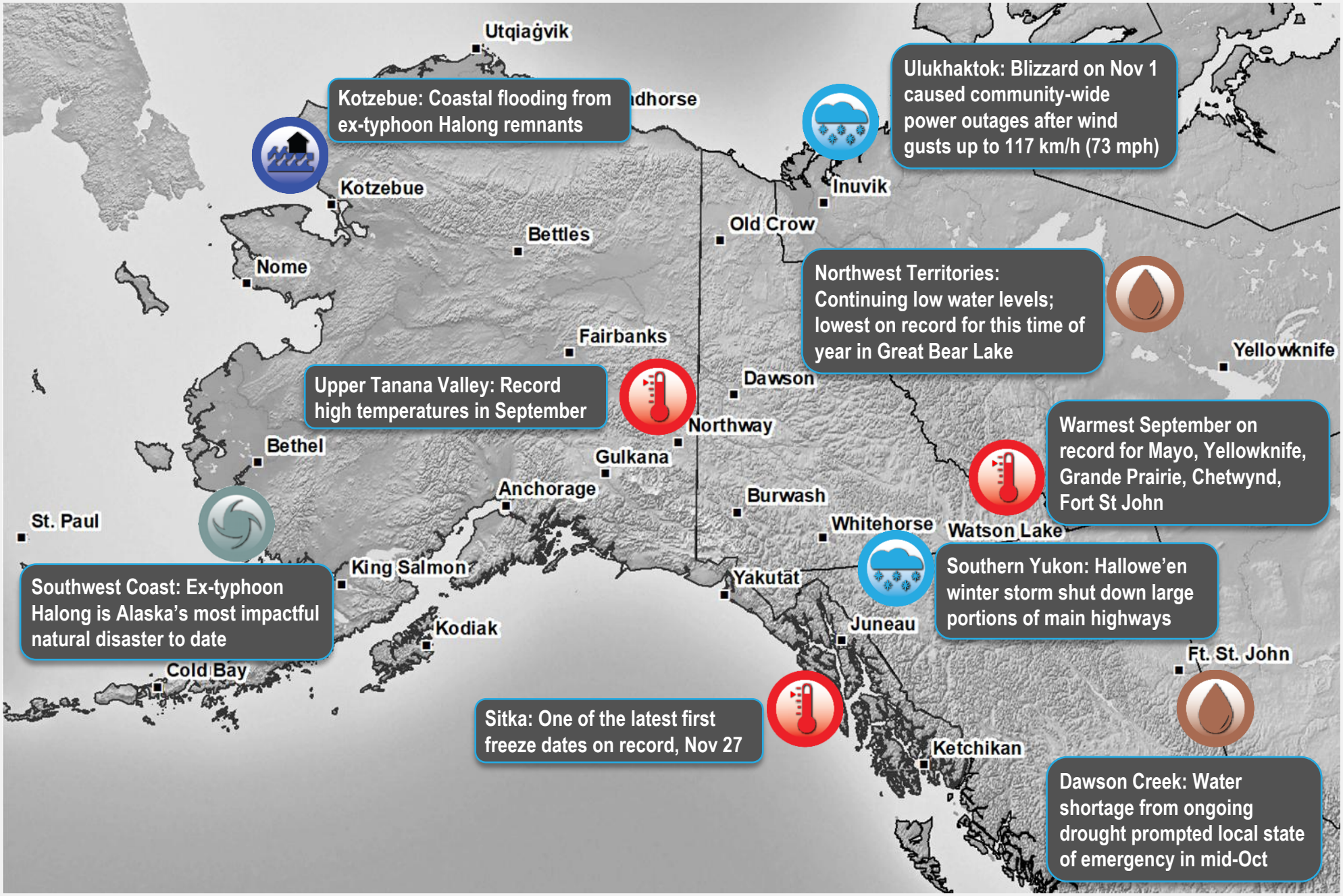
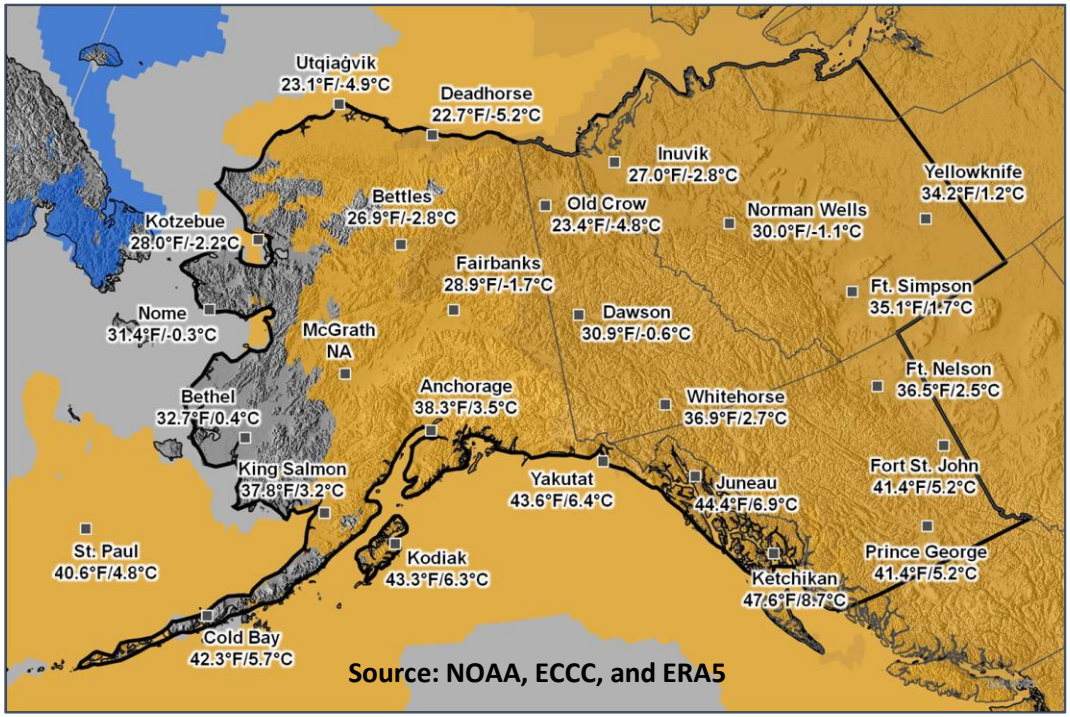
ALASKA and NORTHWESTERN CANADA

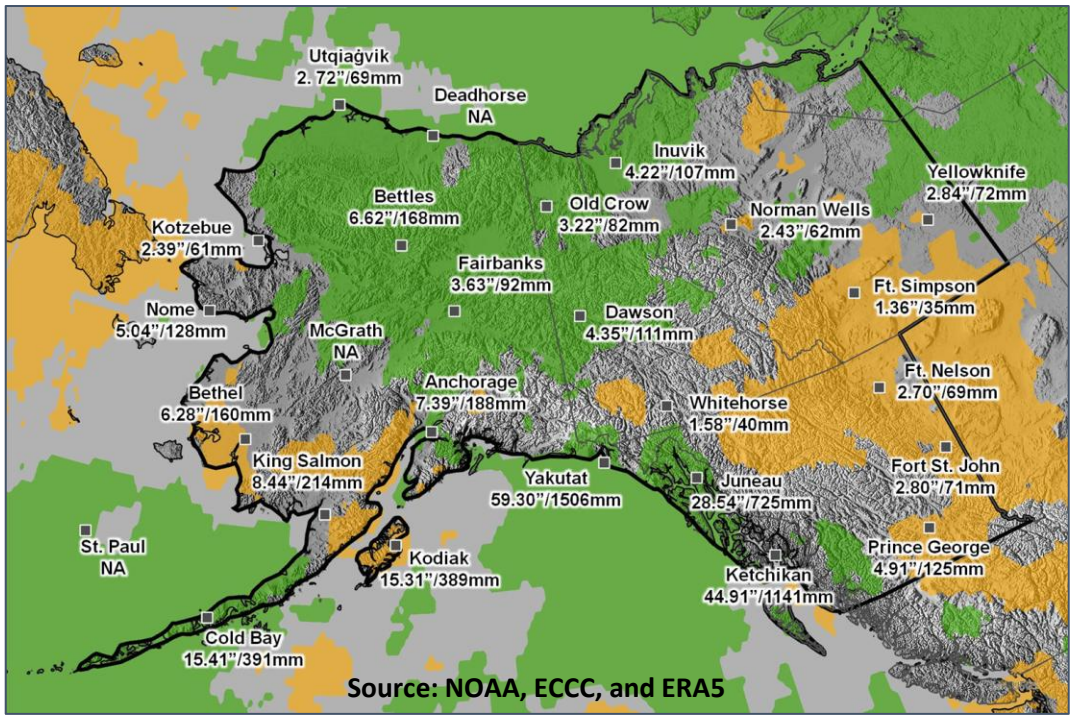
Weather and Climate Highlights and Impacts, September 2025 to November 2025
Climate Outlook, January to March 2026



Sept to Nov 2025 Temp Averages (°F/°C) & Anomalies Below / Above / Normal



Sept to Nov 2025 Precipitation Totals (inches/mm) & Anomalies - Dry / Wet / Normal



Ex-Typhoon Halong Brings Coastal Damage to Southwest Alaska

Coastal floodwater from Typhoon Halong inundated Kipnut, Alaska, on October 12, 2025.
Photo credit: Alaska National Guard

Between October 11 – 12, 2025, the Kuskokwim Delta in southwest Alaska experienced its worst coastal flooding on record as the remnants of Typhoon Halong traveled northeast across the eastern Bering Sea as an extratropical cyclone. More than two dozen communities were affected by flooding and wind damage, with the greatest impacts in Kipnuk and Kwigillingok. Nearly every home and building in these villages was damaged, and in some cases, strong winds and floodwaters carried houses miles from their original locations.

Tragically, one person in Kwigillingok died in the flooding, and two others remain missing. Nearly all residents were forced to evacuate, some relocating to neighboring communities in the region, and many evacuated to Anchorage, with recovery efforts expected to take years.

The storm also destroyed the old village of Umkumiut, near Toksook Bay, which in recent years was used as a major summer and culture camp. The same storm led to widespread wind damage across eastern Norton Sound communities and, unusually, affected several western Interior communities where extreme winds toppled many trees, leaving some winter trails completely blocked.

Fall Warmth in Alaska

Fall colors in the Chugach Mountains. Photo: B. Brettschneider (2025).

Fall 2025 was unusually warm for all of Alaska. Every part of the state was at least 1.6°F (0.9°C) warmer than the 1991 – 2020 normal temperatures, and the statewide average was 3.1°F (1.7°C) above normal. The most anomalously warm temperatures occurred in the eastern part of the state. This region averaged 5°F (2.8°C) above normal for the entire period, ranking among the five warmest falls since 1940, according to ERA5 reanalysis. For the entire state, the average temperature this fall ranked 6th warmest since 1940. The unusual warmth meant that much of the precipitation in the state fell as rain, not snow. Although fall is the snowiest season of the year in the northwestern half of the state, the fall of 2025 saw below normal snowfall for most areas, despite having above normal precipitation.

The most remarkable feature of the fall period in Alaska was the persistent cloud cover. It was the cloudiest fall in Alaska in over 30 years. These clouds had the effect of limiting the number of mornings with cold temperatures. At Fairbanks, there were only 53 days this fall with a temperature below freezing, which is the lowest count on record (1904 – present). Eagle, Alaska, along the Canadian border, recorded the fewest number of fall freezes since 1906.

Fall 2025 was warmer in the Canadian portion of the region, but Alaska was not far behind in terms of warmth and the associated impacts.

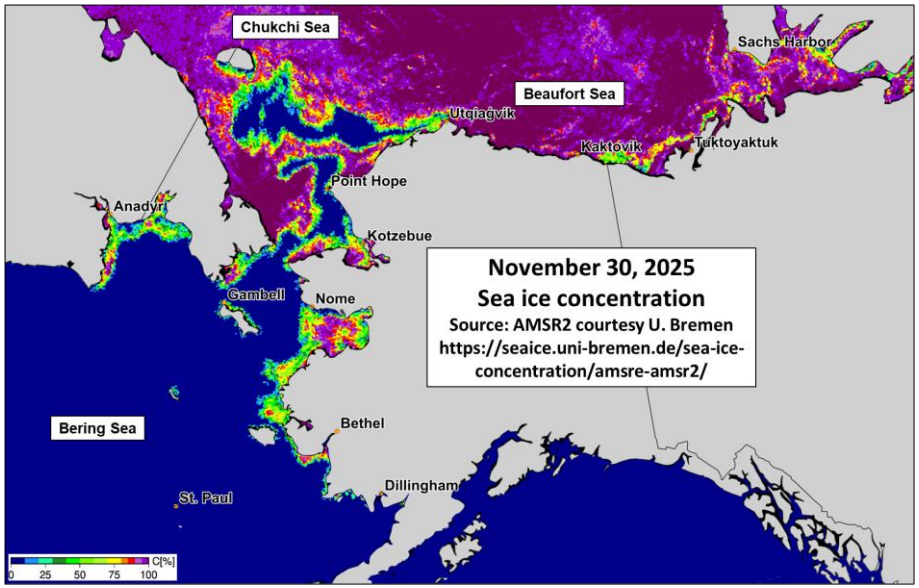
Record Warm Fall in Northwestern Canada

Locals carefully navigate ice on the Inuvik side of the Mackenzie River, still needing to check fishnets despite ice still slowly flowing in November. Photo courtesy of Lawrence Norbert, Tsiigehtchic, NWT, Canada

Widespread warm temperatures persisted across northern Canada this fall. Almost all climate stations in the region reported seasonal mean temperatures within their top five on record for this time of year. Notably, September saw monthly mean temperatures that were the warmest on record in Mayo (Yukon), Yellowknife (Northwest Territories), Grande Prairie (Alberta), Chetwynd (BC), and Fort St John (BC). Two sites in the Yukon, Haines Junction (26.6°C/79.9°F on Sept 2) and Carmacks (28.3°C/82.9°F on Sept 4), broke records for the highest maximum temperature ever recorded in September at these locations. Warm temperatures continued into October, albeit less extreme. In the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife experienced an especially warm Hallowe'en night, with the daily mean of 3°C (37.4°F) being the mildest ever recorded on October 31.

There was a significant delay in freeze-up on lakes and rivers at the beginning of November. This is a concern for communities like Dawson and West Dawson/Sunnydale, where the Yukon River (Chu kon' dëk), which separates the communities, is only crossable by seasonal ferries and an ice bridge. In recent years, residents have faced difficulties when the ice bridge is constructed late in the season or not at all. This season, once again there was concern about the ice bridge construction being delayed, due to late-season open waters present in November. It should be noted, however, that the freeze-up of the river in front of Dawson depends not only on air temperature, but on how and where ice flowing in the river jams up near the town.

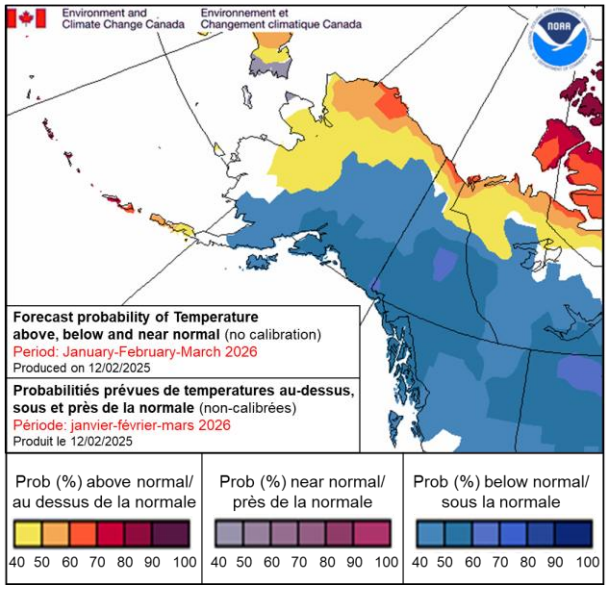
Sea Ice Concentration Conditions on November 30 2025 in the Bering, Chukchi and Beaufort Seas



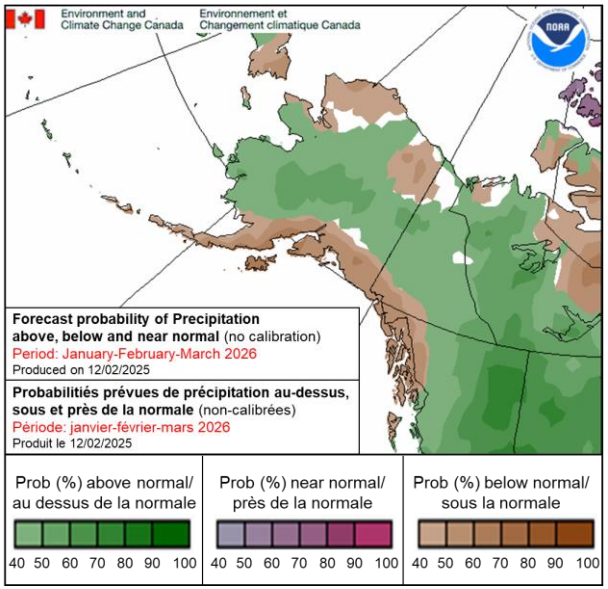
At the start of September, above normal sea ice concentrations were present in the southern and eastern Beaufort Sea. Unlike recent years, some ice persisted about 50 miles (80 km) offshore of Kaktovik, Alaska; these were remnant of thicker ice that had moved southwest from the Canadian Arctic Archipelago in the spring. Conversely, concentrations were below normal in the northwest of the Beaufort. Sea ice in the Beaufort and offshore of the northern Alaskan coast reached the seasonal minimum in the last week of September.

Ice formation proceeded through October in the Chukchi and northern Beaufort Seas. Late in the month, ice began to form in the shallow bays in the northern Bering Sea. The southern Beaufort experienced melt in October, due to warm conditions and strong winds, with an overall delay to freeze up of about 1 – 2 weeks into the first half of November. Above normal temperatures throughout most of the region in November did not delay freeze up, which was close to normal through the month over the northern Beaufort and northern Bering Seas. Despite the return to near-normal sea ice extent, multi-year ice in the Beaufort remained well below normal, and overall ice thickness was still thinner than usual. During late November, freeze-up progressed normally and ice concentrations were near normal across the entire Beaufort Sea. Open water remained at the end of November in the Chukchi Sea, which has not been unusual in the last 10 years.

Temperature Outlook: Jan to Mar 2026



Precipitation Outlook: Jan to Mar 2026



For January – March 2026, temperatures in the northernmost parts of the region and the Aleutian Islands have a 40 – 90% probability of being warmer than normal. Warm conditions are most likely to prevail over the Aleutian Islands and the western Arctic Archipelago. Temperatures in the rest of the region are expected to be colder than normal, with a 40 – 70% probability.

The precipitation outlook shows a 40 – 70% probability of below normal precipitation in many coastal areas, including the entire south coast of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, parts of the north coast of Alaska, and parts of the northern Canadian coastline. In contrast, there is a 40 – 80% likelihood of wetter than normal conditions across the inland areas, the west coast of Alaska, and parts of the northern Canadian coastline. The highest chance of above normal precipitation will be in northeastern British Columbia.

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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