

Potential Winter Storm Wednesday Night and Thursday

National Weather Service
Decision Support Briefing # 2
Monday, December 14, 2020 4:30 PM





Winter Weather Related Hazards



What Has Changed?

- ✓ Winter Storm Watch issued for N CT, RI and SE MA.

Main Points

Hazard	Impacts	Location	Timing
Heavy Snow 	Difficult travel	All of southern New England, especially along/south of Mass Pike	Wednesday night into Thursday morning
Strong Winds 	Blowing/drifting snow, Minor wind damage and isolated power outages	Strongest gusts to 45 mph over Cape/Islands	Wednesday night into Thursday morning
Coastal Flood 	Minor to perhaps low end 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 40-45 knots and seas 12-18 feet offshore	MA and RI coastal waters, strongest south of the coast	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
------	---------	----------	-------------	---------



Strong Winds: Coastal MA and RI

None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
------	---------	----------	-------------	---------



Coastal Flood: Eastern MA including Cape Cod and the Islands

None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
------	---------	----------	-------------	---------

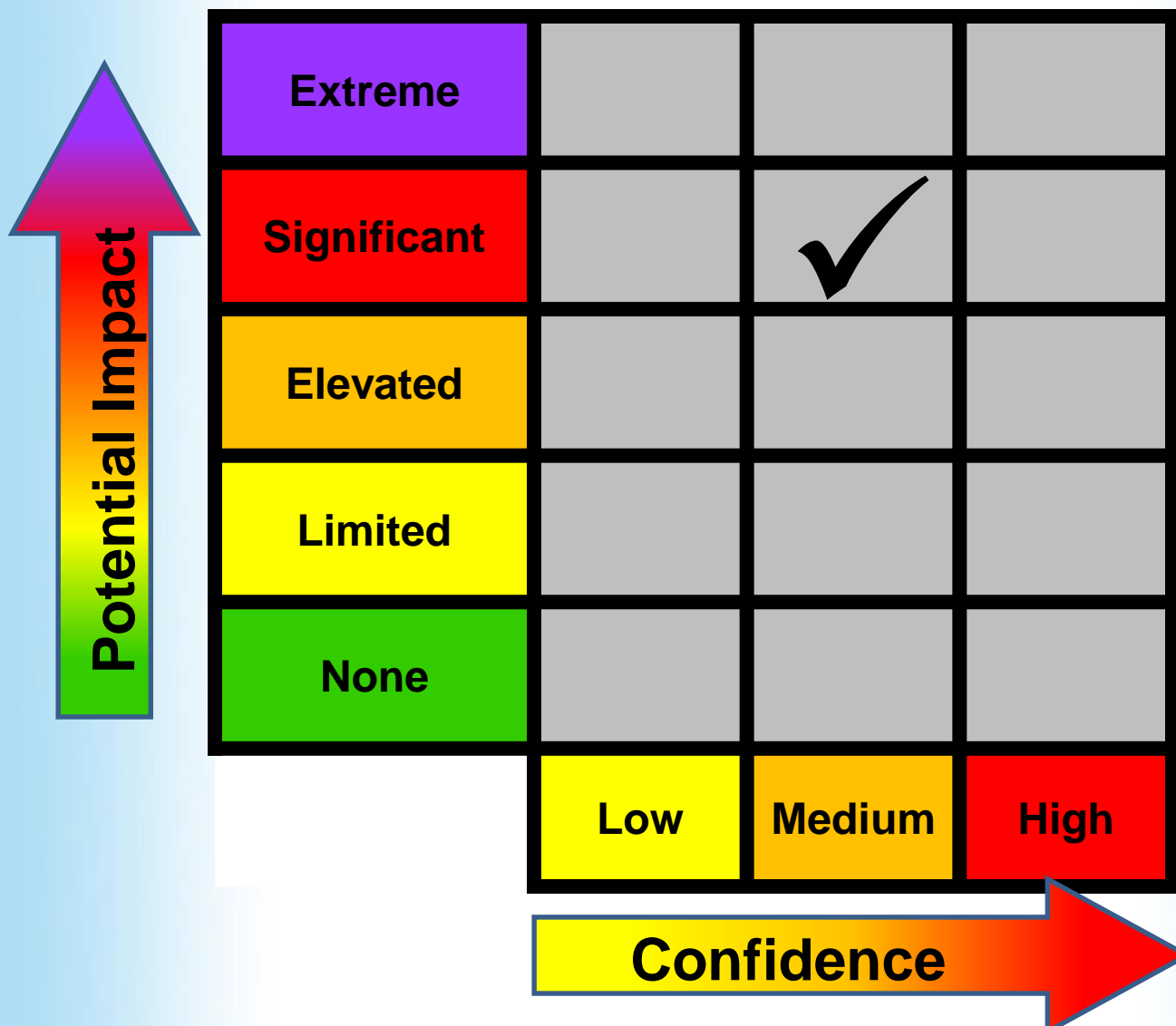


Marine: MA and RI coastal waters

None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
------	---------	----------	-------------	---------



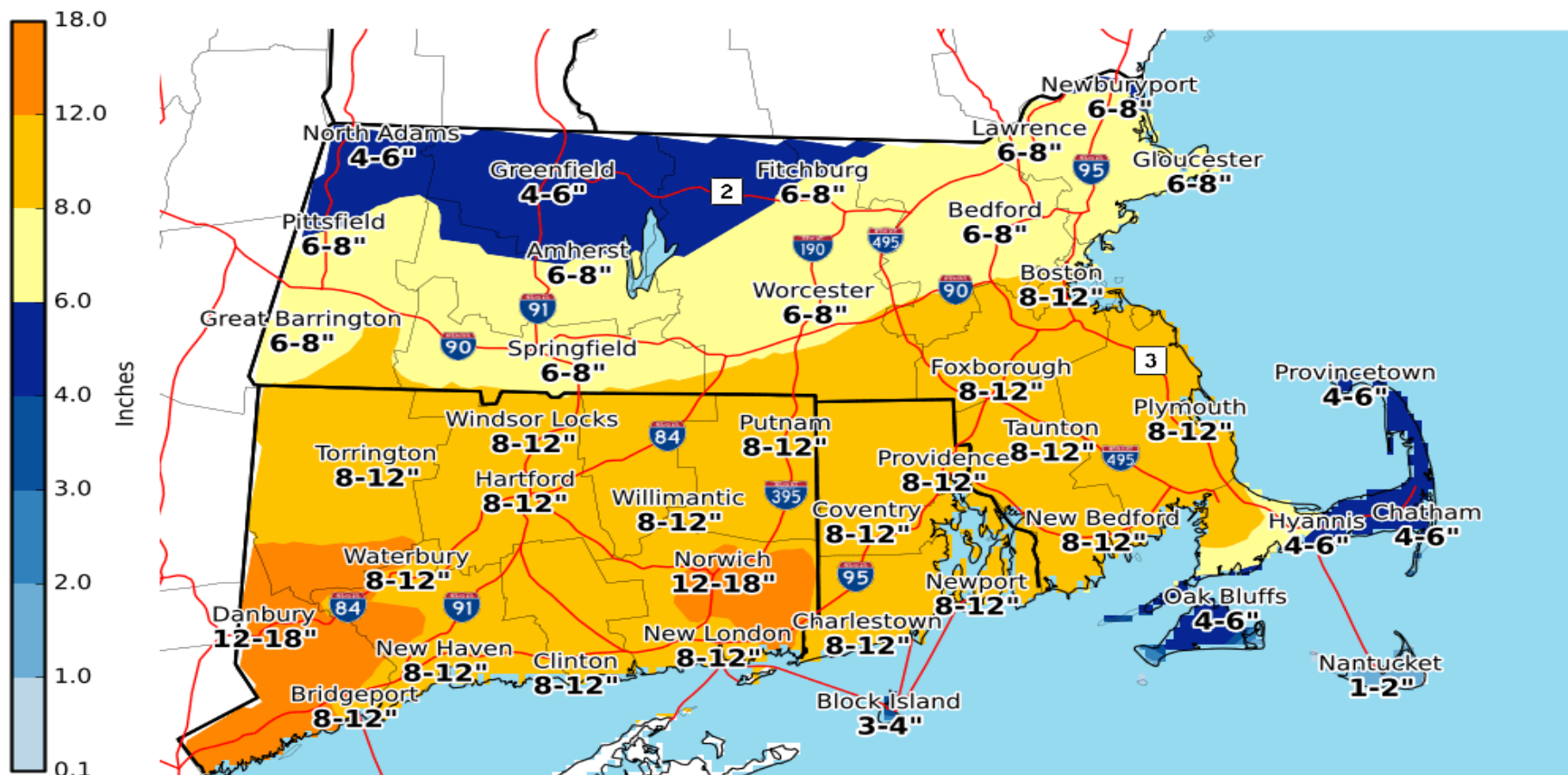
Winter Storm Threat and Confidence



Forecast Storm Total Snowfall

Expected Snowfall - Official NWS Forecast

Valid: Wednesday Night and Thursday



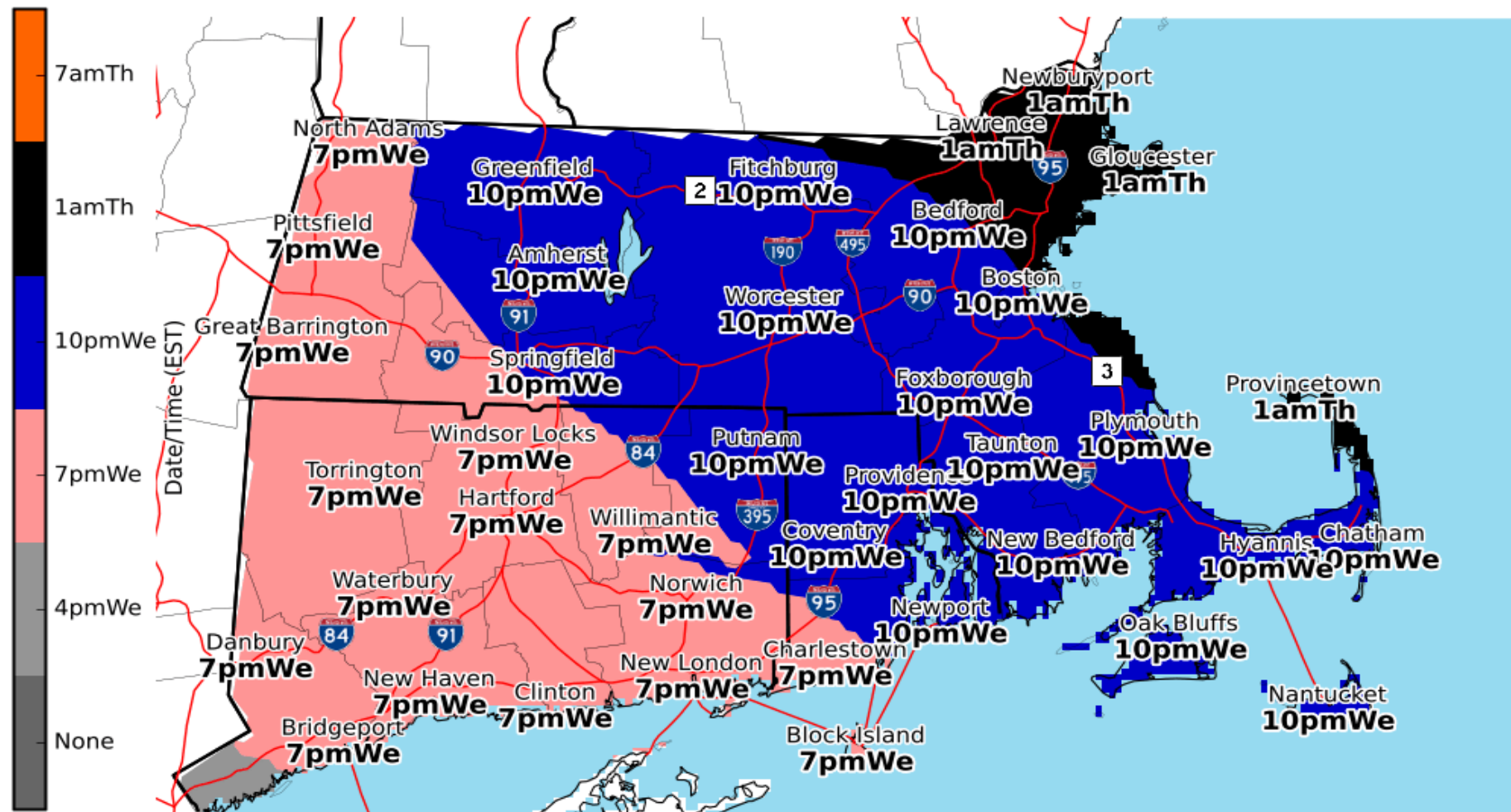
National Weather Service
Boston/Norton, MA
12/14/2020 04:09 PM EST

Follow Us:   
weather.gov/Boston/winter

Onset of Winter Weather Threats

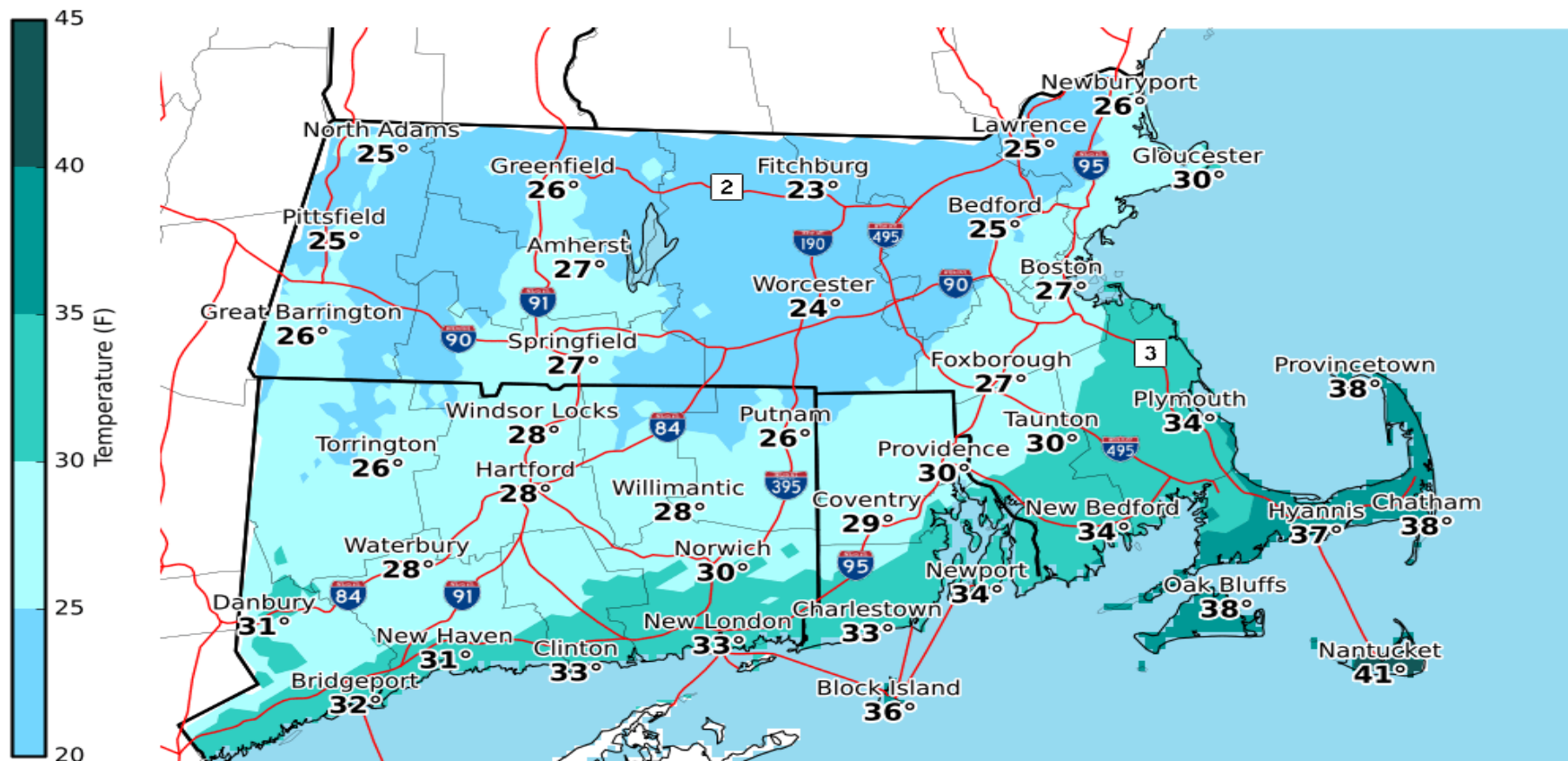
Precipitation Onset Time

Valid: Wednesday Night



Thursday High Temperatures

Afternoon Highs Valid: Thursday

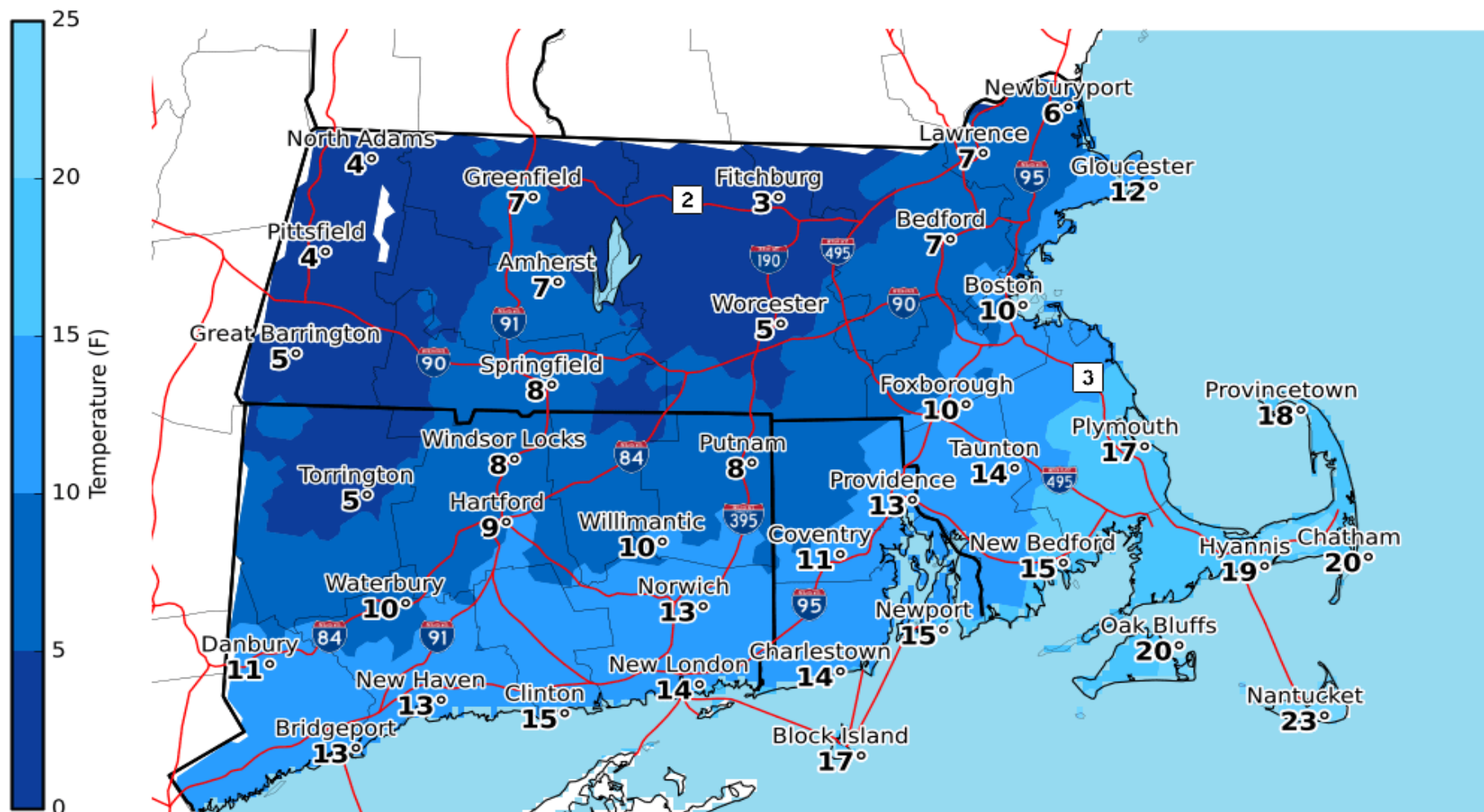


National Weather Service
Boston/Norton, MA
12/14/2020 03:12 PM EST

Follow Us:
weather.gov/Boston

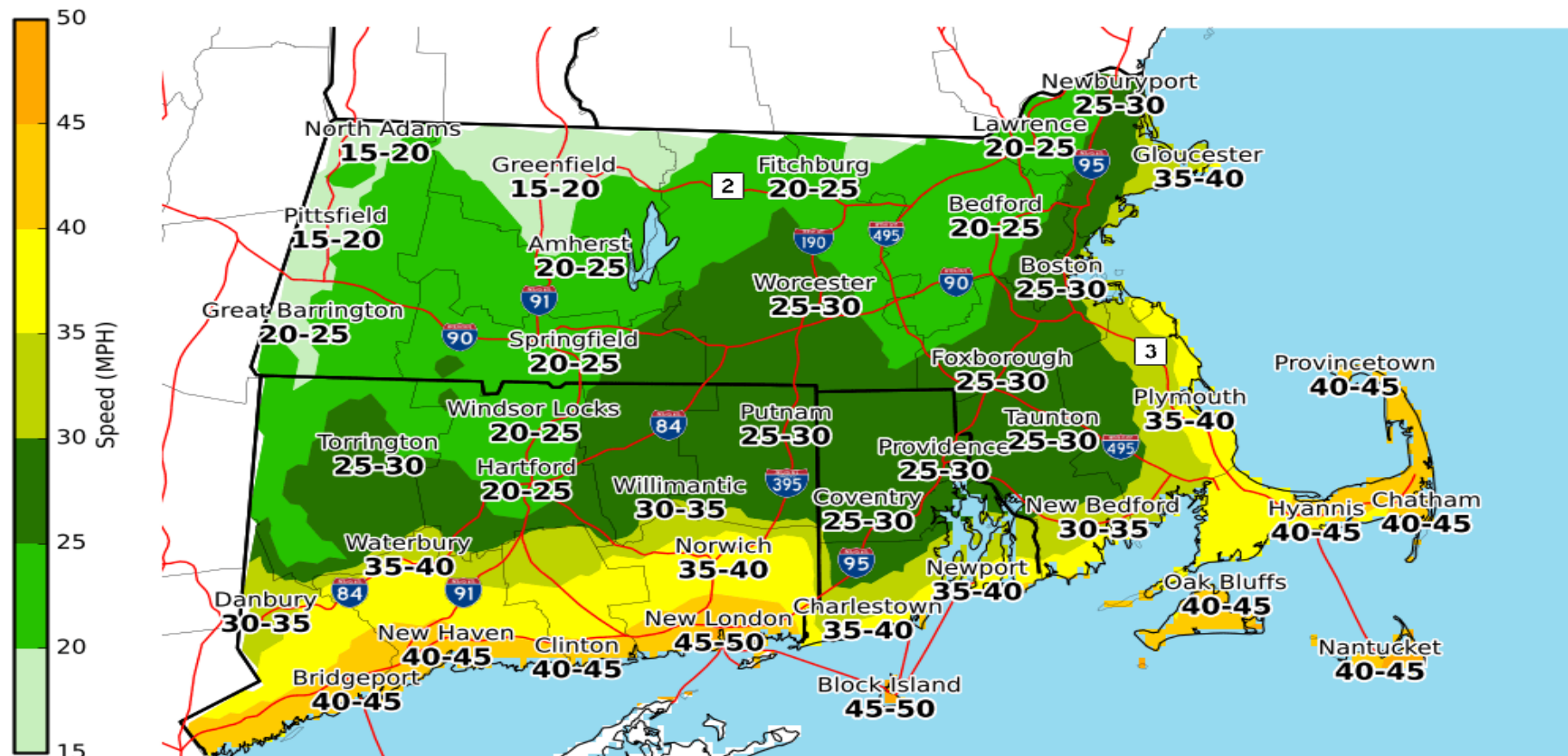
Thursday Minimum Wind Chills

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

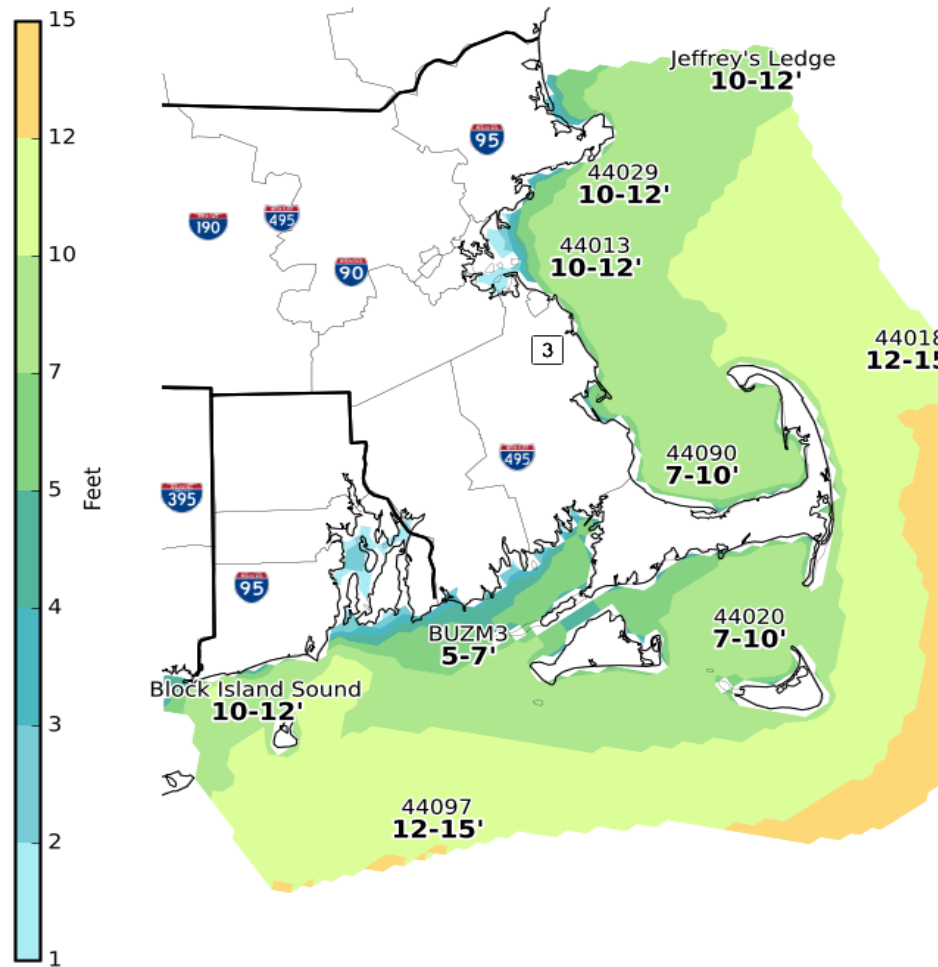


National Weather Service
Boston/Norton, MA
12/14/2020 03:05 PM EST

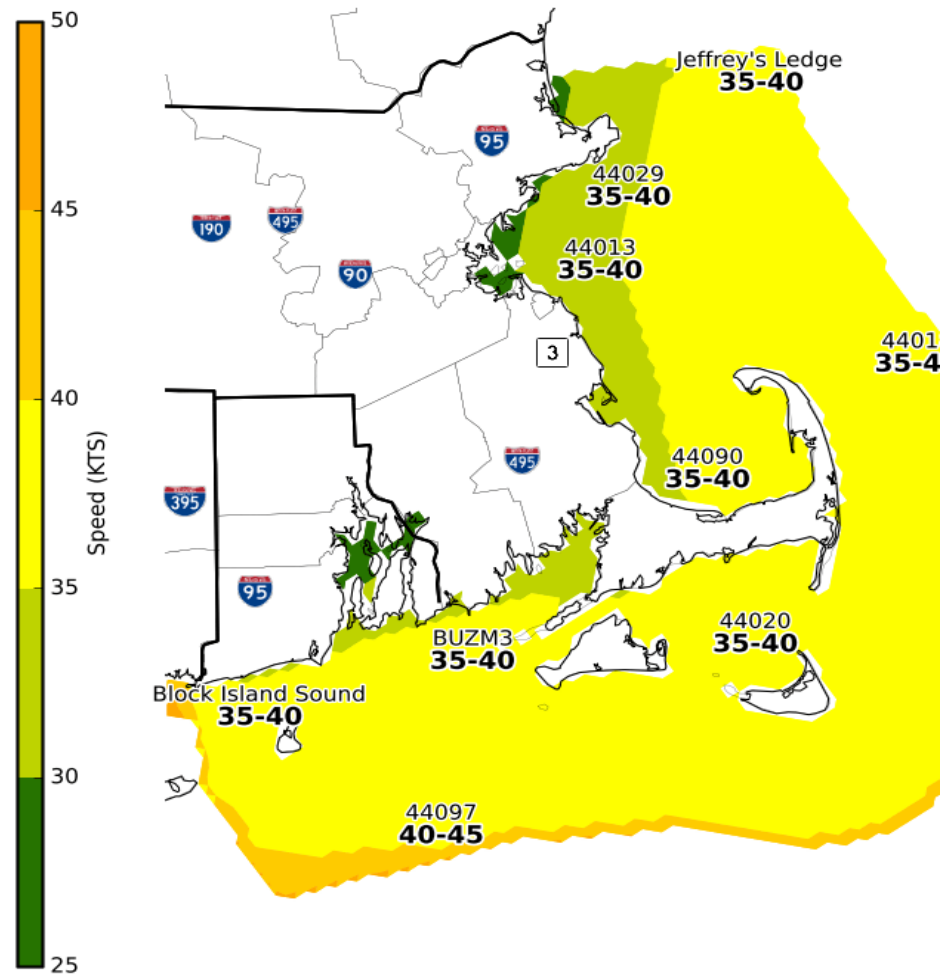
Follow Us:   
weather.gov/Boston

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

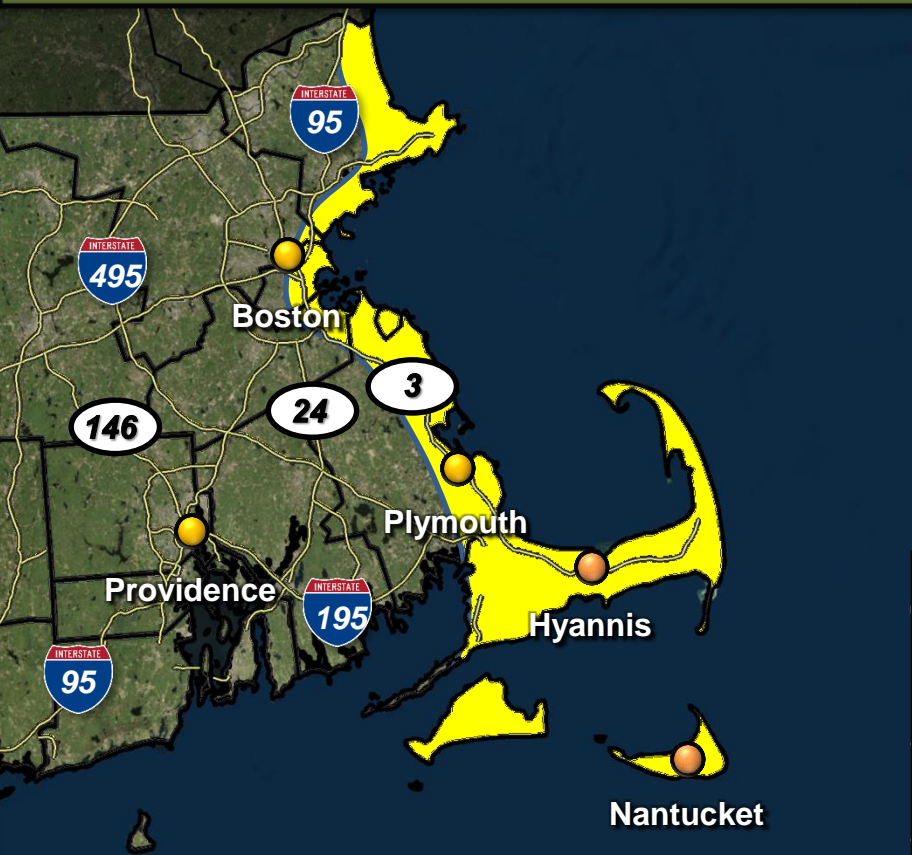
Maximum Wave Height
Valid: Wednesday Night and Thursday



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. Highest confidence south of the Mass Pike.

✓ **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 6 am Tuesday, December 15

Method: via email



www.weather.gov/boston



Phone (public):
508-622-3250



Facebook:

www.facebook.com/NWSBoston



Twitter:

www.twitter.com/NWSBoston

Disclaimer: The information contained within this briefing is time-sensitive,
do not use after 5 am, Tuesday, December 15, 2020

