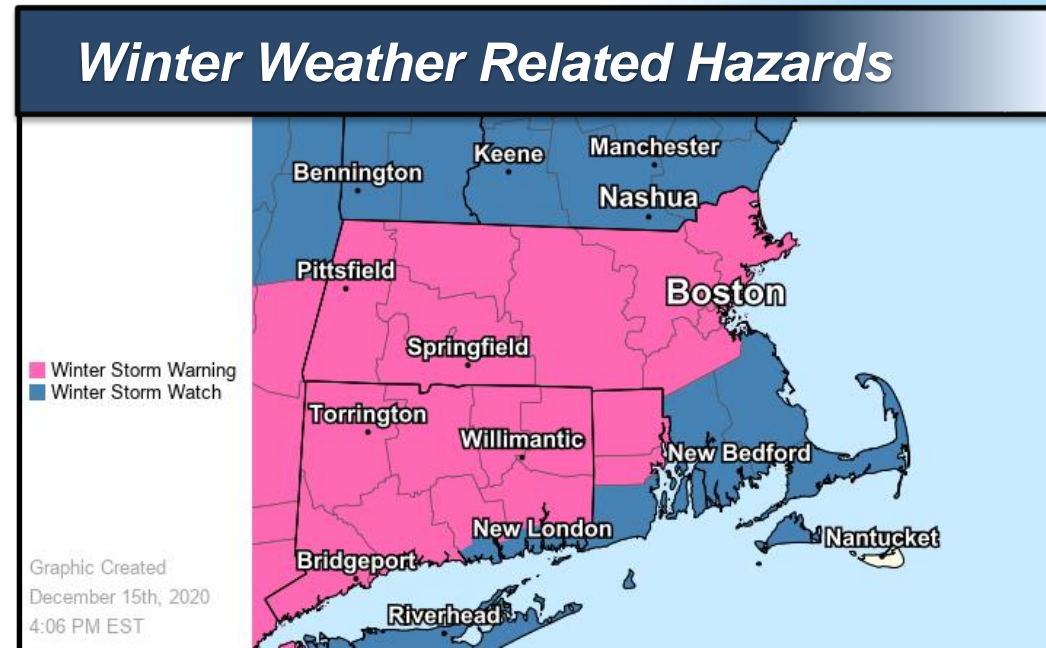


Potential Winter Storm Wednesday Night and Thursday





National Weather Service
Decision Support Briefing # 3
Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:30 PM

What Has Changed?

- ✓ Winter Storm Warning now in effect for much of southern New England.
- ✓ Winter Storm Watch remains in effect for southern RI and southeast MA (except Nantucket), where more uncertainty exists for precipitation type.
- ✓ Coastal Flood Advisory for eastern MA coast early Thu. Afternoon.



Main Points

Hazard	Impacts	Location	Timing
Heavy Snow 	Difficult travel; 1-2"/hr. snowfall rates; Low visibility	Most of southern New England, especially along/south of Mass Pike (possibly less southern RI/southeast MA)	7-9 PM Wednesday through Thursday morning
Strong Winds 	Blowing/drifted snow, Minor wind damage and isolated power outages	Strongest gusts 30-40 mph eastern MA coast, except 40-50 mph over Cape/Islands	Wednesday night and Thursday
Coastal Flood 	Minor nuisance flooding. Inundation of 1-2 feet of low-lying areas & vulnerable coastal roads.	Eastern MA coast including Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket	High tide early Thursday afternoon
Marine 	Gale force wind gusts 40-45 knots and seas 12-17 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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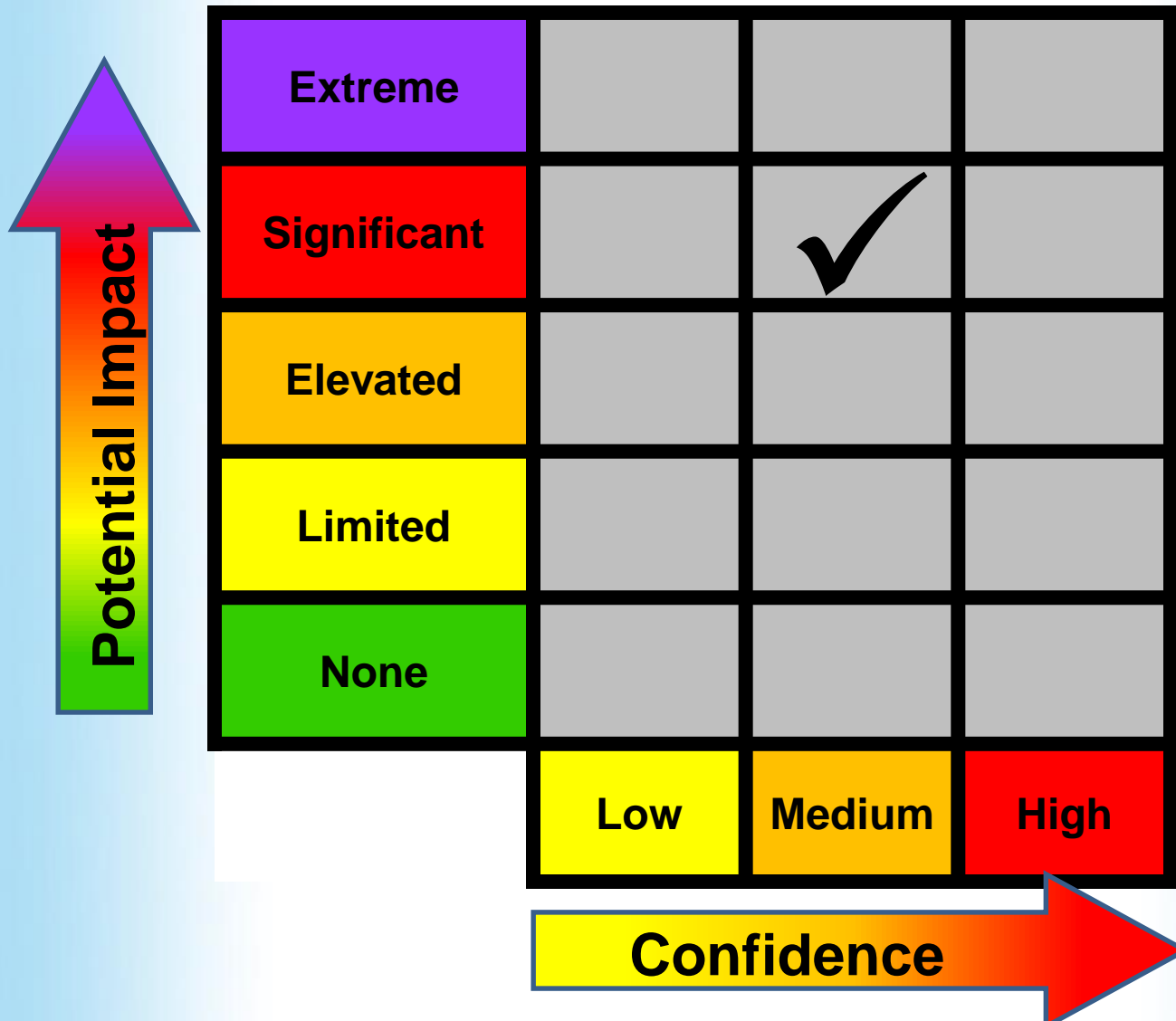


Marine: MA and RI coastal waters

None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
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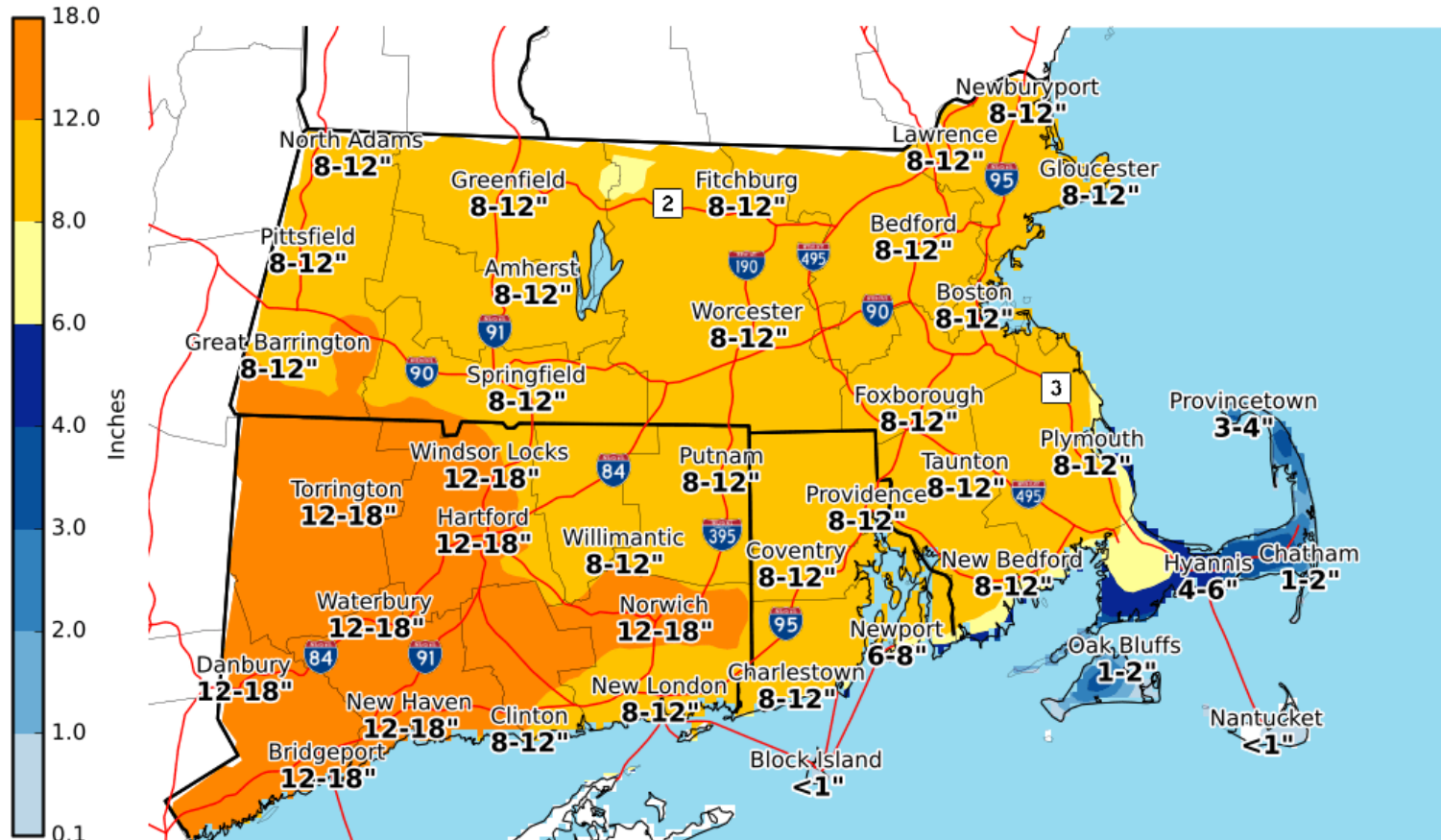
Winter Storm Threat and Confidence





Forecast Storm Total Snowfall

Expected Snowfall - Official NWS Forecast Valid: Wednesday Night and Thursday



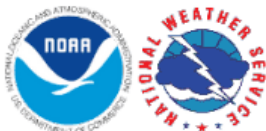
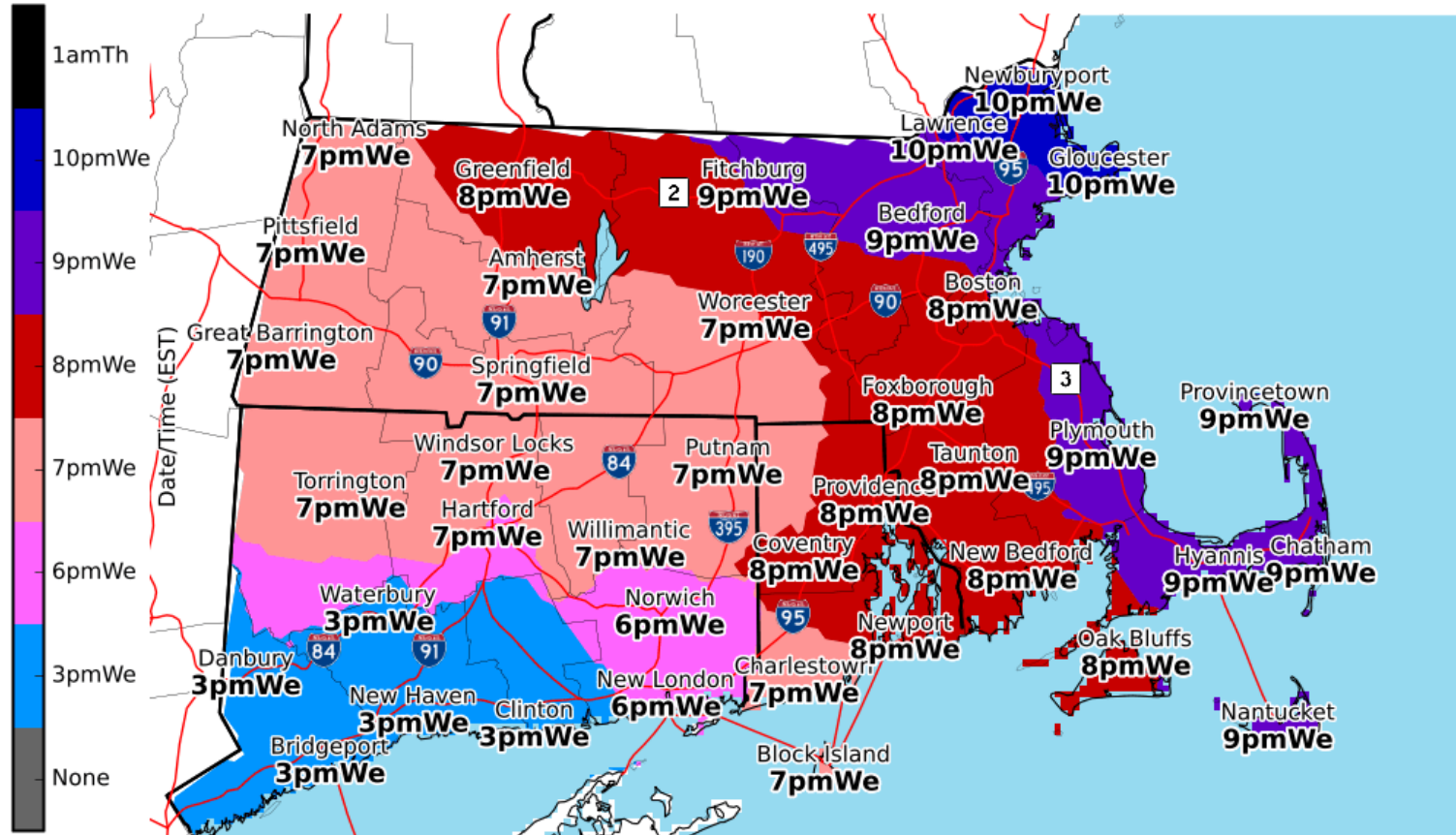
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Boston/Norton, MA
12/15/2020 03:23 PM EST

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Onset of Winter Weather Threats

Precipitation Onset Time Valid: Wednesday Night



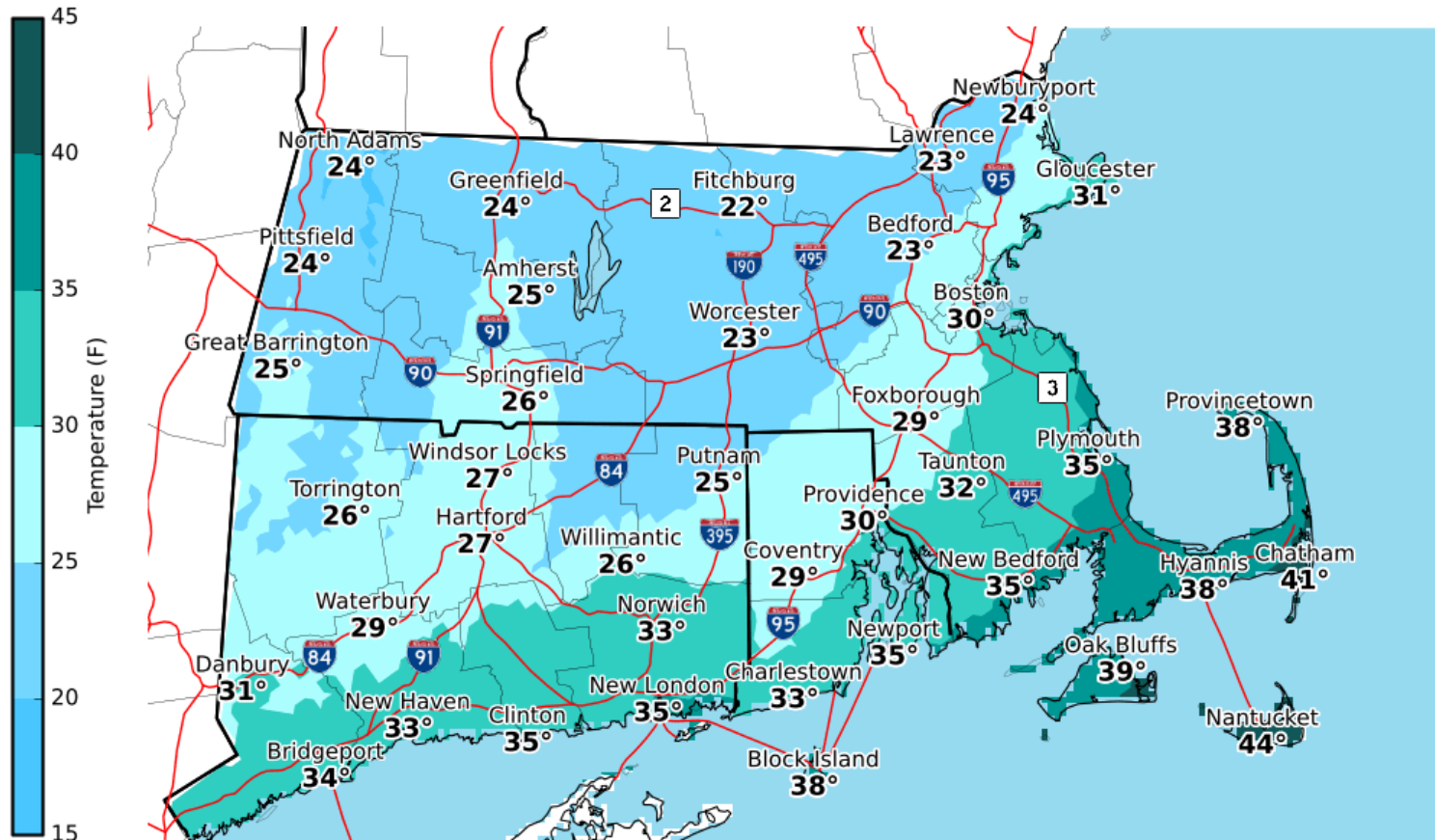
National Weather Service
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Thursday High Temperatures

Afternoon Highs Valid: Thursday



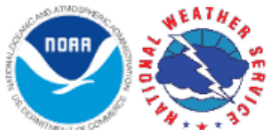
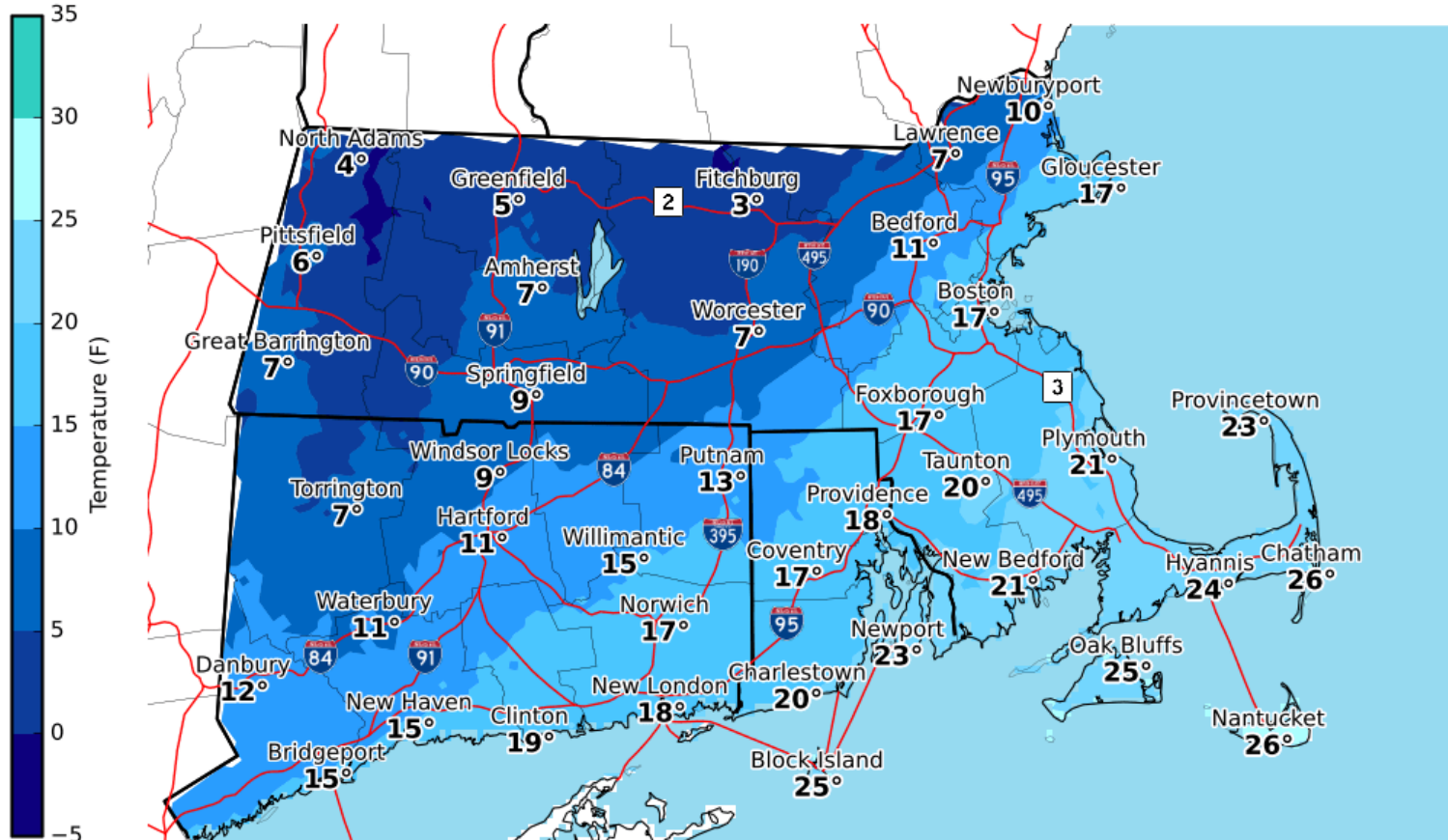
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Thursday Minimum Wind Chills

Apparent Temperature Valid: Wednesday Night and Thursday



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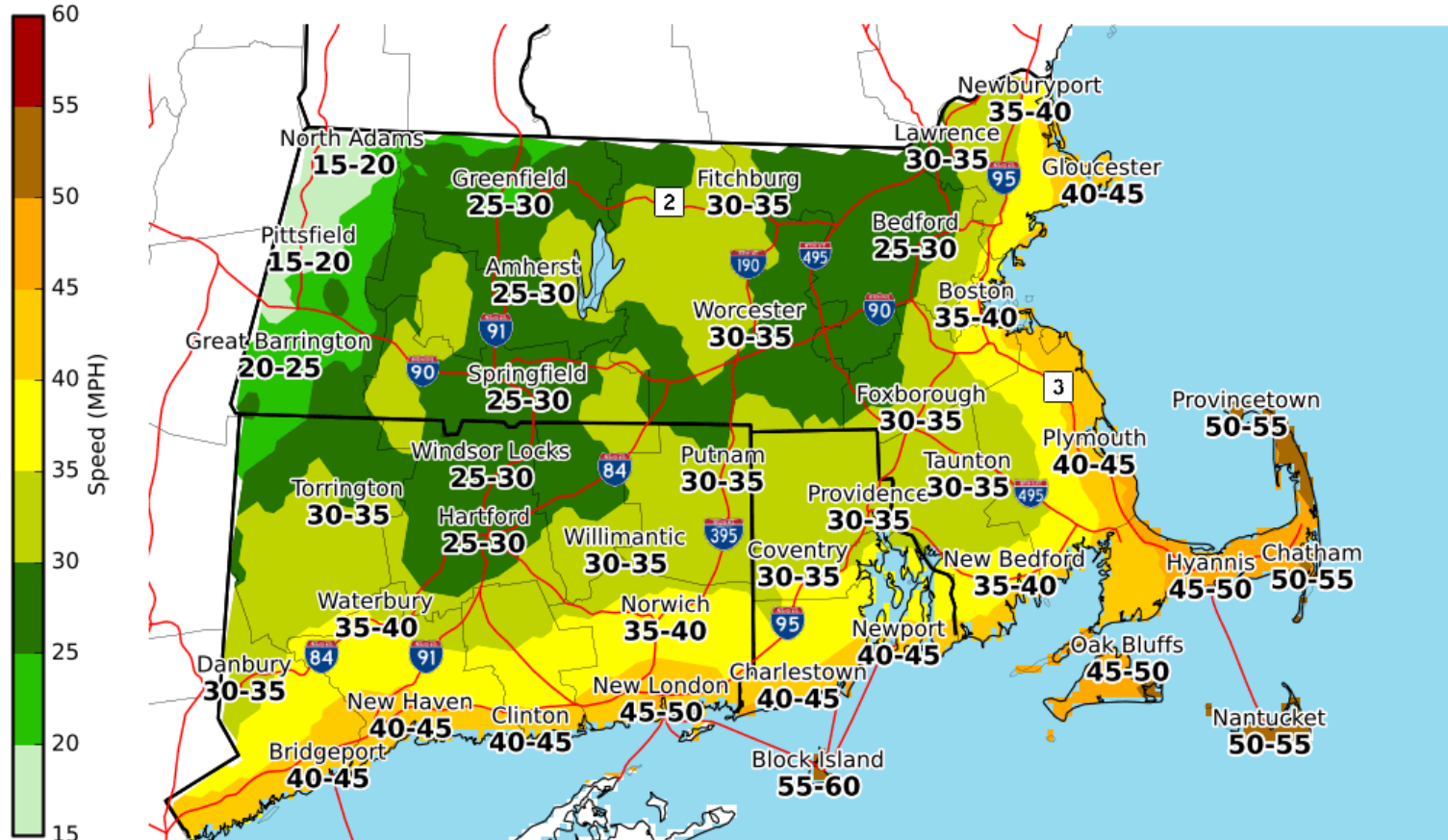
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Forecast Maximum Wind Gusts: Wednesday Night and Thursday

Max Wind Gusts (MPH)

Valid: 12/16/2020 01:00 PM - 12/17/2020 07:00 PM EST



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12/15/2020 02:01 PM EST

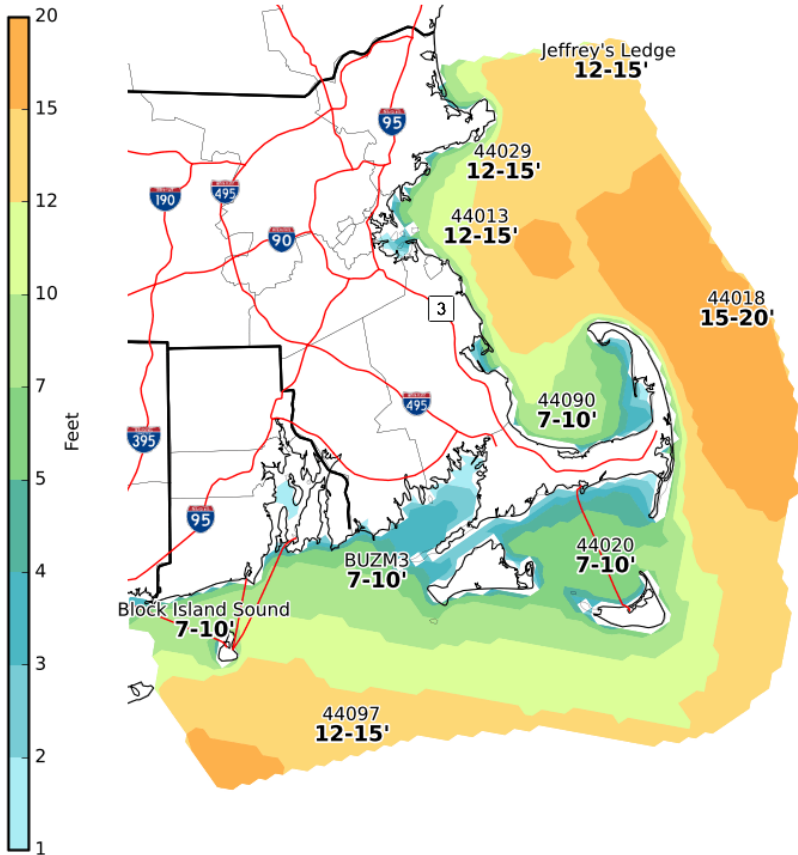
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Forecast Maximum Wave Heights and Wind Gusts (knots): Wed Night/Thu

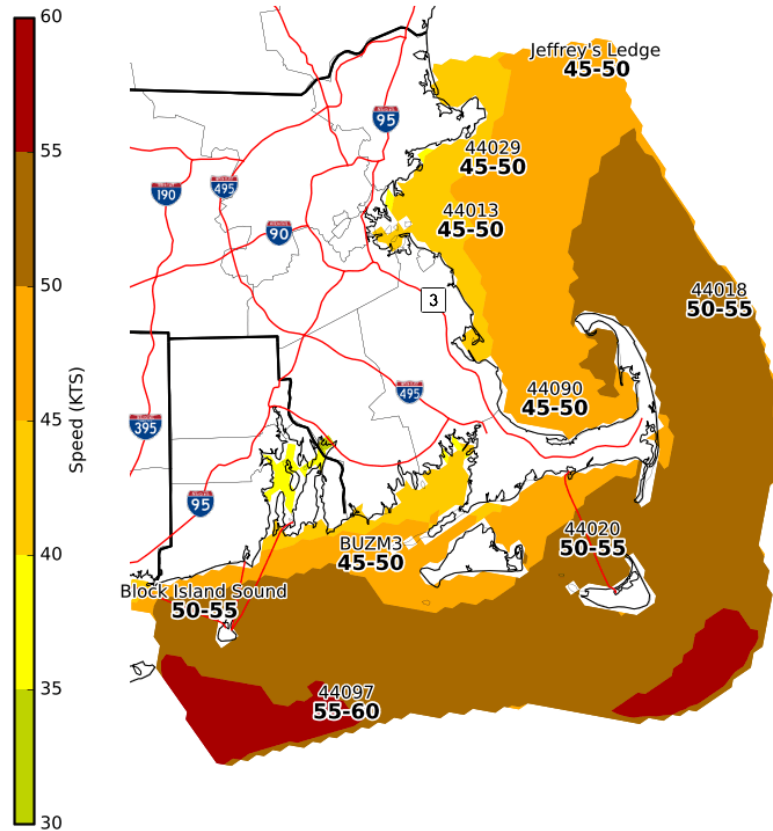
Maximum Wave Height

Valid: 12/16/2020 01:00 PM - 12/17/2020 07:00 PM EST



Max Wind Gusts (KTS)

Valid: 12/16/2020 01:00 PM - 12/17/2020 07:00 PM EST



National Weather Service
Boston/Norton, MA
12/15/2020 02:05 PM EST

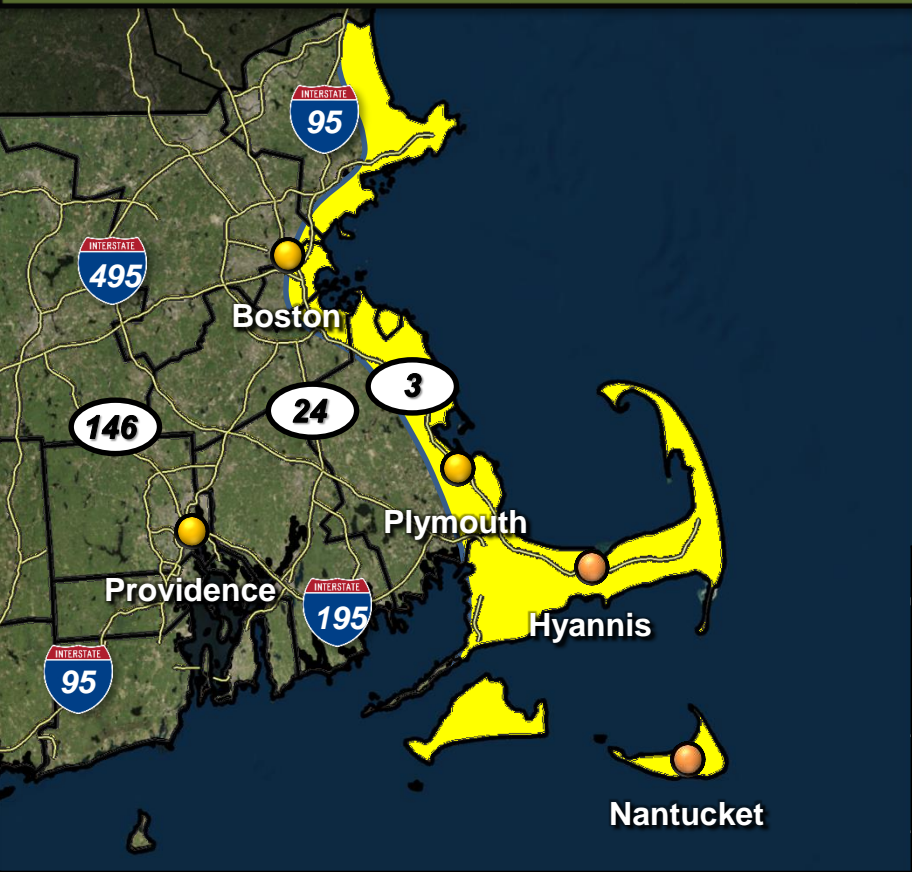
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Coastal Flooding – Coastal Flood Advisory Early Thursday Afternoon



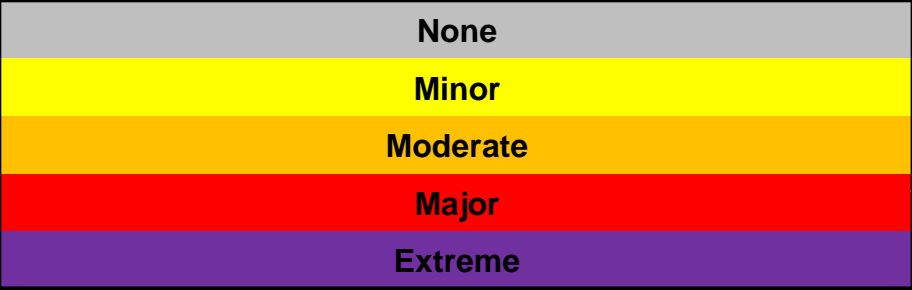
Most Likely: Minor Coastal Flooding

- 1 to 2 feet of inundation, especially for low-lying areas and vulnerable shore roads.
- Minor beach erosion, especially more vulnerable spots, like Plum Island, MA.

Very Worst Case (unlikely): Low-end Moderate Coastal Flooding

- Would be more widespread flooding with some road closures and local inundation of 2 to 3 feet

Timing: High tide early Thursday afternoon.



	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 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

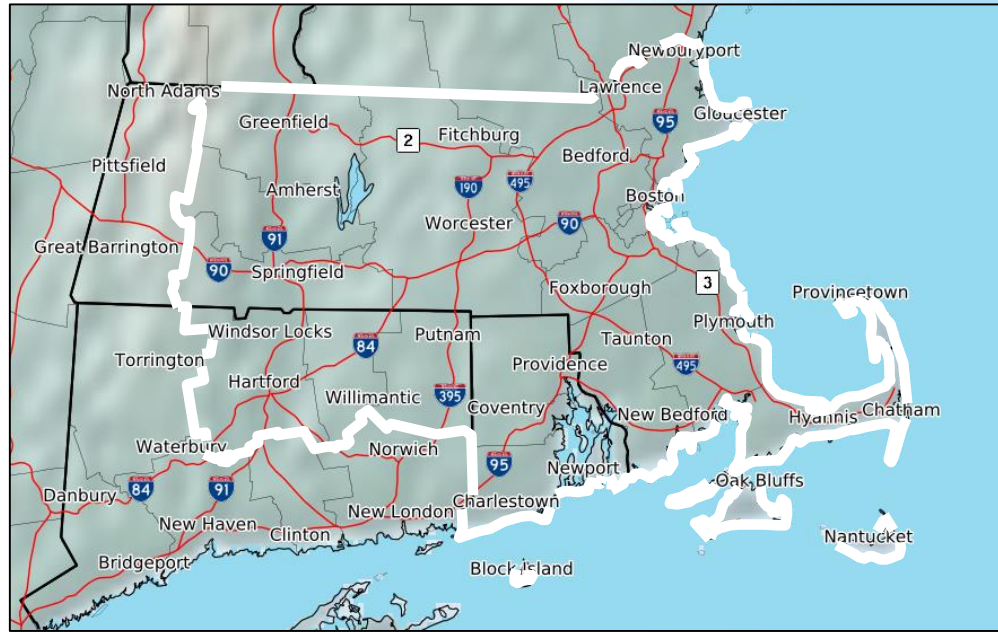


Contact and Next Briefing Information

Next Briefing

When: By 6 am Wed., December 16

Method: via email



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508-622-3250



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