



Winter Weather Briefing

January 29, 2026
3:00 PM EST

For Southeast North Carolina and Northeast South Carolina

Decision Support Briefing #4

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



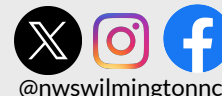
Important Updates

- **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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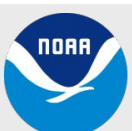
Key Messages

January 29, 2026

3:00 PM EST

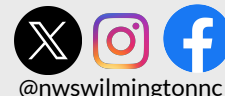
Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

- 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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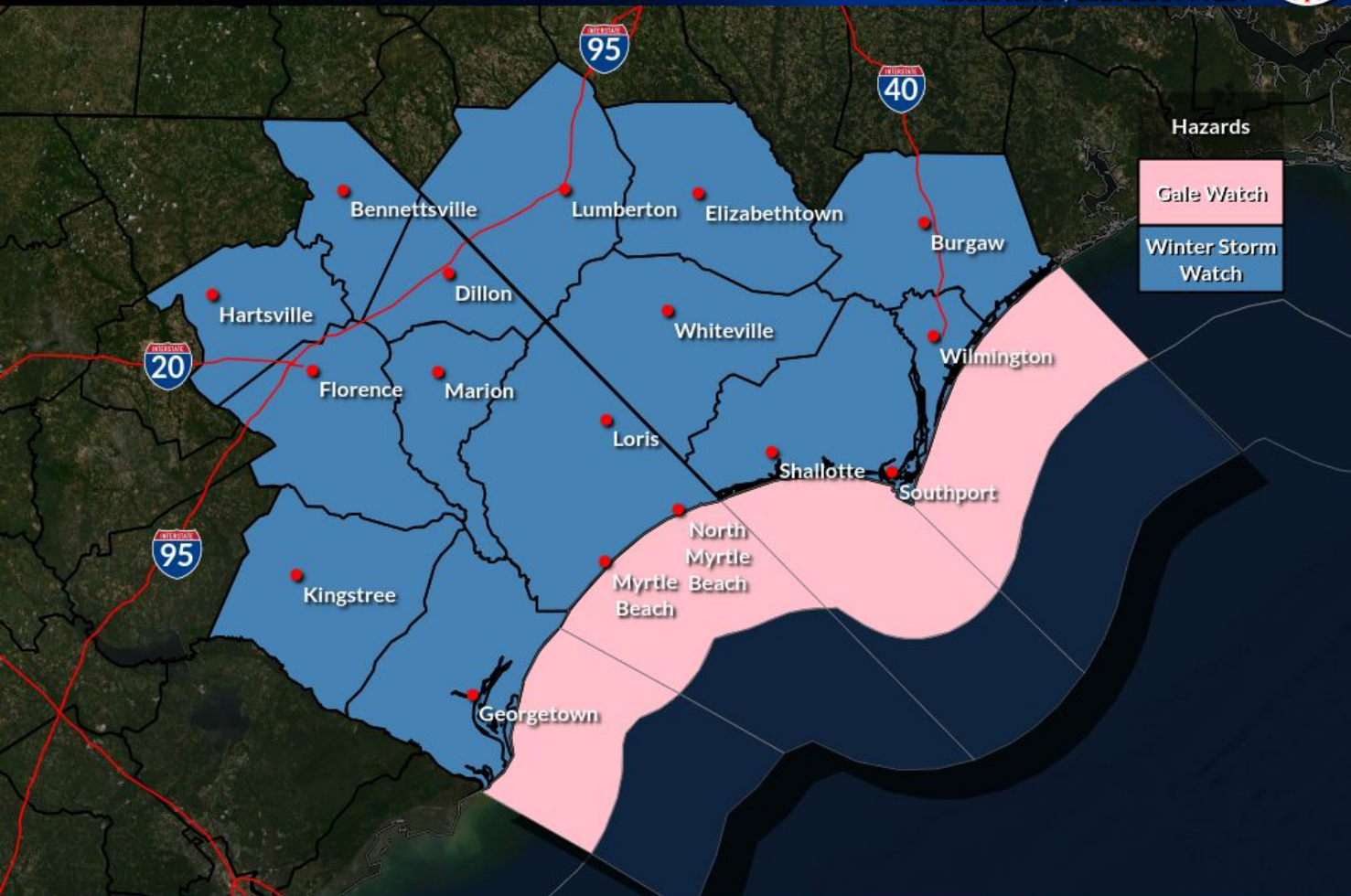
Winter Weather Headlines

January 29, 2026
3:00 PM EST

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



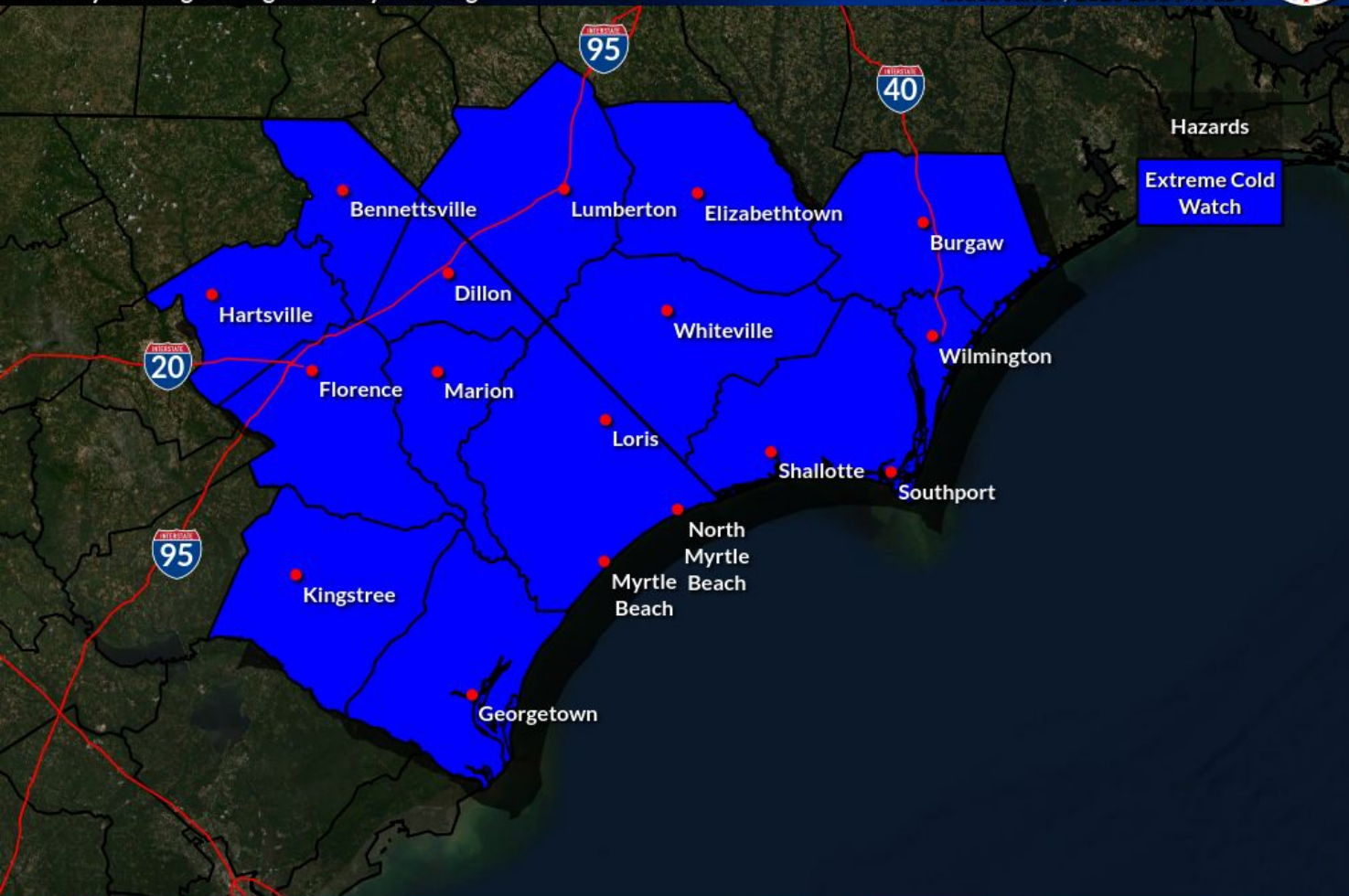
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Extreme Cold Watch

Saturday Evening Through Monday Morning

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



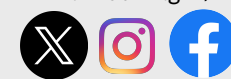
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Threat/Impact Levels and Timing

January 29, 2026
3:00 PM EST

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

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

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



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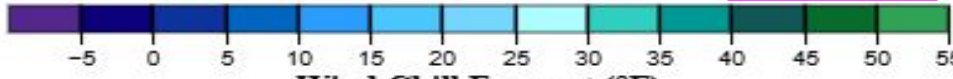
Dangerously Cold

January 29, 2026
3:00 PM EST

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

Wind Chill Forecast (°F)

	1/30 Fri	1/31 Sat				2/1 Sun				2/2 Mon				2/3 Tue			
	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm
Bennettsville	36	22	13	15	8	4	0	15	19	6	-2	26	31	18	15	34	36
Burgaw	37	23	16	24	14	3	0	14	18	8	0	25	27	18	14	35	37
Conway	45	31	22	28	16	4	1	17	21	9	8	28	32	19	16	37	39
Dillon	38	23	15	17	9	4	0	14	19	6	-2	25	27	17	14	33	35
Elizabethtown	41	24	16	22	14	6	4	17	21	9	2	26	30	17	13	34	36
Florence	42	26	17	18	10	5	1	16	20	8	1	28	31	19	15	35	36
Georgetown	45	35	26	30	17	4	2	17	21	12	7	30	32	24	22	39	41
Hartsville	40	24	16	17	9	4	1	16	19	9	2	29	31	20	17	37	36
Kingstree	47	35	23	25	14	5	2	17	22	16	9	32	32	21	17	38	38
Lumberton	38	22	14	16	9	4	1	14	17	6	-1	24	27	17	14	32	36
Marion	43	27	18	20	11	5	2	16	21	8	2	27	31	18	15	35	37
Myrtle Beach	41	32	24	26	14	5	3	13	18	10	5	23	28	22	18	34	37
North Myrtle Beach	41	29	21	28	16	5	3	15	18	8	4	24	27	20	16	36	37
Southport	40	31	22	30	18	4	1	15	18	9	4	24	27	19	16	35	36
Whiteville	43	26	18	24	15	5	2	16	20	10	8	27	30	16	12	36	37
Wilmington	39	27	19	27	15	3	0	14	18	9	4	27	29	22	14	37	36



Created: 1 pm EST Thu 1/29/2026 |



Timing

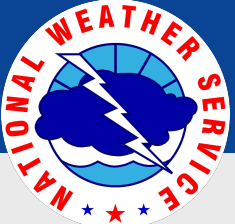
→ Dangerous wind chills expected throughout the weekend, especially at night, where wind chills could drop down into the negatives.



Impacts

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





Winter Storm Severity Index

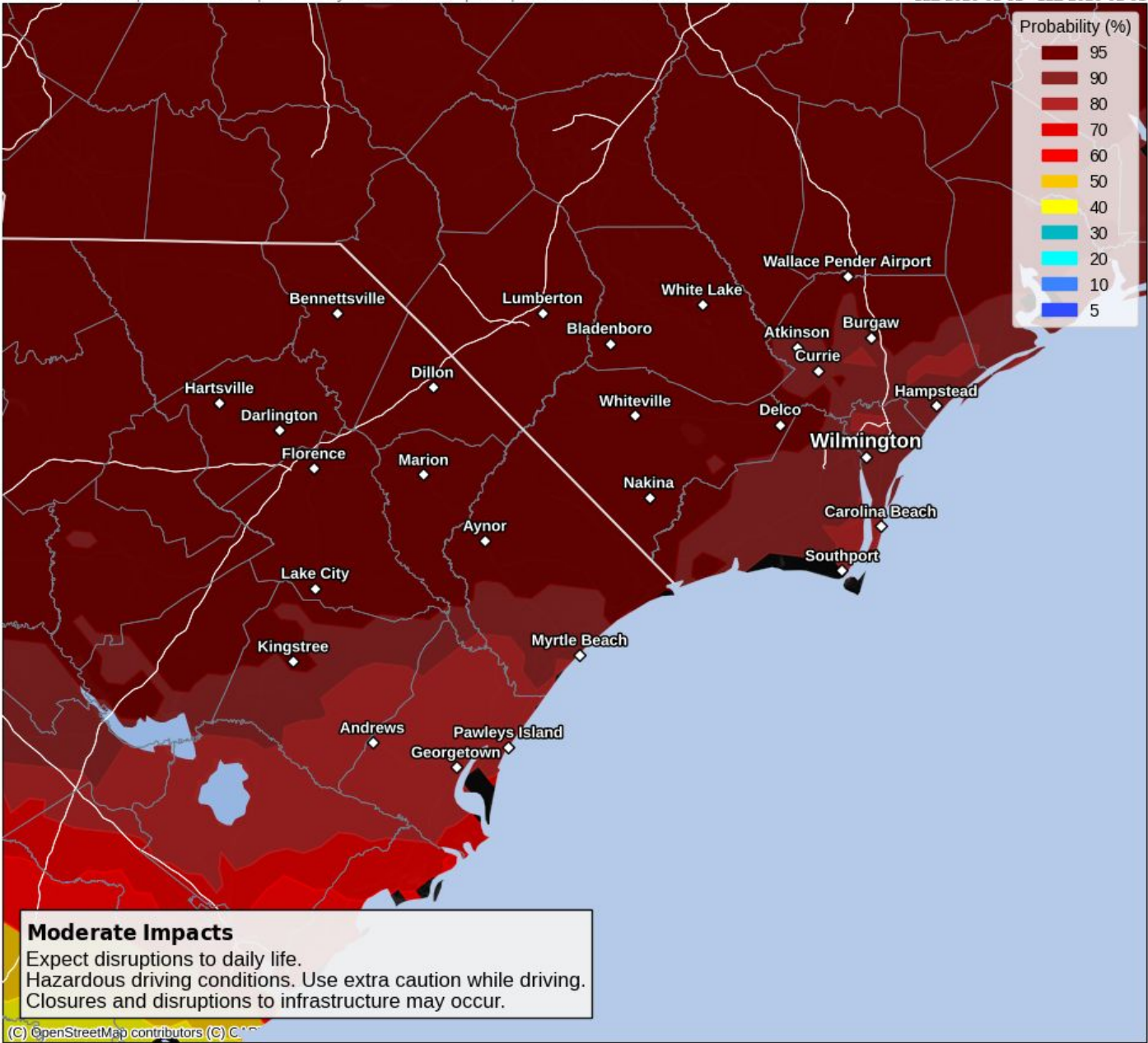
January 29, 2026
3:00 PM EST

Potential for Moderate Winter Weather Impacts

Probabilistic WSSI Forecast

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

Valid 12Z 2026-01-31 - 12Z 2026-02-01

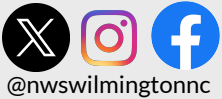


- Between the extreme cold and the potential snow, there is nearly a guarantee for at least moderate winter weather impacts across the area this weekend.
- Moderate impacts: Hazardous driving conditions and closures/disruptions to infrastructure may occur.



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Winter Storm Severity Index

January 29, 2026

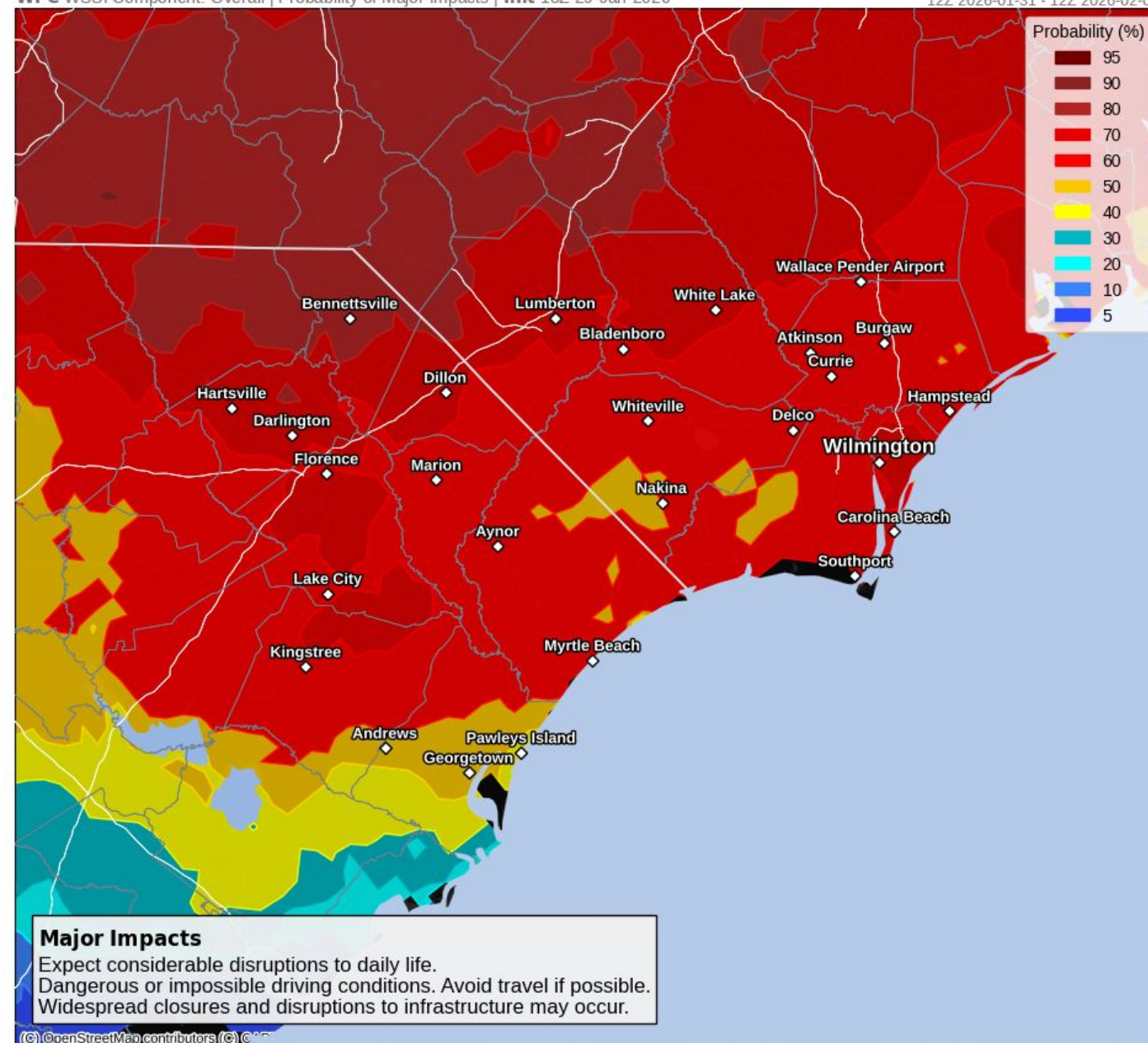
3:00 PM EST

Potential for Major Winter Weather Impacts

Probabilistic WSSI Forecast

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

Valid 12Z 2026-01-31 - 12Z 2026-02-01



→ 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 many occur.



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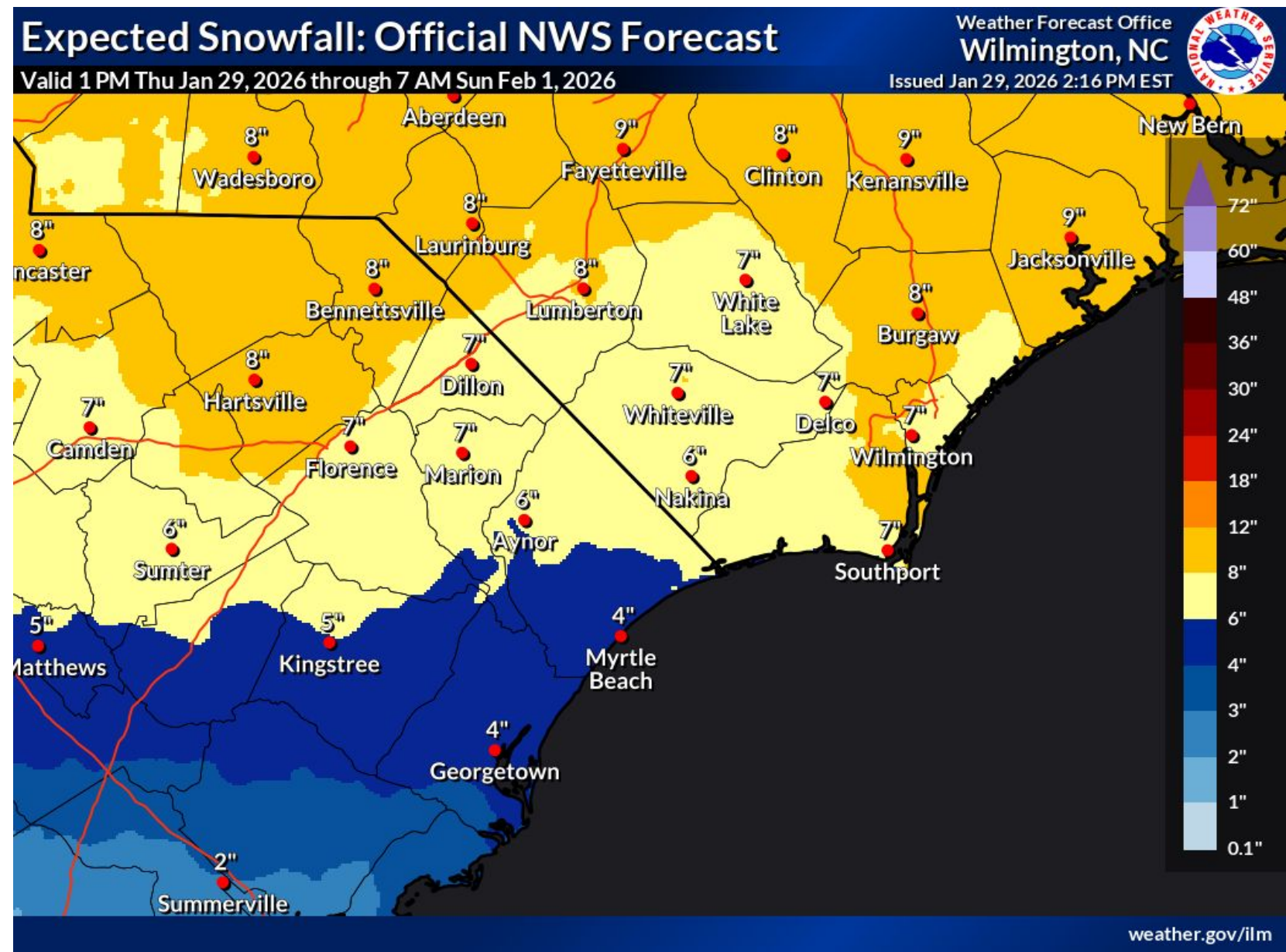
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Expected Snowfall

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.



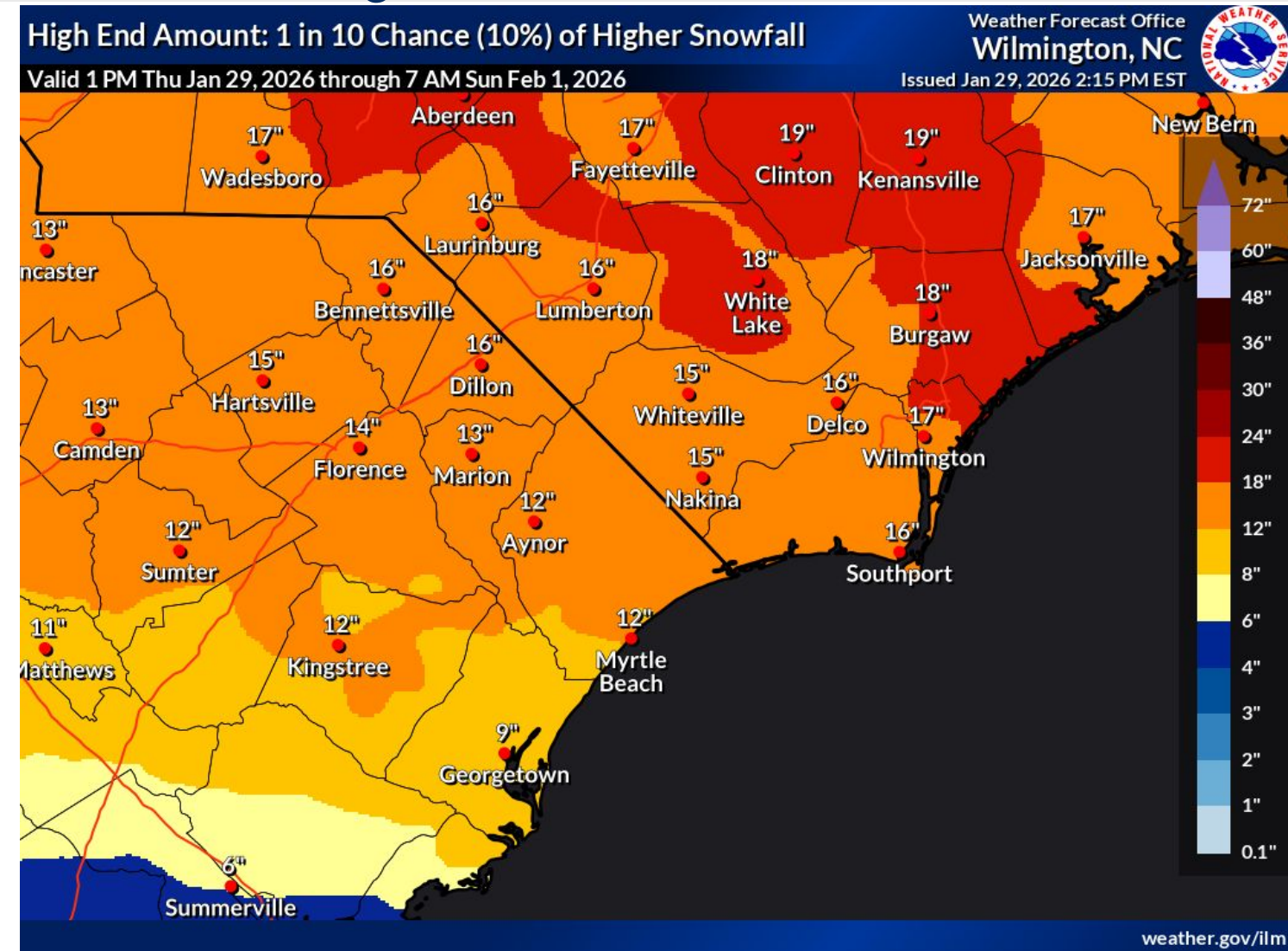
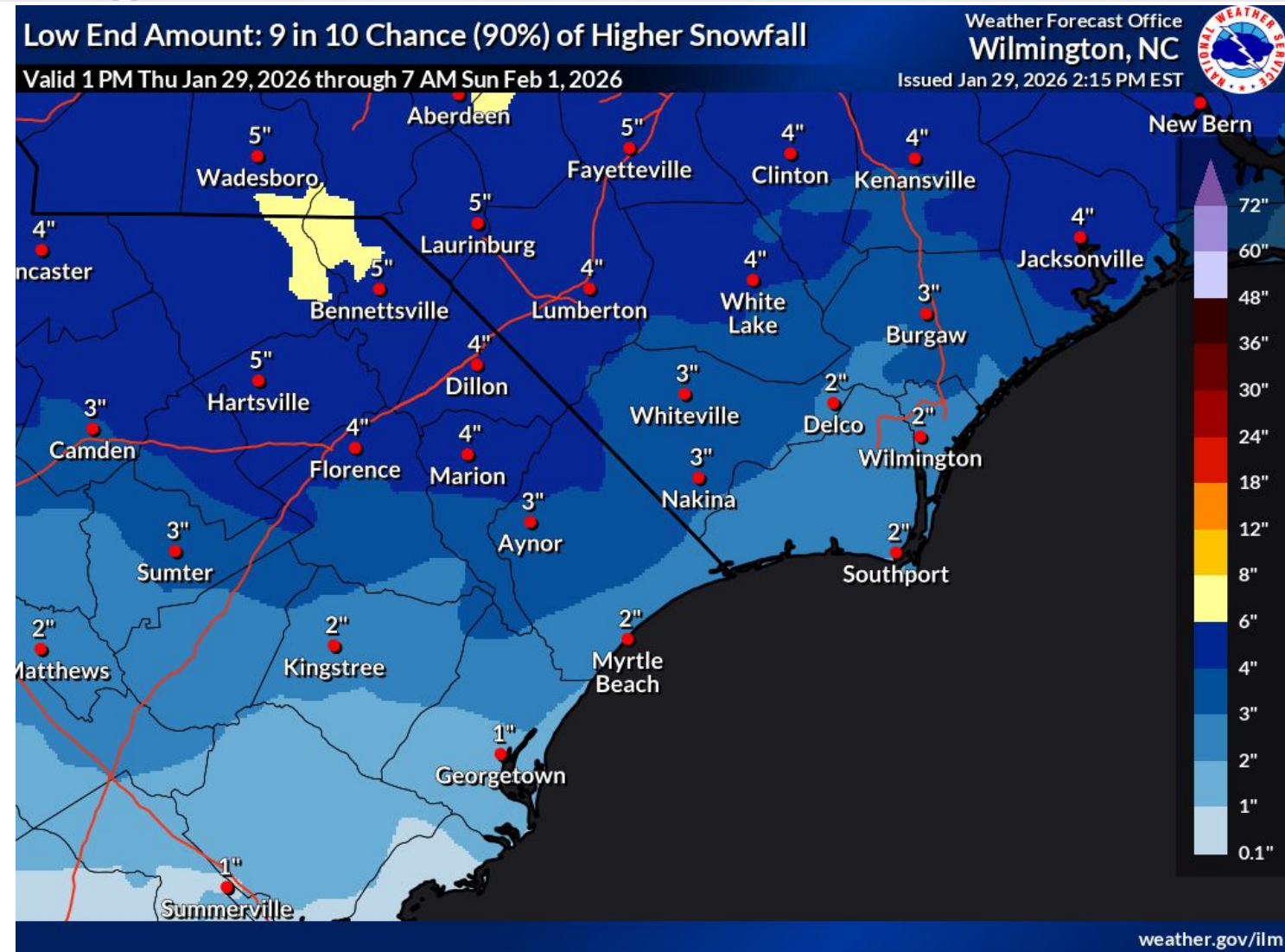


Range of Snowfall Possibilities

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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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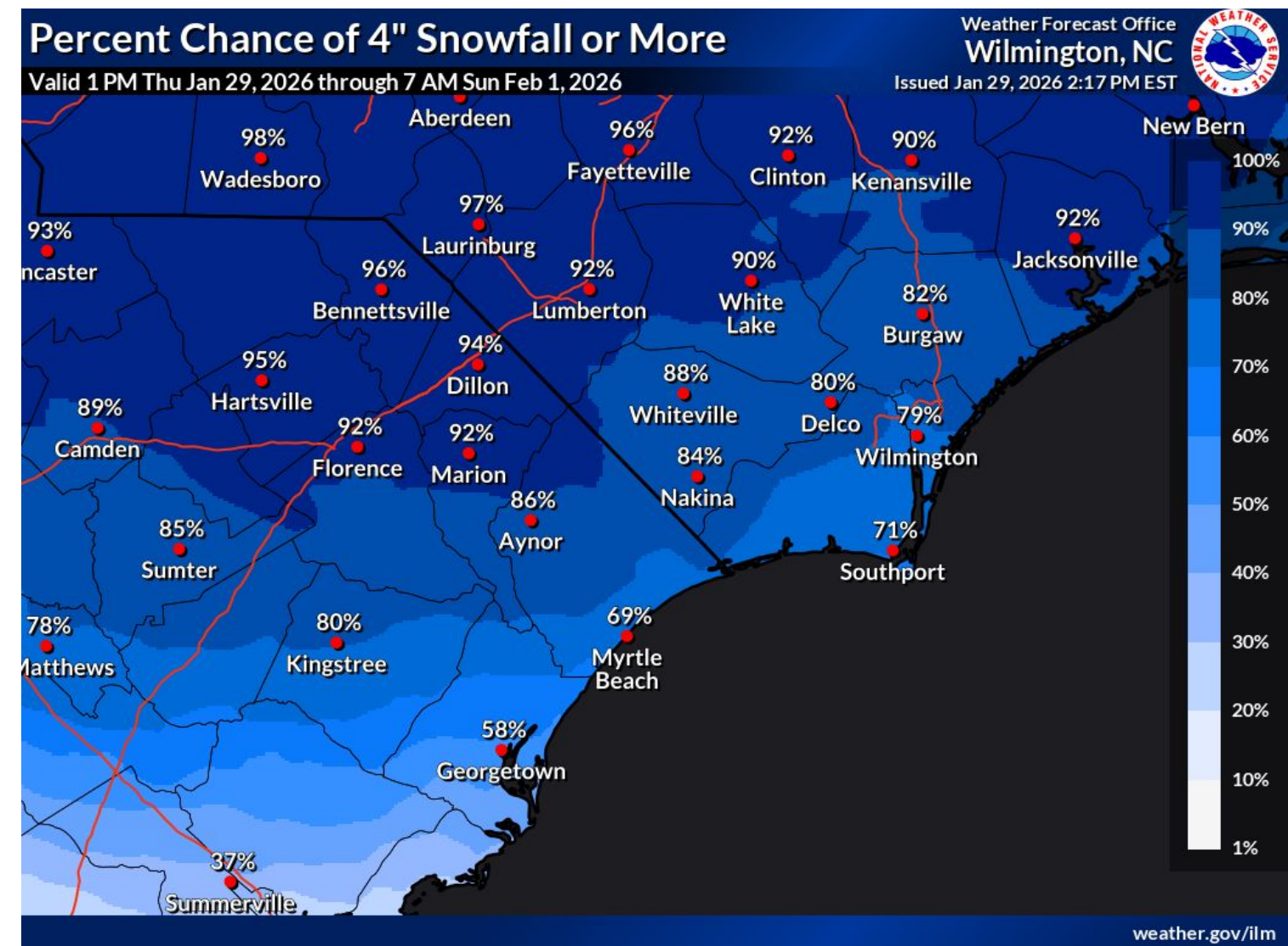
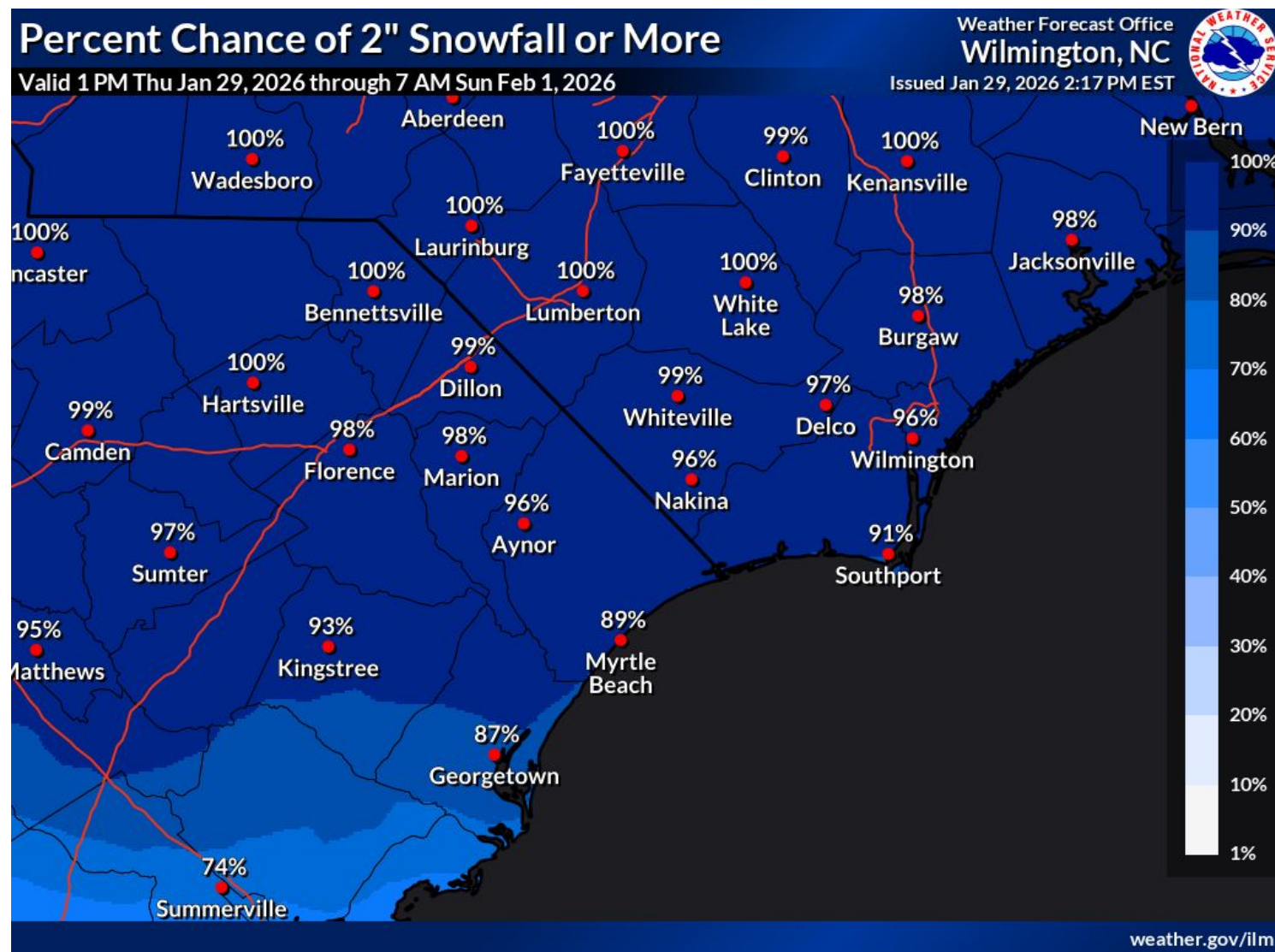
Probability of Snow Amounts

January 29, 2026
3:00 PM EST

Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina

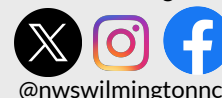
Percent Chance of 2" Snow or More

Percent Chance of 4" Snow or More



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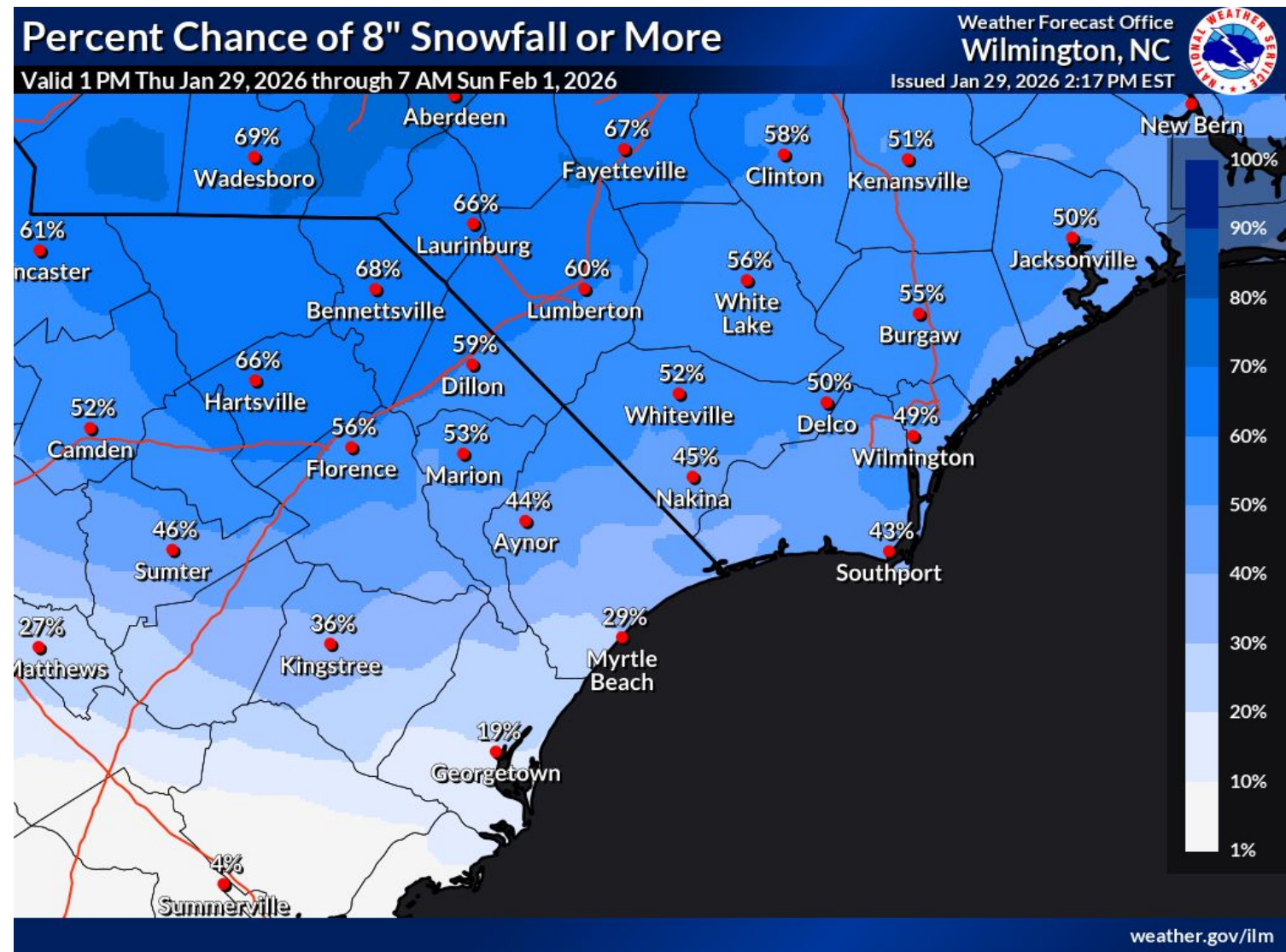
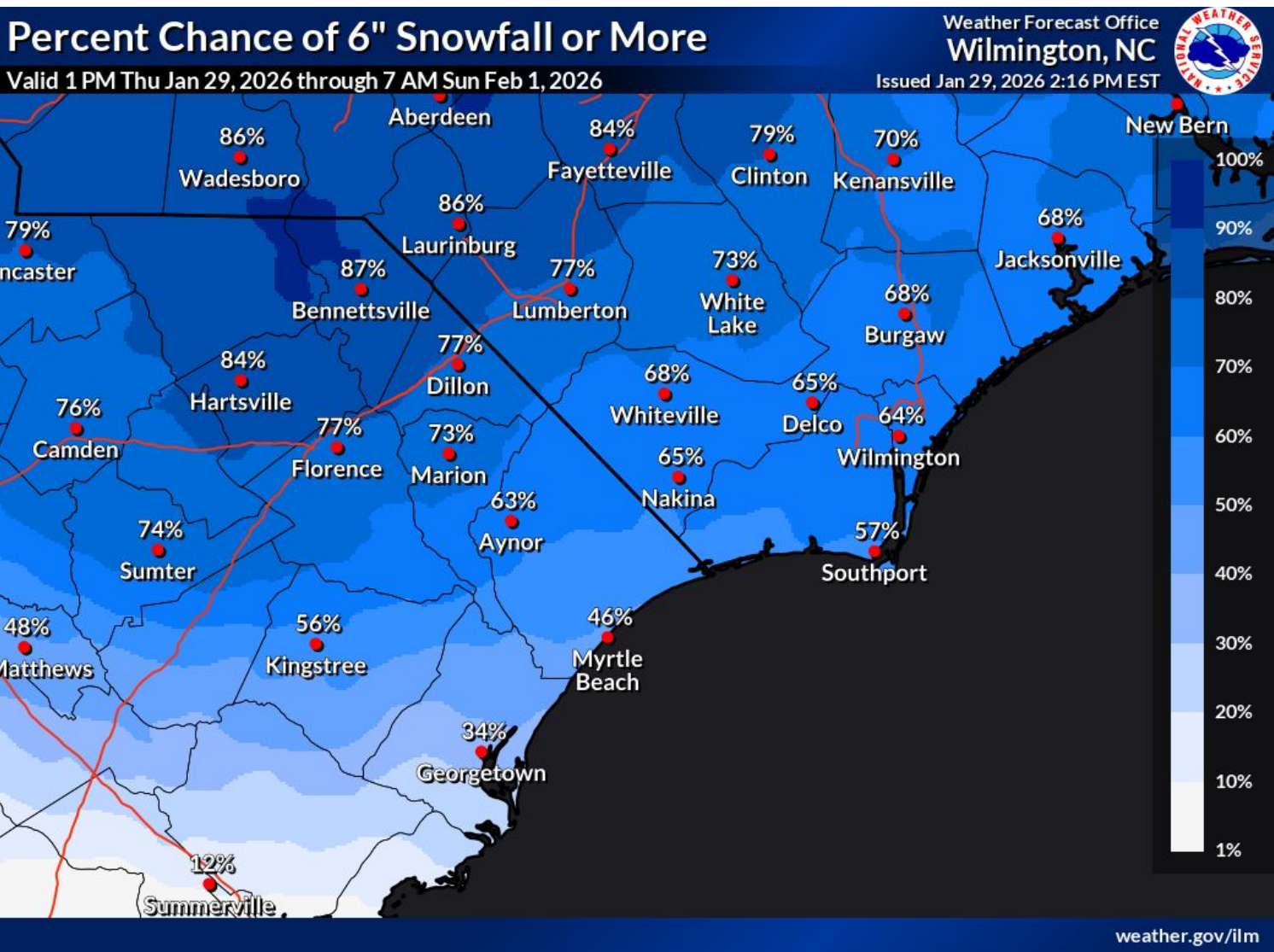
Probability of Snow Amounts

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Percent Chance of 6" Snow or More

Percent Chance of 8" Snow or More



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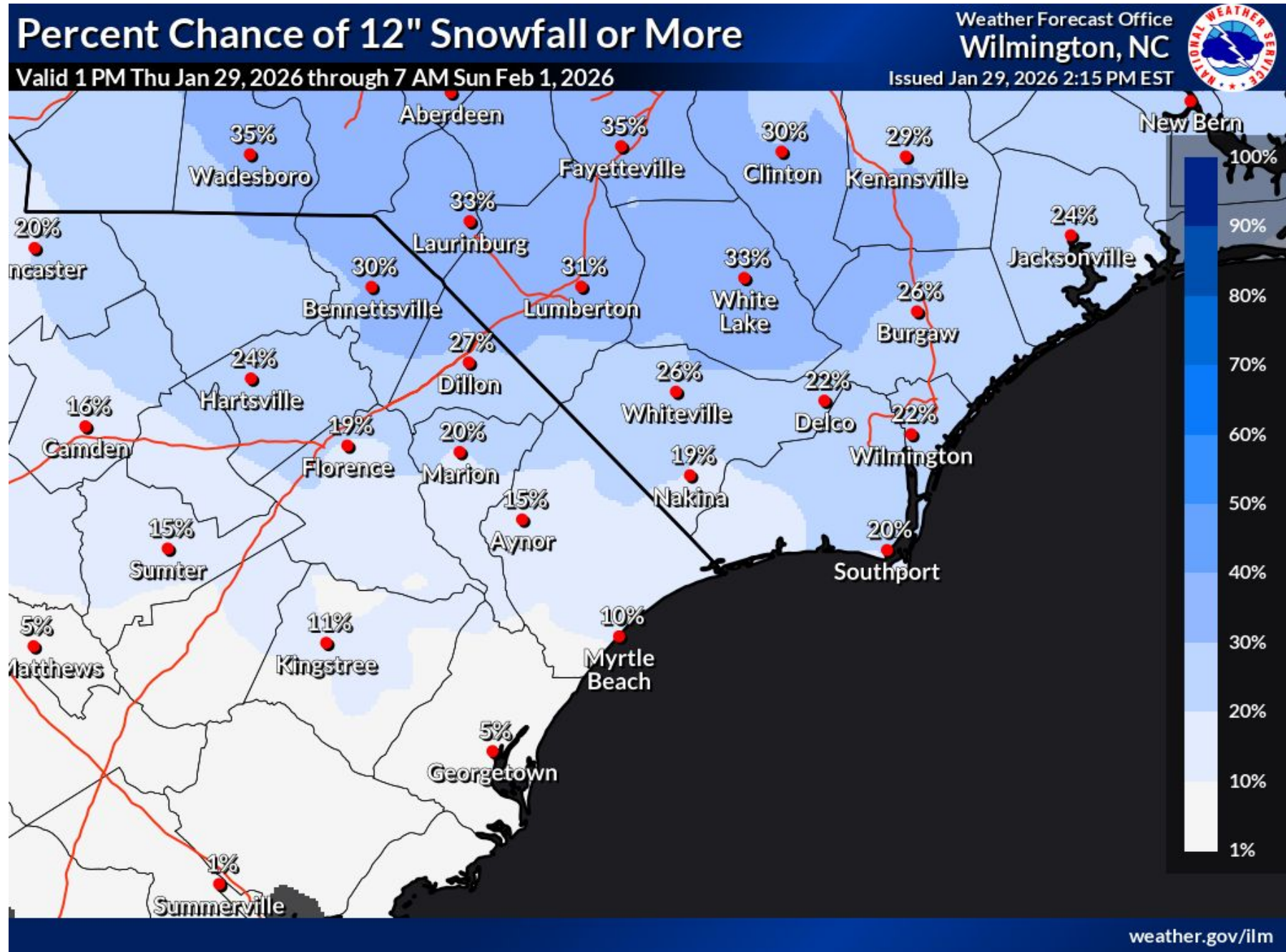
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Probability of Snow Amounts

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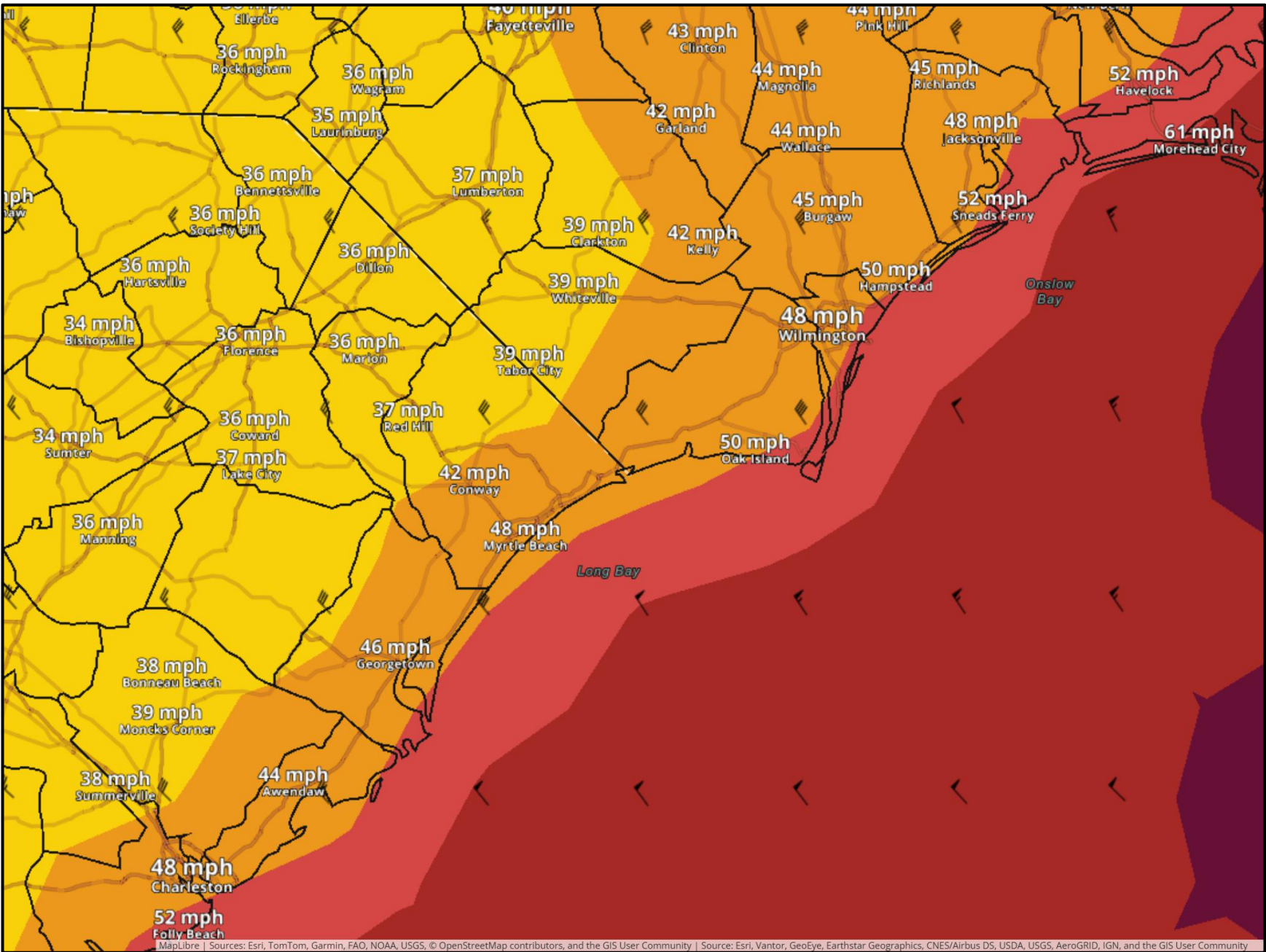
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Maximum Wind Gust

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.

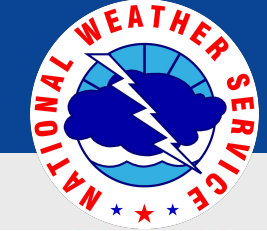


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Key Take-Aways

January 29, 2026
3:00 PM EST

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.



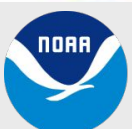
Due to expected prolonged cold, hazardous travel conditions could extend through the early to middle part of next week.



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.





Preparedness/Safety Info

January 29, 2026
3:00 PM EST

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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

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.



Visit weather.gov/winter



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