



Winter/Spring Flood Outlook #8

March 19, 2026

Northern & Eastern Maine

1:08 PM

Flood Outlook due to Natural Flows is **Normal** for Northern Maine & Central Highlands
Flood Outlook due to Natural Flows is **Below Normal** for Bangor Region & Downeast Maine

Valid Mar 19th-26th

OVERVIEW:

- The Risk of Ice Jams is **Elevated** for the Central Highlands (*Piscataquis & Penobscot River Basins*).
- The Risk of Ice Jams is **Limited** for Northern Maine (*St. John, Allagash & Aroostook River Basins*).
- The Risk of Ice Jams has **Ended** for the Bangor Region & Downeast Maine.

SNOWPACK (SD) & SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT (SWE)

"T" = Trace

- **Northern Basins:** SDs 4-16". SWEs 1.5-4.5". Highest values in the North Woods in the Upper St. John Basin. SD & SWE well below normal.
- **Central Highlands, Moosehead & Baxter Regions:** SDs 0-18" with most areas a Trace or Bare Ground. Chimney Pond (Baxter SP @ 2914ft) SD is 23". SWEs generally 0-3" with up to 5" at highest terrain. SD & SWE well below normal.
- **Downeast to Bangor Basins:** Mostly bare ground. SD & SWE well below normal.

RIVER ICE

- **Northern Basins:** 70-90% Covered. Significant rot and decay underway in headwaters and anywhere near tributaries/runoff areas. Ice on the Meduxnekeag River has flushed. Thickness: 0 to 1-2 Feet on the Aroostook & St. John.
- **Central Highlands, Moosehead & Baxter Regions:** 50-60% Covered. Ice Jams on Pleasant River & Piscataquis River. Blocks on the jams have been generally 1-2 feet thick. Significant break up and rot/decay underway or ongoing. Ice flushing underway on most waterways. Thickness: Few inches to 2 feet.
- **Downeast to Bangor Basins:** 70-85% ice cover. Several areas of ice rot causing very thin ice conditions. Ice thickness significantly varying 4-15 inches.

PRECIPITATION & TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK

- **Temperatures:** Below Normal. **Precipitation:** Slightly Above Normal.
- **Pattern:** Ensembles (GEFS/EPS/GEPS) hinting at a late-period warmup driven by a trending +AO/NAO. A slight negative PNA keeps us locked in an active, quasi-zonal flow. P-types are a headache to predict, but thanks to the higher sun angle and nearing the end of March, precipitation will increasingly lean toward rain.

RIVER FLOW STATUS

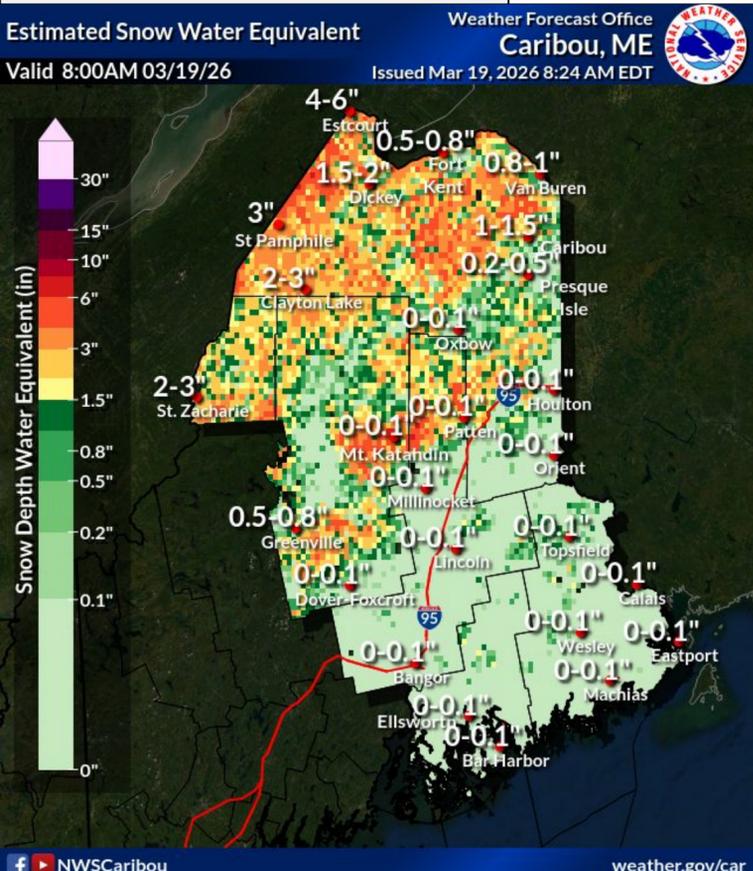
- Flows Normal to Above Normal. Expect flows to remain steady.

FROST DEPTH

- Northern Basins: 15-26" Deep, Central: 2-12" Deep. Downeast: Mostly thawed.

GROUNDWATER

- Below Normal due to ongoing Moderate to Severe Drought. Recharge occurring.



Pleasant River @ Milo
Courtesy: Milo Fire Dept
Taken: 3/18/2026



Piscataquis River @ Maxfield
Courtesy: Lisa Carroll
Taken: 3/18/2026



Meduxnekeag River @ Houlton
Courtesy: Chris Mooers
Taken: 3/18/2026



Piscataquis River @ Maxfield
Courtesy: Joel Irwin
Taken: 3/18/2026