

# Potential Winter Storm Friday Night Into Saturday Night

National Weather Service

Decision Support Briefing # 3

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 3:05 PM





## What Has Changed?

- ✓ Winter Storm Watches posted for portions of eastern MA and RI
- ✓ Storm Watches for some of the coastal waters
- ✓ Gale Watches for Boston Harbor and Narragansett Bay

## Hazards



## Main Points

Hazard		Impacts	Location	Timing
<b>Damaging Winds</b>		Possible power outages	Greatest risk across eastern MA and RI	Late Friday night and Saturday
<b>Coastal Flooding</b>		Minor coastal flooding. Localized moderate coastal flooding possible	Greatest risk is along the eastern MA coast, and north-facing shores, like Nantucket Harbor.	Saturday, especially during the evening high tide
<b>Snow</b>		Visibility possibly lowering to less than a quarter mile at times	Greatest risk across eastern MA into RI and portions of eastern CT	Late Friday night into Saturday night
<b>Marine</b>		Rough seas, with winds up to Storm Force possible	All areas, but greatest risk across the eastern offshore waters	Late Friday night into Saturday Night

# Summary of Greatest Impacts



**Winds:** All areas, with greatest risk RI and southeast MA

None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
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**Coastal Flooding:** Most likely along the east coast of MA

None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
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**Snow:** All areas, with greatest risk eastern MA and RI

None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
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**Marine:** All coastal waters

None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
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## Potential Winter Storm: late Friday Night – Saturday night

***High confidence in a coastal storm near southern New England***

***Lower confidence in the exact track***

Does it track near the coast or farther offshore?

***Potential impacts:***

Significant snowfall, blowing and drifting

Minor to moderate coastal flooding

Strong northeast winds to 50 MPH - perhaps 60+ MPH near Cape Cod

Possible power outages

Dangerous conditions for mariners - seas 25-30 feet offshore

# Potential Winter Storm: Late Friday Night – Saturday night

*High confidence in a coastal storm, lower confidence in exact track*

## Track Closer to Coast:

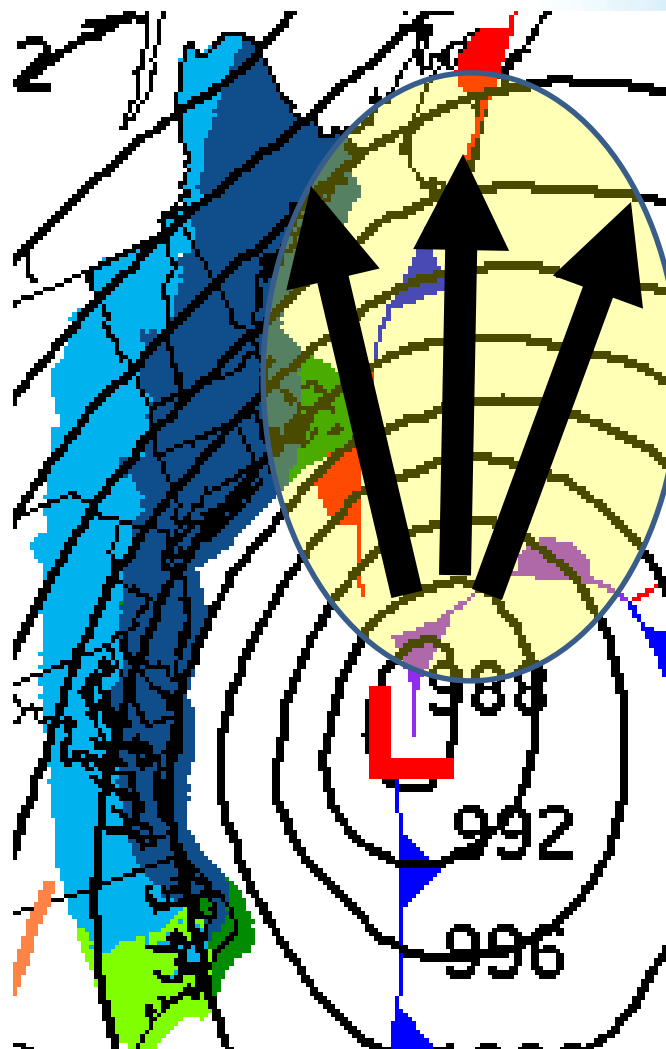
Heaviest snow inland,  
rain/snow issues near coast

## Offshore Track:

Heaviest snow near coast,  
less snow inland

## Timing:

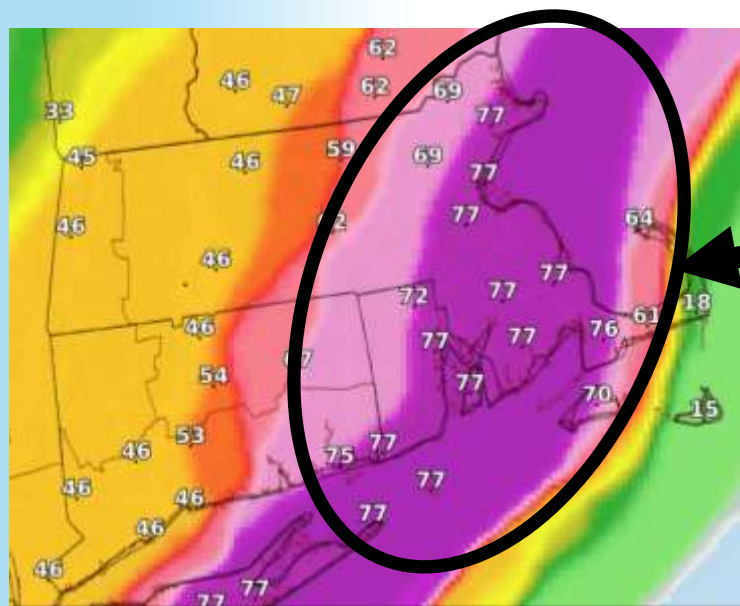
Late Friday night – Saturday  
night



7 AM Saturday  
Weather Map

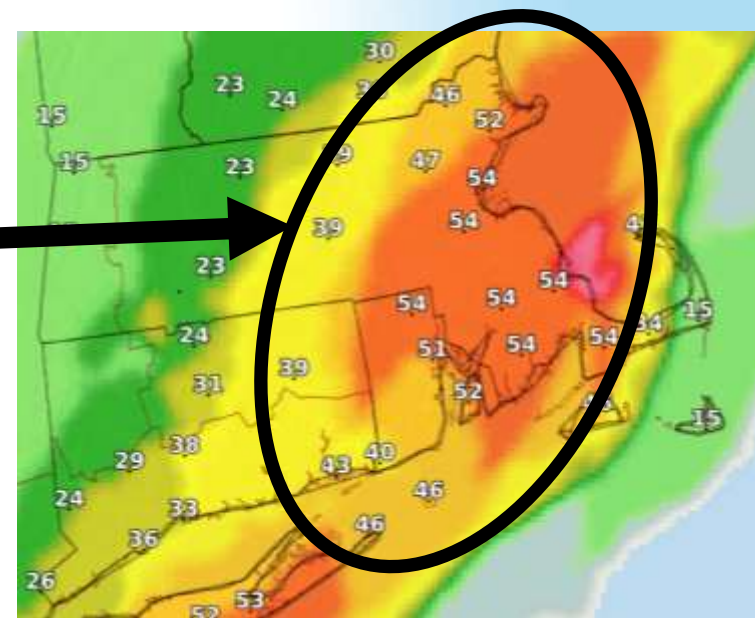


# Potential Winter Storm: Late Friday Night – Saturday night



Chance of 6" or more of snow

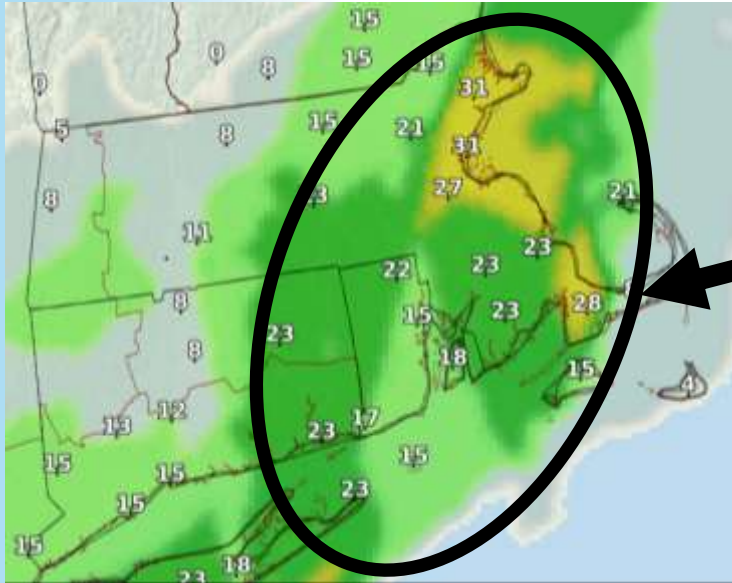
Highest  
Chances



Chance of 12" or more of snow

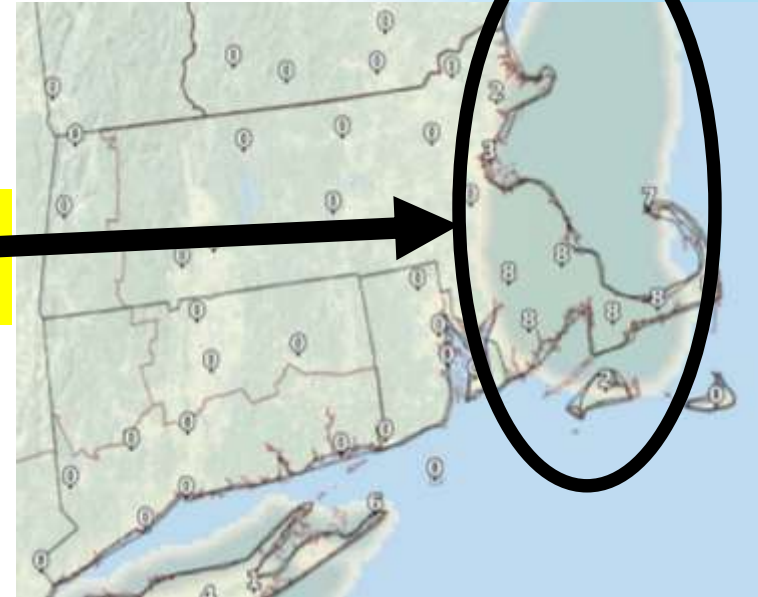
Timing: Late Friday night into Saturday night

# Potential Winter Storm: Late Friday Night – Saturday night



Chance of 18" or more of snow

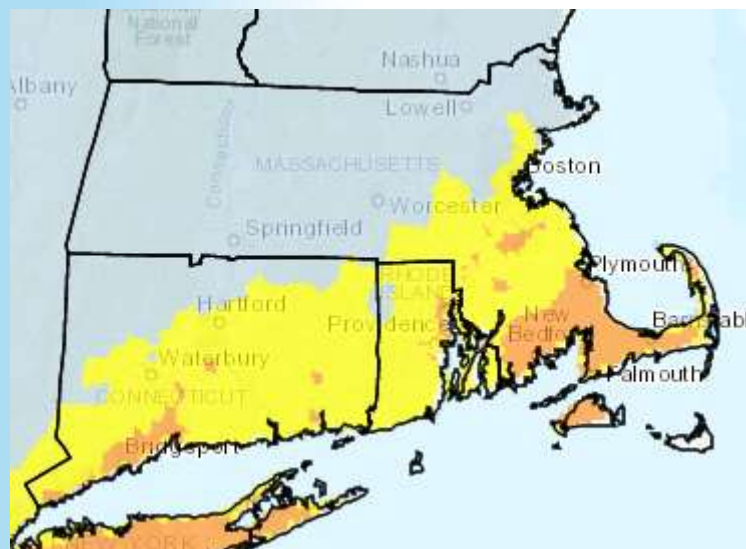
Highest  
Chances



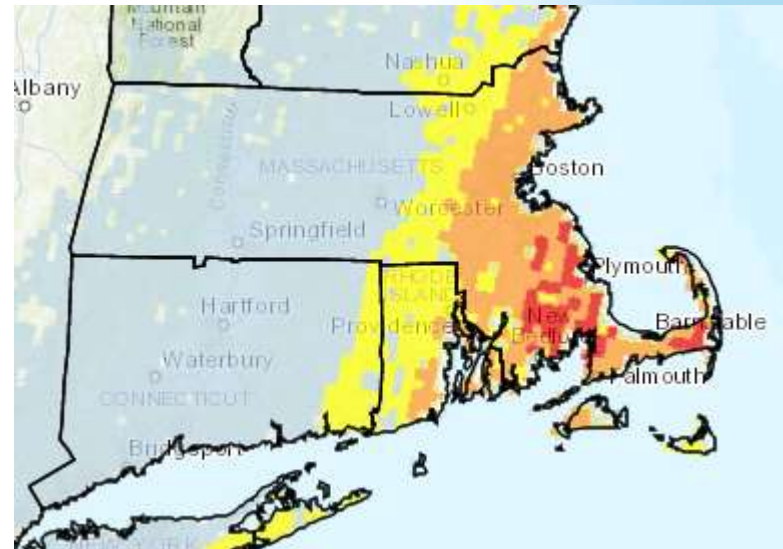
Chance of 24" or more of snow

Timing: Late Friday night into Saturday night

# Potential Winter Storm: Late Friday Night – Saturday night



**Snow Amount Impact**

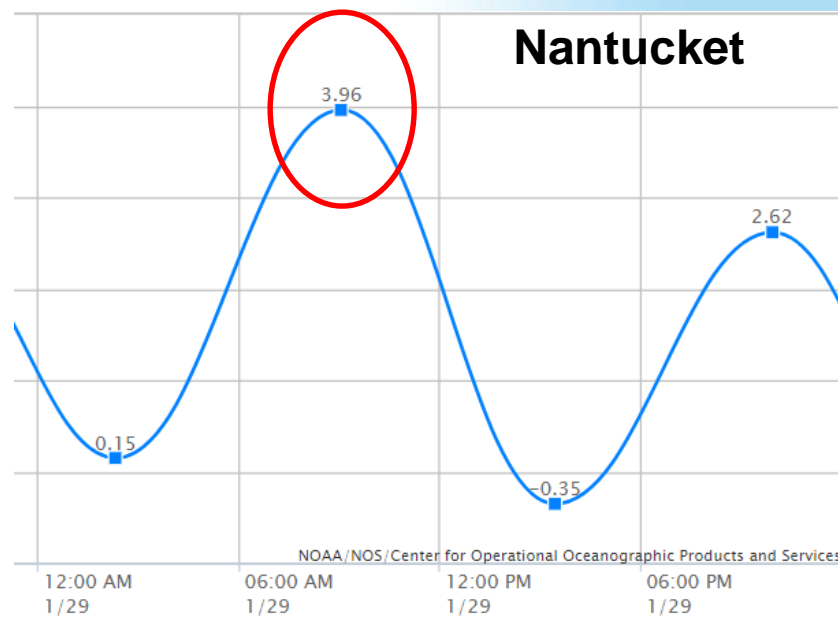
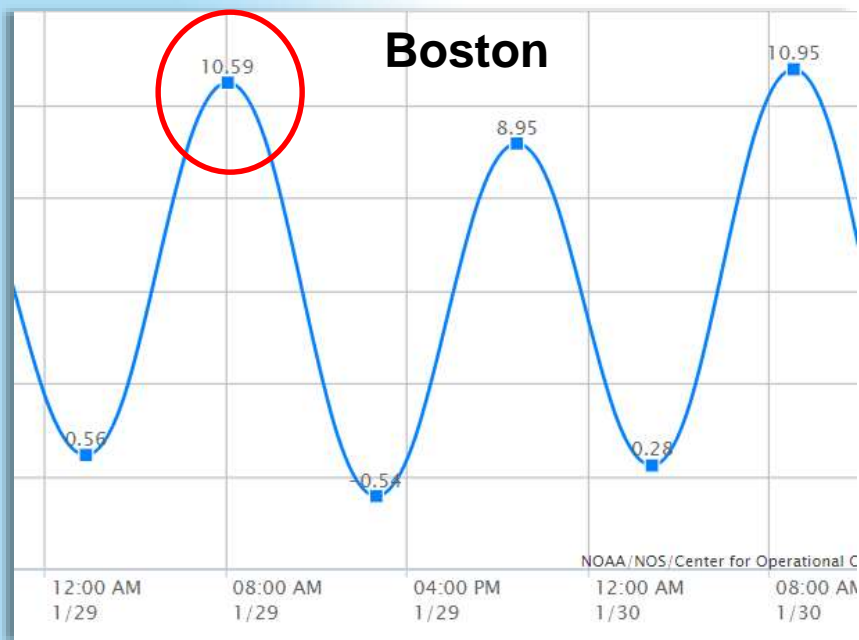


**Snow Load Impact**

Potential Winter Storm Impacts	
	<b>No Impacts</b> Impacts not expected.
	<b>Limited Impacts</b> Rarely a direct threat to life and property. Typically results in little inconveniences.
	<b>Minor Impacts</b> Rarely a direct threat to life and property. Typically results in an inconvenience to daily life.
	<b>Moderate Impacts</b> Often threatening to life and property, some damage unavoidable. Typically results in disruptions to daily life.
	<b>Major Impacts</b> Extensive property damage likely, life saving actions needed. Will likely result in major disruptions to daily life.
	<b>Extreme Impacts</b> Extensive and widespread severe property damage, life saving actions will be needed. Results in extreme disruptions to daily life.



## Minor to Moderate Coastal Flooding Sat AM: Eastern MA Coast



- Vulnerable shore roads temporarily impassable around high tide
- Less than 1 foot of inundation (above ground level)
- Minor beach erosion

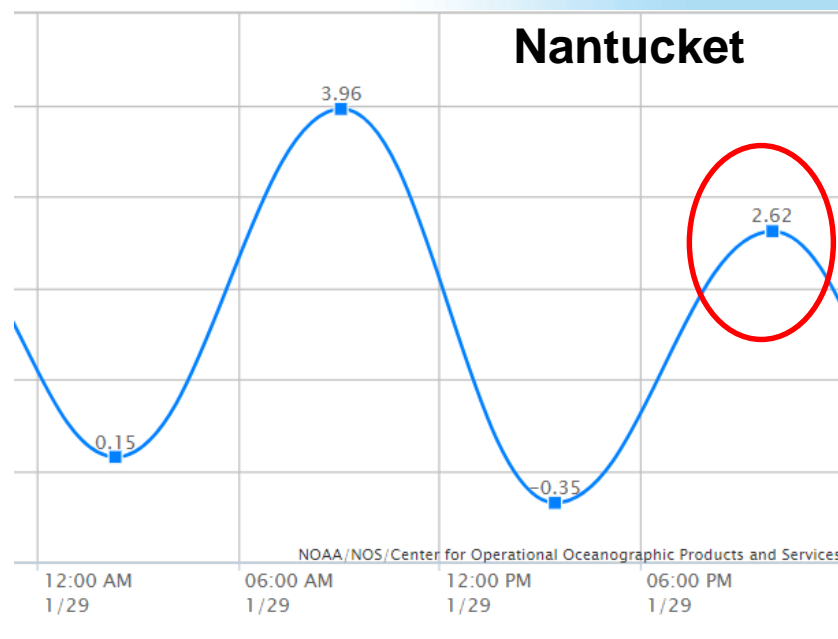
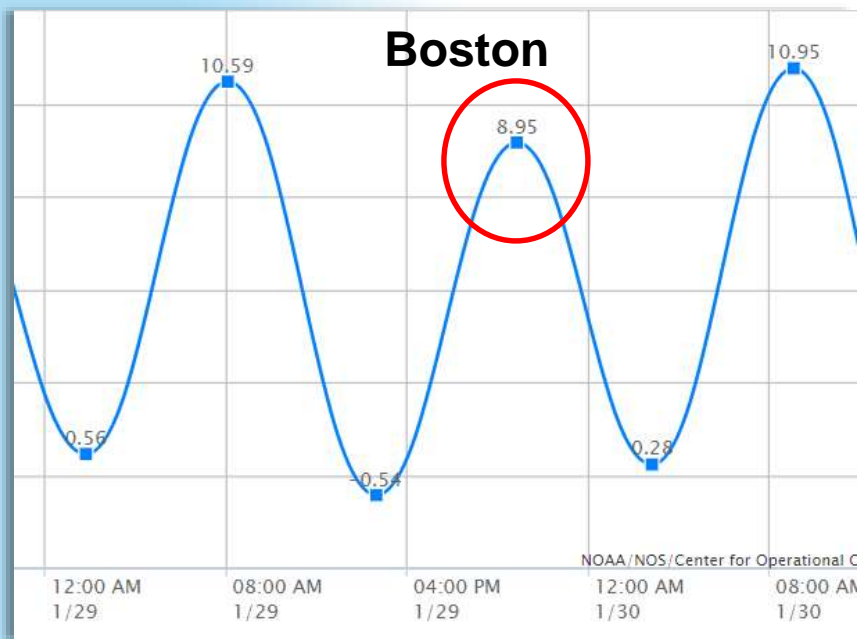
**Saturday AM high tide:**  
**Minor Flooding Possible**

Surge: 1-2 ft

Seas: 10-15 ft

Wind: NE 20-30 with gusts to 45 mph

## Minor to Moderate Coastal Flooding Sat PM: Eastern MA Coast



- Vulnerable shore roads impassable around high tide, some debris on roads
- 1 to 2 feet of inundation possible, especially north- and east-facing coasts
- Significant beach erosion
- Residual minor flooding/splashover Sunday morning (Cape Cod Bay)

**Saturday PM high tide:**

**Minor-Moderate Flooding Possible**

Surge: 2-4 ft

Seas: 25-30 ft

Wind: NE 30-40 with gusts to 50-60 mph

# Concerns for Mariners

## Wind:

- Increasing NE winds late Friday night/Saturday
- Reach Gale force Saturday morning
- Peak 50-60 kt gusts Saturday afternoon/night
- Shift to NW Saturday afternoon, then fall below Gale early Sunday morning

## Seas:

- Build steadily Saturday
- Peak 25-30 ft offshore Saturday afternoon/night, 5-10 ft on bays and sounds
- Lowest visibility in rain/snow Saturday

***Localized rogue waves offshore could exceed 40 feet***



# Threat Event Summary

✓ **Confidence**: high confidence a storm will develop, low confidence on precise track

✓ : Strong northeast winds to 50 MPH - maybe 60+ MPH? (Saturday)



Minor to moderate coastal flooding (especially Saturday evening)



Significant snowfall (Late Friday night-Saturday night)



Dangerous conditions for mariners - seas 25-30 feet offshore (Saturday)

✓ **Where:** All of Southern New England (MA, RI and CT)

✓ **When:** Late Friday night into Saturday night



# Contact and Next Briefing Information

## Next Briefing

**When:** 6 AM, Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup>

**Method:** via email



[www.weather.gov/boston](http://www.weather.gov/boston)



Phone (public):  
508-622-3250



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