



# Winter Weather Briefing

For Southeast North Carolina and Northeast South Carolina

January 29, 2026  
3:00 PM EST

## Decision Support Briefing #4

→ As of 3:00 PM Thursday January 29, 2026

NEW

### Important Updates

- **New:** Extreme Cold Watch has been issued for the entire area.
- **New:** Gale Watch has been issued for from Surf City, NC to Little River Inlet, SC out 20 nautical miles.
- A Winter Storm Watch remains in effect for the entire area.
- High confidence in extreme 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 for significant snow and associated impacts.



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# Key Messages

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

January 29, 2026  
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- Dangerous cold will create wind chills in the single digits 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 29, 2026  
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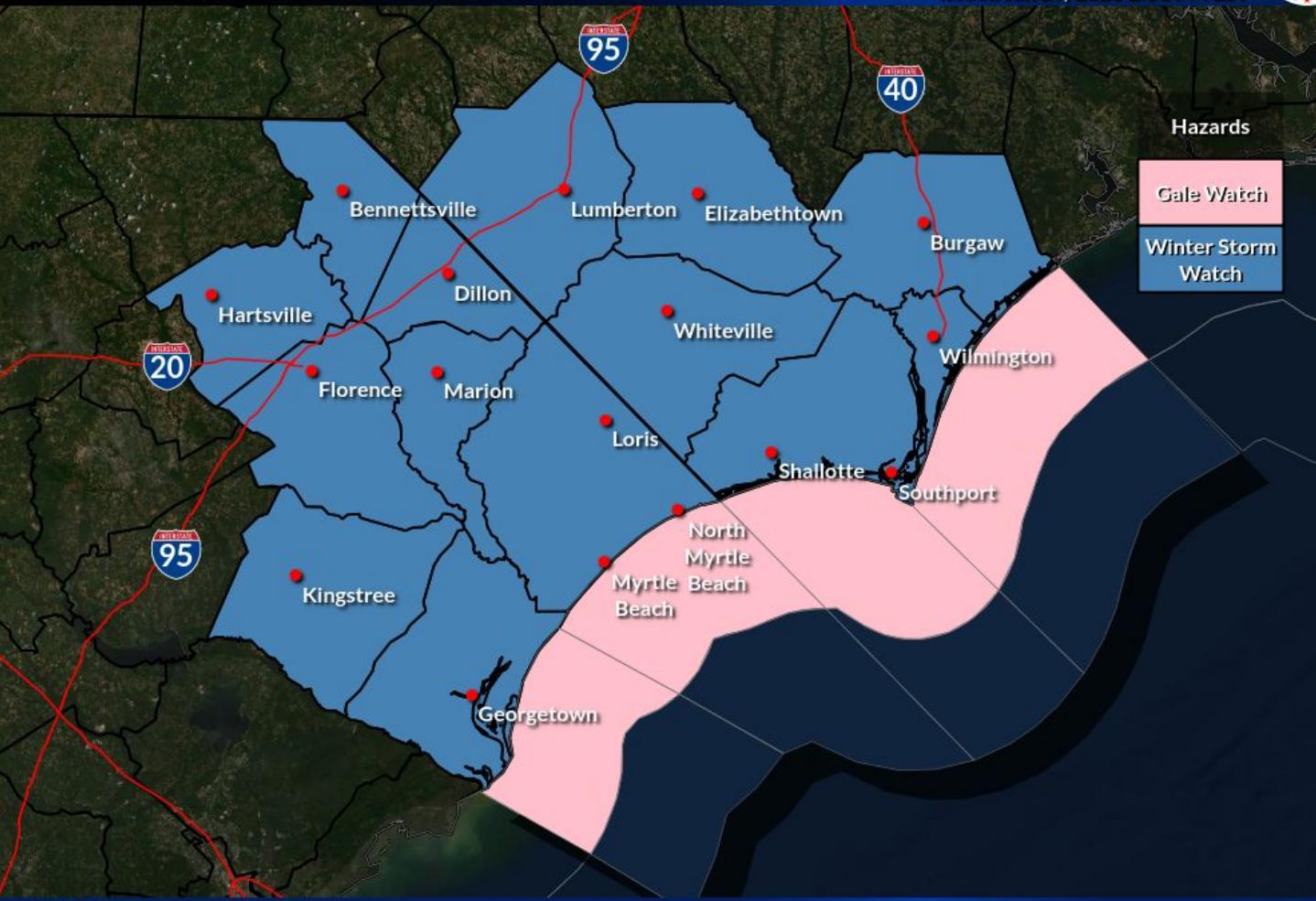
## Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

### Winter Storm Watch & Gale Watch

Weather Forecast Office  
Wilmington, NC  
Issued Jan 29, 2026 2:01 PM EST



Gale Watch  
Winter Storm Watch



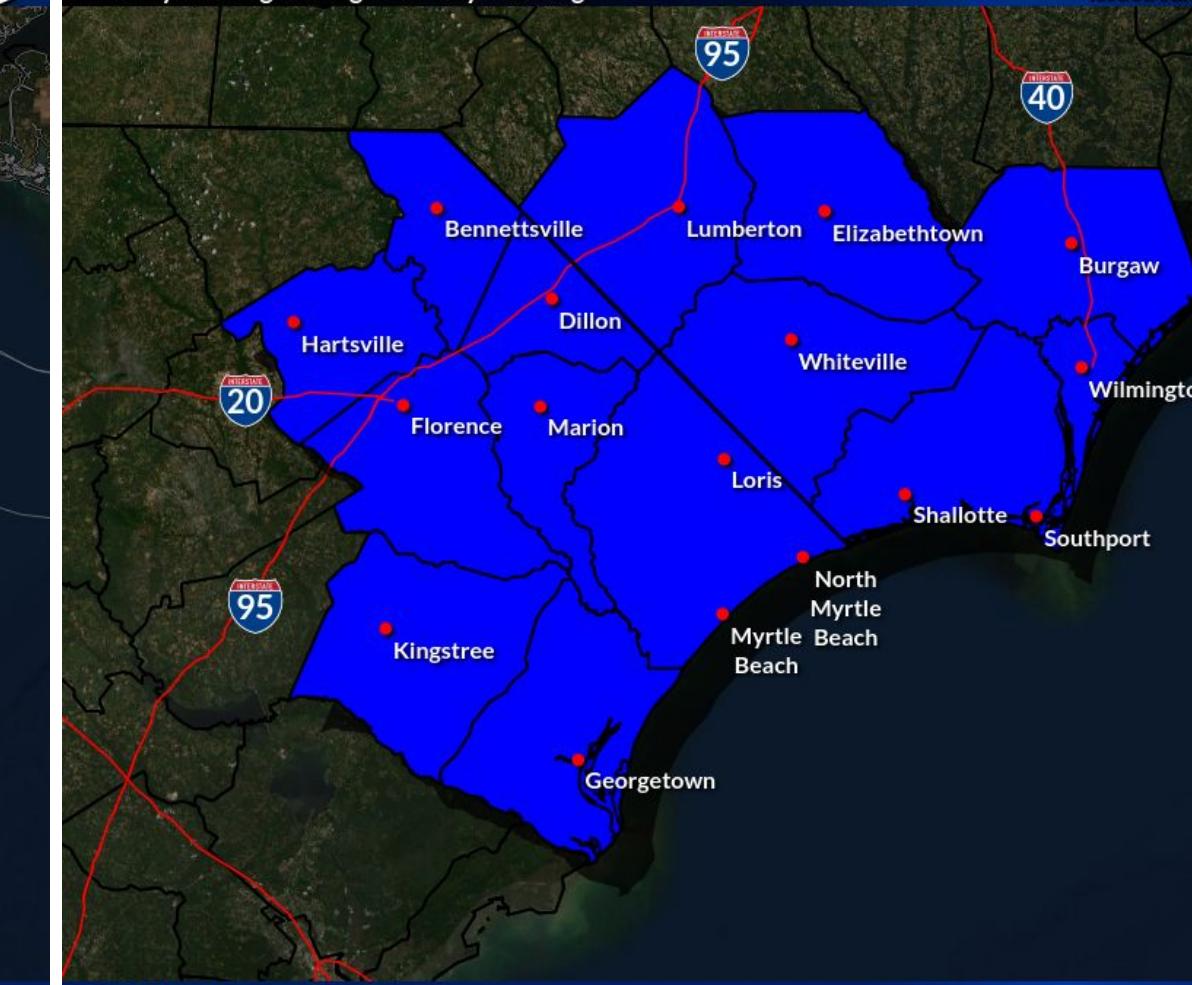
### Extreme Cold Watch

Saturday Evening Through Monday Morning

Weather Forecast Office  
Wilmington, NC  
Issued Jan 29, 2026 2:06 PM EST



Extreme Cold Watch



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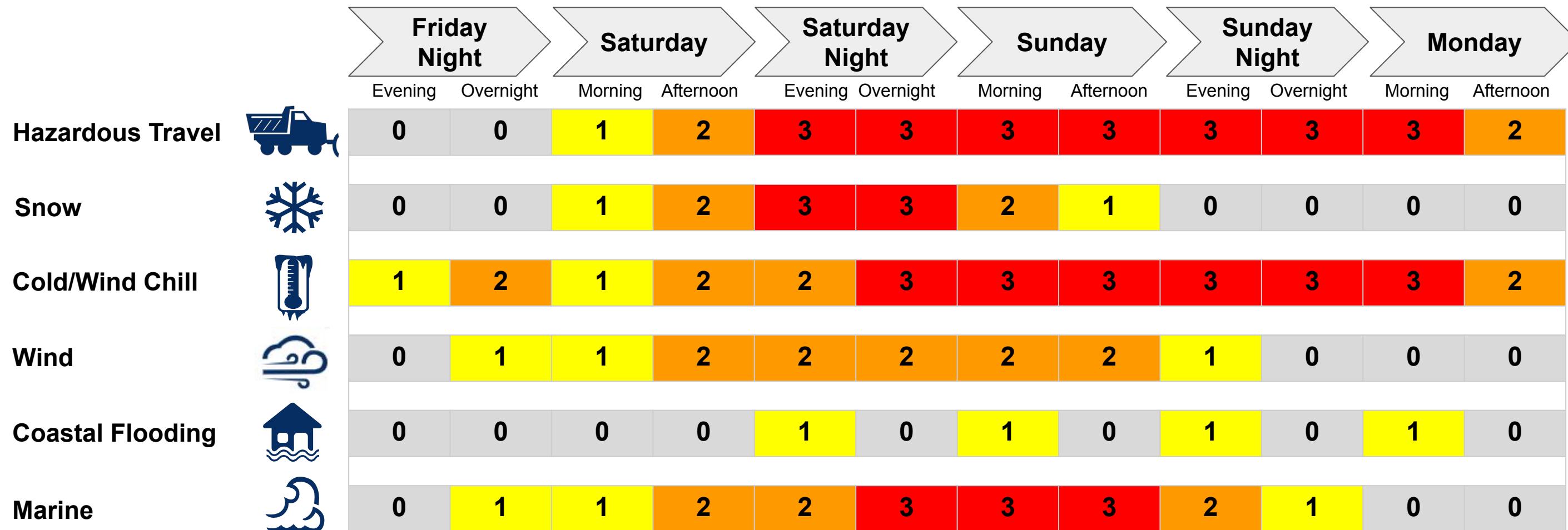
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# Threat/Impact Levels and Timing

January 29, 2026  
3:00 PM 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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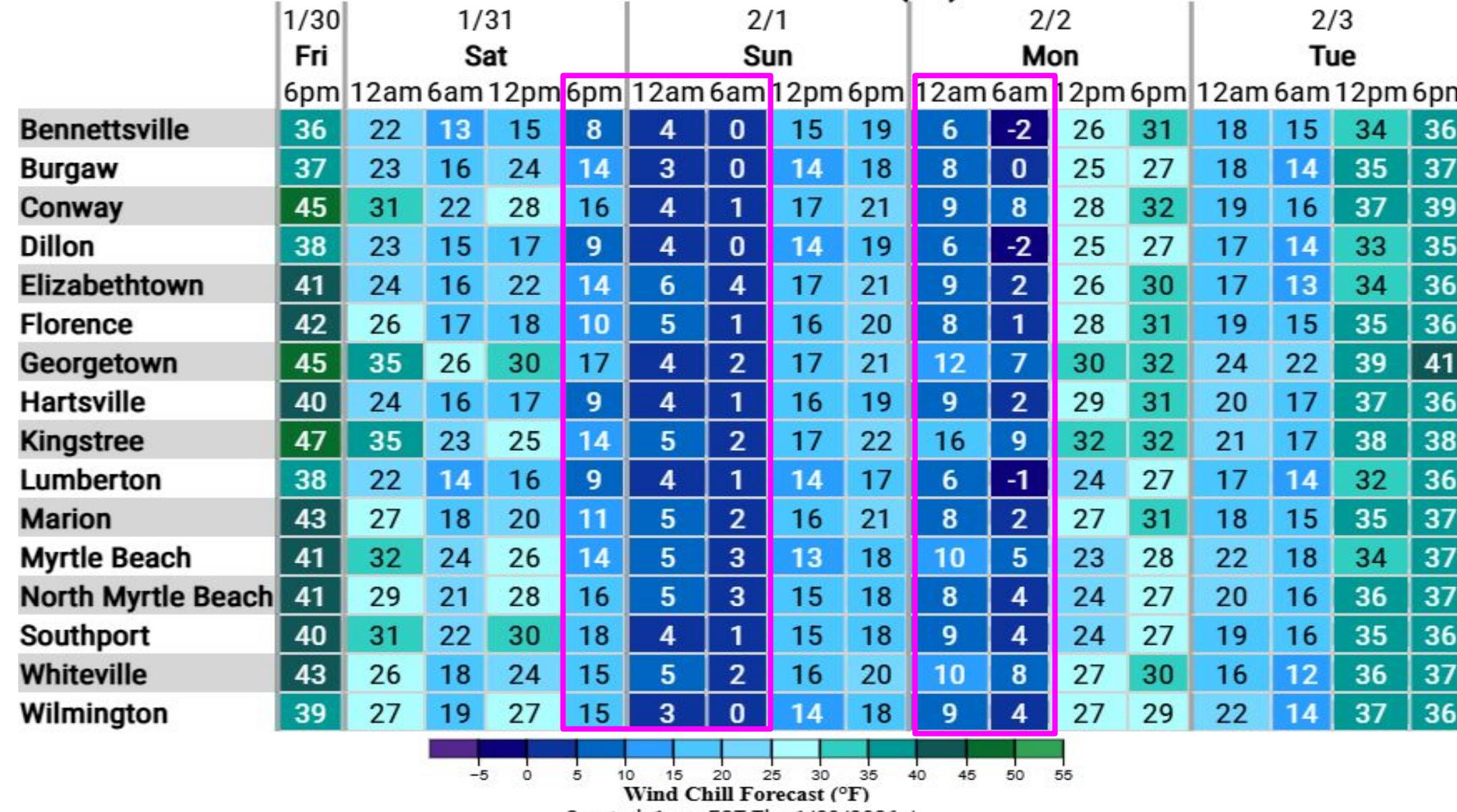


# Dangerously Cold

January 29, 2026  
3:00 PM 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

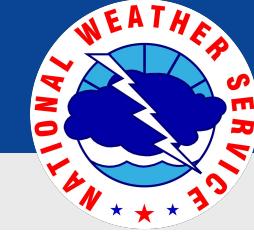
→ This extreme cold will cause significant concerns for frostbite to exposed skin and hypothermia.



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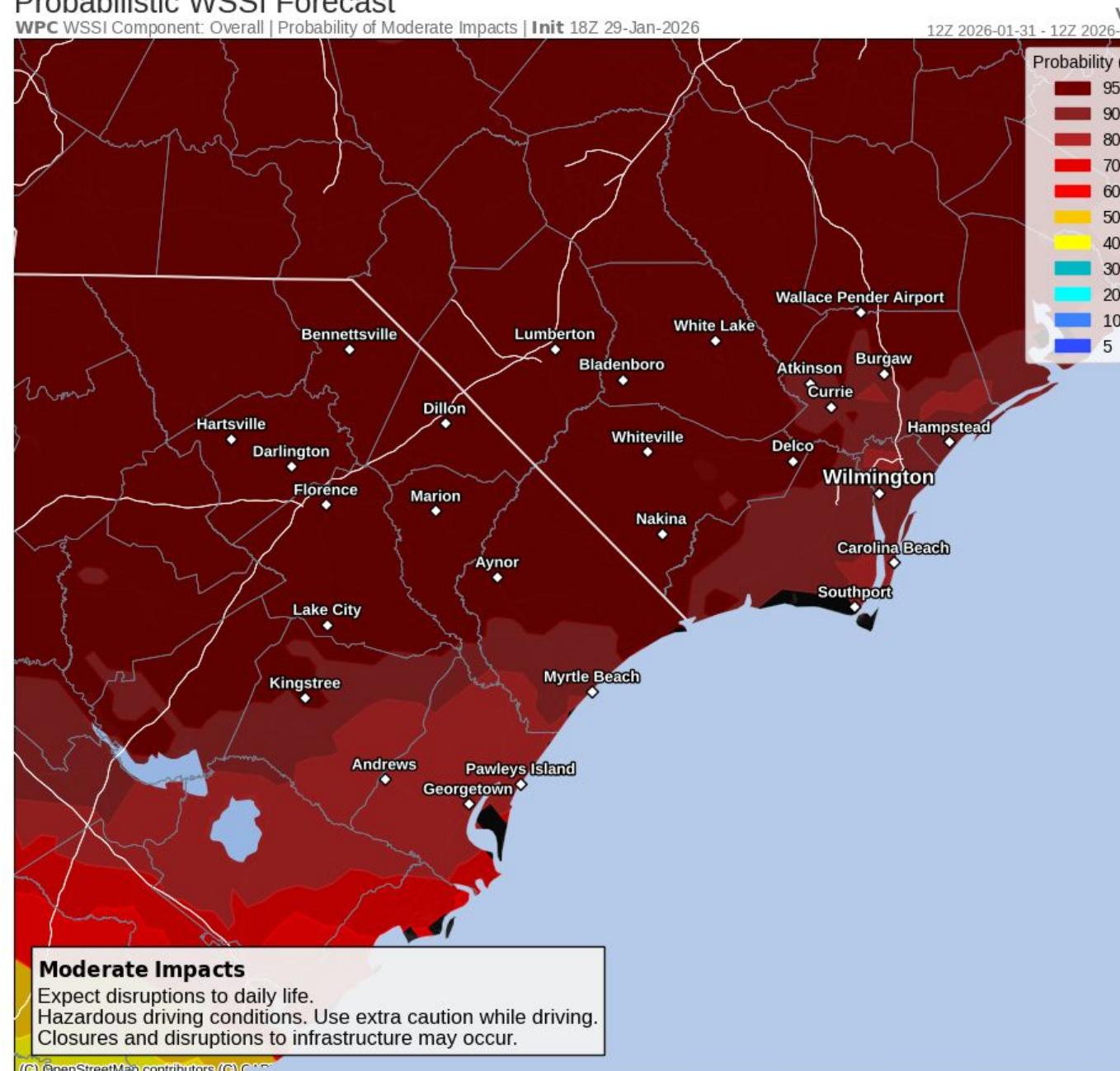
# Winter Storm Severity Index

January 29, 2026  
3:00 PM EST

## Potential for Moderate Winter Weather Impacts

### Probabilistic WSSI Forecast

WPC WSSI Component: Overall | Probability of Moderate Impacts | Init 18Z 29-Jan-2026



- Between the extreme cold and the potential snow, there is nearly a guarantee 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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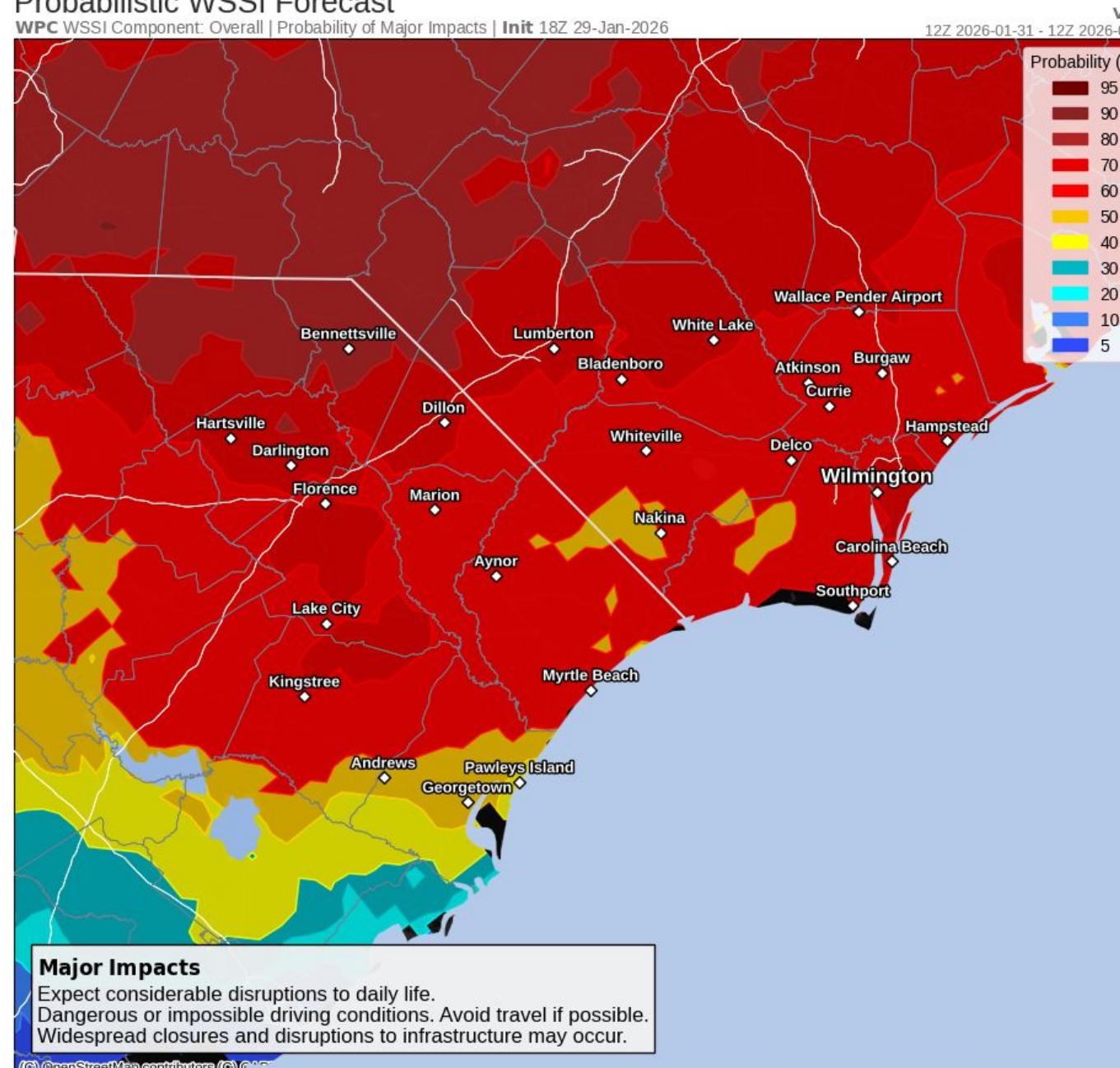
# Winter Storm Severity Index

January 29, 2026  
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## Potential for Major Winter Weather Impacts

### Probabilistic WSSI Forecast

WPC WSSI Component: Overall | Probability of Major Impacts | Init 18Z 29-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.



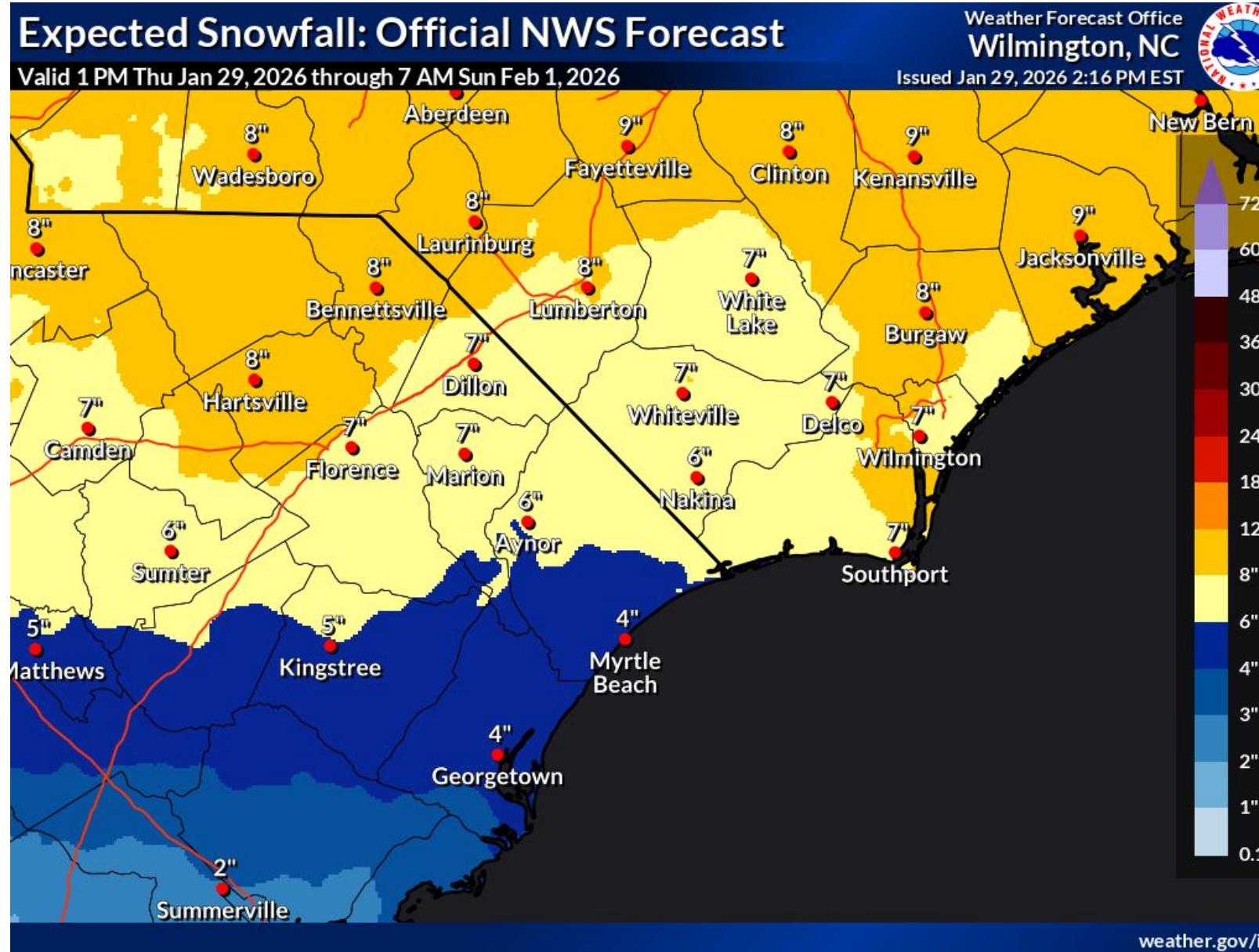
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# Expected Snowfall

January 29, 2026  
3:00 PM EST

## Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina



### Timing

- Snow could start as early as Saturday morning.
- Bulk of the snow should occur late Saturday into early Sunday morning, cutting off shortly thereafter.



### Impacts

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



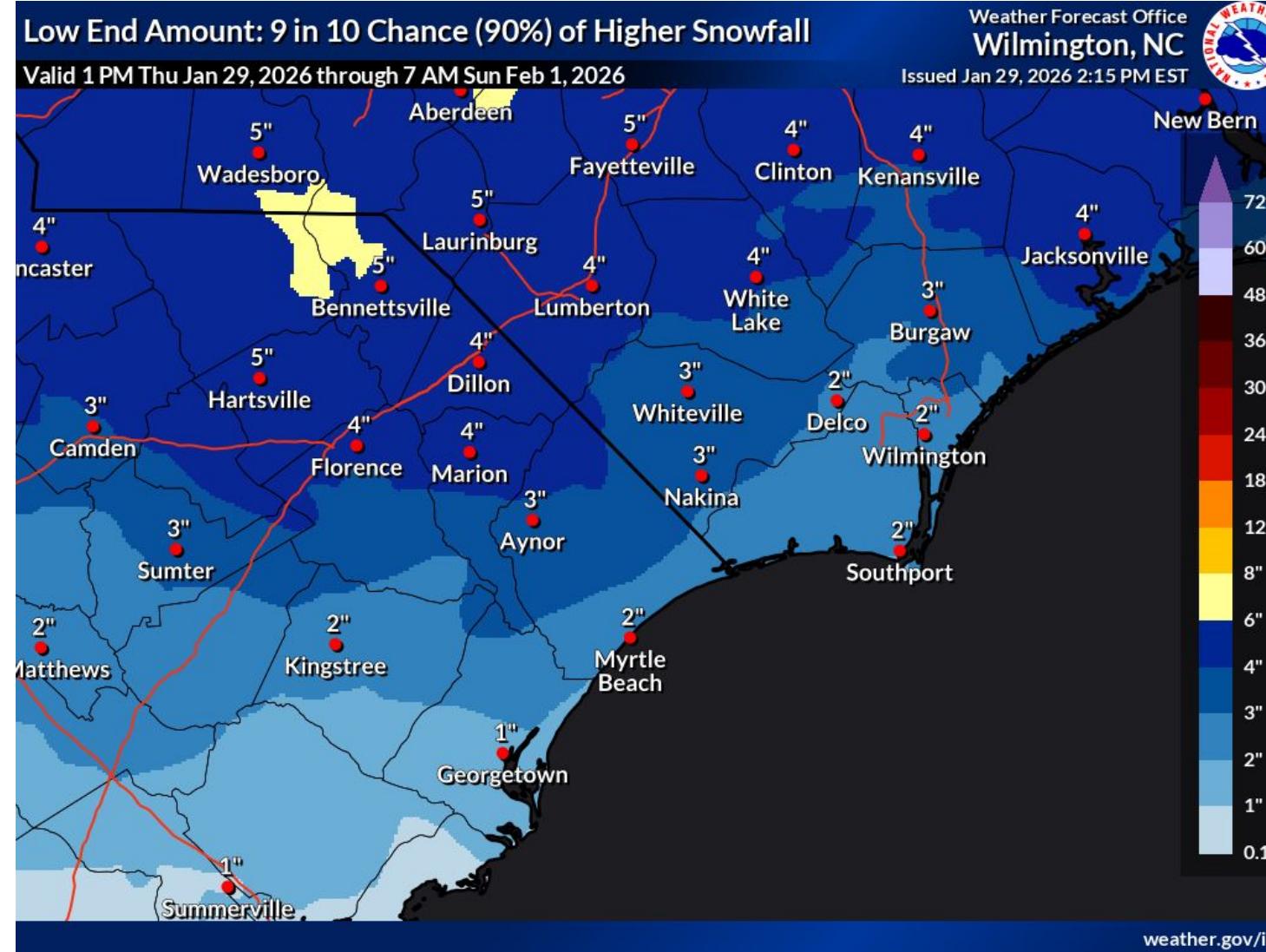
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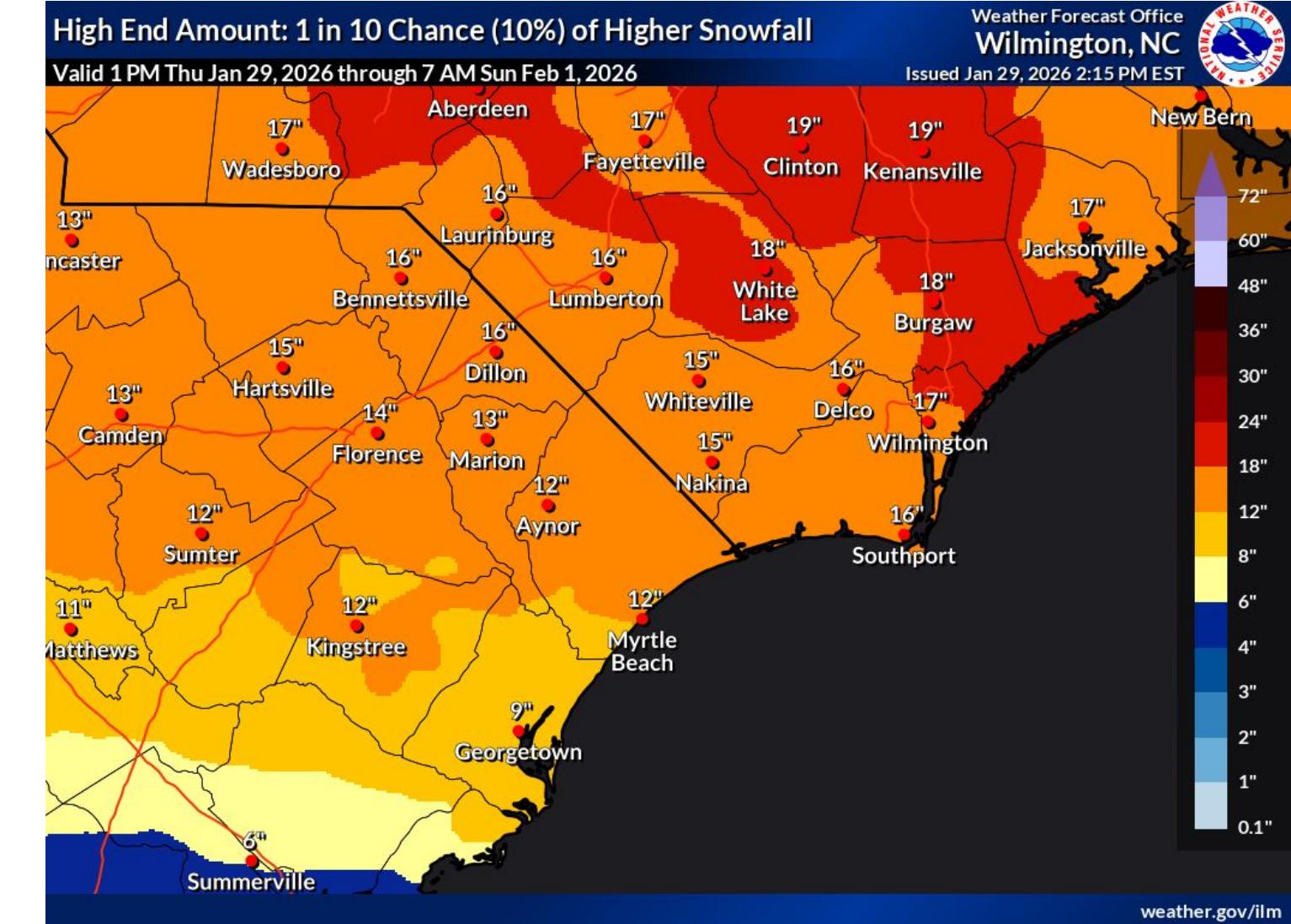
# Range of Snowfall Possibilities

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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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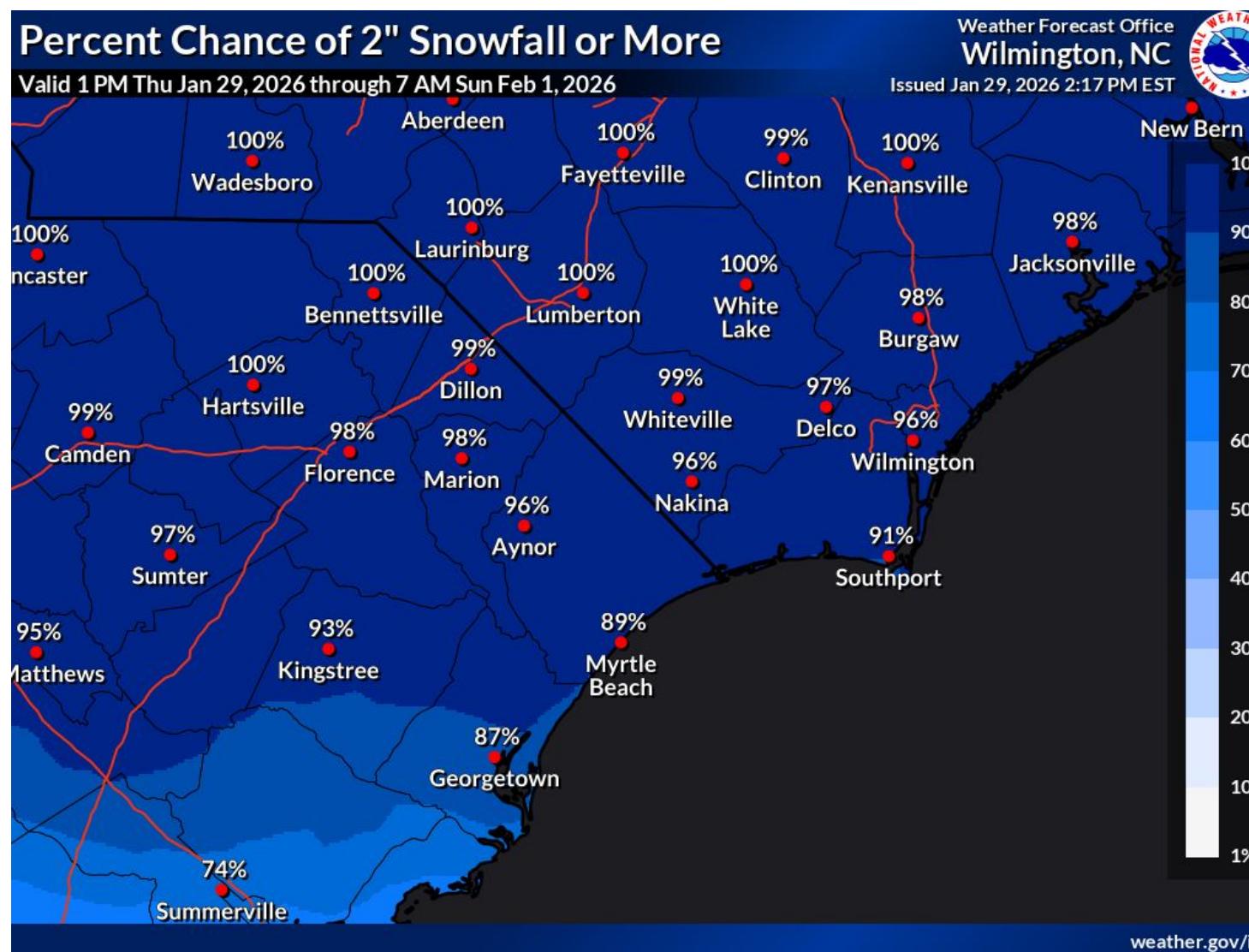
# Probability of Snow Amounts

# January 29, 2026

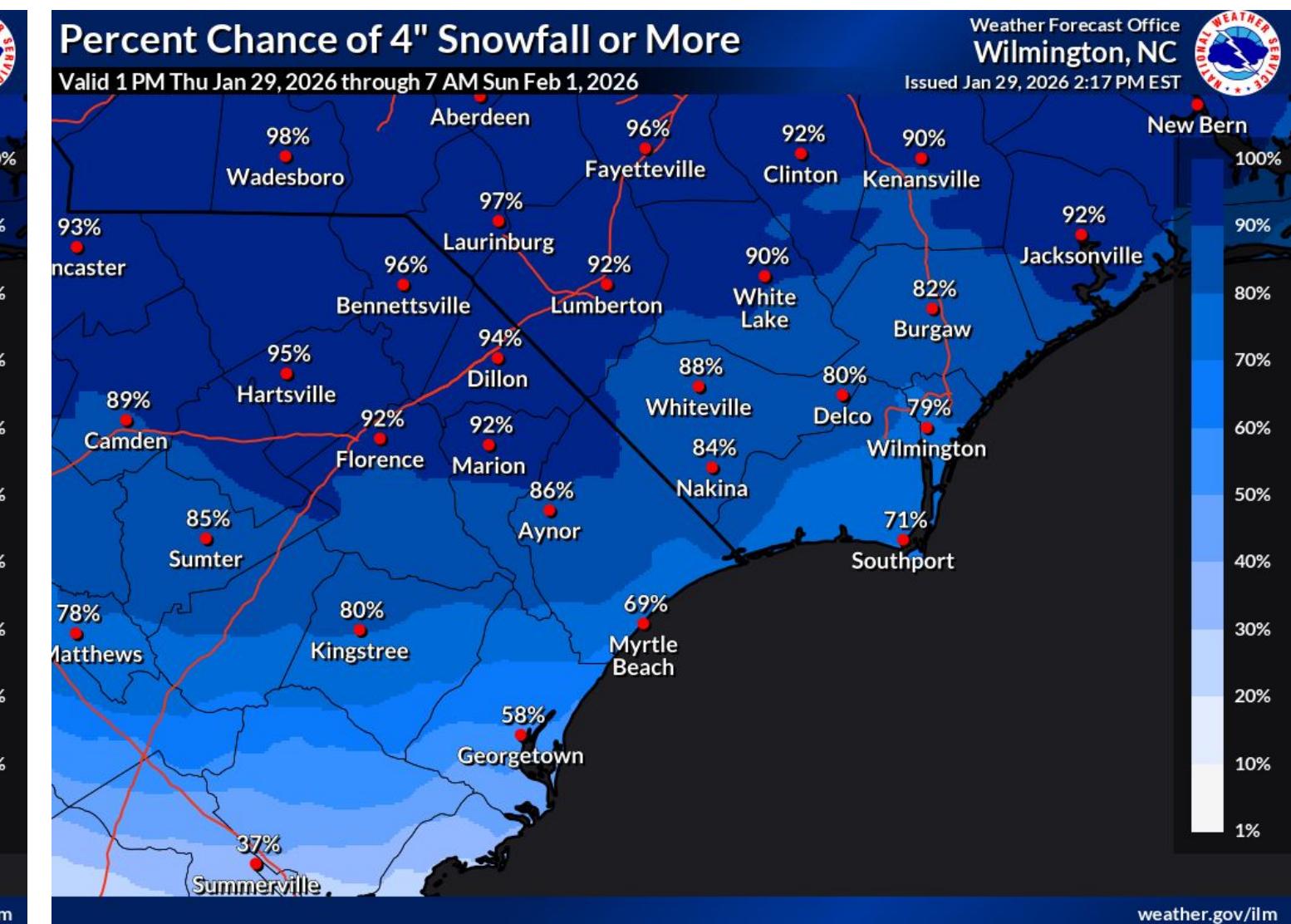
## 3:00 PM EST

## **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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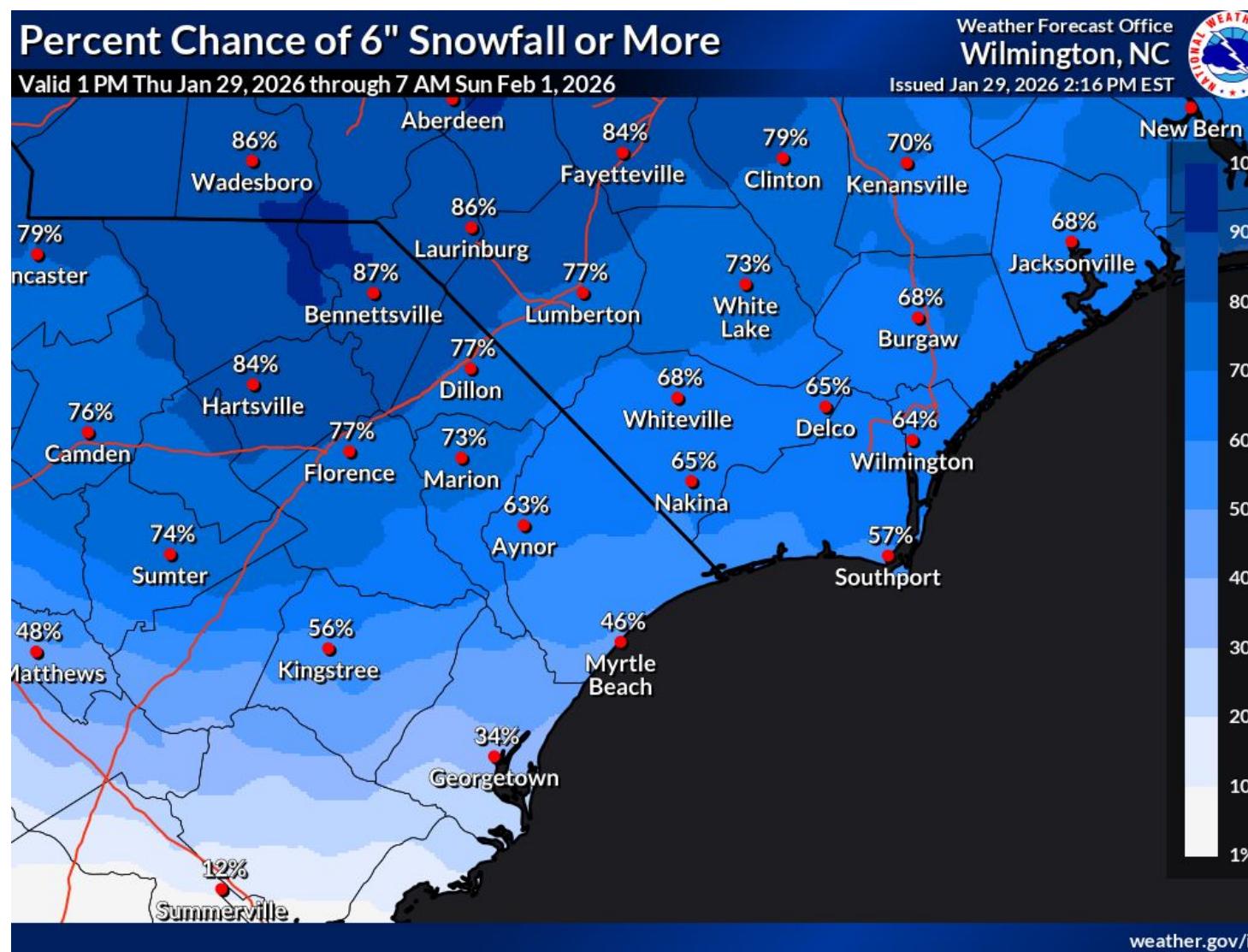
# Probability of Snow Amounts

# January 29, 2026

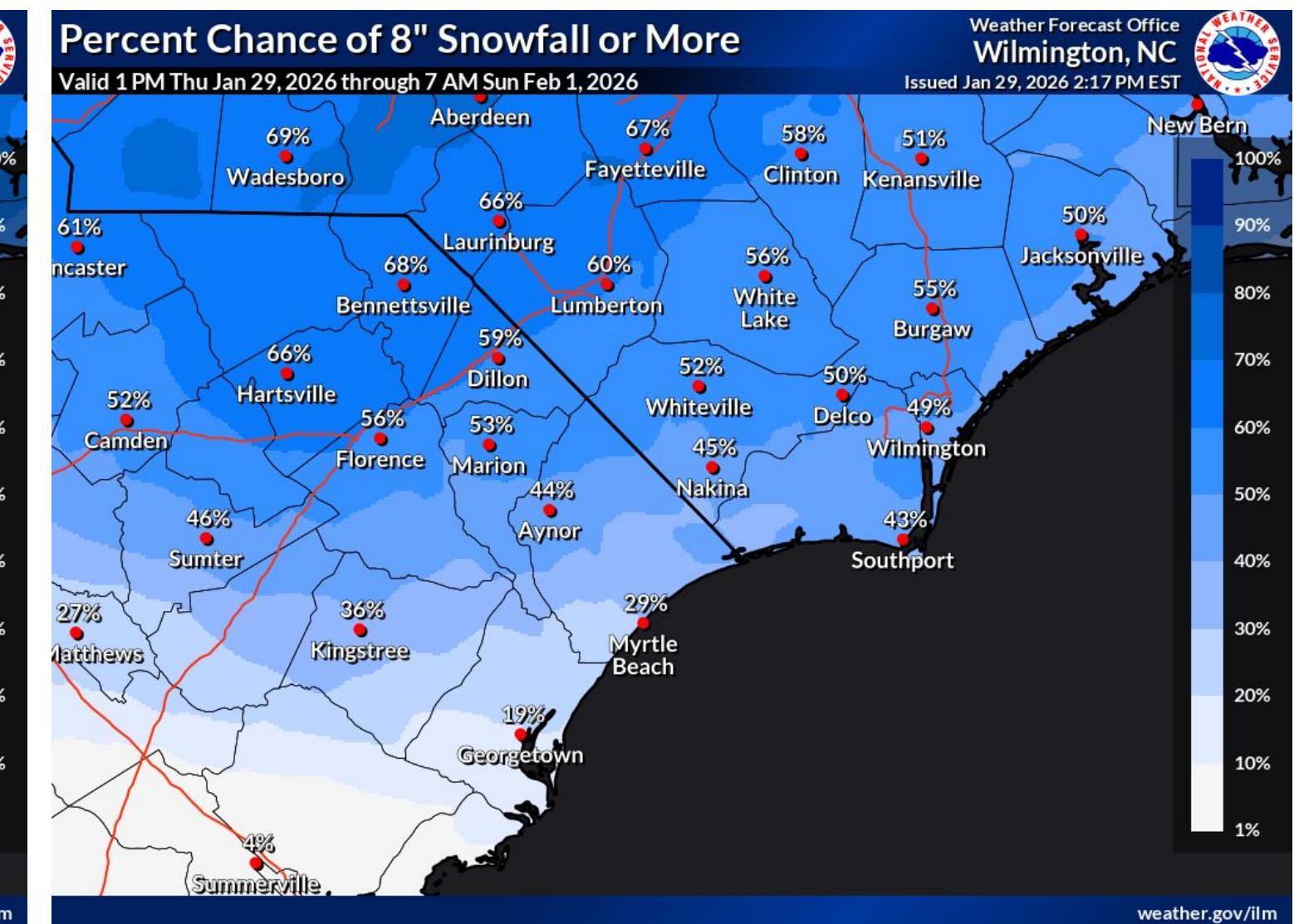
## 3:00 PM EST

## **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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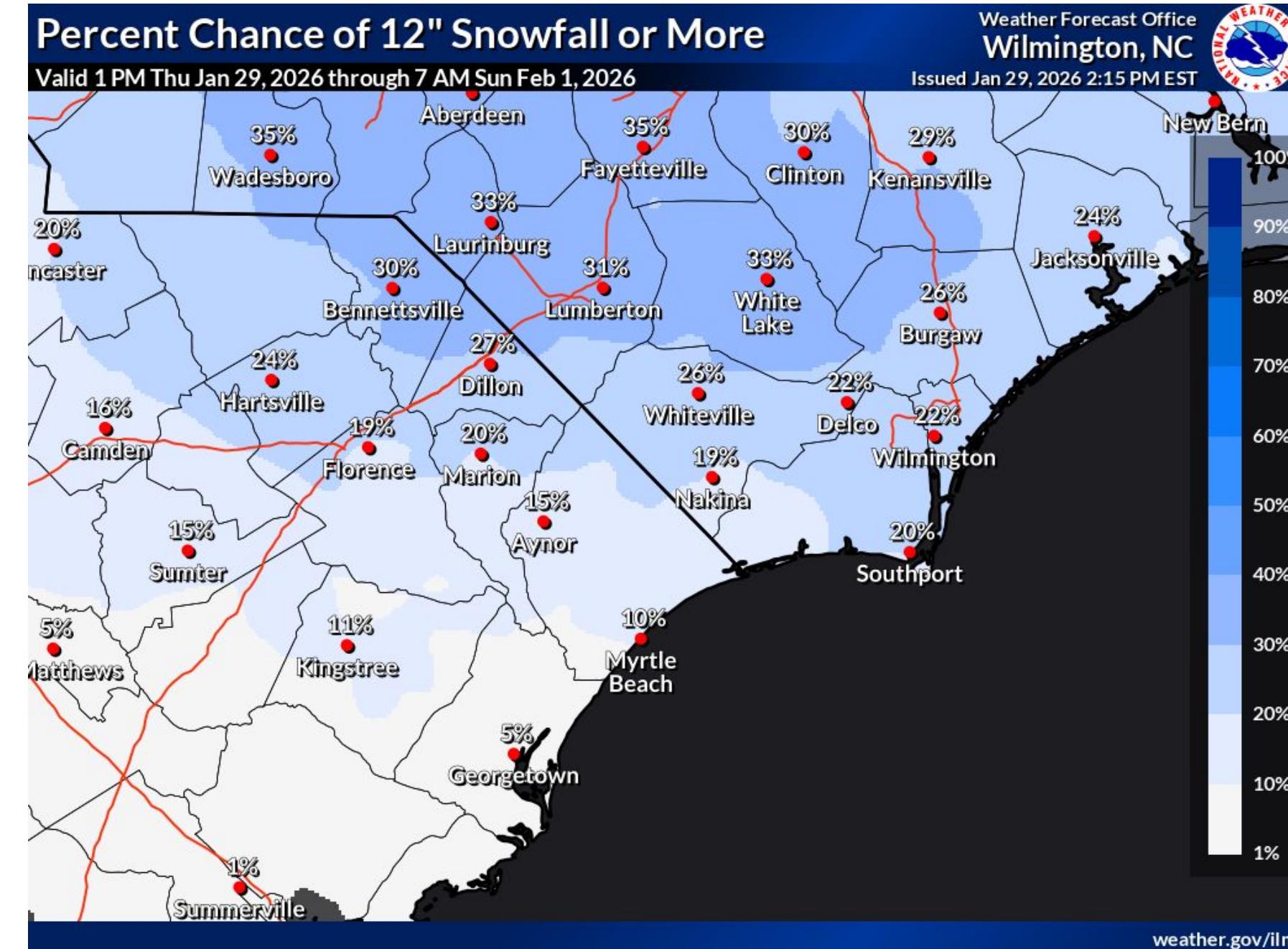


# Probability of Snow Amounts

# January 29, 2026

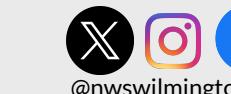
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## **Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina**



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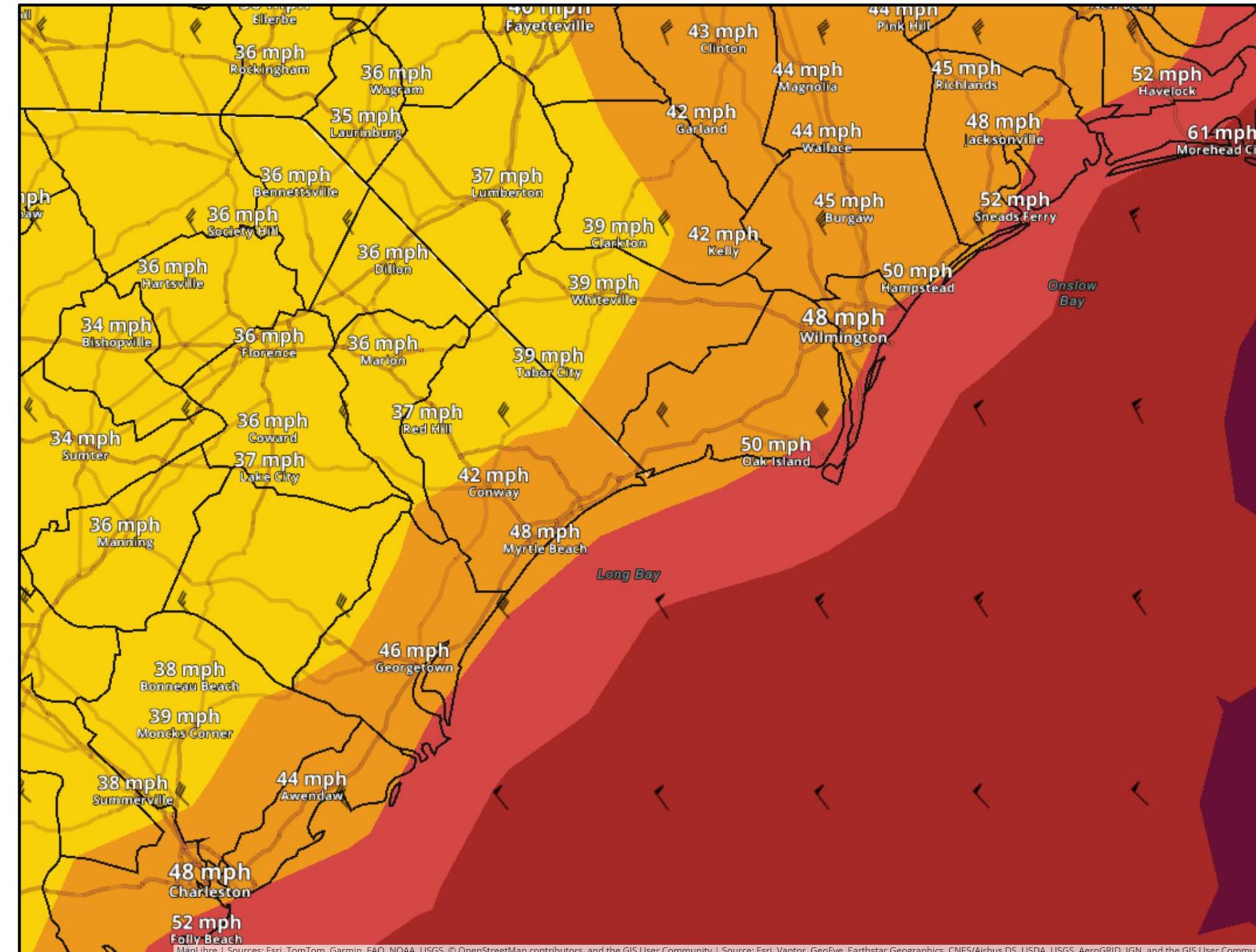
# National Weather Service Wilmington, NC



# Maximum Wind Gust

January 29, 2026  
3:00 PM EST

## 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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## 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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