

Potential Winter Storm Wednesday Night and Thursday

National Weather Service
Decision Support Briefing # 1
Monday, December 14, 2020 4:00 AM





Winter Weather Related Hazards



What Has Changed?

✓ First briefing

Main Points

Hazard	Impacts	Location	Timing
Heavy Snow 	Difficult travel	All of southern New England, especially along/south of Mass Pike	Late Wednesday afternoon into Thursday morning
Strong Winds 	Blowing/drifting snow, Minor wind damage and isolated power outages	Gusts to 45 mph possible near the coast	Wednesday night into Thursday morning
Coastal Flood 	Minor to perhaps moderate flooding. Inundation of 1-2 feet on coastal roads.	Eastern MA coast including Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket	High tide early Thursday afternoon
Marine 	Gale force winds up to 40 knots and seas 12-18 feet offshore	MA and RI coastal waters	Wednesday night and Thursday

Summary of Greatest Impacts



Heavy Snow: All of southern New England, esp along/south of Mass Pike

None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
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Strong Winds: Coastal MA and RI

None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
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Coastal Flood: Eastern MA including Cape Cod and the Islands

None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
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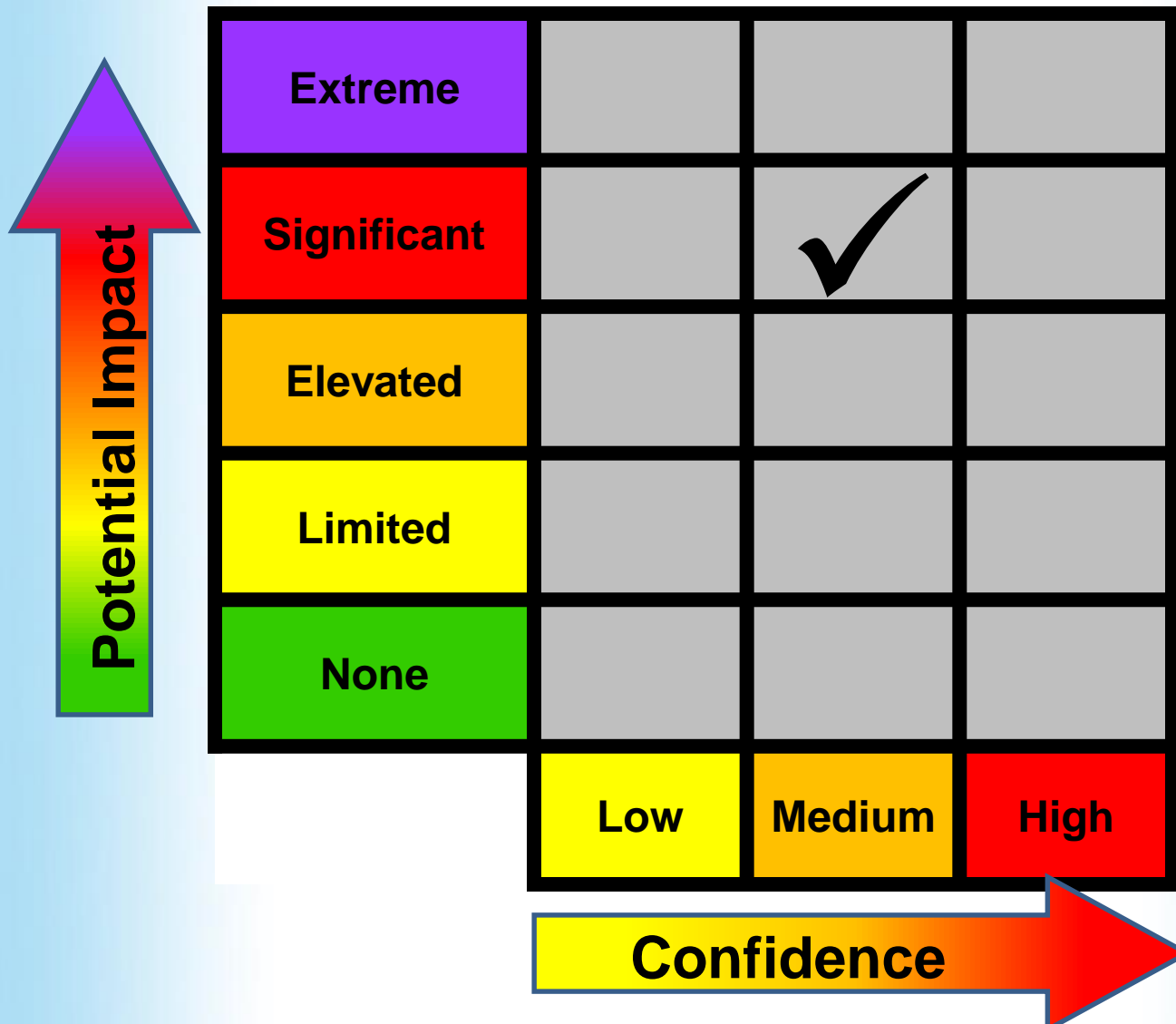


Marine: MA and RI coastal waters

None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
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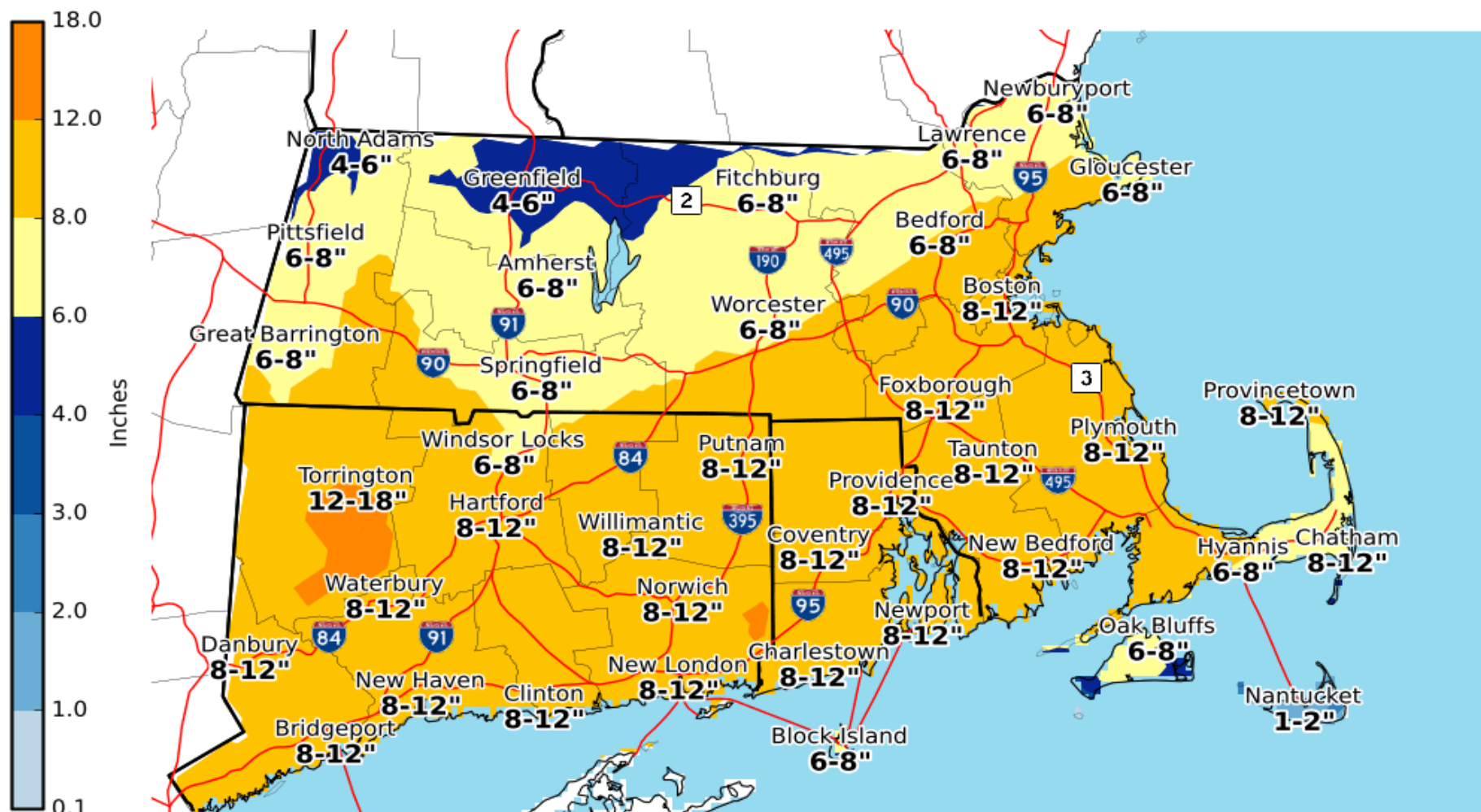
Winter Storm Threat and Confidence



Forecast Storm Total Snowfall

Expected Snowfall - Official NWS Forecast

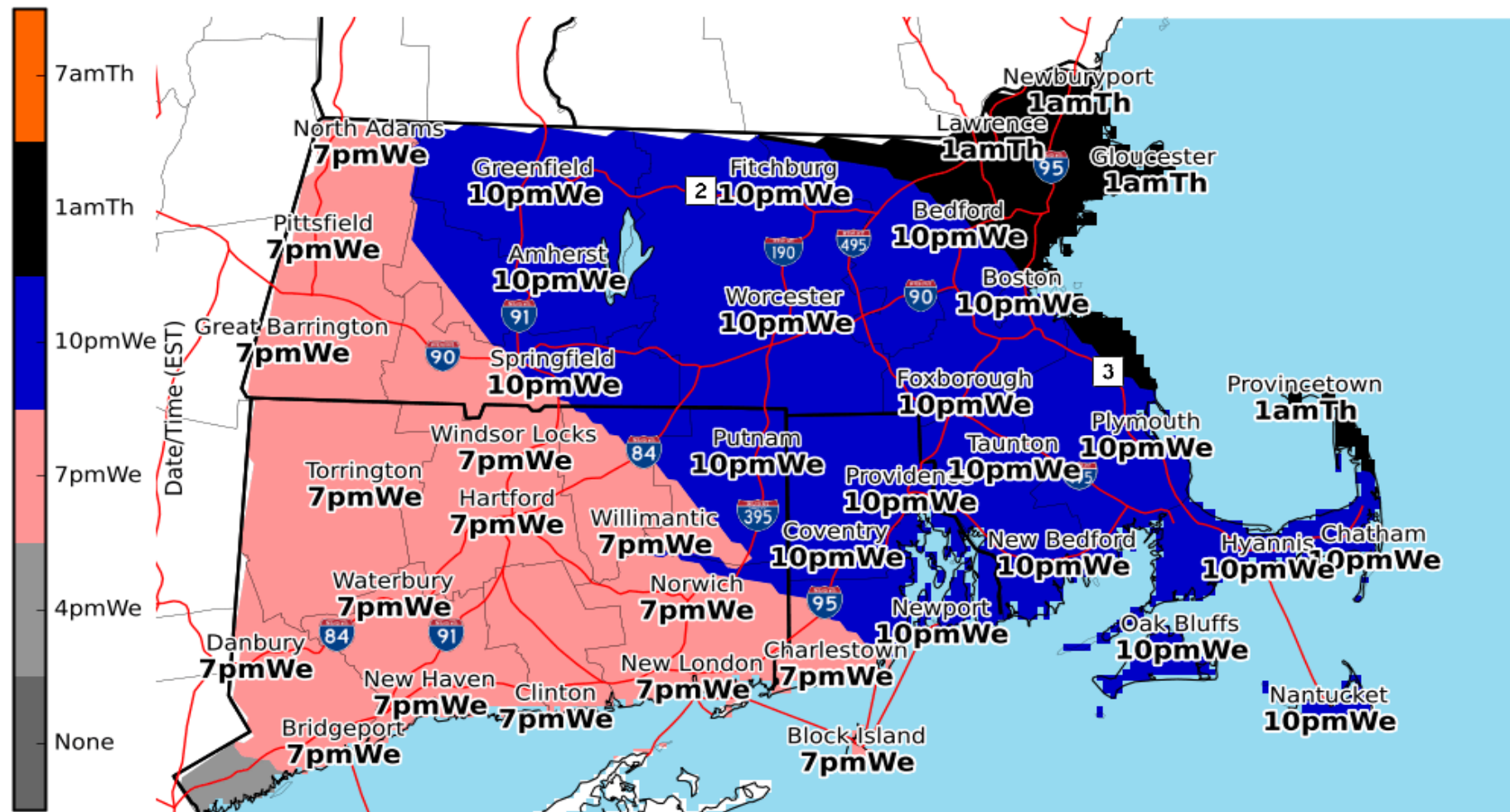
Valid: Wednesday Night and Thursday



Onset of Winter Weather Threats

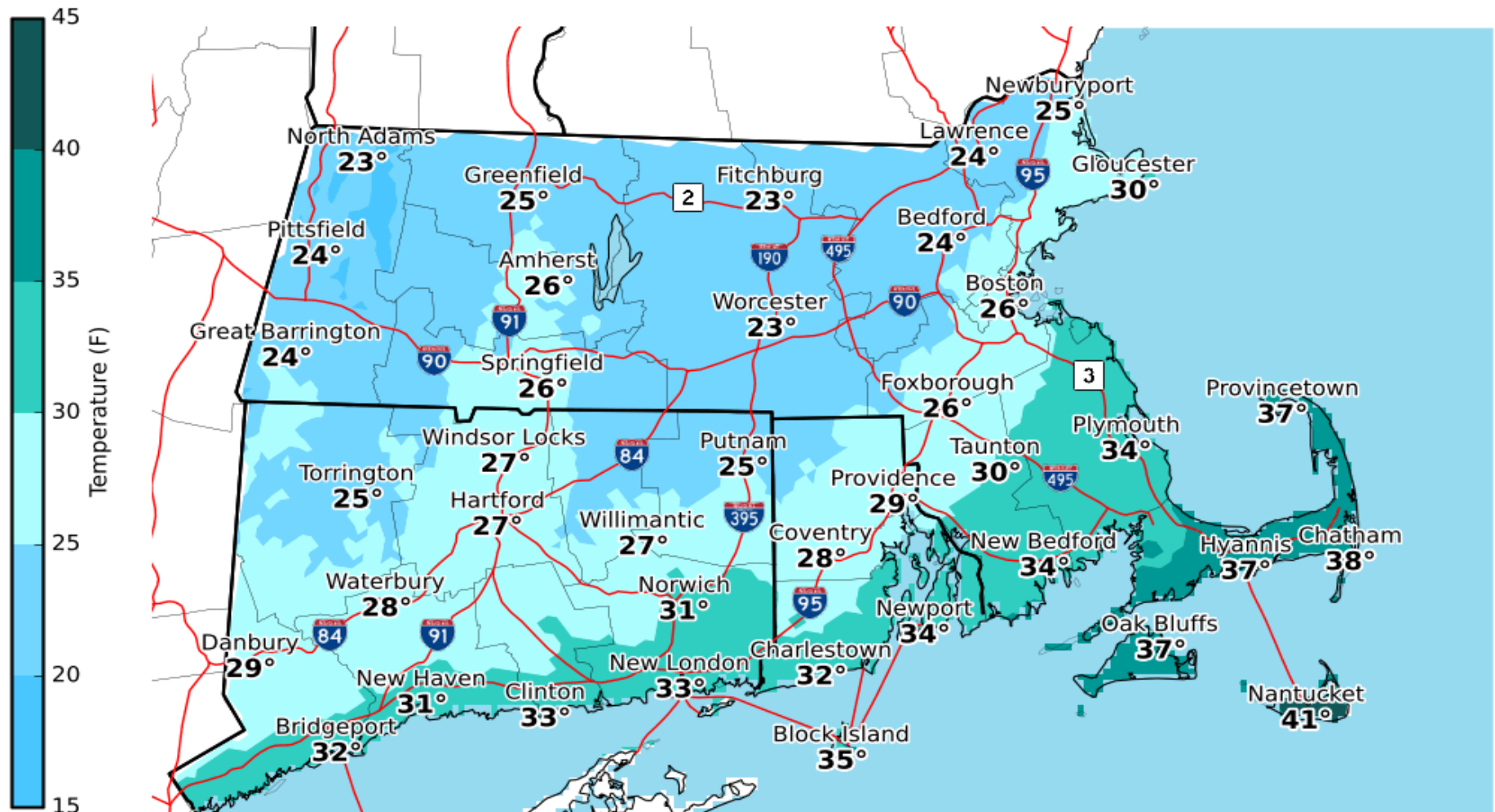
Precipitation Onset Time

Valid: Wednesday Night



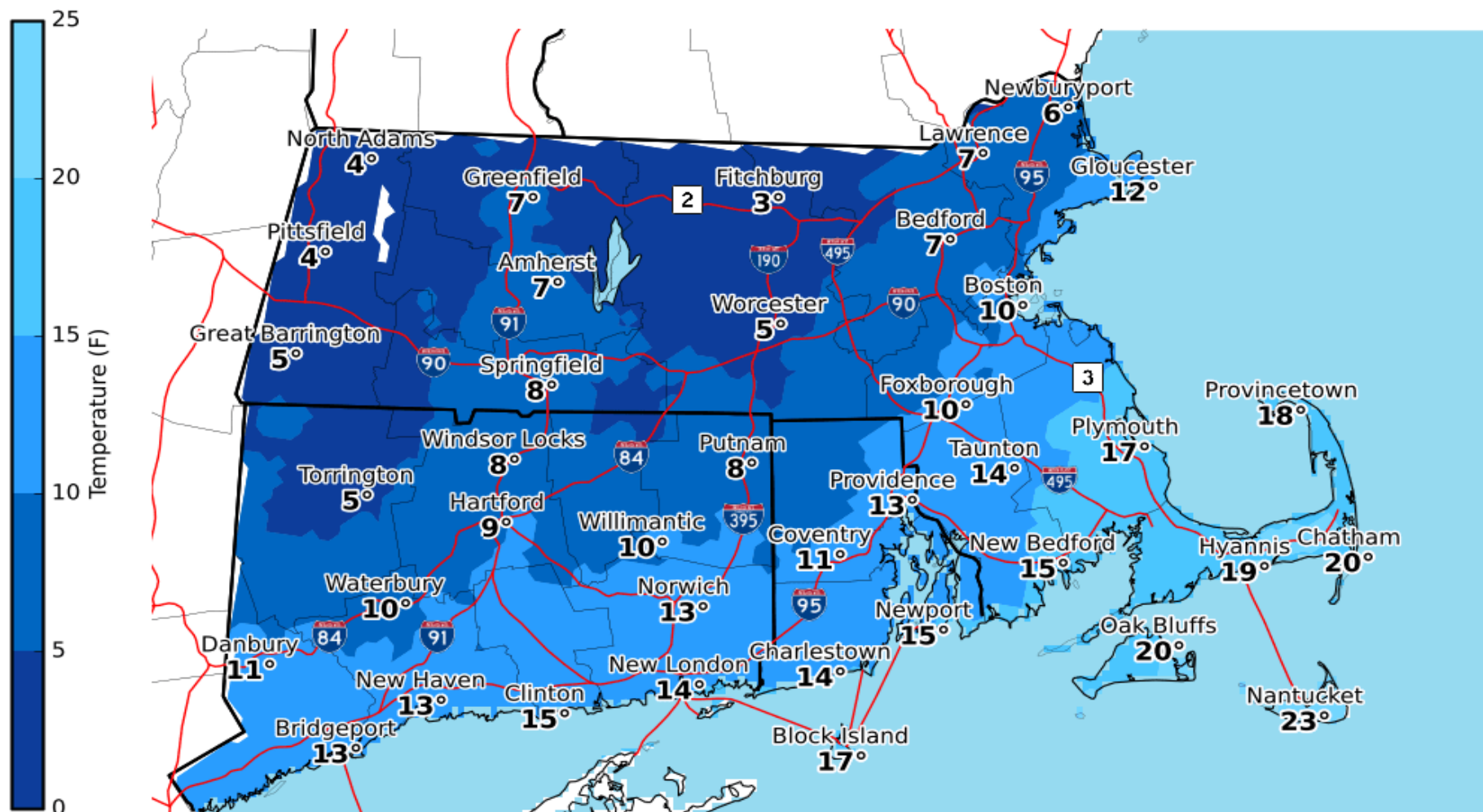
Thursday High Temperatures

Forecast Highs Valid: Thursday



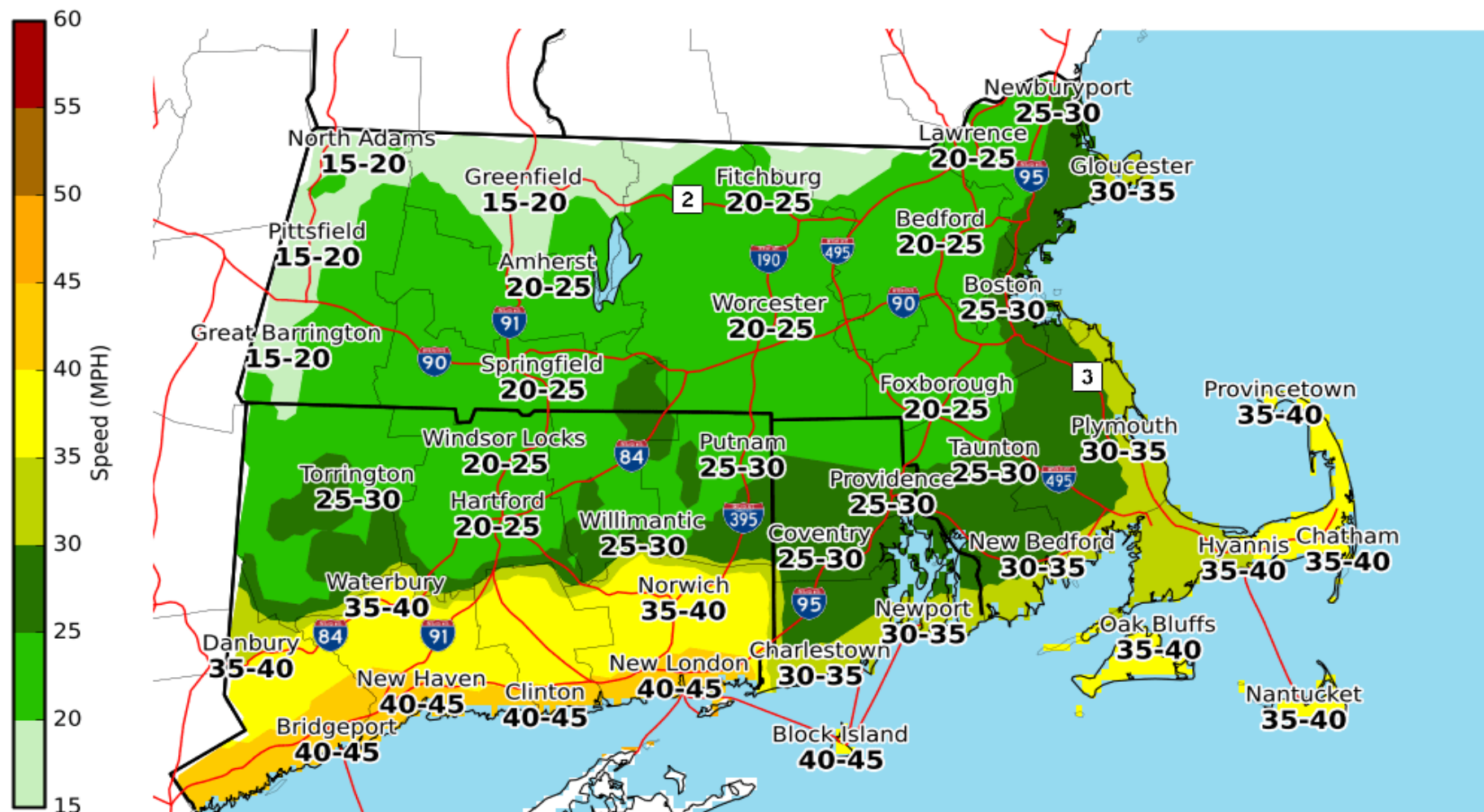
Thursday Minimum Wind Chills

Min Apparent Temperature Valid: Wednesday Night and Thursday



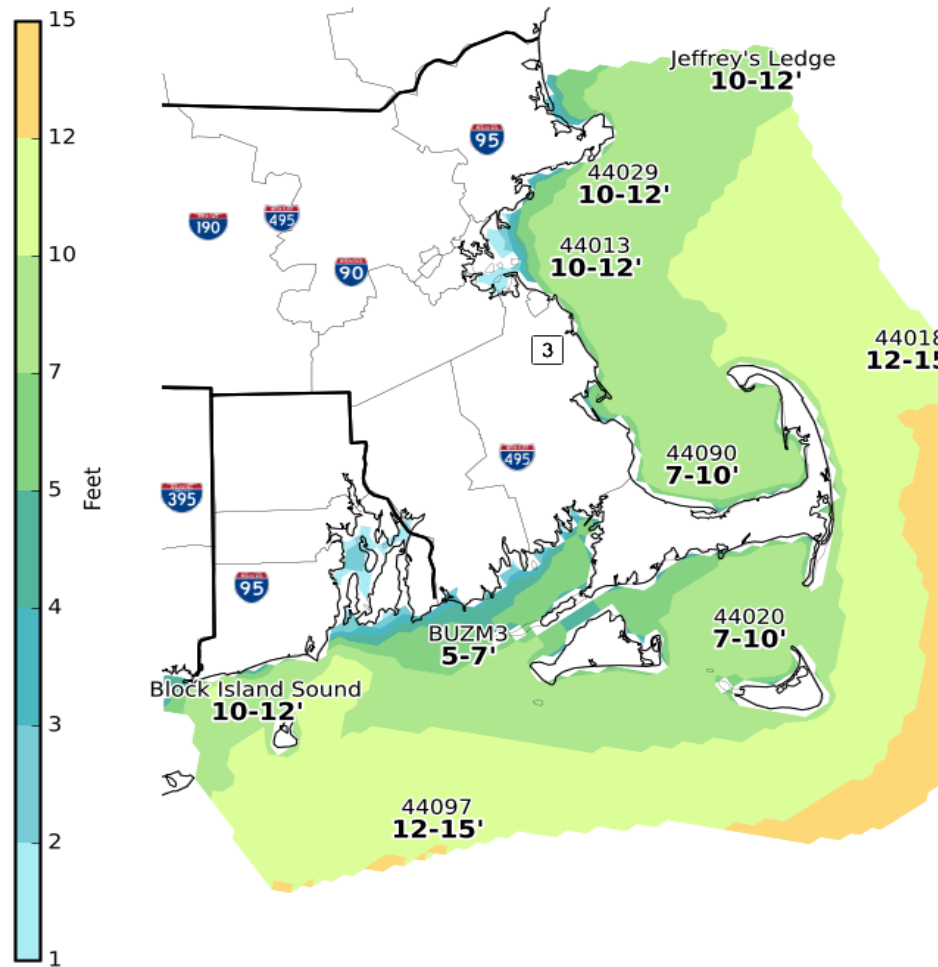
Forecast Maximum Wind Gusts: Wednesday Night and Thursday

Max Wind Gusts (MPH) Valid: Wednesday Night and Thursday

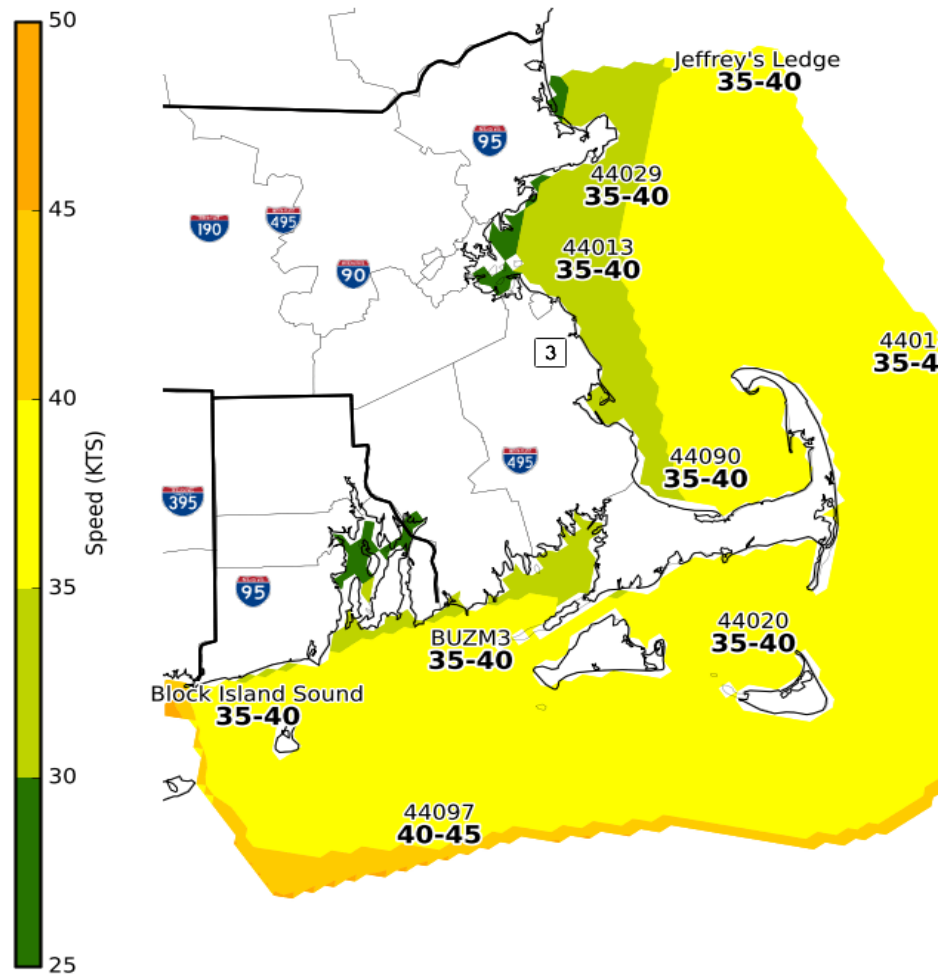


Forecast Maximum Wave Heights and Wind Gusts (knots): Wed Night/Thu

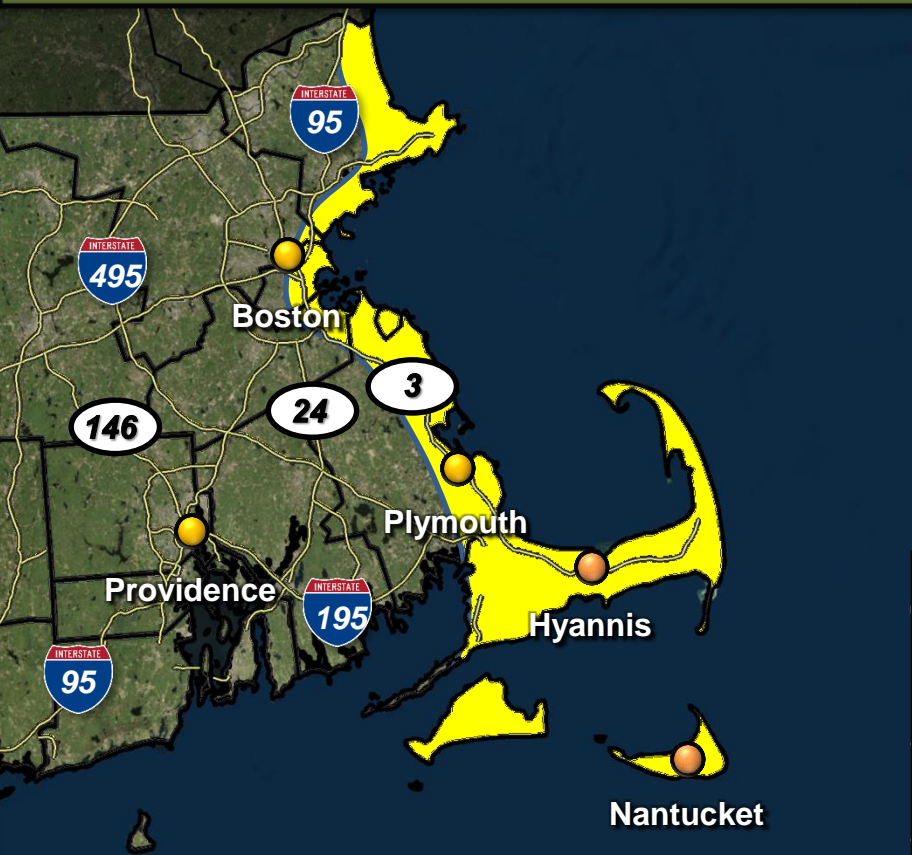
Maximum Wave Height
Valid: Wednesday Night and Thursday



Max Wind Gusts (KTS)
Valid: Wednesday Night and Thursday



Coastal Flooding – Early Thursday Afternoon



Most Likely: Minor Coastal Flooding

- 1 to 2 feet of inundation, especially for low-lying areas and vulnerable shore roads.
- Minor beach erosion.

Worst Case: Low-end Moderate Coastal Flooding

- More widespread flooding with some road closures likely.
- Inundation of 2 to 3 feet on shore roads.

Timing: High tide early Thursday afternoon.

None
Minor
Moderate
Major
Extreme

	Storm Surge Threat	Potential Impacts from Storm Surge
Little to None	0 to 1 feet above ground	No immediate preparations needed. Little to no potential storm surge flooding impacts
Elevated	1 to 3 feet above ground	Prepare for minor flooding impacts
Moderate	3 to 6 feet above ground	Prepare for widespread flooding with more significant impacts
High	6 to 9 feet above ground	Prepare for major flooding. Some travel routes may be closed.
Extreme	> 9 feet above ground	Prepare for devastating to catastrophic flooding.

Threat Event Summary

✓ **Confidence:** Moderate on expected impacts.

✓ **What:**



Heavy snow resulting in difficult travel.



Minor to perhaps moderate coastal flooding



Strong winds producing blowing/drifting snow and minor damage



Hazardous marine conditions due to gale force winds and rough seas

✓ **Where:** All of Southern New England

✓ **When:** Wednesday Night into Thursday

Contact and Next Briefing Information

Next Briefing

When: By 5 pm Monday, December 14

Method: via email



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