



# Winter Weather Briefing

January 28, 2026

2:59 PM EST

For Southeast North Carolina and Northeast South Carolina

## Decision Support Briefing #1

→ As of 2:59 PM Wednesday January 28, 2026

NEW

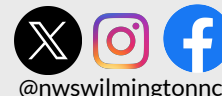
## Important Updates

- High confidence in extremely cold air for the area this weekend, creating significant, rare wind chills.
- High confidence in hazardous winds and seas for the coastal waters over the weekend, creating dangerous conditions for mariners.
- Increasing confidence of snow for the area, but low confidence on the specific amounts and impacts.



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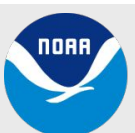


# Key Messages

January 28, 2026  
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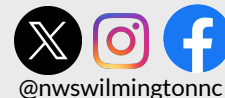
Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

- Some of the coldest Arctic air recorded this winter season will start settling into the area Friday, remaining into early next week.
- Gale force winds likely over the coastal waters late Saturday into Sunday, with a few gusts up to storm force possible.
- Dangerous cold will create wind chills in the single digits Saturday night and Sunday night.
- Low pressure will form just offshore over the weekend, creating a potentially significant winter storm in the Carolinas Saturday and Sunday.
- Specific details regarding snowfall totals remain quite uncertain. Snow will be the dominate precipitation type.

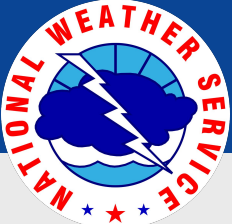


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# Threat/Impact Levels and Timing

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Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

|                   |   | Friday  |           | Friday Night |           | Saturday |           | Saturday Night |           | Sunday  |           | Sunday Night |           |
|-------------------|---|---------|-----------|--------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
|                   |   | Morning | Afternoon | Evening      | Overnight | Morning  | Afternoon | Evening        | Overnight | Morning | Afternoon | Evening      | Overnight |
| Hazardous Travel  |    | 0       | 0         | 0            | 1         | 1        | 2         | 2              | 3         | 3       | 2         | 2            | 2         |
| Snow              |    | 0       | 0         | 0            | 1         | 2        | 2         | 2              | 2         | 2       | 1         | 0            | 0         |
| Freezing Rain/Ice |    | 0       | 0         | 0            | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0              | 0         | 0       | 0         | 0            | 0         |
| Cold/Wind Chill   |    | 1       | 0         | 1            | 2         | 1        | 0         | 2              | 3         | 3       | 0         | 2            | 3         |
| Wind              |   | 0       | 0         | 0            | 1         | 1        | 1         | 1              | 1         | 1       | 0         | 0            | 0         |
| Coastal Flooding  |  | 0       | 0         | 0            | 0         | 1        | 0         | 1              | 0         | 1       | 0         | 1            | 0         |
| Marine            |  | 0       | 0         | 0            | 1         | 1        | 2         | 2              | 3         | 3       | 2         | 1            | 1         |

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



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# Situation Overview

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## Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

| Hazard           |   | Impacts  | Location   | Timing  |
|------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Snow             |    | Hazardous driving conditions possible. Closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur. | Northeast SC & Southeast NC  | Saturday into Sunday                                      |
| Ice/Mixed        |    | Very little to no impacts.   | Northeast SC & Southeast NC  | Saturday into Sunday                                      |
| Cold/Wind Chill  |   | Frostbite on exposed skin and hypothermia can occur.   | Northeast SC & Southeast NC  | Each night Friday through early next week                 |
| Strong Winds     |  | 25-35 mph gusts may add stress to snow-covered objects.                                      | Northeast SC & Southeast NC  | Late Saturday 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.                           | Coastal waters from Surf City, NC to South Santee River, SC out 20 nm    | Saturday through Sunday night                             |







# Forecast Wind Chills

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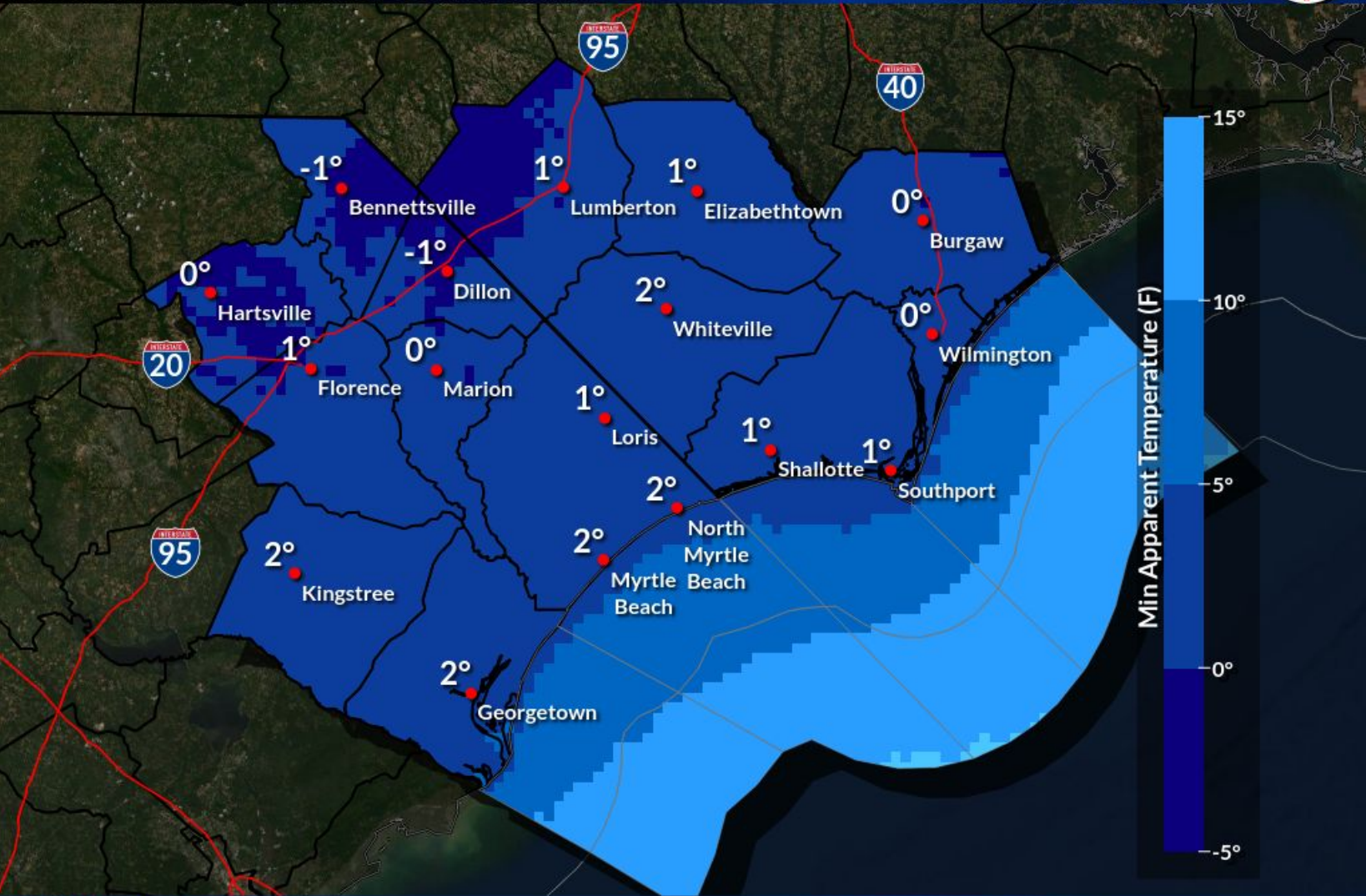
Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

## Min Wind Chill

Forecast valid from Sat 8:00PM EST to Sun 8:00PM EST

Weather Forecast Office  
Wilmington, NC

Issued Jan 28, 2026 1:28 PM EST



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## Timing

- Dangerous wind chills expected at night throughout the weekend.
- Saturday night looks to be the worst, where wind chills could drop down near or below 0°F.



## Impacts

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



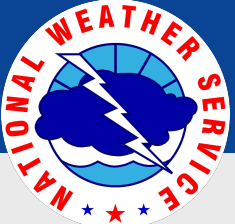
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# Winter Storm Severity Index

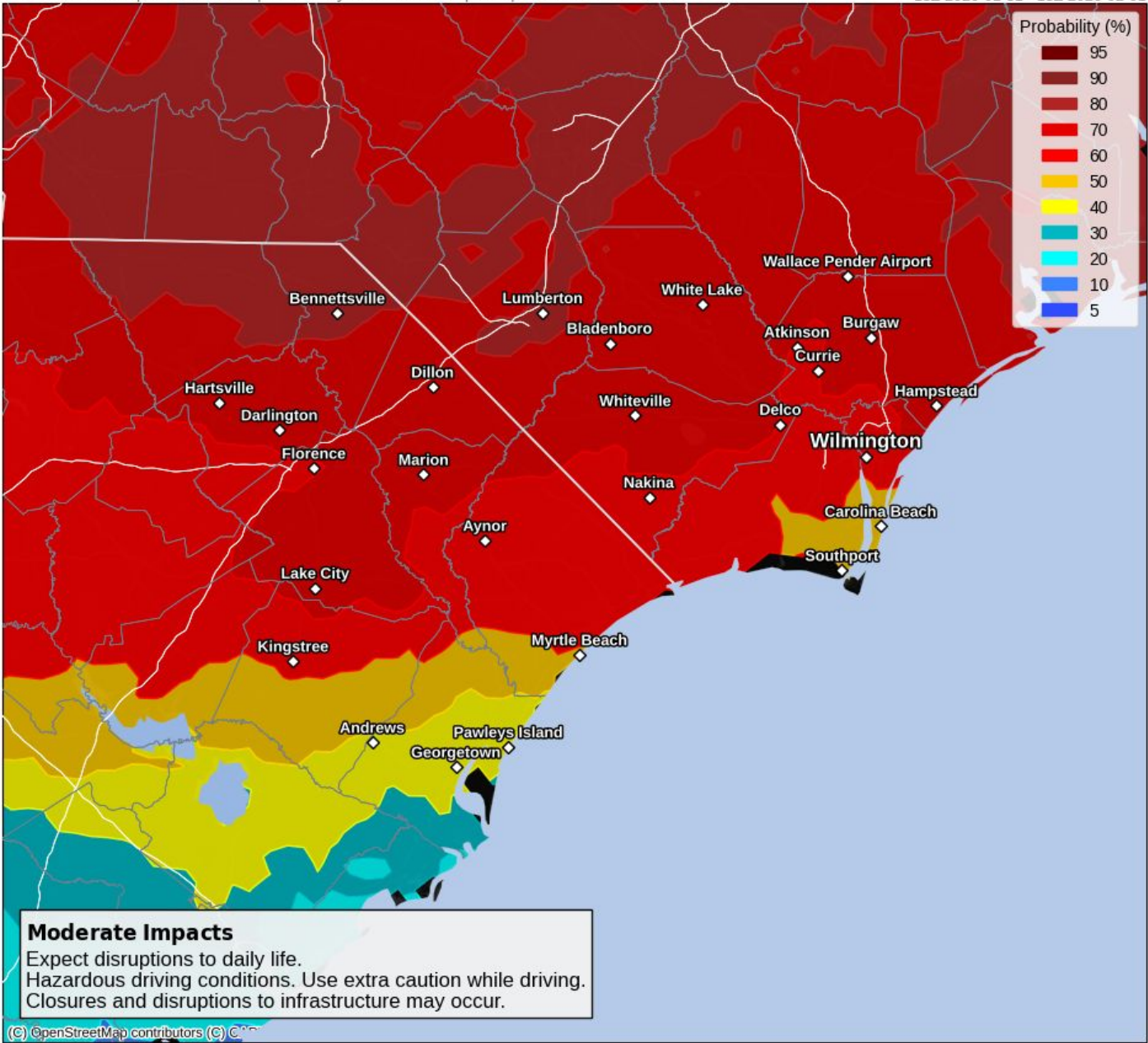
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## Potential for Moderate Winter Weather Impacts

### Probabilistic WSSI Forecast

WPC WSSI Component: Overall | Probability of Moderate Impacts | Init 14Z 28-Jan-2026

Valid 18Z 2026-01-31 - 18Z 2026-02-01

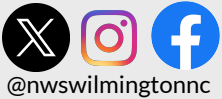


- Between the extreme cold and the potential snow, there is a 50-70% chance for at least moderate winter weather impacts across the area this weekend.
- Moderate impacts: Hazardous driving conditions and closures/disruptions to infrastructure may occur.



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# Winter Storm Severity Index

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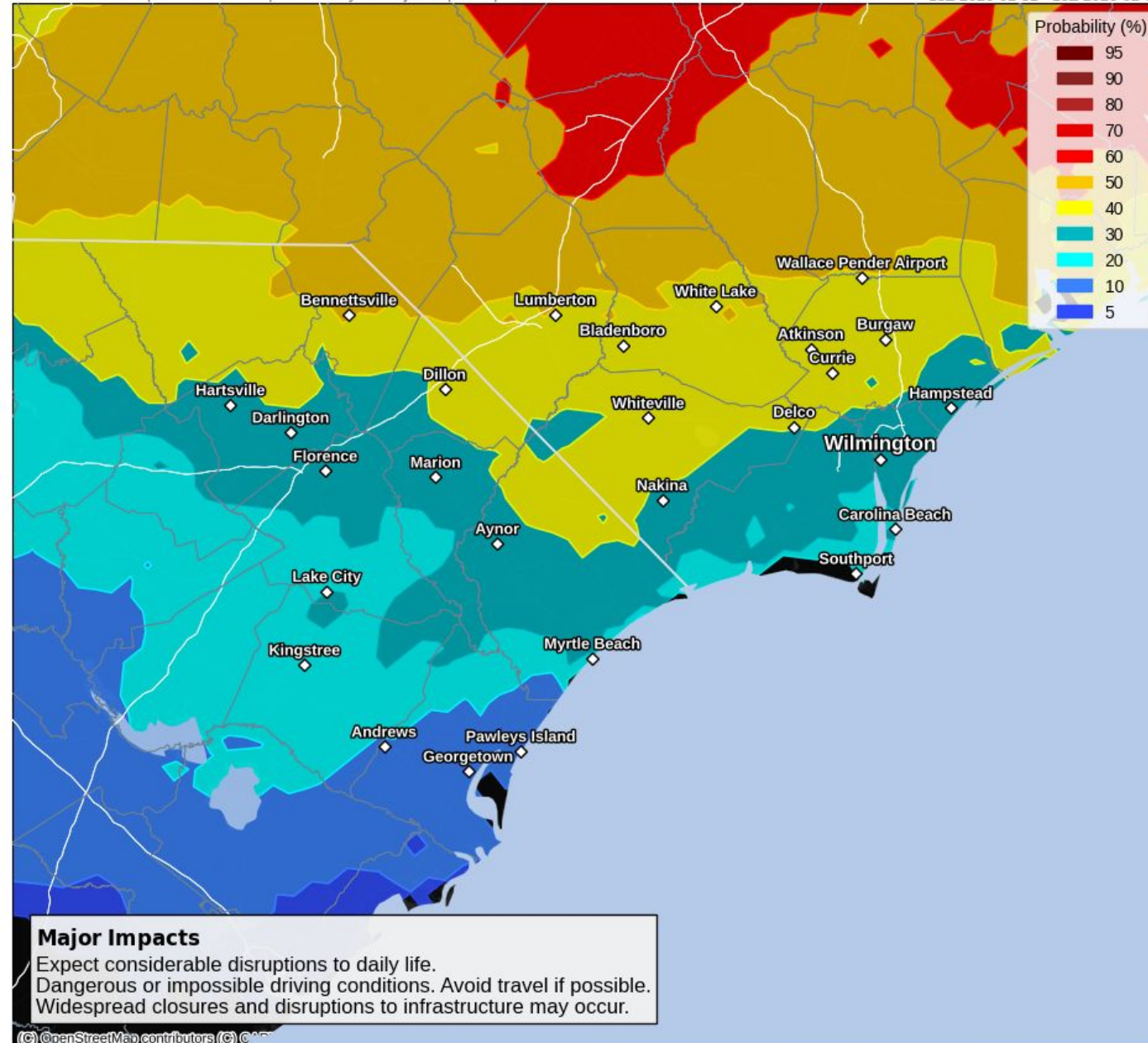
2:59 PM EST

## Potential for Major Winter Weather Impacts

### Probabilistic WSSI Forecast

WPC WSSI Component: Overall | Probability of Major Impacts | Init 14Z 28-Jan-2026

Valid 18Z 2026-01-31 - 18Z 2026-02-01



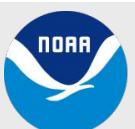
→ Between the extreme cold and the potential snow, there is a 30-50% chance for at least major winter weather impacts across the area this weekend.

→ Major impacts:

**Expect considerable** disruptions to daily life.

Dangerous driving conditions possible. **Avoid travel if possible.**

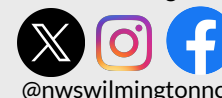
Widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.



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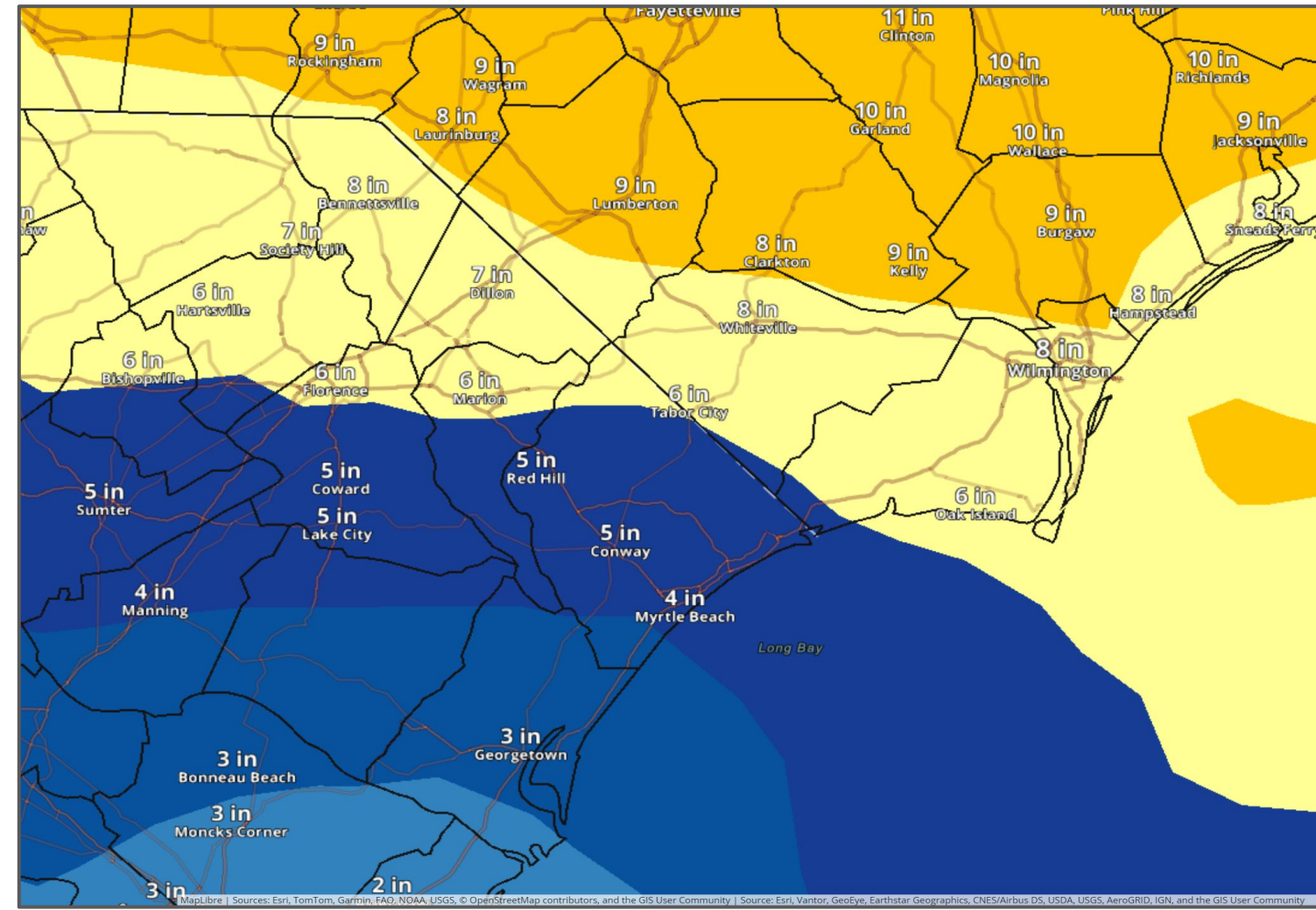
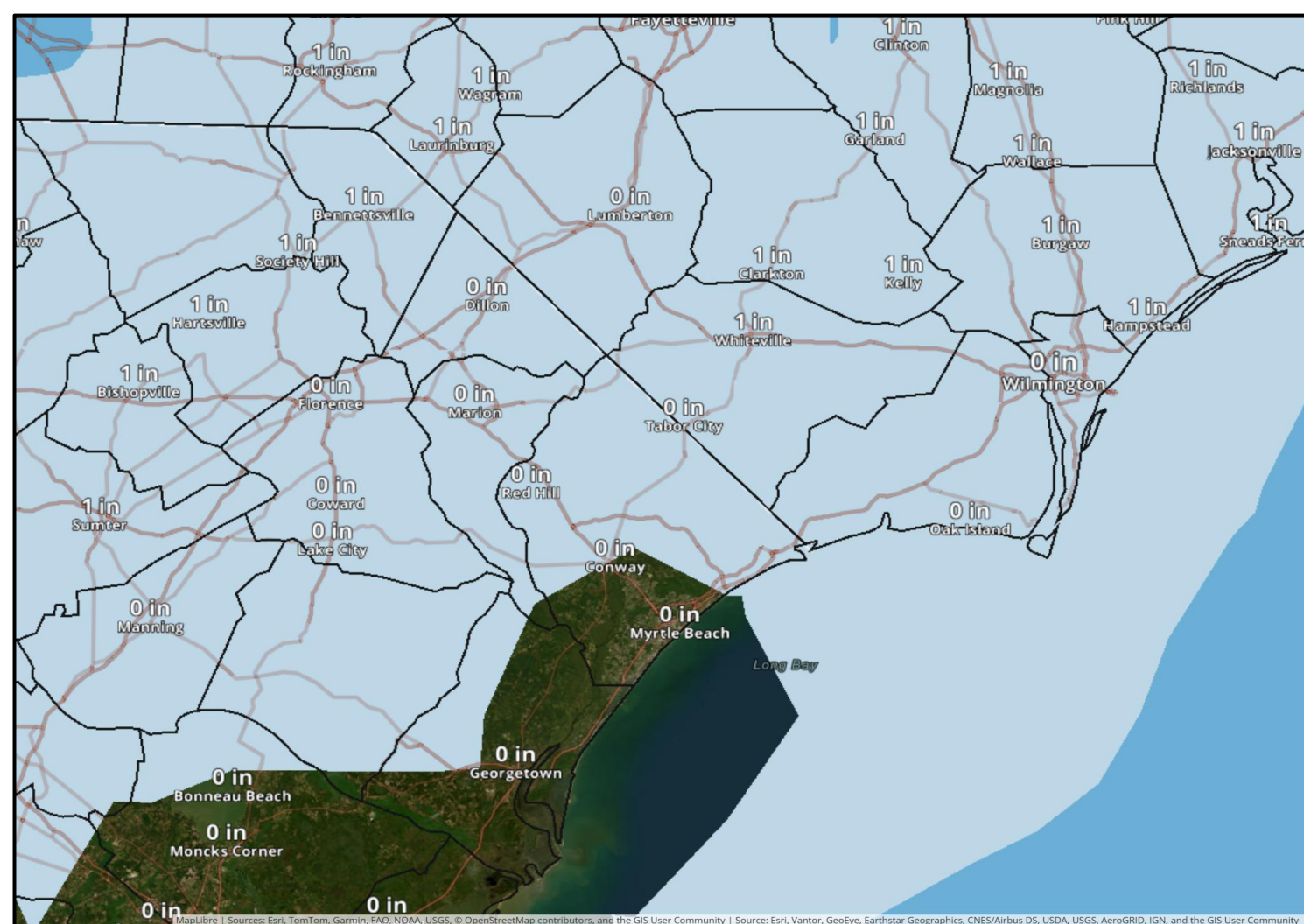
# Range of Snowfall Possibilities

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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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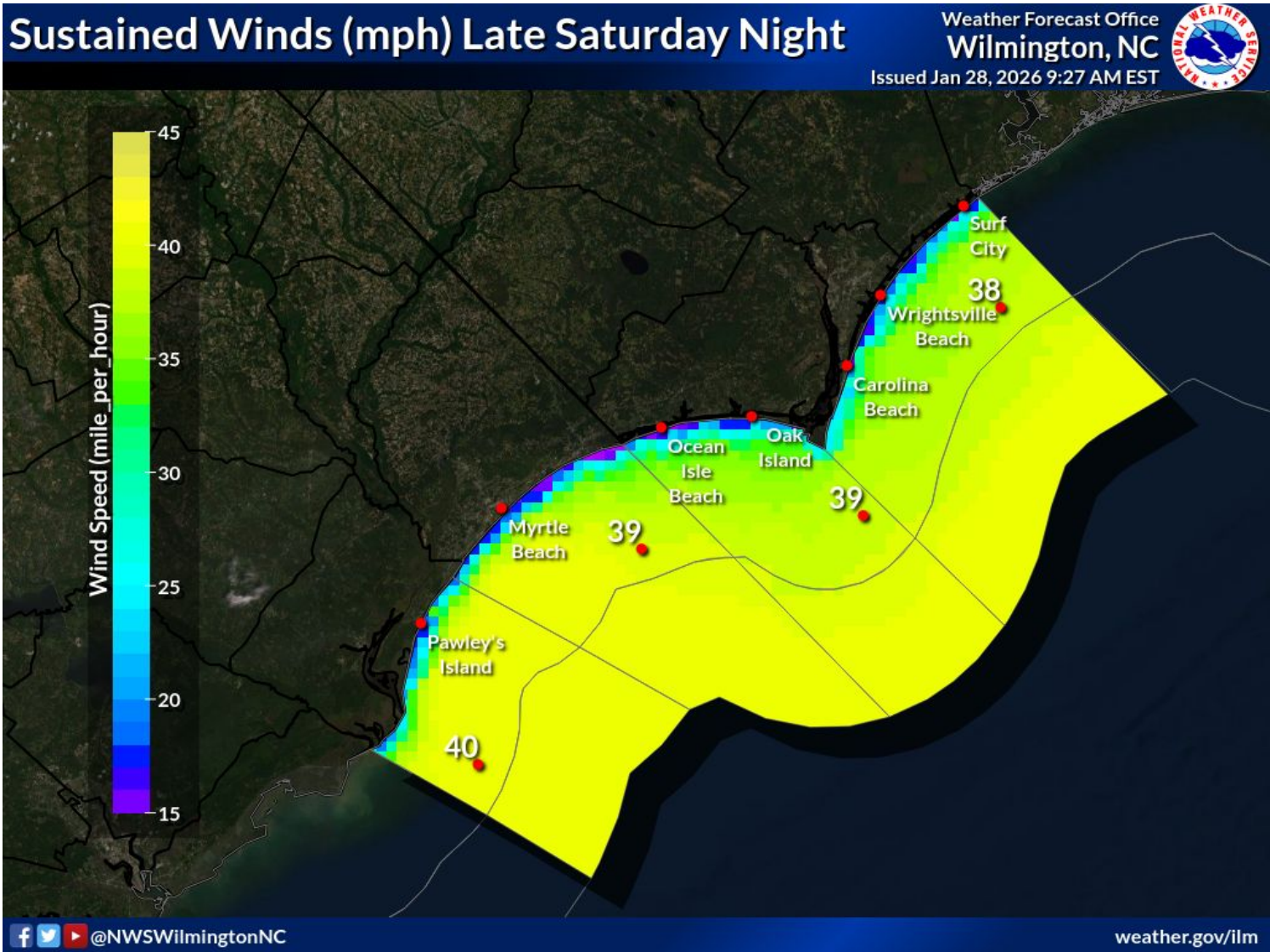


# Marine Forecast

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Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

## Wind Gust Forecast



### Timing

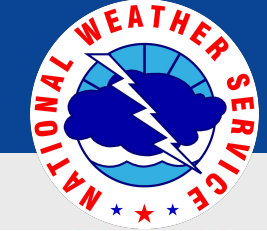
- Hazardous winds and seas start building in late Friday night, continuing through Sunday night.
- Gale force winds ( $\geq 34$  kts) are most likely late Saturday into Sunday. Occasional storm force gusts ( $\geq 48$  kts) possible.



### Impacts

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





# Key Take-Aways

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Confidence is HIGH that the event will occur  
Confidence is LOW regarding impacts over land



Snow is possible across northeast SC and southeast NC. Southeast NC may record the higher amounts.



Extremely cold temperatures bring wind chills well into the single digits, potentially near 0°F Saturday night.



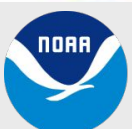
Due to expected prolonged cold, hazardous travel conditions could extend through the early to middle part of next week.



Gusty winds may add stress to snow-covered objects.



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







# Preparedness/Safety Info

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adding layers will help keep you warm as the temperature drops

## DRESSING FOR COLD WEATHER

### CHILLY

1-2 layers  
long layer  
outer layer to keep out wind, rain  
warm shoes water proof

[weather.gov/safety](https://weather.gov/safety)

### COLD

2-3 layers  
gloves  
warm hat  
outer layer to keep out wind, wet snow  
boots water proof  
1-2 layers

### EXTREME COLD

3+ layers  
1 insulating  
gloves  
warm hat  
face mask  
outer layer to keep out wind  
boots water proof  
2+ layers



## 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.



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 **Next Briefing:**  
**Thursday 8:30 AM EST**



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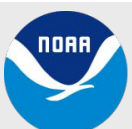
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