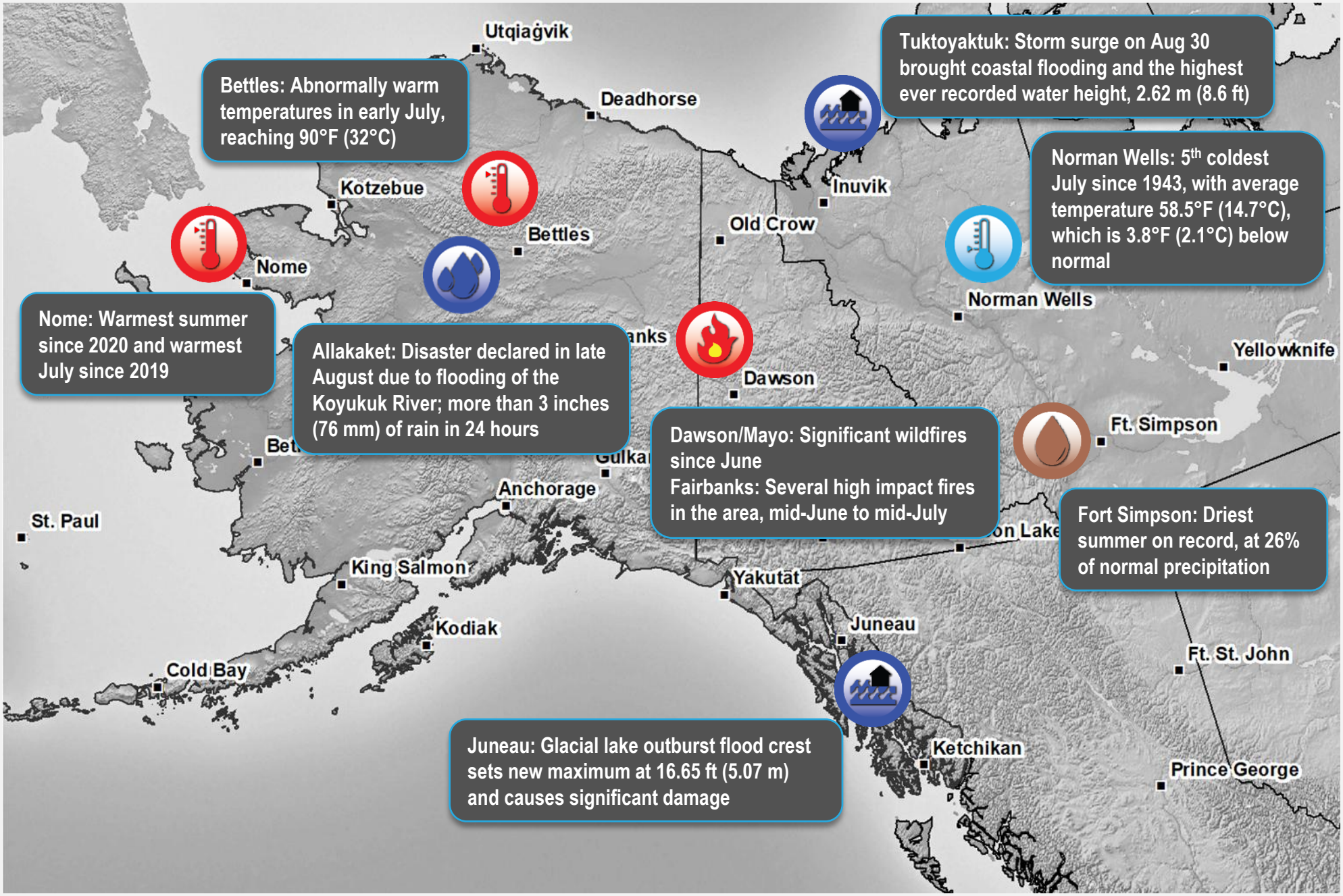
ALASKA and NORTHWESTERN CANADA

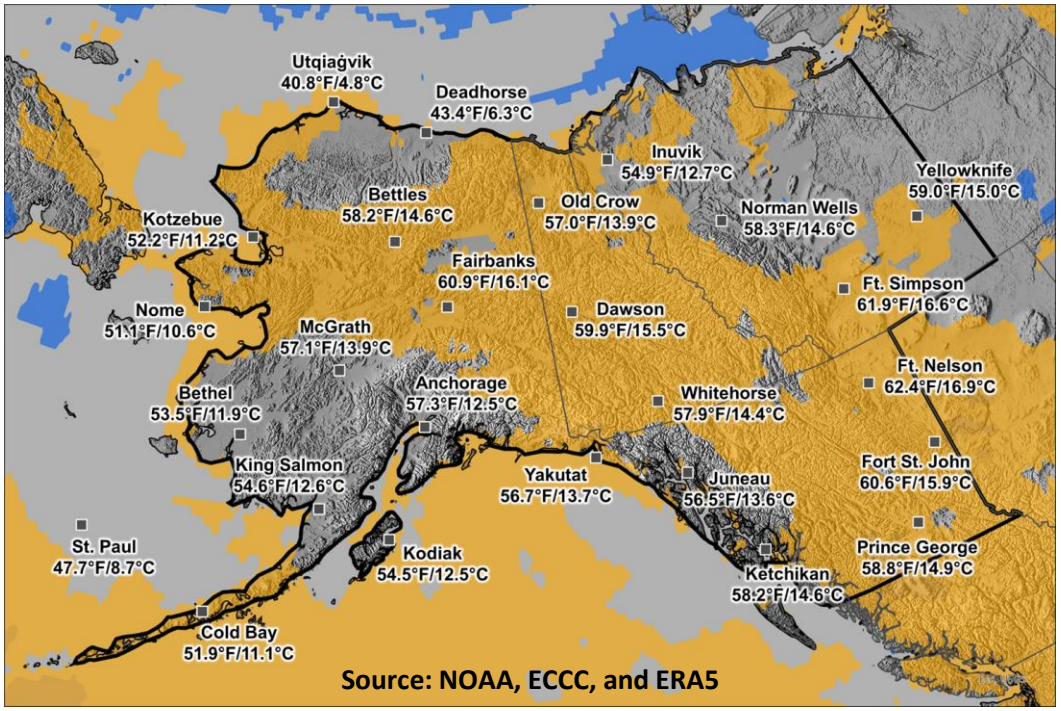
Weather and Climate Highlights and Impacts, June 2025 to August 2025
Climate Outlook, October 2025 to December 2025

ACCAP Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy
A NOAA CAP/RISA Team

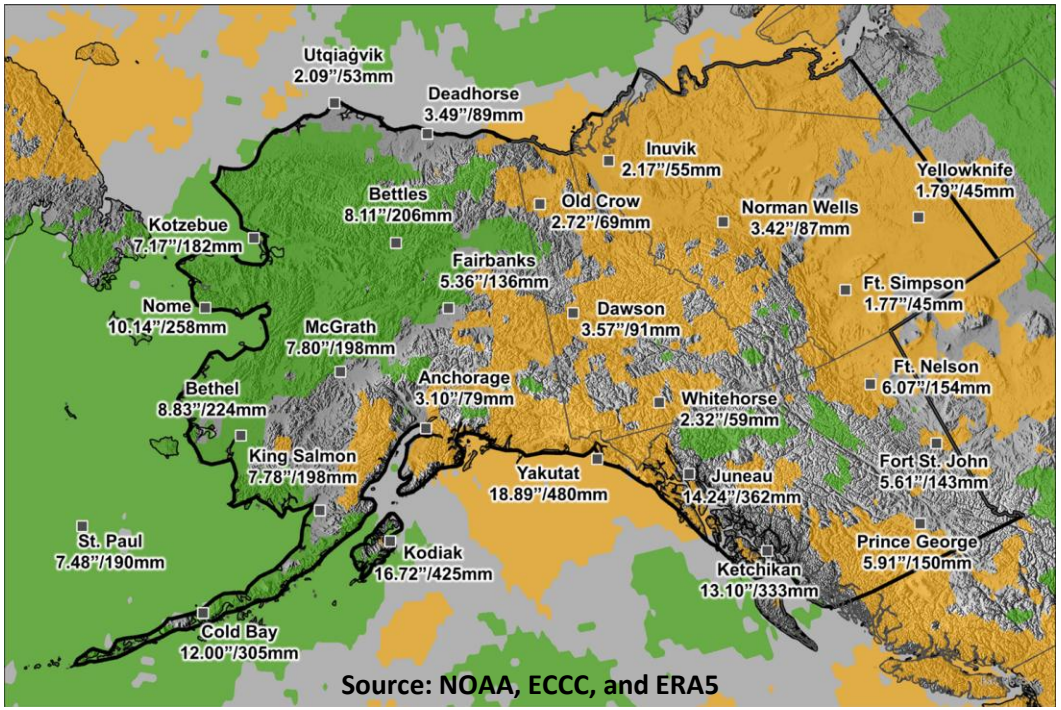
Environment and Climate Change Canada | Environnement et Changement climatique Canada



June to August 2025 Temp Averages (°F/°C) & Anomalies Below / Above / Normal



June to August Precipitation Totals (inches/mm) & Anomalies - Dry / Wet / Normal



Intense Wildfire Season in Alaska

Photo: July 2025 aerial photo of a firebreak made by a bulldozer winding through the Nenana Ridge Complex southwest of Fairbanks. Photo credit: B. Washaw

The 2025 Alaska wildfire season saw just over one million acres (400,000 ha) burn, nearly all between mid-June and mid-July. This was the largest area burned in the state since 2022. Sizeable fires were scattered across most of the Interior and northwest Alaska, but there were almost no fires in southwest Alaska. There were several high impact fires across the region, including the 31,000 acre (12,700 ha) Bear Creek fire in Denali Borough, between Anderson and Healy, that burned several primary residences and forced long delays on the Parks Highway in mid-June. The Aggie Creek and Himalaya Road fires, not far north of Fairbanks, prompted local evacuation notices for a few subdivisions in late June. The Nenana Ridge Complex, between Ester and Nenana, threatened homes and businesses and created long traffic delays on the Parks Highway in and out of Fairbanks over the July 4th holiday weekend. With significant wildfires in all directions, this was another smoky summer in Fairbanks and the fourth consecutive year with more than 100 hours of visibility restricting smoke at the airport.

Heat and Dryness Impact the Yukon

Photo: Crews perform planned ignition in an effort to control the Sulfur Creek fire, discovered on June 21, 2025.
Photo credit: Government of Yukon

Yukon saw abnormally warm temperatures and dry conditions in mid to late June. The highest maximum temperatures were recorded between June 19 – 20 at Pelly Ranch (29.8°C), Dawson (29.6°C), and Old Crow (29°C). Across northern Canada, Whitehorse, Fort Nelson, and Fort Liard recorded their driest June on record, and Fort Simpson its driest season on record. Yukon also had a high volume of lightning strikes, recording their 3rd highest for the month of June, since records began in 2002. Altogether, these conditions contributed to wildfire activity in the Dawson area, causing impacts for nearby communities: On June 20, two evacuation alerts were issued for nearly 200 properties in Dawson City. As a result of the ongoing wildfire hazards, the Yukon River Quest, a 715 km annual paddle race starting in Whitehorse and ending in Dawson, was cut short for the second year in a row and ended in Carmacks. On June 25, heavy smoke from the wildfires close to Dawson impacted flights, cancelling all inbound and outbound flights at Dawson City Airport. By the end of June, there were 28 active wildfires in the Dawson region, ten of which were under control or being held.

Record Flooding in Juneau, Alaska

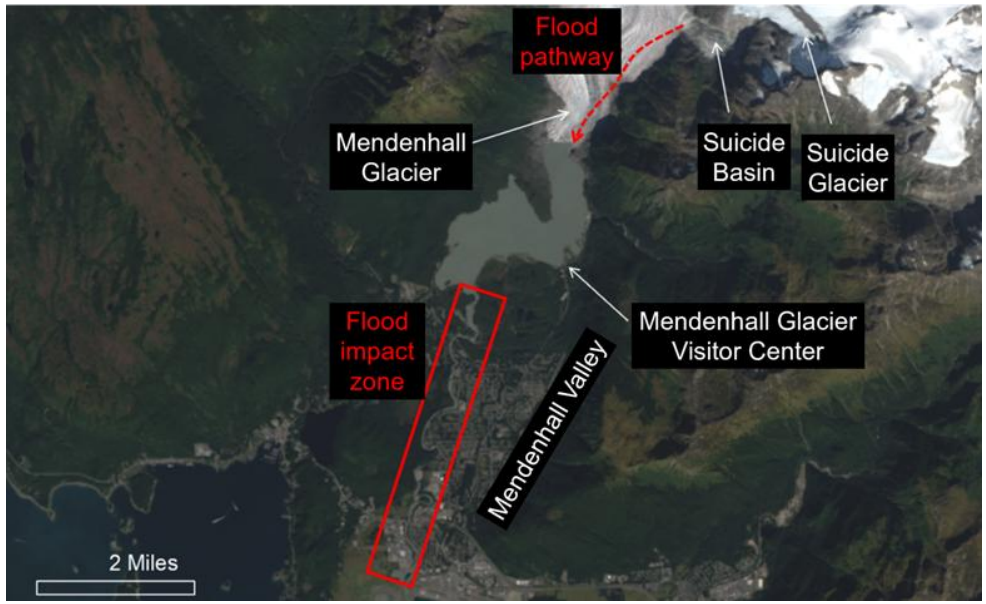
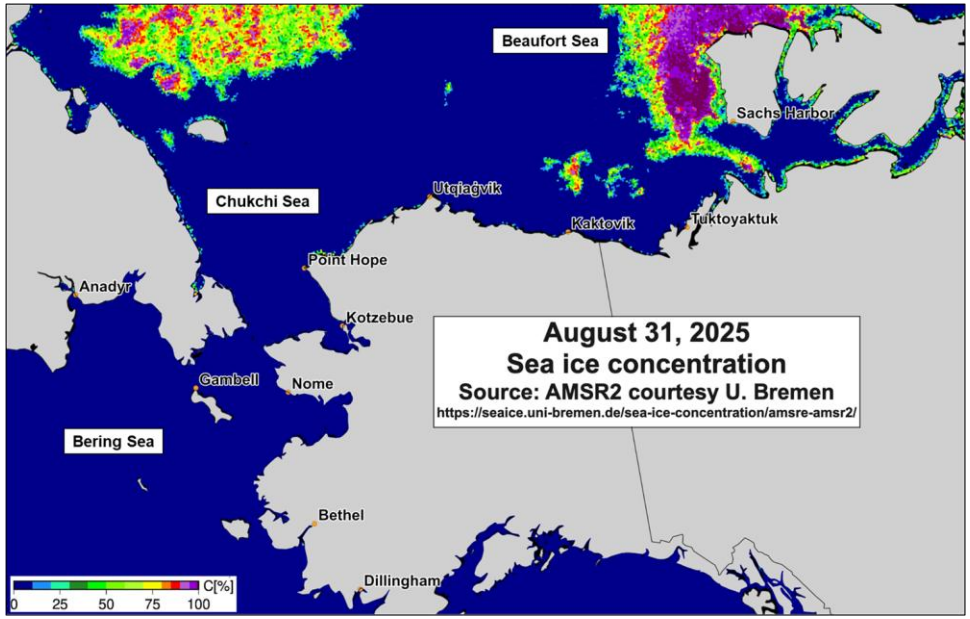


Photo: Flood pathway and impact zone of August glacial lake outburst flood.
Photo credit: National Weather Service

From August 8 – 12, 2025, a series of weather fronts, characteristic of an atmospheric river, brought unseasonably warm temperatures and significant rainfall to southeast Alaska. This period saw the highest 7-day total rainfall on record at the National Weather Service (NWS) Juneau office, with storm totals ranging from 5.5 inches (140 mm) in the Mendenhall Valley to almost 8 inches (203 mm) at Suicide Basin. The heavy rain, combined with the release of water from the Suicide Basin glacier-dammed lake, led to record flooding on the Mendenhall River.

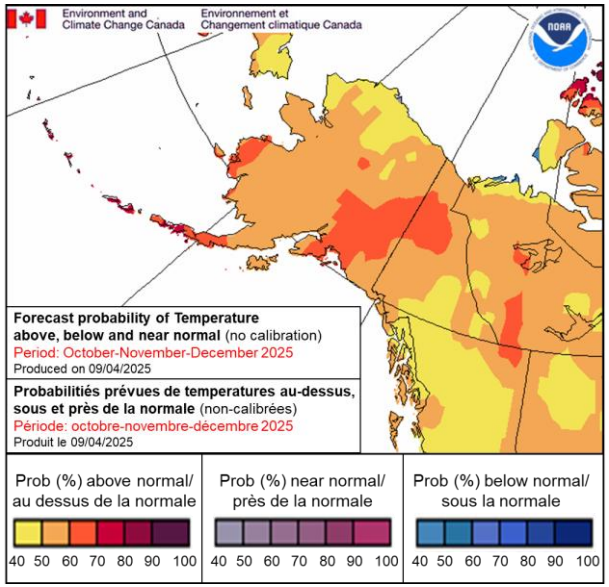
The resulting glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) on August 13, 2025, set new records for both river stage and discharge. The Mendenhall River crested at 16.65 feet (5.07 m), a new peak of record since 1965, with a preliminary discharge of 51,000 cubic feet (1,444 cubic metres) per second. The flood caused significant damage, with the City and Borough of Juneau identifying 35 affected homes, six of which sustained major damage. The most severe impacts were reported in the View Drive area, where some homes had up to 5 feet (1.5 m) of floodwater inside. The flood also caused severe erosion near the Back Loop Road Bridge, severing telecommunication and power lines and cutting power and internet to local homes and businesses. This follows the 2024 GLOF event in which 300 homes were impacted by flood waters when the Mendenhall River crested at 15.99 feet (4.87 m). Mitigation efforts on the riverbanks organized by the City of Juneau, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition appear to have helped reduce impacts during the even larger event this summer.

Sea Ice Concentration Conditions on 31 August 2025 in the Bering, Chukchi and Beaufort Seas

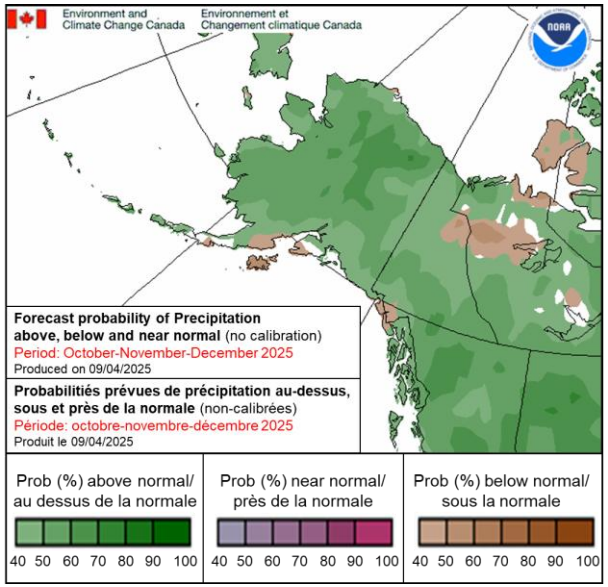


While sea ice in the Bering Sea cleared during the first half of June, it was slow to retreat in the southern Chukchi Sea, with some ice persisting in the Kotzebue Sound into the first week of July. This slow retreat of ice also occurred in the Beaufort Sea, with the southern edge of old ice situated between 60 – 70 nautical miles further south than normal at the start of summer. Ice breakup and melt in the southeast Beaufort, including along the west coast of Banks Island, was significantly later than normal this season, keeping ice extent above normal in these areas throughout the summer. Similarly, open water was unusually late to develop (relative to recent years) along the Alaskan portion of the Beaufort coast, with ice clearing at Utqiaġvik by the third week in July and nearshore waters opening for marine vessel traffic by the second half of August. By mid-August, areas of low pressure and strong winds entered the larger Beaufort region, causing accelerated ice melt and subsequent lower than normal ice concentrations in northwestern Beaufort Sea waters. Unlike 2024, late summer ice did not persist in the southwestern Chukchi Sea, off the northeastern Russian coast. Higher than normal concentrations did persist in the southern Beaufort and along the western coast of Banks Island.

Temperature Outlook: Oct to Dec 2025



Precipitation Outlook: Oct to Dec 2025



Fall temperatures across the Alaska-northwestern Canada region have a 40-70% probability of being warmer than normal. The highest likelihood (60-70%) of above normal temperatures is in parts of southwestern Alaska (including the Aleutian Islands) parts of southeastern Alaska, parts of north and central Yukon, and a small region of the southern Northwest Territories. The lowest probability (40-50%) of warm temperatures is for the North Slope of Alaska, northern Northwest Territories, southern Yukon, and northern BC.

The precipitation outlook shows a 40-60% likelihood of above normal precipitation for nearly all of the region. Central to northern Alaska has a slightly higher probability at 50-70% chance of above normal precipitation. Scattered areas show below normal precipitation or no discernable signal, including central and northern parts of the Northwest Territories.

Content and graphics prepared by NOAA's National Weather Service and National Center for Environmental Information; the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy at the University of Alaska; and Environment and Climate Change Canada, as well as our regional partners: Alaska Climate Research Center, Alaska Climate Science Center, National Snow and Ice Data Center, and Scenarios Network for Alaska + Arctic Planning.

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