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Record warmth a possibility on Christmas Eve

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DAVID L RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Nikita Biankov of Brookline enjoyed the water in South Boston amid warm temperatures this week.

By Matt Rocheleau

GLOBE STAFF DECEMBER 18, 2015

Santa might want to ditch the electric-red jacket and hat when he visits Boston this year. It's going to

be unusually warm on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Forecasters at the National Weather Service expect highs Thursday to hit 62 degrees here, which would narrowly eclipse the city's record high for Christmas Eve of 61 degrees, which was set in 1996.



Highs next Friday, Christmas Day, are projected to climb into the mid-50s. That would be remarkably mild for this time of year, but well below the Christmas Day record high of 65 degrees, which was set in 1889, data from the weather service show.

There will be a chance for showers on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, but it will be all rain — not snow, according to Bill Simpson, a meteorologist at the weather service's Taunton bureau.

There's virtually zero chance for a white Christmas at this point.

“There’s no snowfall expected into at least the first part of January,” said Simpson. “It could be mid-January,” before we see snow.

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day weather records for Boston

The following figures come from 143 years worth of data, from 1872 through 2014.

Christmas Day	Record	Year
High temperature	65	1889
Low temperature	-8	1872
Precipitation	0.89 in.	1978
Snowfall	3.3 in.	1974, 2002
Most snow on the ground	11 in.	1995
Number of years without snowfall	119	-
Number of years with no snow on the ground	116	-
Christmas Eve	Record	Year

High temperature	61	1996
Low temperature	0	1892, 1943
Precipitation	1.33 in.	1994
Snowfall	8.4 in.	1912
Most snow on the ground	12 in.	1975, 1995
Number of years without snowfall	128	-
Number of years with no snow on the ground	116	-

SOURCE: National Weather Service

The balmy weather of late has been driven by one of the strongest El Niños on record.

Long-range forecasters have said they expect the mild pattern to continue for at least the next few weeks, though there certainly will still be chances for cold and snow later in the season.

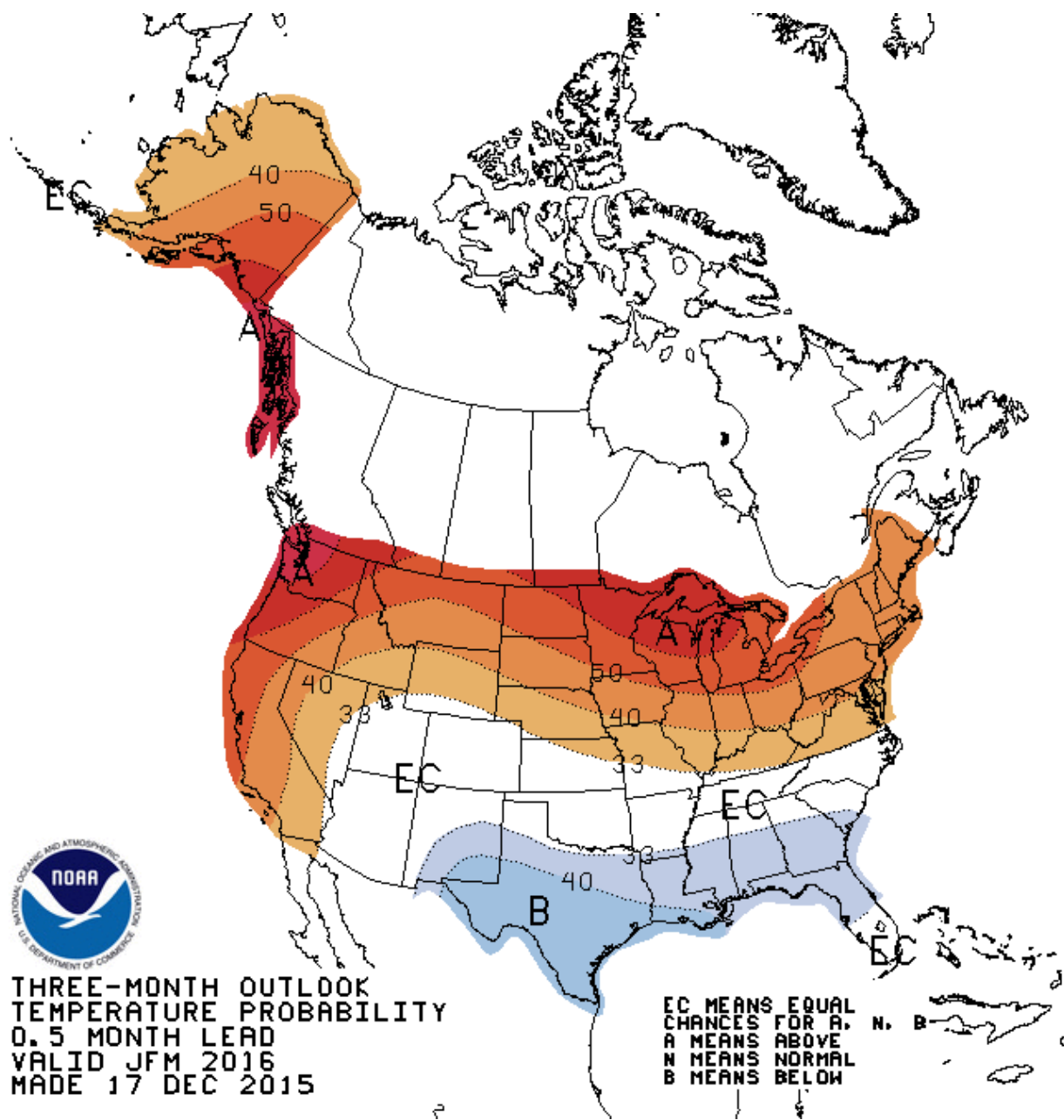
In its latest three-month outlook released Friday, the National Weather Service said it expects above normal temperatures through March for much of the northern continental US, including New England. Above normal precipitation is also expected for southern New England during those months.

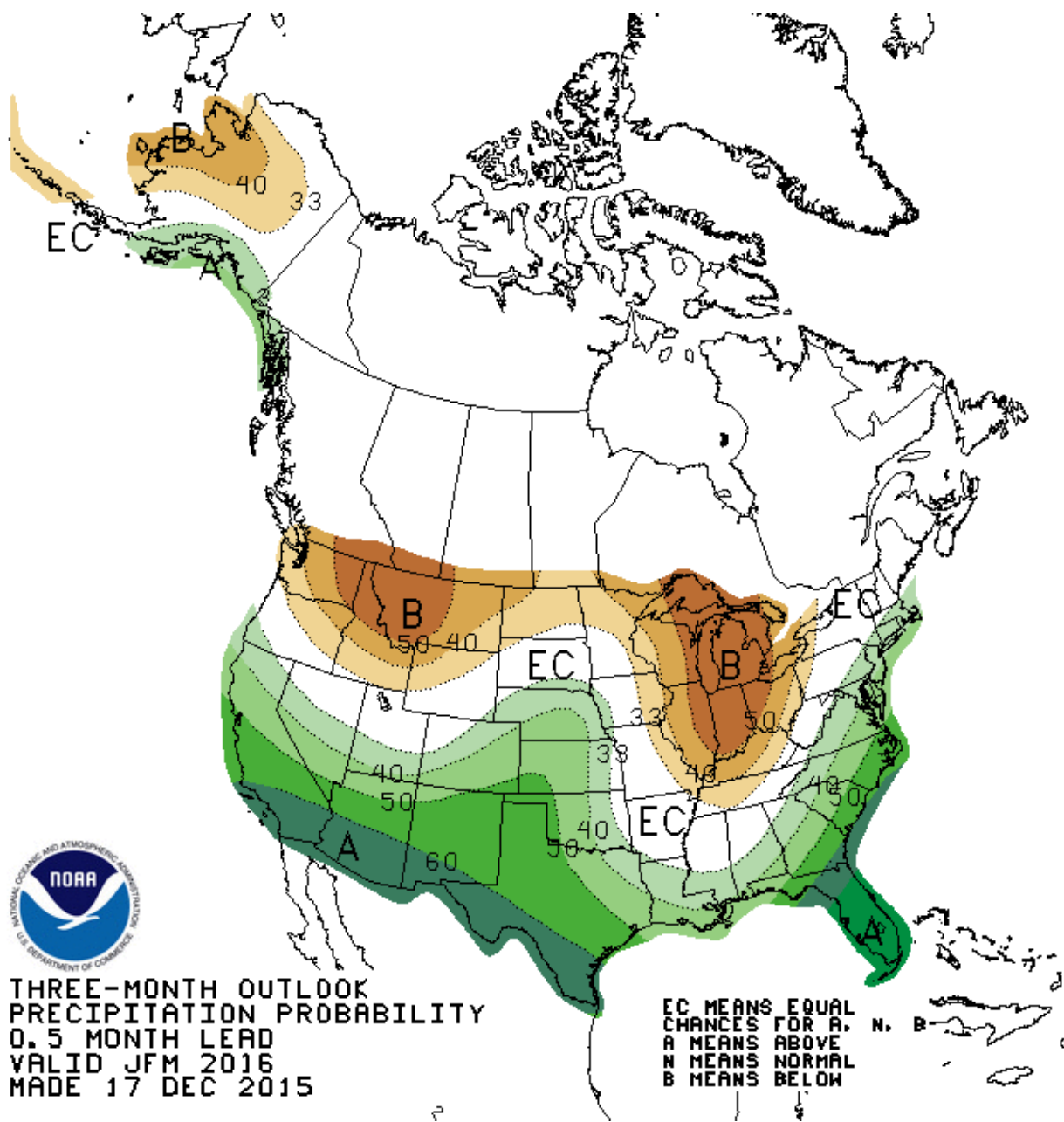
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