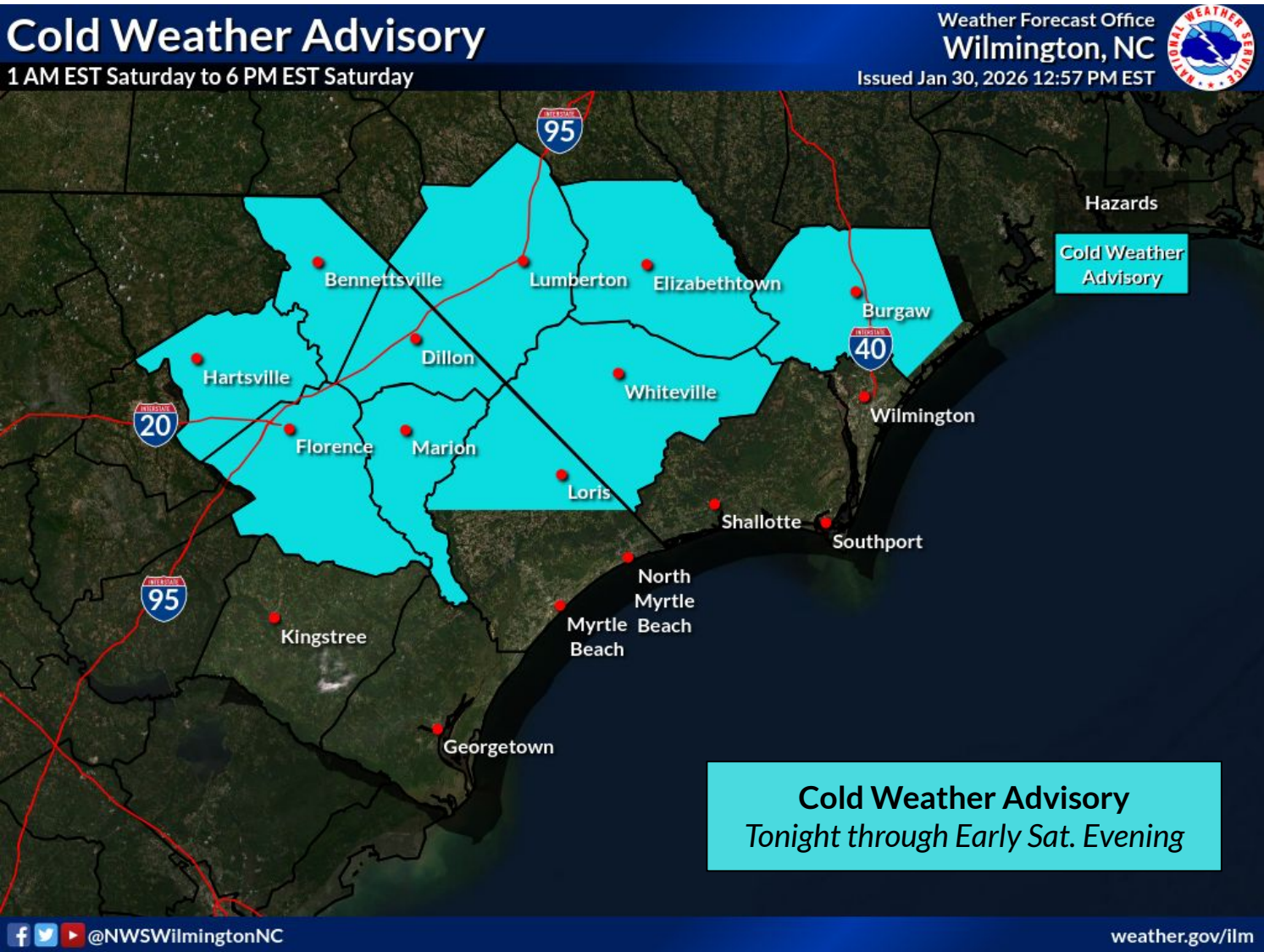
National Weather Service
Wilmington, NC



Dangerous Cold Expected This Weekend

January 31, 2026
3:06 PM EST

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

www.weather.gov/ilm

@nswilmingtonnc







National Weather Service
Wilmington, NC



Threat/Impact Levels and Timing

January 31, 2026
3:06 PM EST

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

		Saturday		Saturday Night		Sunday		Sunday Night		Monday		Monday Night	
		Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Overnight	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Overnight	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Overnight
Hazardous Travel		1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Snow		1	2	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cold/Wind Chill		1	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Wind		1	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Coastal Flooding		0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Marine		1	2	2	3	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	0

Effects & Impacts Legend 0 - Little to no impact 1 - Minor Impact 2 - Moderate Impact 3 - High Impact 4 - Extreme impact



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

www.weather.gov/ilm
  
@nswilmingtonnc






National Weather Service
Wilmington, NC

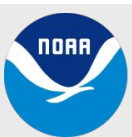


Situation Overview

January 31, 2026
3:06 PM 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	Today 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 through early next week. Tonight 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	Today 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 Today 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	Today through Sunday night

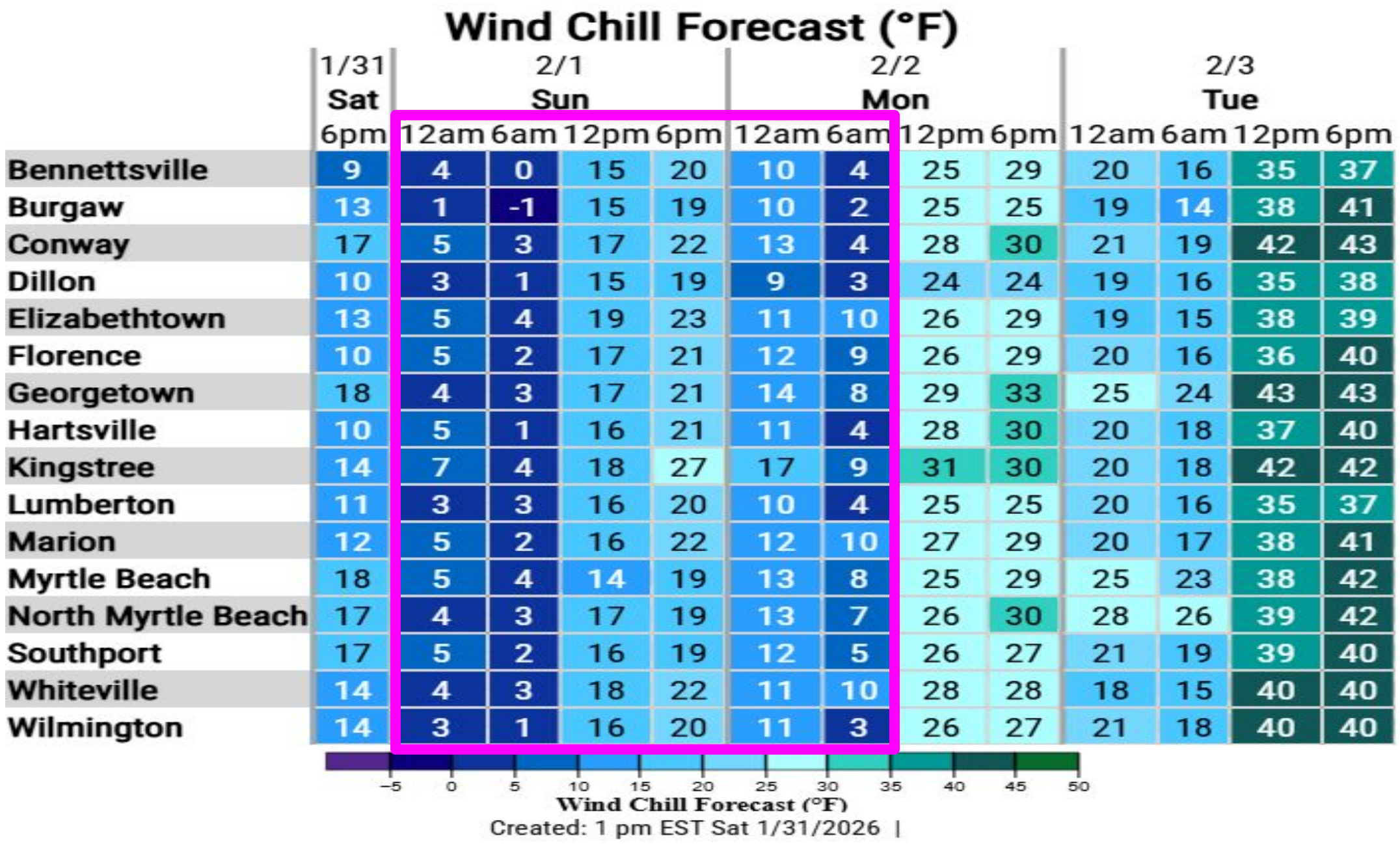




Dangerously Cold

January 31, 2026
3:06 PM EST

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina



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.





Expected Snowfall

January 31, 2026
3:06 PM EST

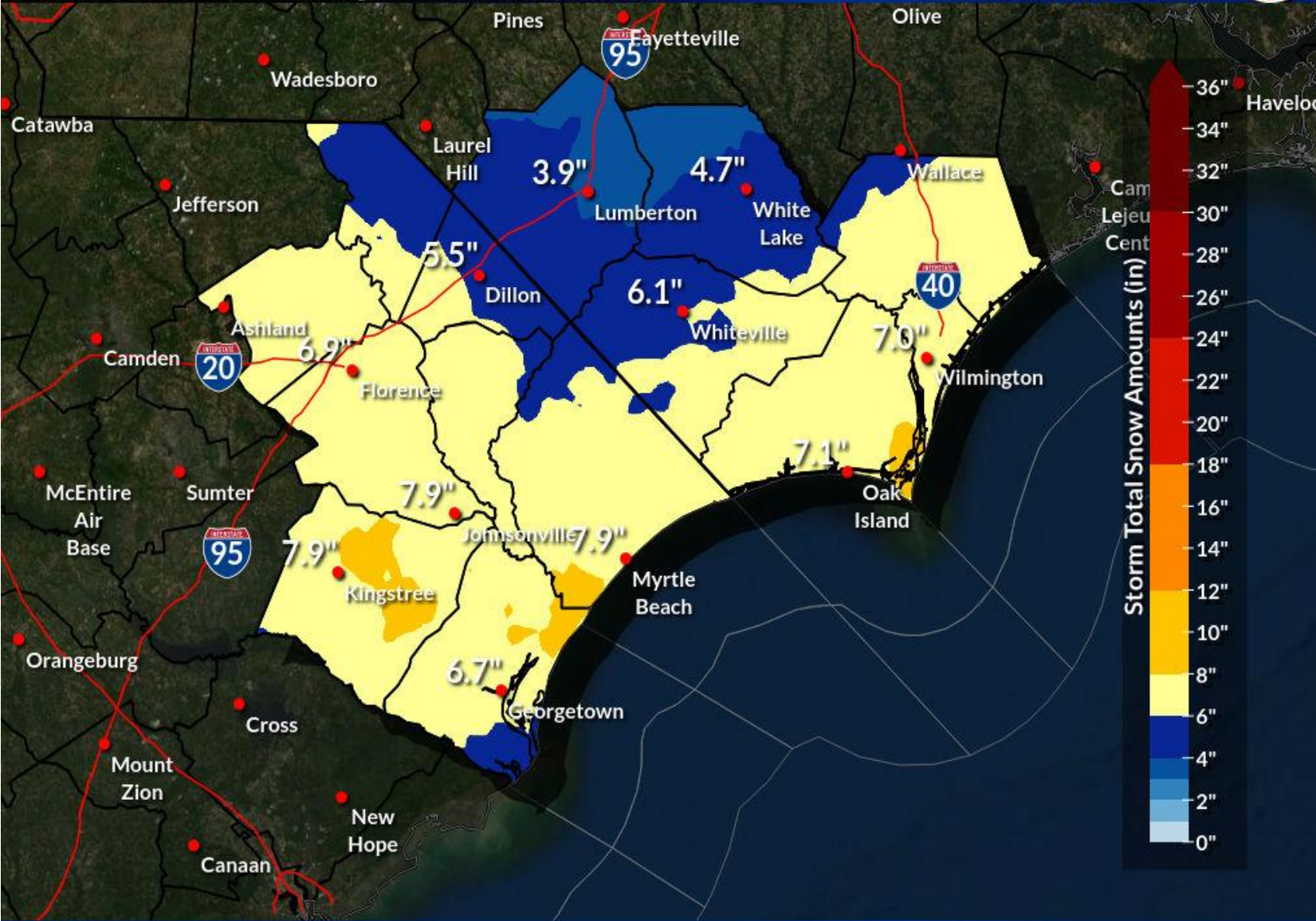
Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

Event Total Snow Accumulation

Valid 1 PM Sat Jan 31, 2026 through 7 PM Tue Feb 03, 2026 EST

Weather Forecast Office
Wilmington, NC

Issued Jan 31, 2026 1:47 PM EST



Timing and Amounts

- Heaviest snow and greatest impacts expected this evening and overnight.
- Event total snowfall of 4-8 expected. Heavy snow banding may produce localized higher amounts



Impacts

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

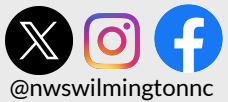
@NWSWilmingtonNC

weather.gov/ilm



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

www.weather.gov/ilm



National Weather Service
Wilmington, NC

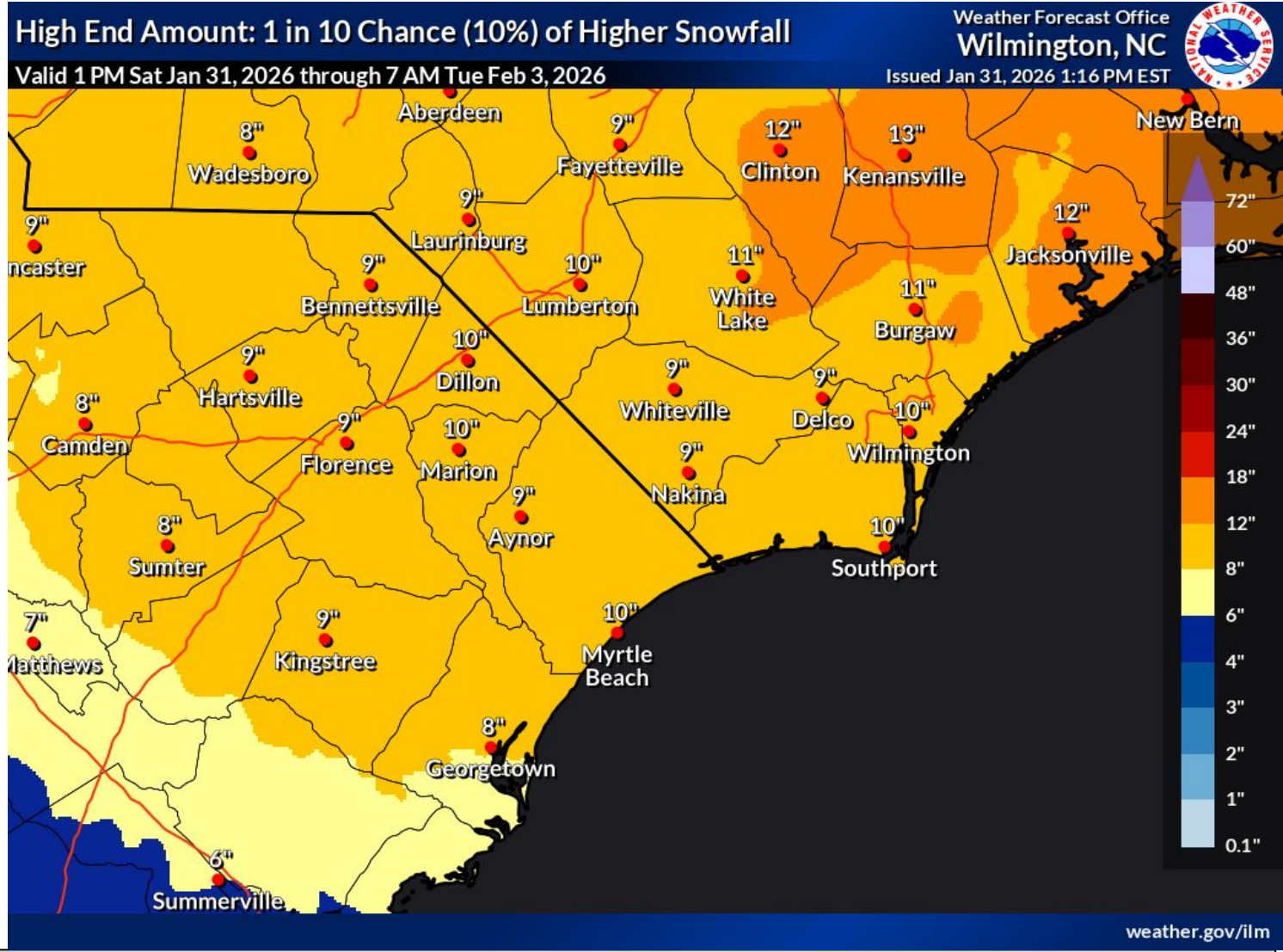
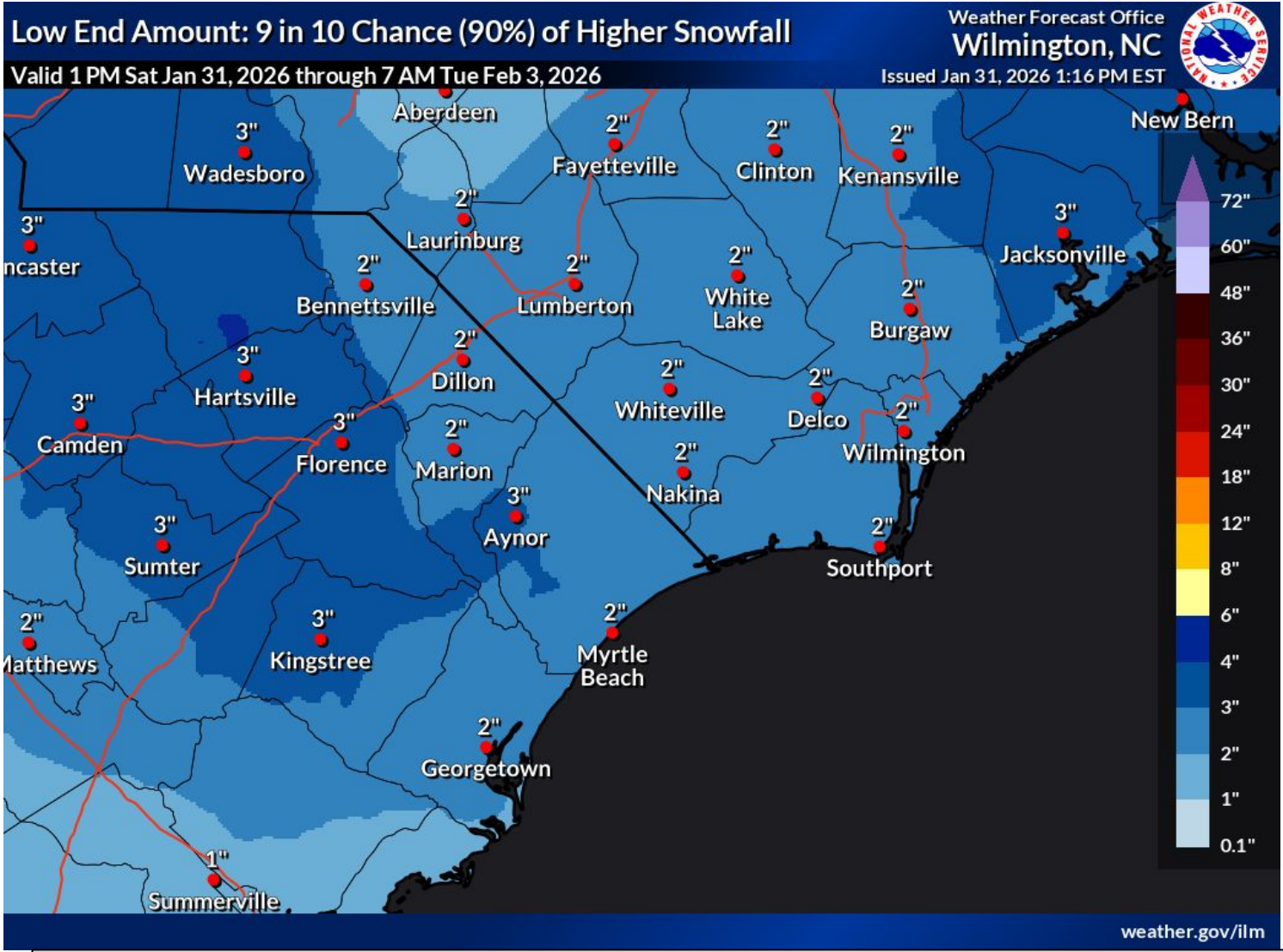


Range of Snowfall Possibilities

January 31, 2026
3:06 PM EST

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.





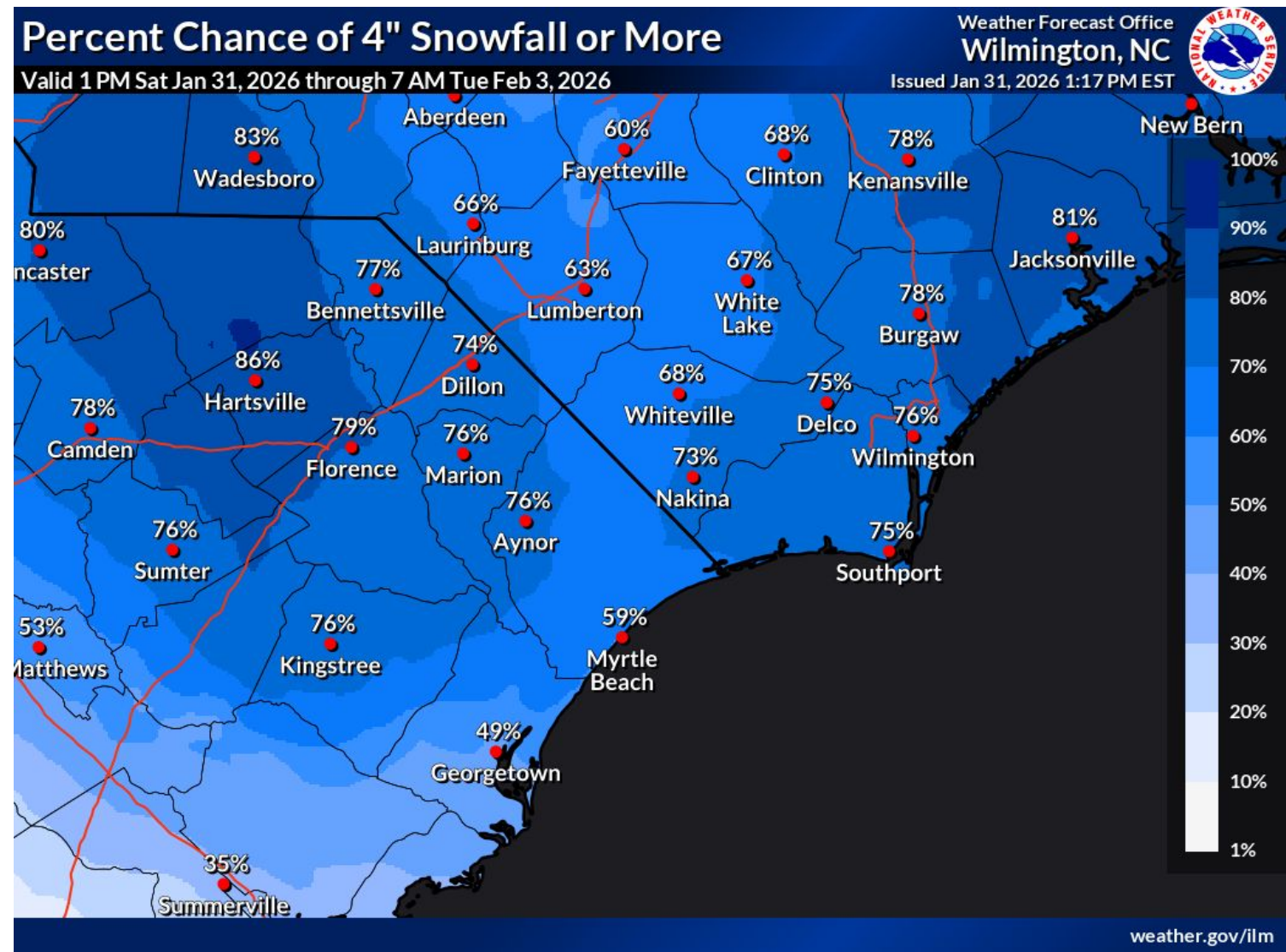
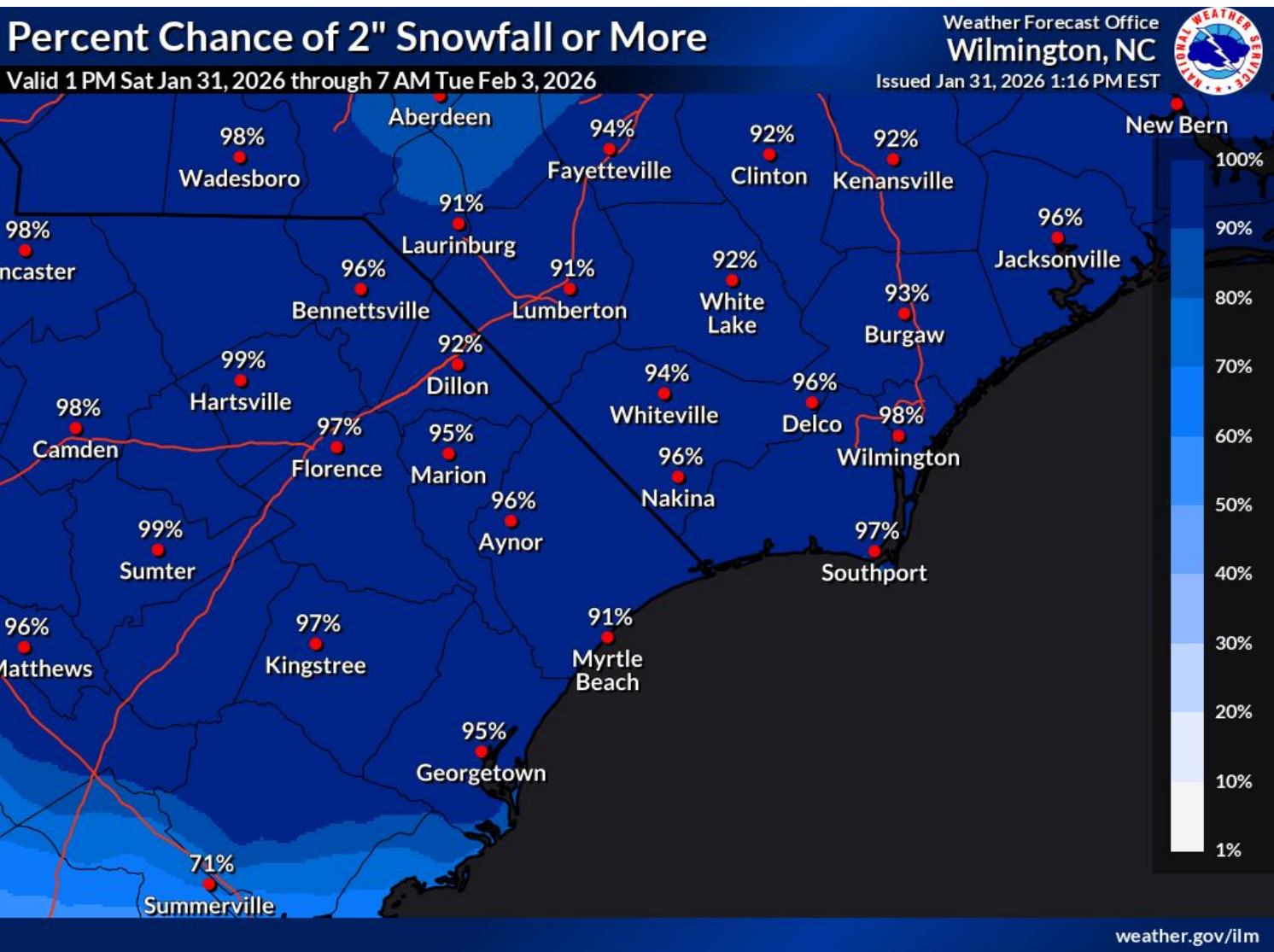
Probability of Snow Amounts

January 31, 2026
3:06 PM EST

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

Percent Chance of 2" Snow or More

Percent Chance of 4" Snow or More



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

www.weather.gov/ilm
@nwsilmingtonnc



National Weather Service
Wilmington, NC



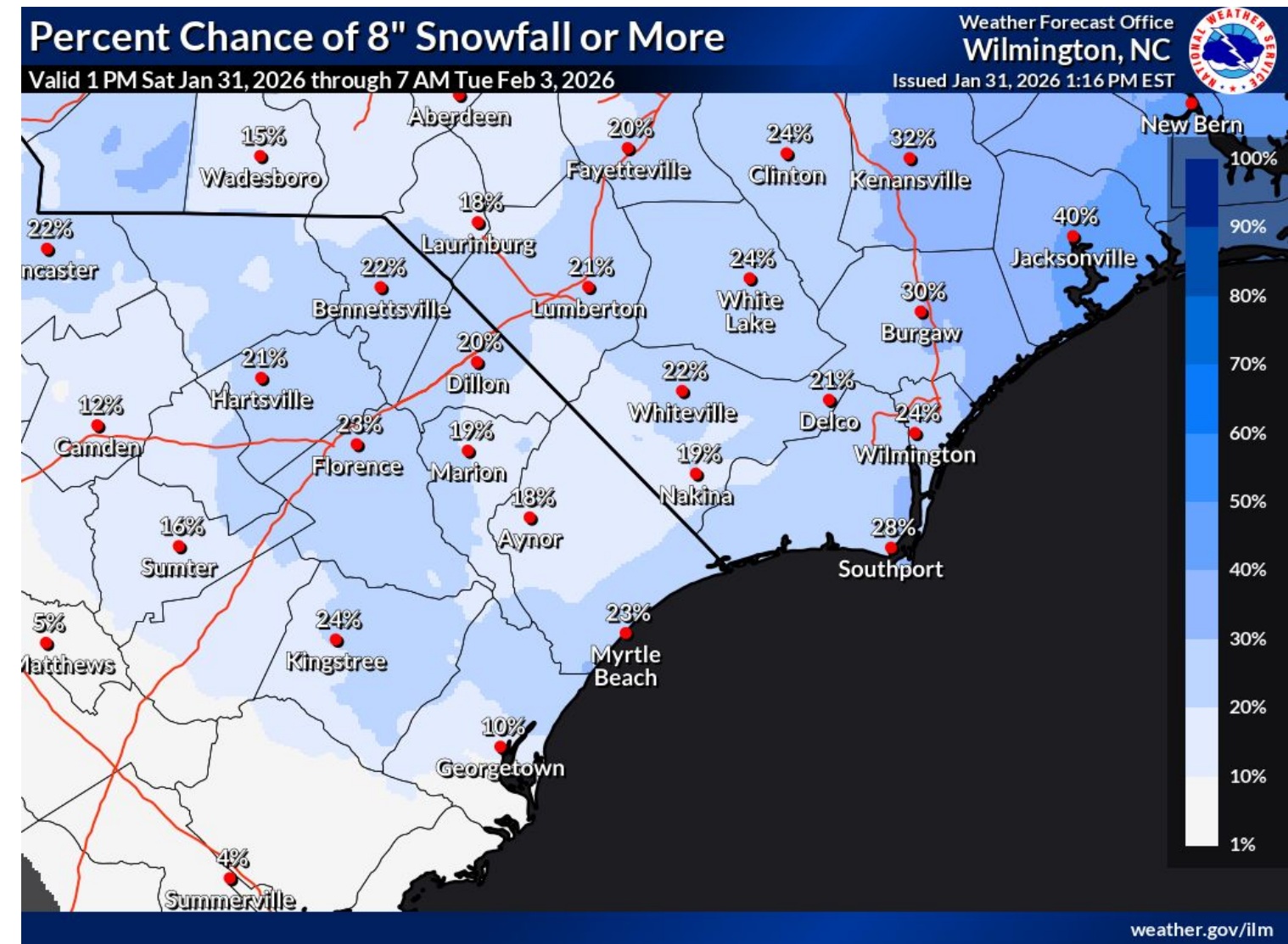
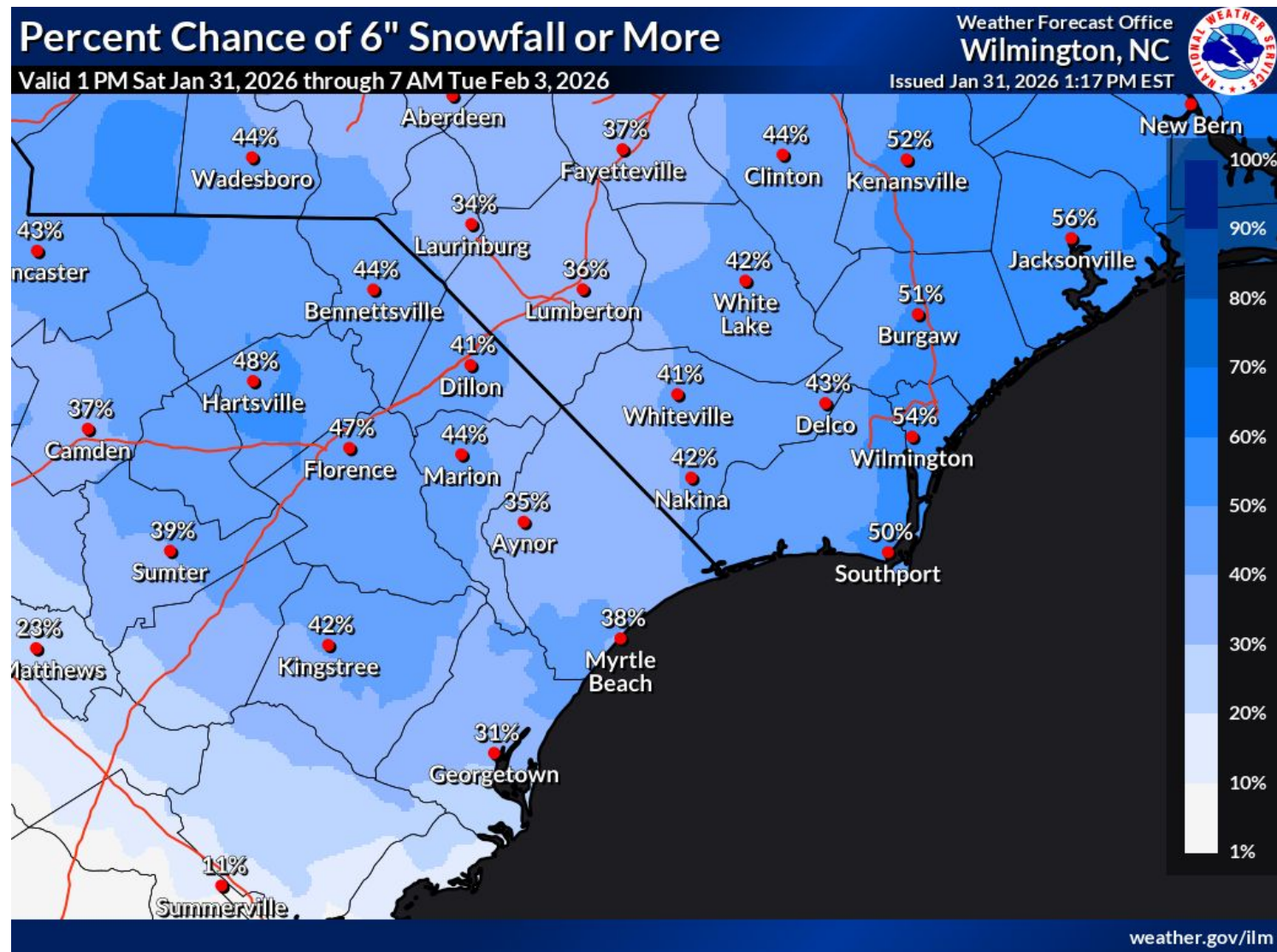
Probability of Snow Amounts

January 31, 2026
3:06 PM EST

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

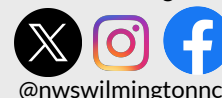
Percent Chance of 6" Snow or More

Percent Chance of 8" Snow or More



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

www.weather.gov/ilm



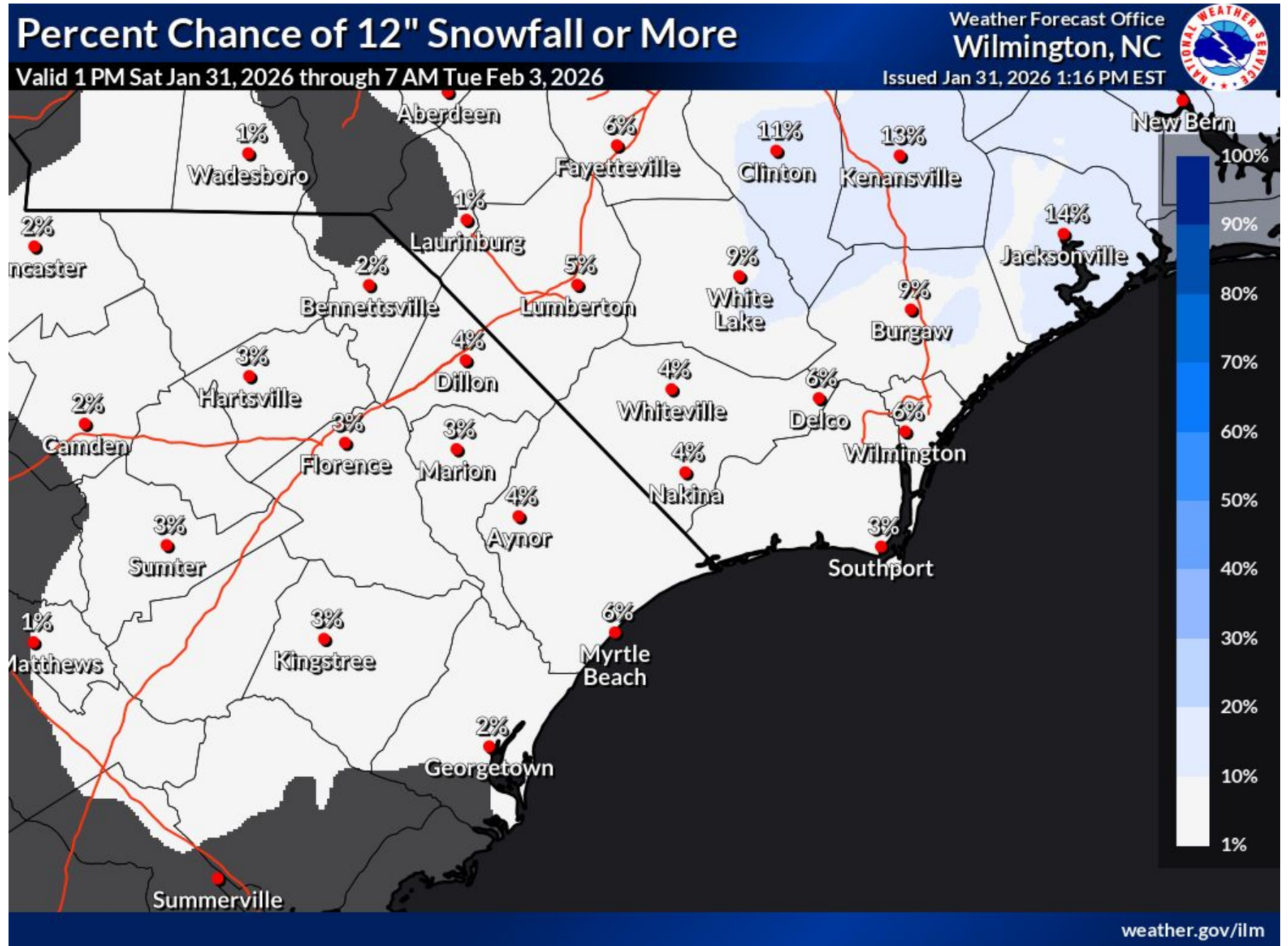
National Weather Service
Wilmington, NC



Probability of Snow Amounts

January 31, 2026
3:06 PM EST

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

www.weather.gov/ilm
@nwsilmingtonnc



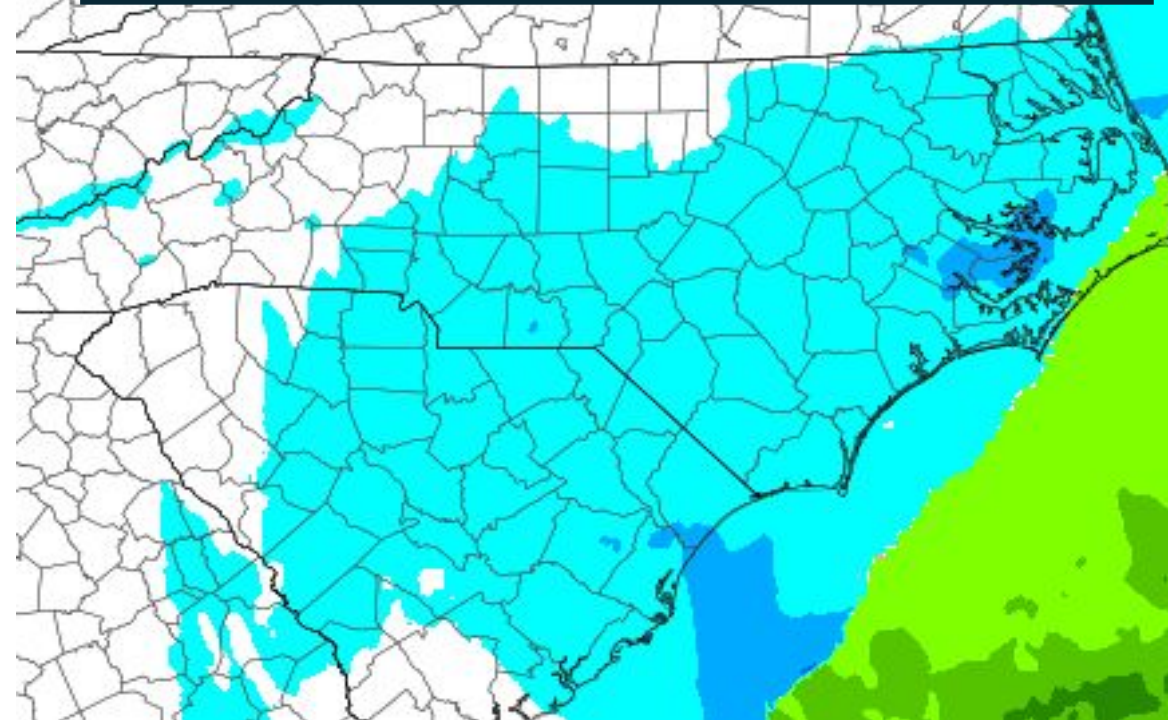
National Weather Service
Wilmington, NC

Timing Graphics

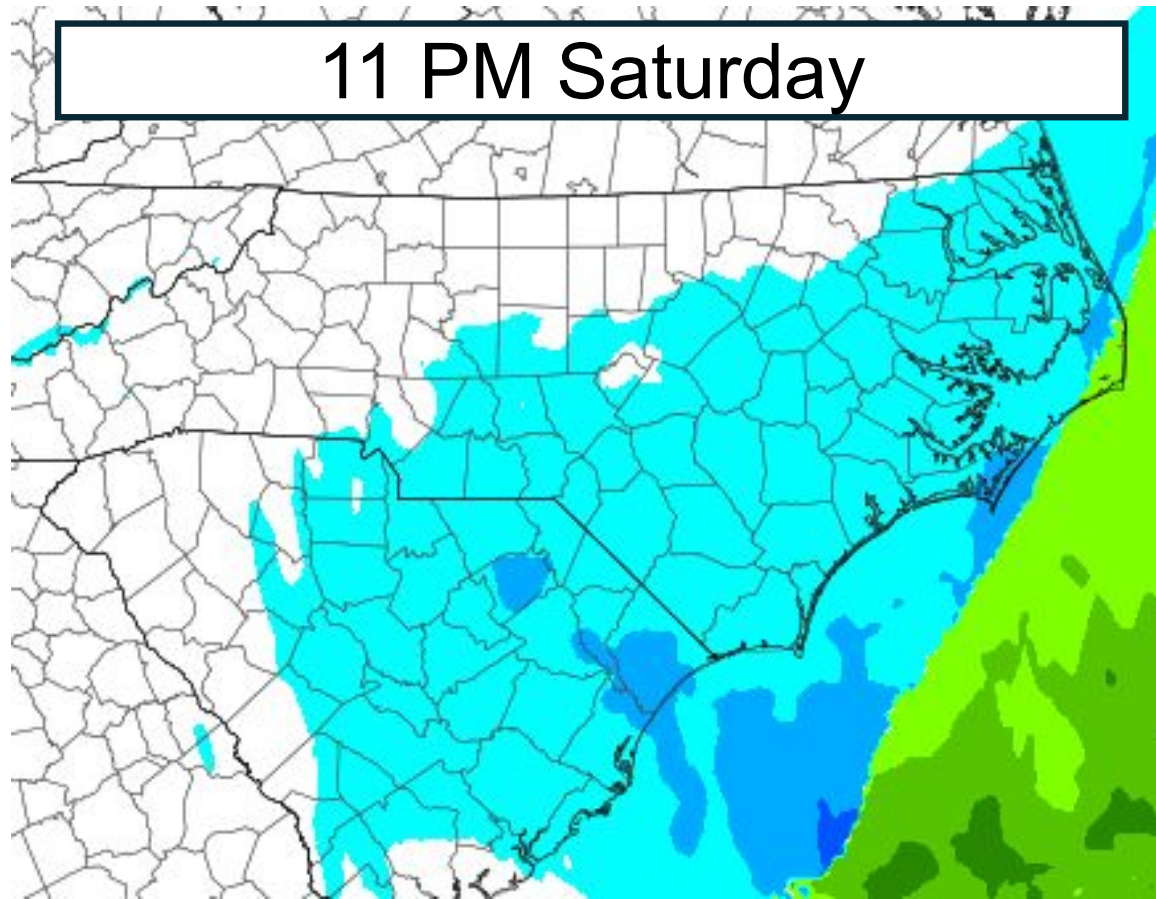
7 PM Saturday



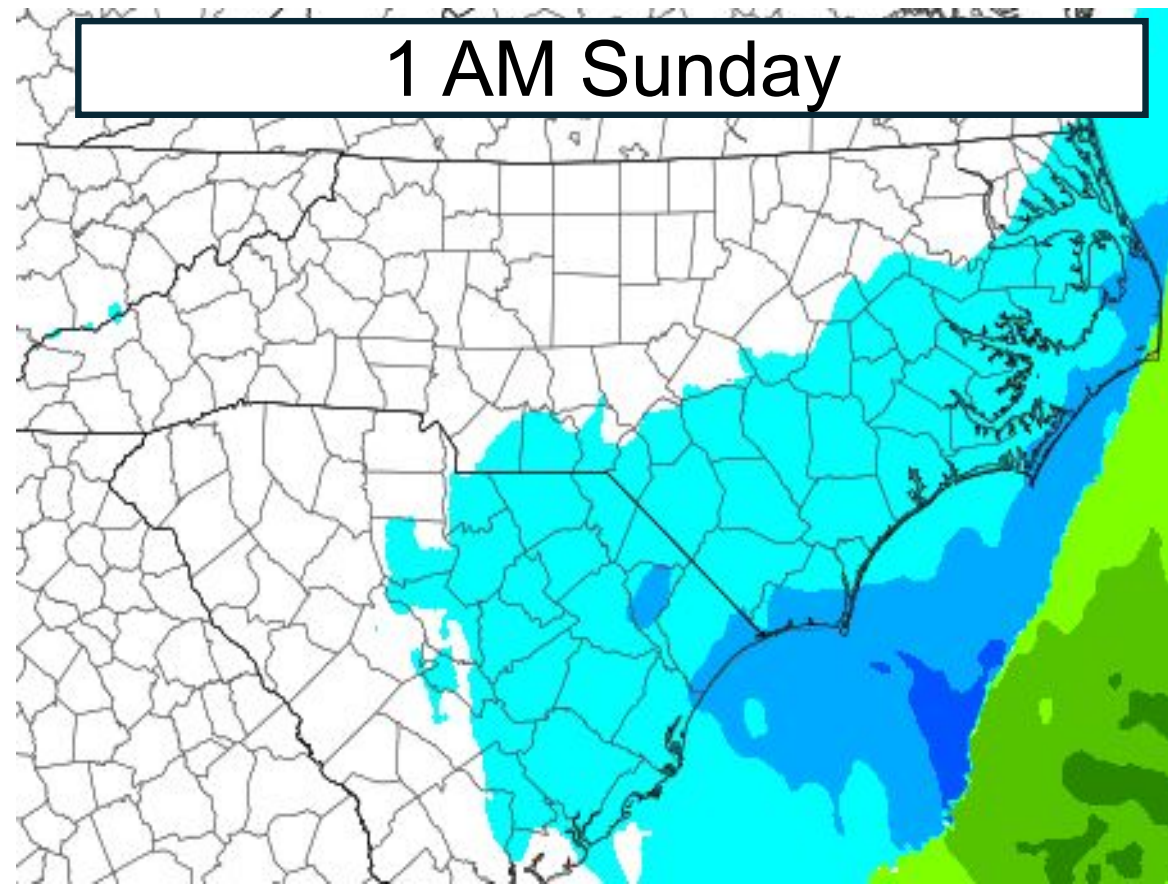
9 PM Saturday



11 PM Saturday



1 AM Sunday



Rain

0.01 0.1 0.25 1.0

Snow

0.01 0.05 0.1 0.2

Freezing Rain

0.01 0.05 0.1 0.2

Mix

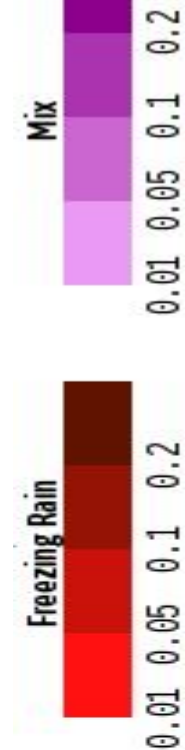
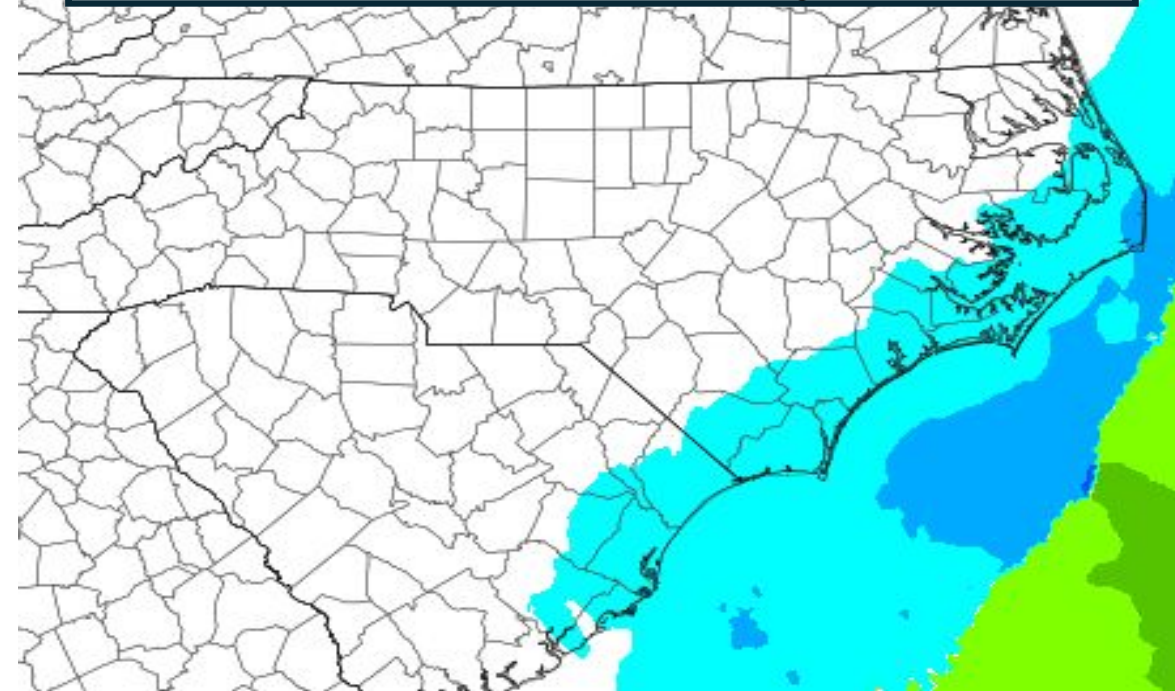
0.01 0.05 0.1 0.2

Timing Graphics

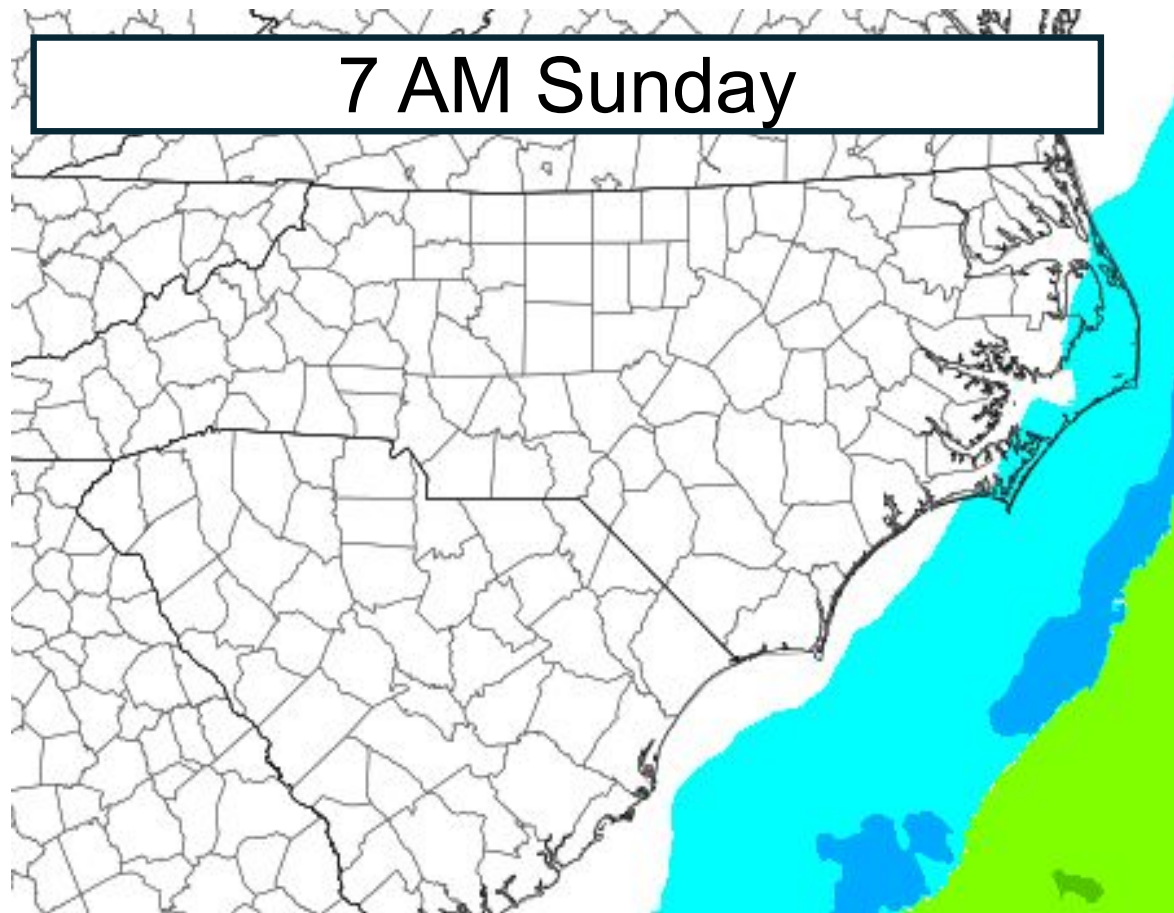
3 AM Sunday



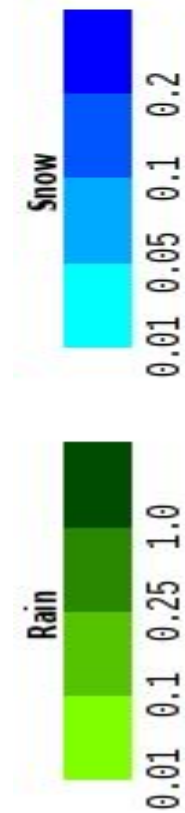
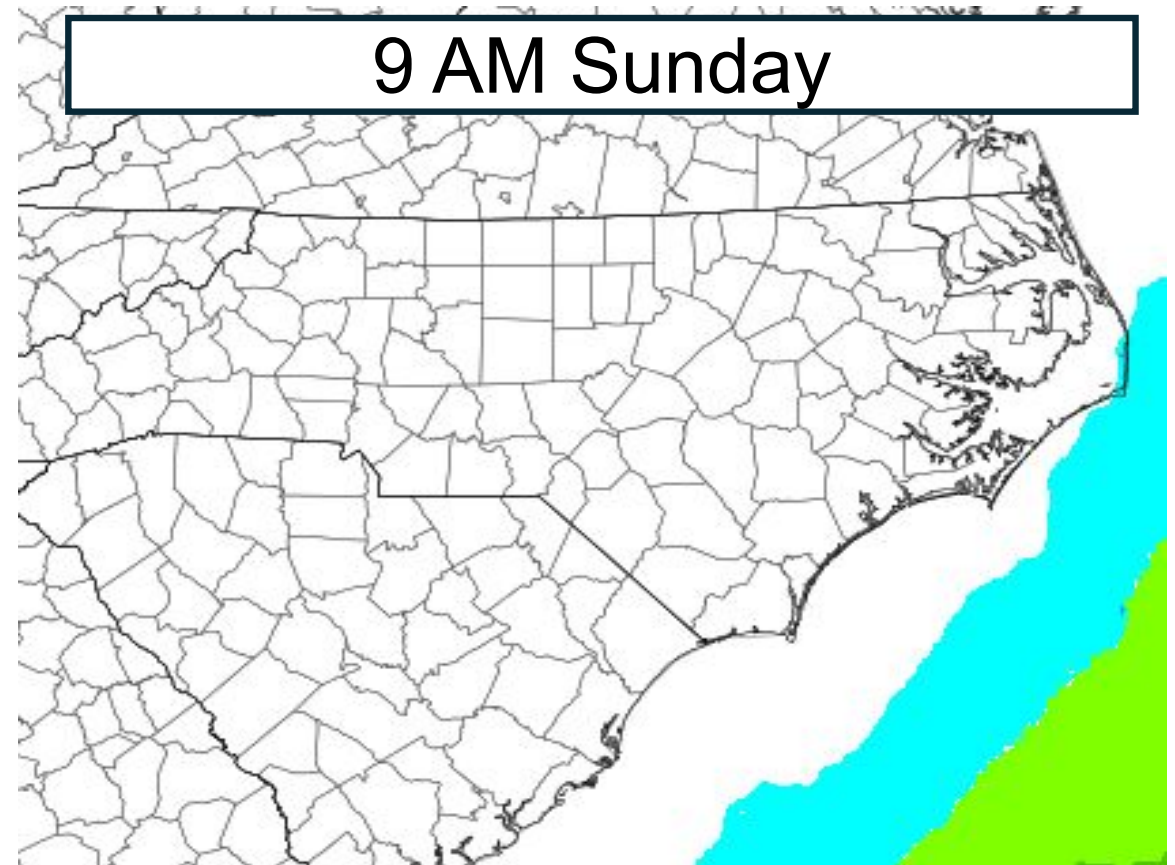
5 AM Sunday



7 AM Sunday



9 AM Sunday



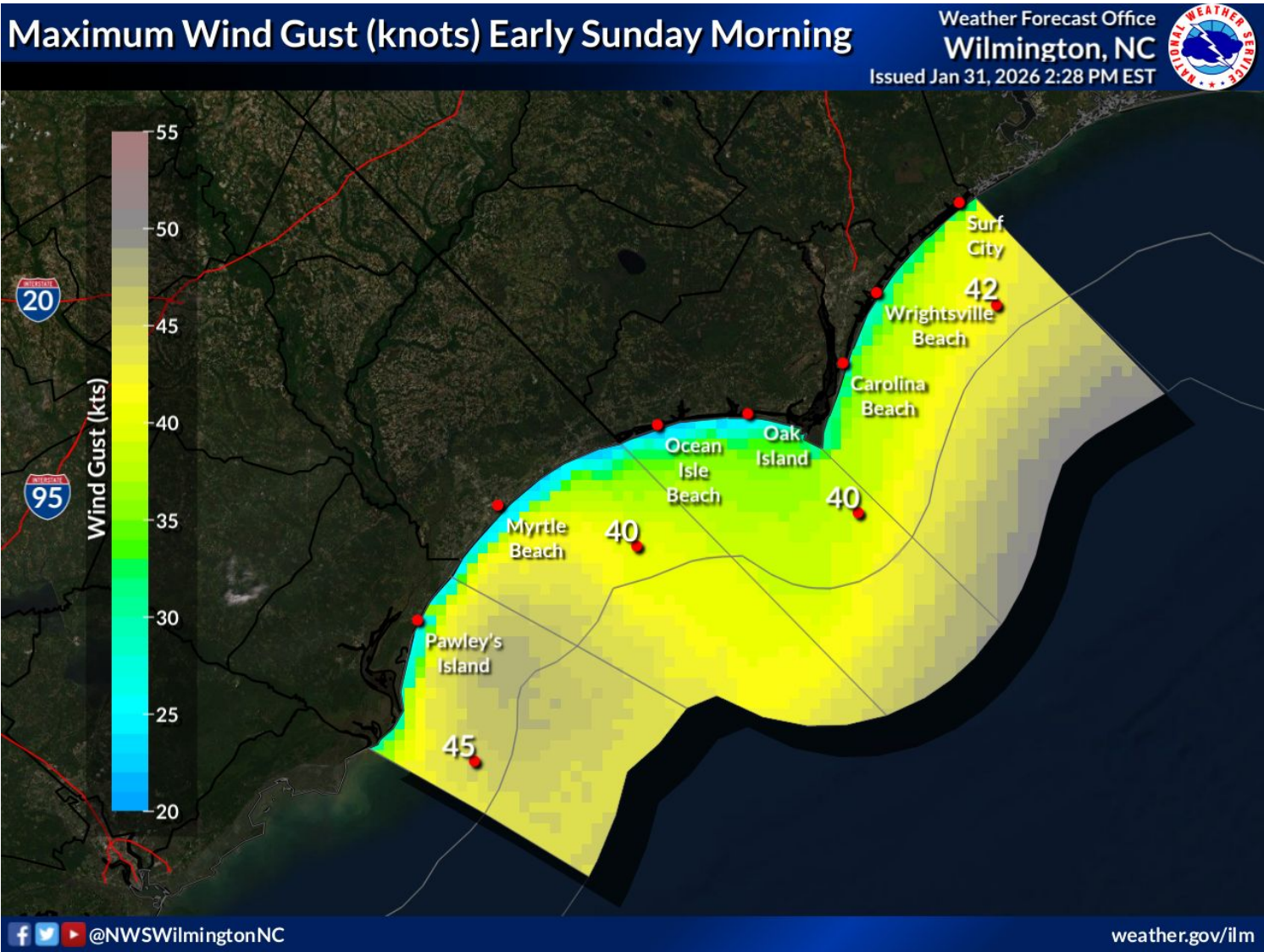


Marine Forecast

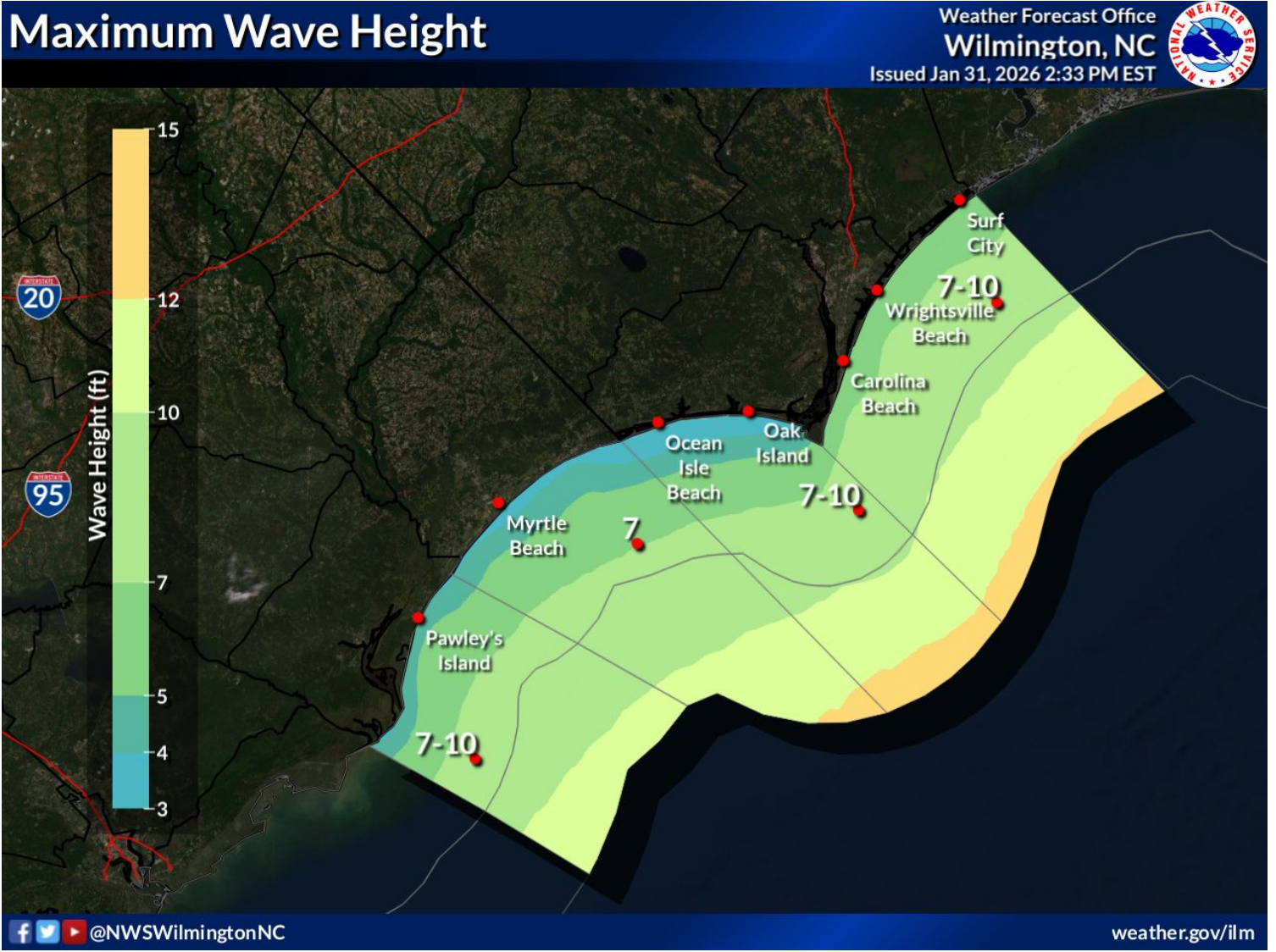
January 31, 2026
3:06 PM EST

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

Wind Gust Forecast



Wave Height Forecast



Timing Gale force winds (≥ 34 kts) are most likely late Saturday into early Sunday morning. Occasional storm force gusts (≥ 48 kts) possible, particularly from Surf City, NC to Little River Inlet, SC out 20 nautical miles.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

www.weather.gov/ilm

@nswilmingtonnc

National Weather Service
Wilmington, NC



Maximum Wind Gust

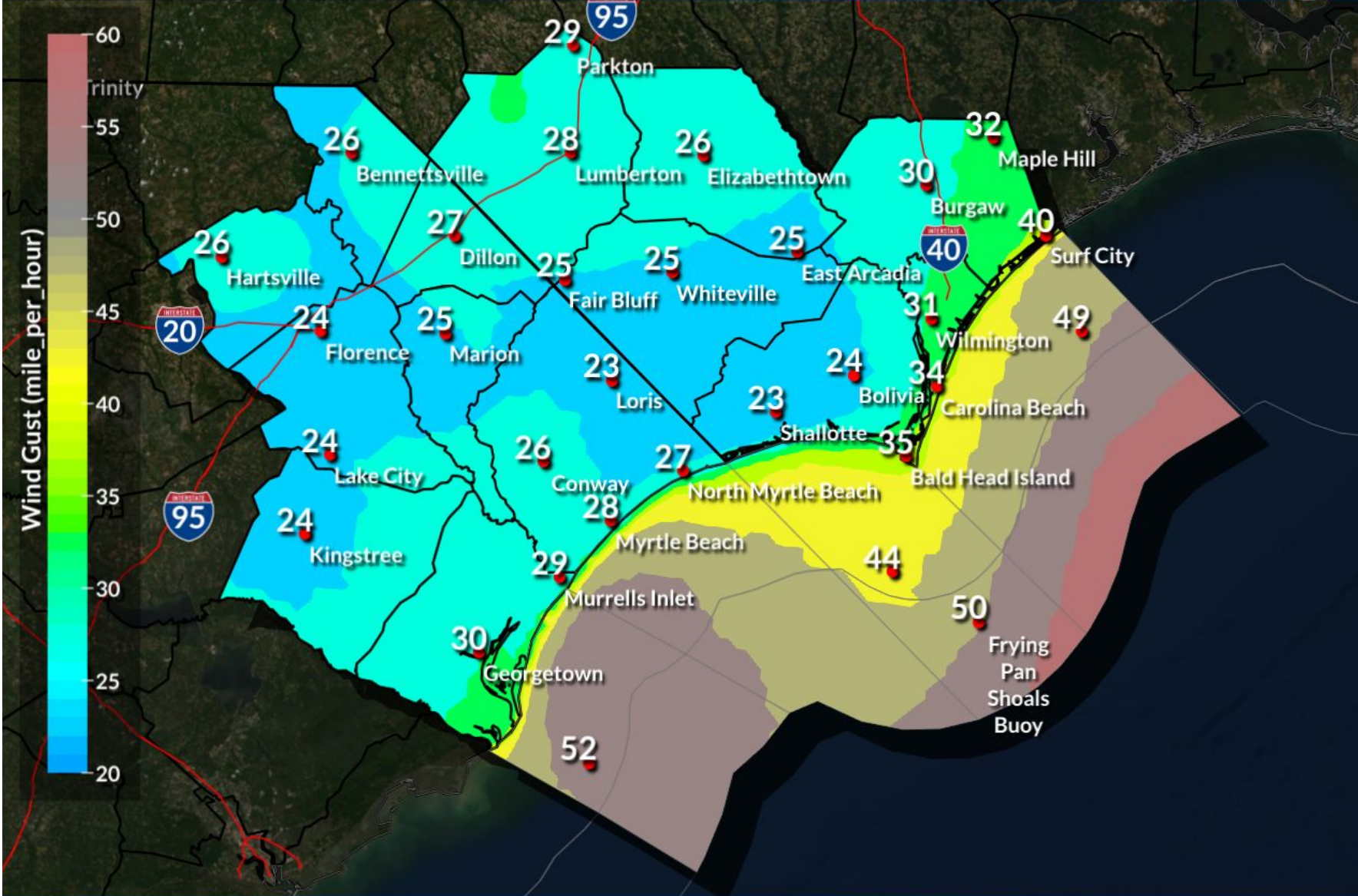
January 31, 2026
3:06 PM EST

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

Maximum Wind Gust

Through Mon 7:00PM EST

Weather Forecast Office
Wilmington, NC
Issued Jan 31, 2026 2:41 PM EST



@NWSWilmingtonNC

weather.gov/ilm



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 from fallen trees possible.

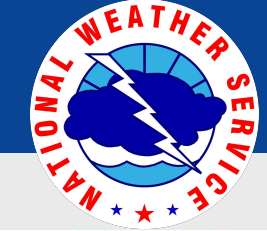


National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

www.weather.gov/ilm



National Weather Service
Wilmington, NC



Key Take-Aways

January 31, 2026
3:06 PM EST

Heaviest Snow and Greatest Impacts This Evening and Overnight



Significant snow is expected across northeast SC and southeast NC. Heavy snow banding may produce localized higher amounts.



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



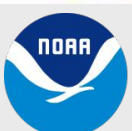
Due to expected prolonged cold, hazardous travel conditions could extend through the early to middle part of next week.

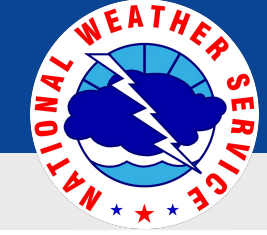


Strong gusty winds will result in blowing snow, possibly periods of white out conditions, causing poor visibility and reduced traction. Scattered power outages from fallen trees may occur but widespread outages are not expected.



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





January 31, 2026
3:06 PM EST

Preparedness/Safety Info

National Weather Service Wilmington, NC

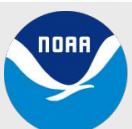


Indoor Winter Safety

Check your smoke/carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. The danger of CO poisoning is greater during the winter when doors and windows stay closed and fireplaces and gas heaters are in use. You can also be exposed to deadly CO levels when “warming up” your car in the garage or when snow covers your tail pipe.

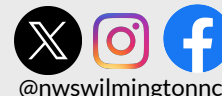


Visit weather.gov/winter



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

www.weather.gov/ilm



National Weather Service
Wilmington, NC



Contact and Next Briefing Information

January 31, 2026
3:06 PM

Next Briefing:

This is the Last Special Event Briefing
Resume Routine Daily Briefings Sunday



→ weather.gov/ilm/briefing
→ weather.gov/ilm/winter



Web: weather.gov/ilm



Phone: (910) 762-4289



E-mail: ilm.webmaster@noaa.gov



Facebook: [NWSWilmingtonNC](#)



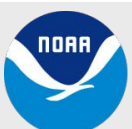
X: [NWSWilmingtonNC](#)



YouTube: [NWSWilmingtonNC](#)



Disclaimer: Information contained in this briefing is time-sensitive. Do Not Use After: 6:00 AM, Sunday Feb. 1, 2026



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Wilmington, NC