



# The NWS Anchorage Climate Outlook

for the Southern AK / AK Peninsula / Aleutians

Issued: July 6, 2026

## Autumn 2026 and Winter 2026 - 2027 Outlook

- The NWS Climate Prediction Center has issued an **El Niño Advisory**. As of summer 2026, El Niño conditions (warmer than normal surface water temps) are present in the tropical Pacific.
- A **strong El Niño event is very likely** (90% chance) to develop by autumn 2026 and persist through winter 2027. There is a 63% chance for a very strong El Niño event.
- The autumn 2026 outlook for Alaska favors above normal temperatures over Southern AK (50-60% chance), the AK Peninsula and Aleutians west to Atka (40-50% chance). This outlook also favors above normal precipitation across W Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak Island, Southwest AK, and the AK Peninsula (33-40% chance). There is no clear signal for either above or below normal precipitation east of Cook Inlet and west of Atka. See images on the back of this page.
- The winter 2026-2027 outlook for Alaska favors above normal temperatures over Southern AK (50-60% chance), the AK Peninsula and Aleutians west to Atka (40-50% chance). There is no clear signal for either above or below normal temperatures west of Atka. This outlook also favors above normal precipitation across Southcentral AK, including Kodiak Island (33-40% chance). There is no clear signal for either above or below normal precipitation for Southwest AK, AK Peninsula, and the Aleutians. See images on the back of this page.

## El Niño, Alaska Weather, and Seasonal Variability

- Strong El Niño events typically correlate to a **warmer** and **wetter** autumn and winter season, particularly along the Southern AK coast. Typically, a higher percentage of precipitation will fall as rain along the coast due to warmer than average temperatures.
- Why warmer and wetter? El Niño events typically result in the increase in frequency of storms moving north into the Gulf of Alaska. These storms bring warmer air and higher amounts of moisture from the subtropical Pacific. The majority of the moisture is wrung out over the coastal mountains, with less moisture remaining for interior locations. Precipitation may fall more frequently as rain, especially along the coast, due to the warmer air.
- There is no clear signal for either above or below normal Bering Sea sea ice coverage. Since the start of satellite derived sea-ice extent data, 5 El Niño events saw above average sea ice coverage; 6 El Niño events saw below average sea ice coverage.
- El Niño events typically correlate to early-season river break-up, primarily due to above normal spring temperatures and reduced statewide snowpack. Early-season river break-ups typically favor rapid thermal breakups, reducing ice-jam potential and spring flooding risks.
- While El Niño does exert an influence on Alaska weather, this is a “thumb on the scale”, and is not necessarily the only or most important contributing factor.



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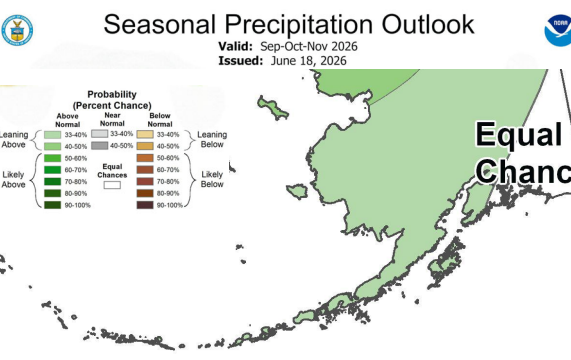
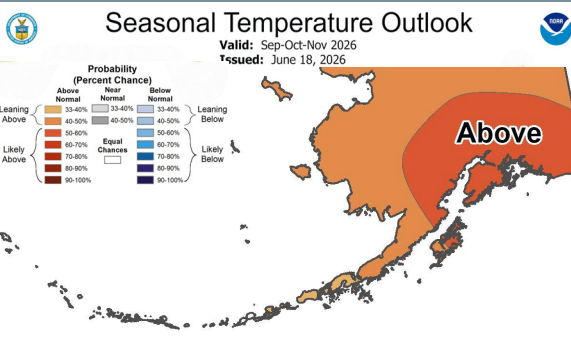
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## Climatological Averages - Autumn (Sep-Oct-Nov)

Location	Average Temperature	Average Precipitation	Average Snowfall
Anchorage	36.4°F	6.11"	18.6"
Kodiak	42.8°F	23.46"	6.8"
Bethel	32.3°F	6.53"	17.6"
King Salmon	36.7°F	7.43"	9.2"
Cold Bay	41.7°F	14.42"	10.2"
Saint Paul	39.8°F	9.29"	8.7"

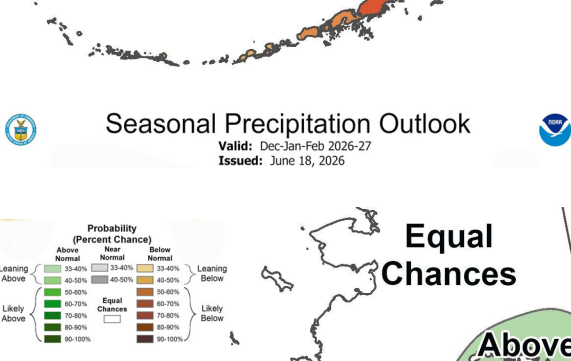
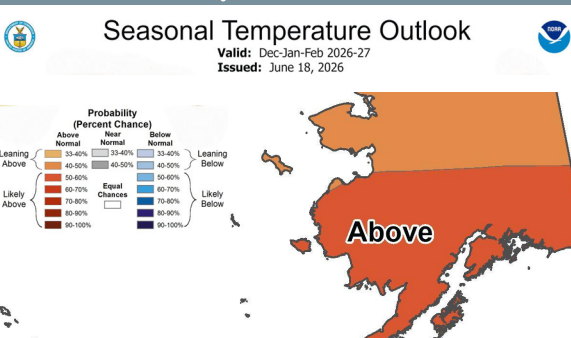
## Autumn 2026 Temperature and Precipitation Outlook



## Climatological Averages - Winter (Dec-Jan-Feb)

Location	Average Temperature	Average Precipitation	Average Snowfall
Anchorage	19.2°F	2.77"	44.0"
Kodiak	31.8°F	23.47"	44.5"
Bethel	10.1°F	2.71"	29.7"
King Salmon	19.1°F	3.22"	26.0"
Cold Bay	29.8°F	10.97"	36.7"
Saint Paul	26.5°F	2.74"	39.9"

## Winter 26-27 Temperature and Precipitation Outlook



## Climate Summary of Most Recent El Niño Events

Winter 2015-16 (very strong El Niño event): Temperature - well above normal across Southern AK and Aleutians. Precipitation (and snowfall) - above normal along the immediate coast; well below normal across interior Southern AK and Aleutians.

Winter 2023-24 (moderate El Niño event): Temperature - above normal across Southern AK and Aleutians. Precipitation (and snowfall) - above normal along the coast; near normal elsewhere.



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