

Winter Storm

Friday Night Through Saturday Night

National Weather Service

Decision Support Briefing # 7

Friday, January 28, 2022 3:50 PM

What Has Changed?

- ✓ Blizzard warnings expanded to all eastern MA and Rhode Island
- ✓ Snowfall accumulations increased
- ✓ Coastal Flood Advisory issued for the eastern MA coast, including Nantucket
- ✓ Freezing Spray Advisory issued for the RI and MA coastal waters

Hazards





Winter Weather Hazards



Marine / Coastal Hazards







Wind Related Hazards



Flooding Hazards



Main Points

Hazard		Impacts	Location	Timing
Damaging Winds		Power outages likely	Greatest risk across eastern MA, particularly for Cape Cod and Islands	Saturday, especially afternoon and evening
Coastal Flooding		Minor coastal flooding. Pockets of low end moderate coastal flooding possible	Greatest risk is along the eastern MA coast, and north-facing shores, like Nantucket Harbor and Cape Cod from Sandwich to Dennis.	Saturday morning and evening high tide
Heavy Snow/Blizzard		Dangerous travel conditions with heavy snowfall rates and visibility less than one quarter mile at times	Greatest risk across eastern MA into RI	Saturday into early Saturday evening
Marine		Rough seas and Storm Force winds	All areas, but greatest risk across the eastern offshore waters	Late Friday night through Saturday Night

Summary of Greatest Impacts



Winds:

Greatest risk RI and southeast MA

None

Limited

Elevated

Significant

Extreme



Coastal Flooding:

Most likely along the east coast of MA

None

Limited

Elevated

Significant

Extreme



Snow:

Greatest risk eastern MA and RI

None

Limited

Elevated

Significant

Extreme



Marine:

All coastal waters

None

Limited

Elevated

Significant

Extreme



Winter Storm: late Friday Night – Saturday night

Historic winter storm for eastern New England

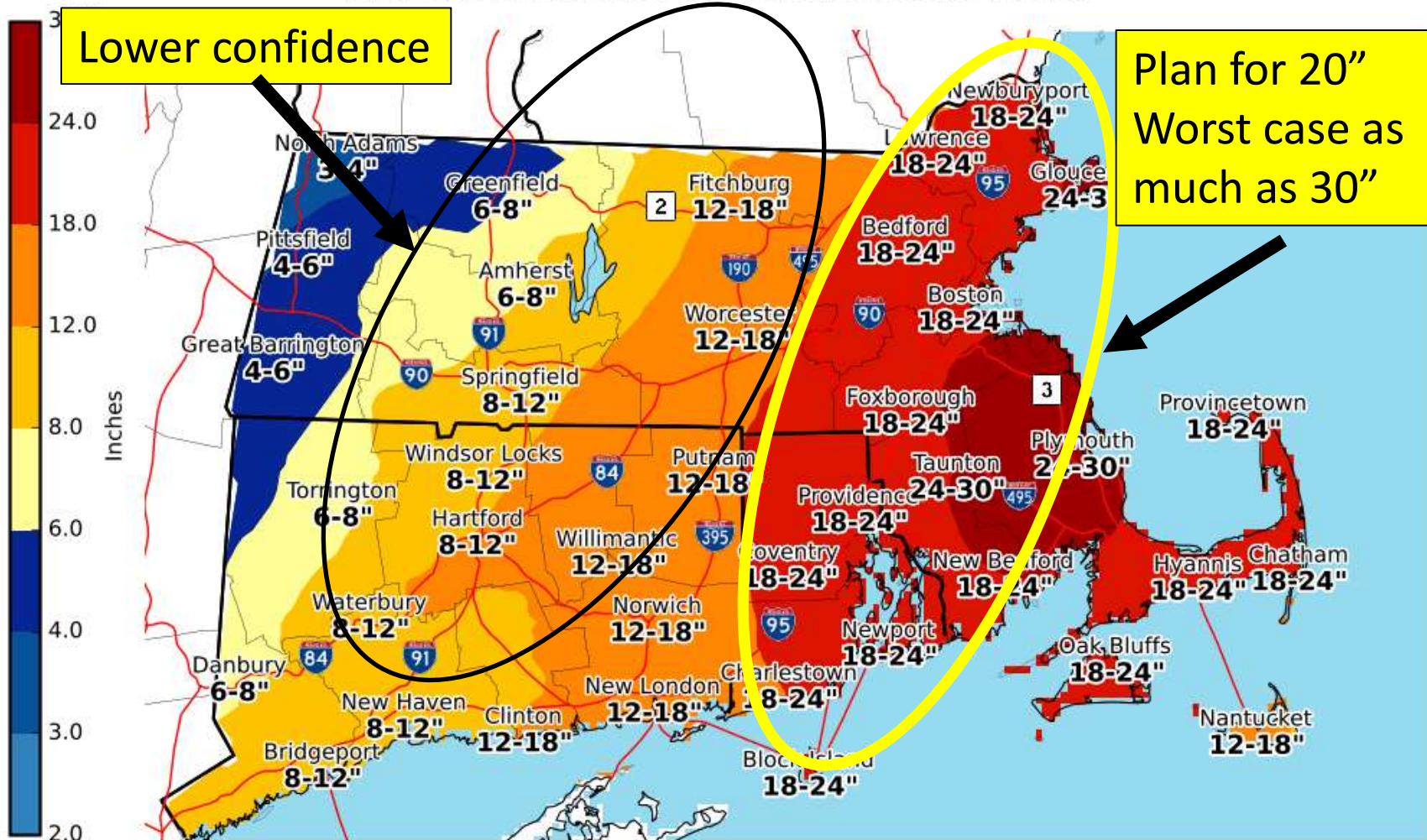
Impacts:

- High confidence of blizzard conditions with considerable blowing and drifting snow eastern MA/Rhode Island
 - Drifts up to 3-4 feet possible
- Lower confidence on how far west heavy snow bands extend
 - Do heavy snow bands make into central MA/CT?
- Mainly minor coastal flooding, but significant beach erosion east coastal MA and Cape Cod
- Strong N/NE winds to 40-55 MPH....65-75 MPH over Cape Cod
- Power outages likely, especially over the Cape/Islands
- Dangerous conditions for mariners - seas 25-35 feet offshore

Forecast Storm Total Snowfall

Expected Snowfall - Official NWS Forecast

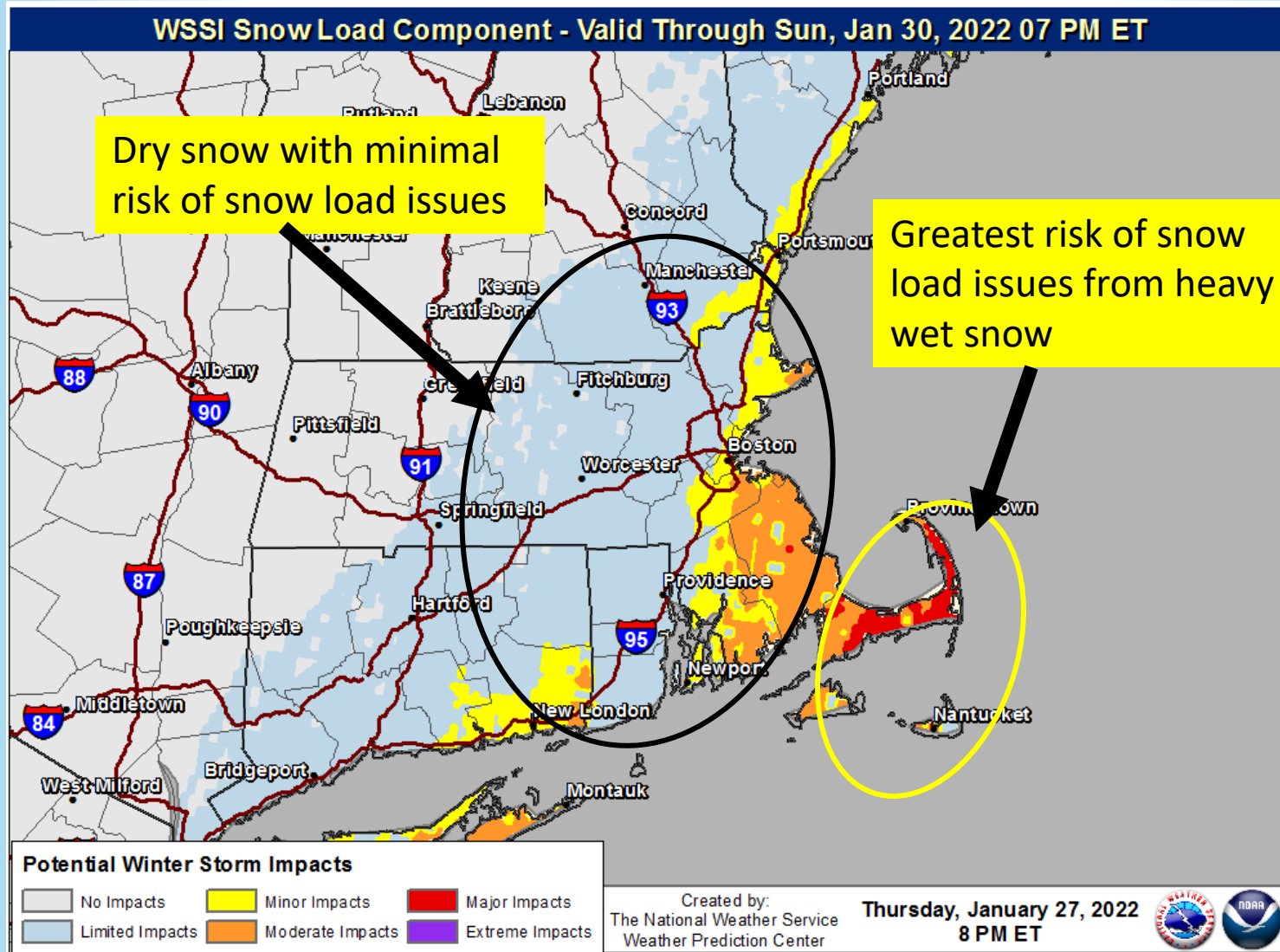
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Timeline

- Snow overspreads southern New England 9 pm to Midnight from south to north
 - 3-6" south of the Mass Pike by 7 AM with 1-3" to the north
- Heavy snowfall rates develop 6-10 AM from south to north and continuing into afternoon
 - Peak snowfall rates of 2-4"/hour 10 AM to 4 PM
- Heaviest snowfall ends by 6 PM with light to moderate snow persisting into the evening
- Snow ends around midnight

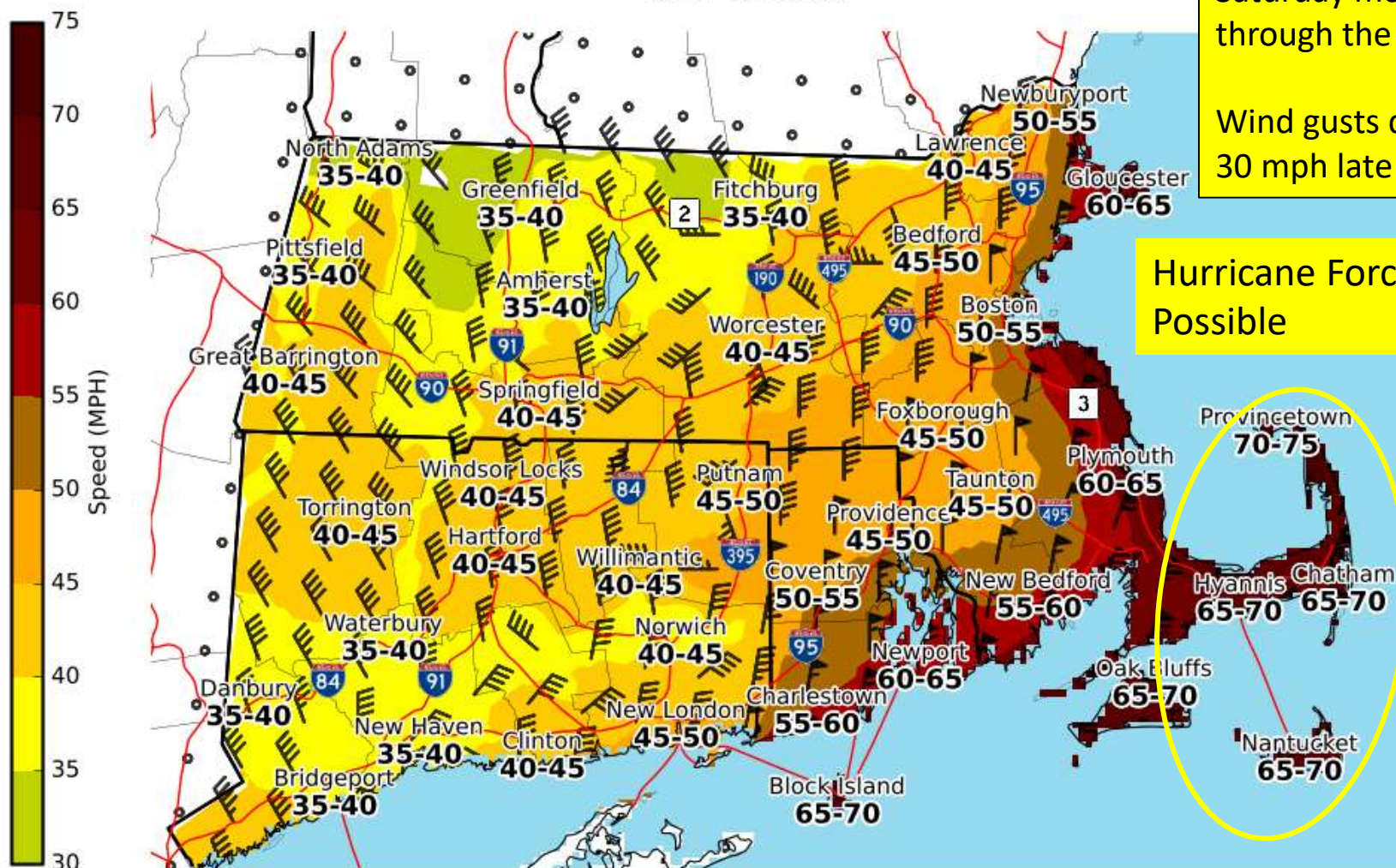
Snow Load Impact Late Friday Night – Saturday night



Forecast Maximum Wind Gusts

Max Wind Gusts (MPH)

Valid: Saturday

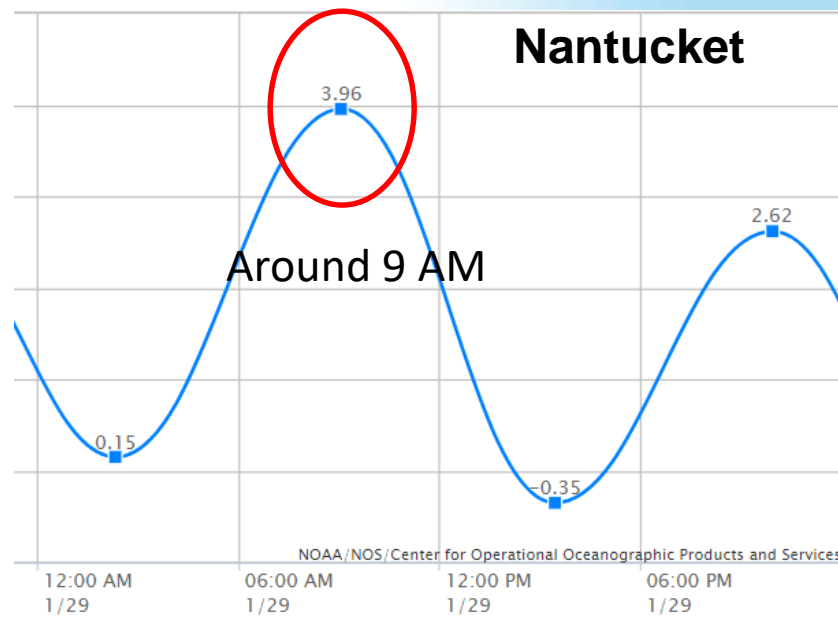
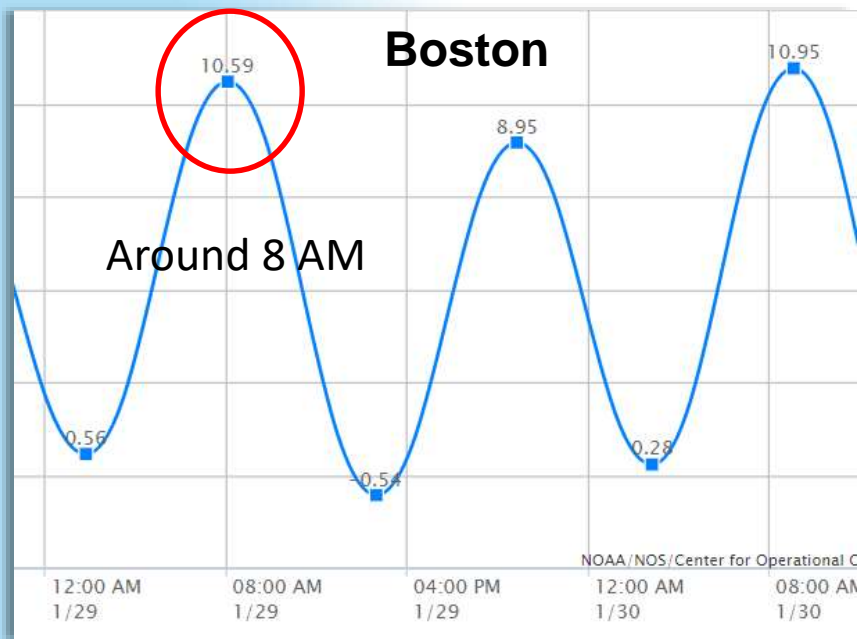


Peak of the Wind late Saturday morning through the afternoon

Wind gusts drop below 30 mph late Sat evening

Hurricane Force Gusts Possible

Sat AM: Minor Coastal Flooding: Eastern MA Coast

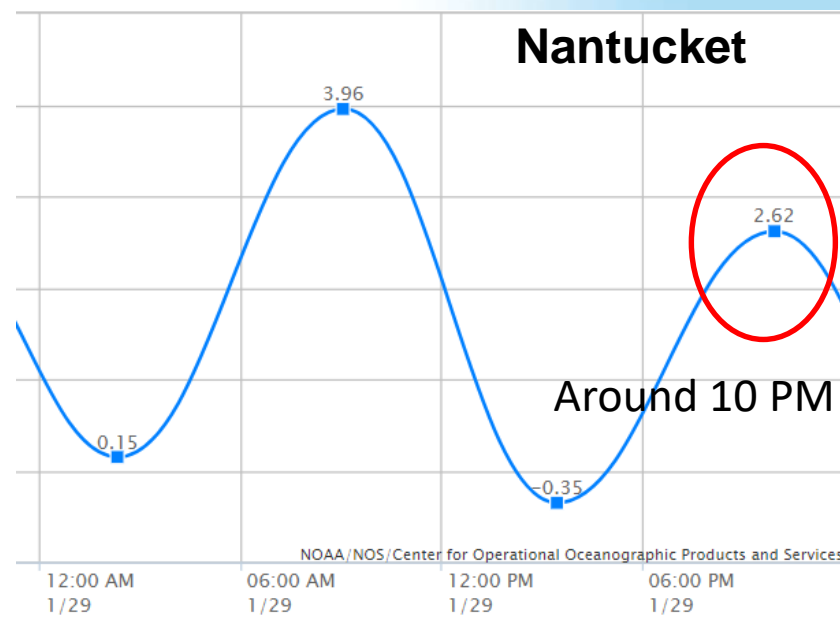
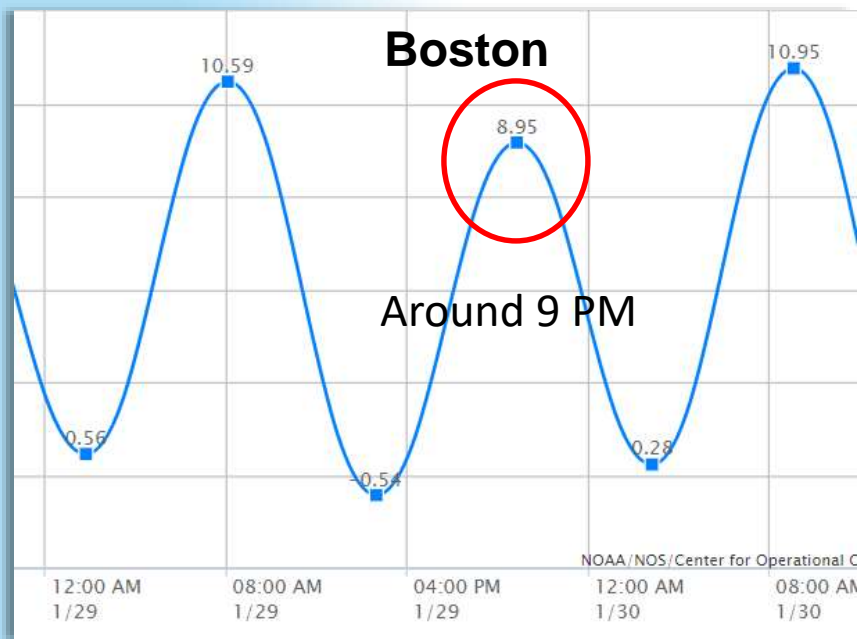


- Up to 1 foot of inundation (above ground level)
- Minor beach erosion

Saturday AM high tide:
Minor Flooding Likely
Surge: 1-2 ft

Pockets of low end moderate flooding possible at Nantucket

Sat PM: Minor Coastal Flooding: Eastern MA Coast



- Up to 1 foot 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:

Mainly Minor Flooding

Surge: 2-3 ft, up to 4 ft Cape Cod Bay but peaking 4 hours prior to high tide

Low risk for pockets of moderate flooding

- Sandwich to Dennis

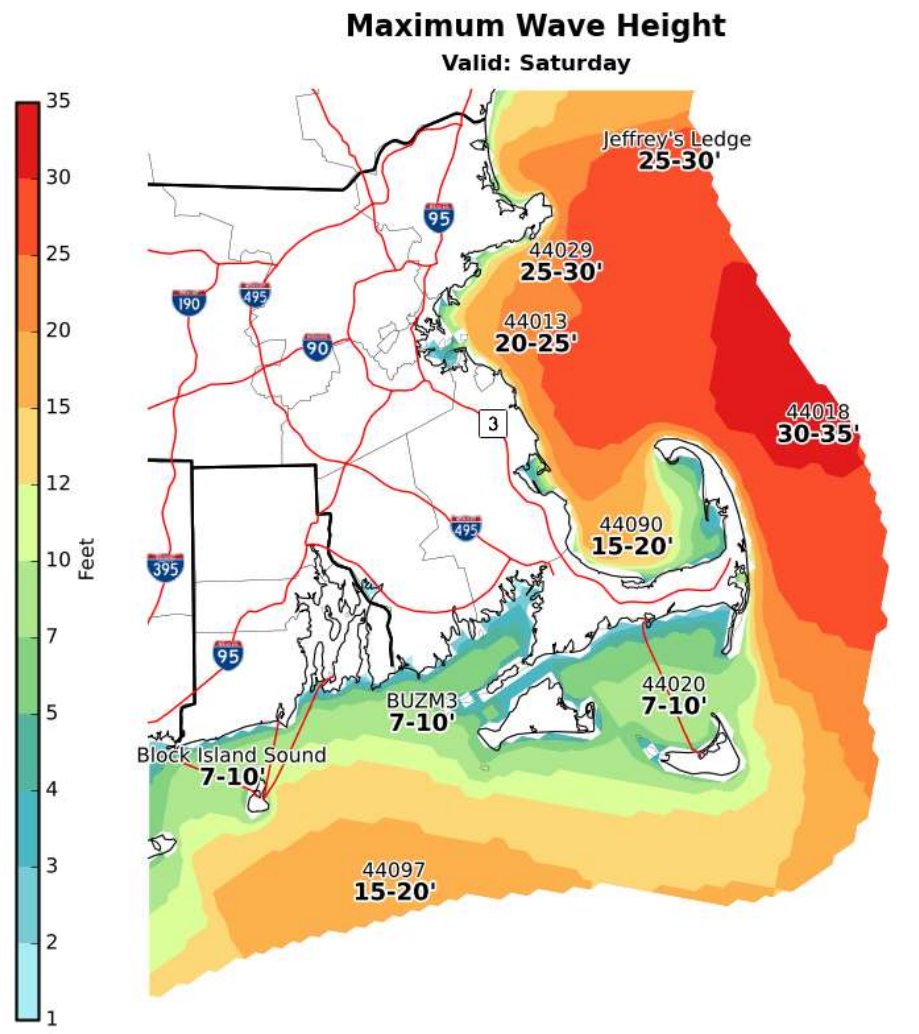
Concerns for Mariners

Wind:

- NE winds reach Gale force by late tonight
- Peak gusts from North 50-65 kts Saturday morning into early evening
- Shift to NW Saturday night, then fall below Gale early Sunday morning

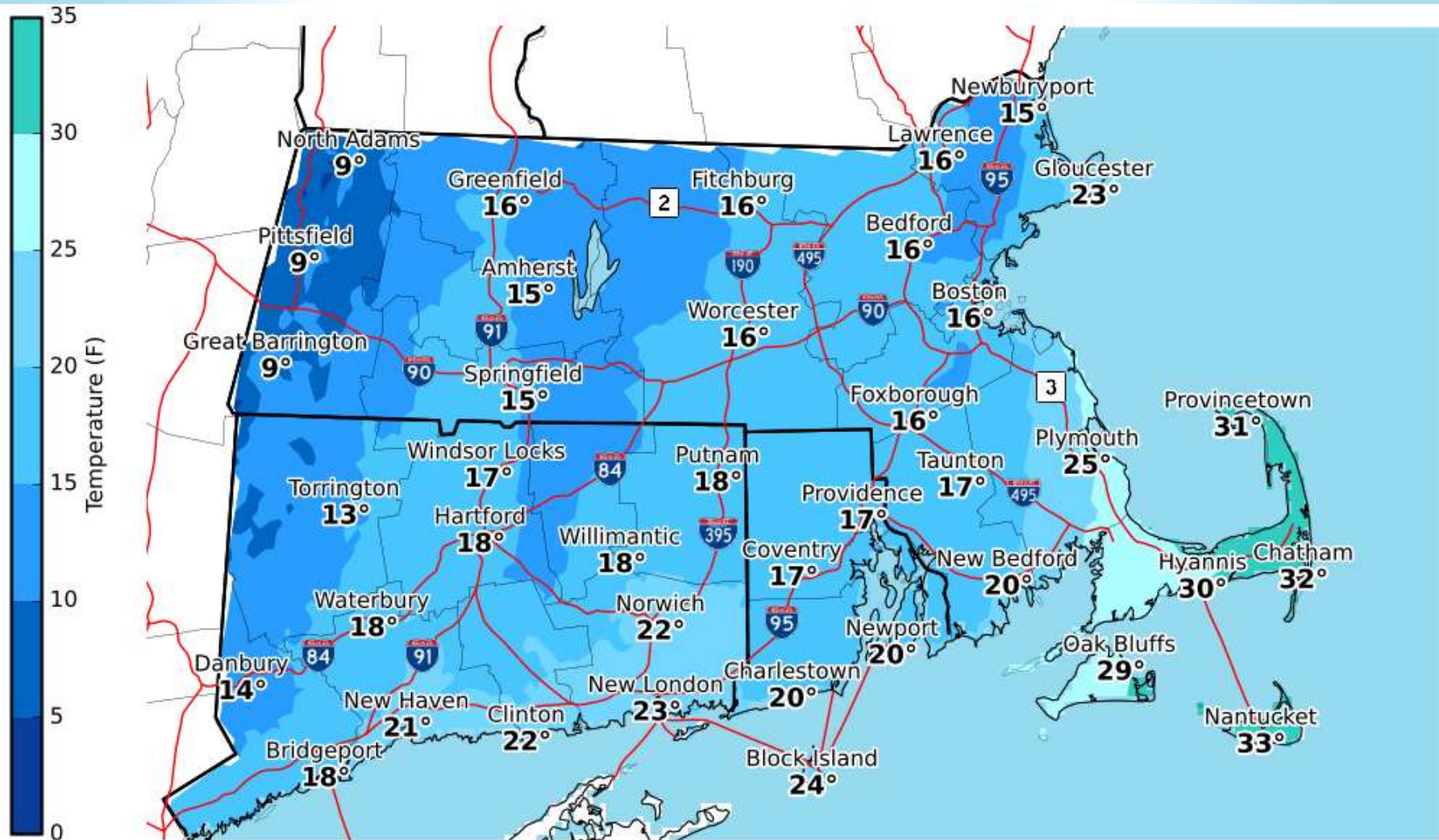
Seas:

- Build steadily Saturday
- Peak 25-35 ft offshore Saturday evening, 5-10 ft on bays and sounds



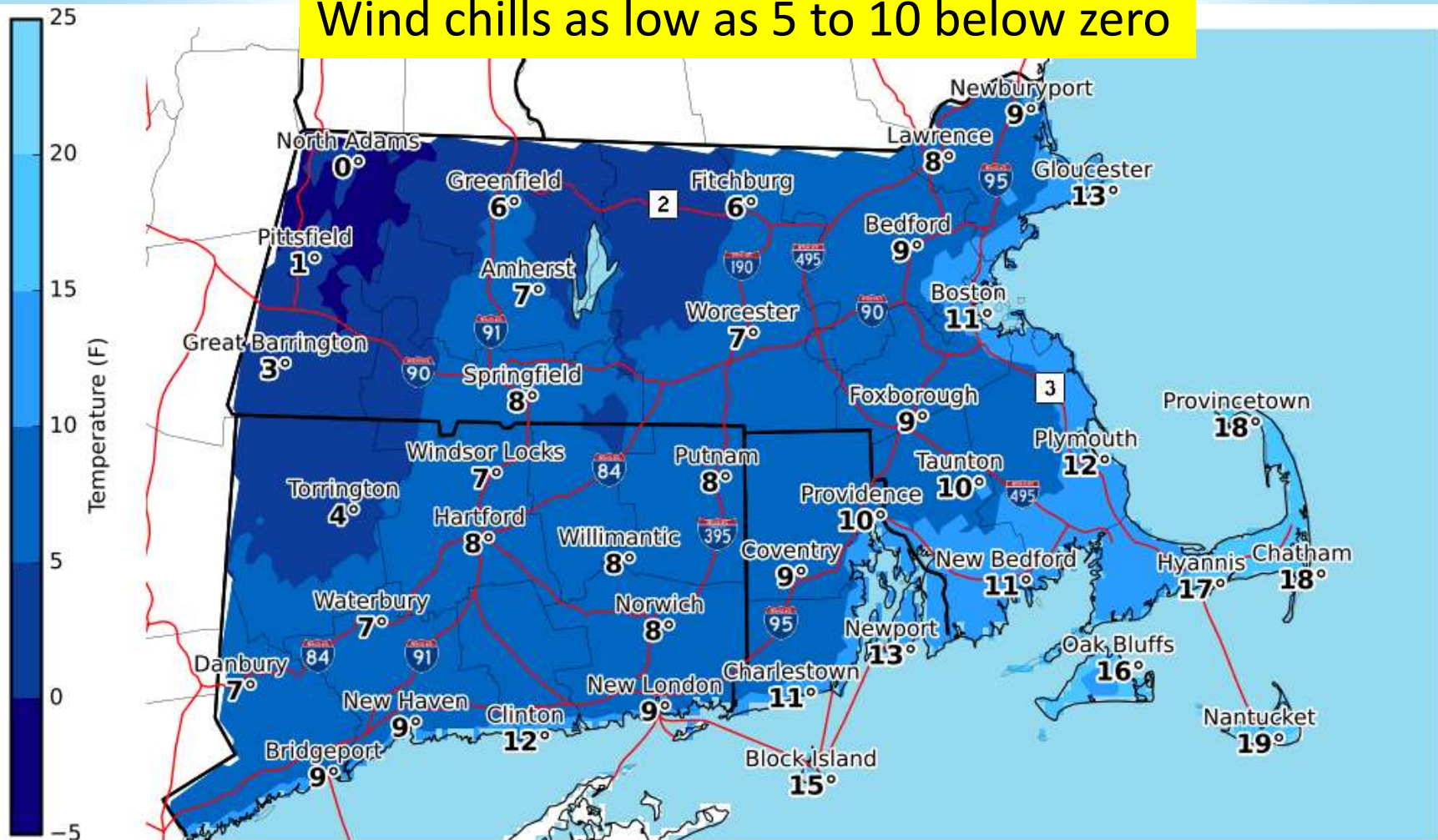
Localized rogue waves offshore could exceed 40 feet

1 pm Saturday Temperatures



Low Temperatures Sunday Morning

Wind chills as low as 5 to 10 below zero



Threat Event Summary

✓ **Confidence:** High

✓ **What:**



Strong north/northeast wind gusts 40-55 MPH, 65-75 mph on Cape Cod where power outages likely



Significant snowfall and blizzard conditions, eastern MA/RI. Drifts to 3 to 4 feet possible eastern MA/RI



Mainly Minor coastal flooding, with significant beach erosion (especially Saturday evening)



Dangerous conditions for mariners - seas 25-35 feet offshore

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

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

Contact and Next Briefing Information

Next Briefing

When: 6 AM, Saturday, January 29th

Method: via email



www.weather.gov/boston



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508-622-3250



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