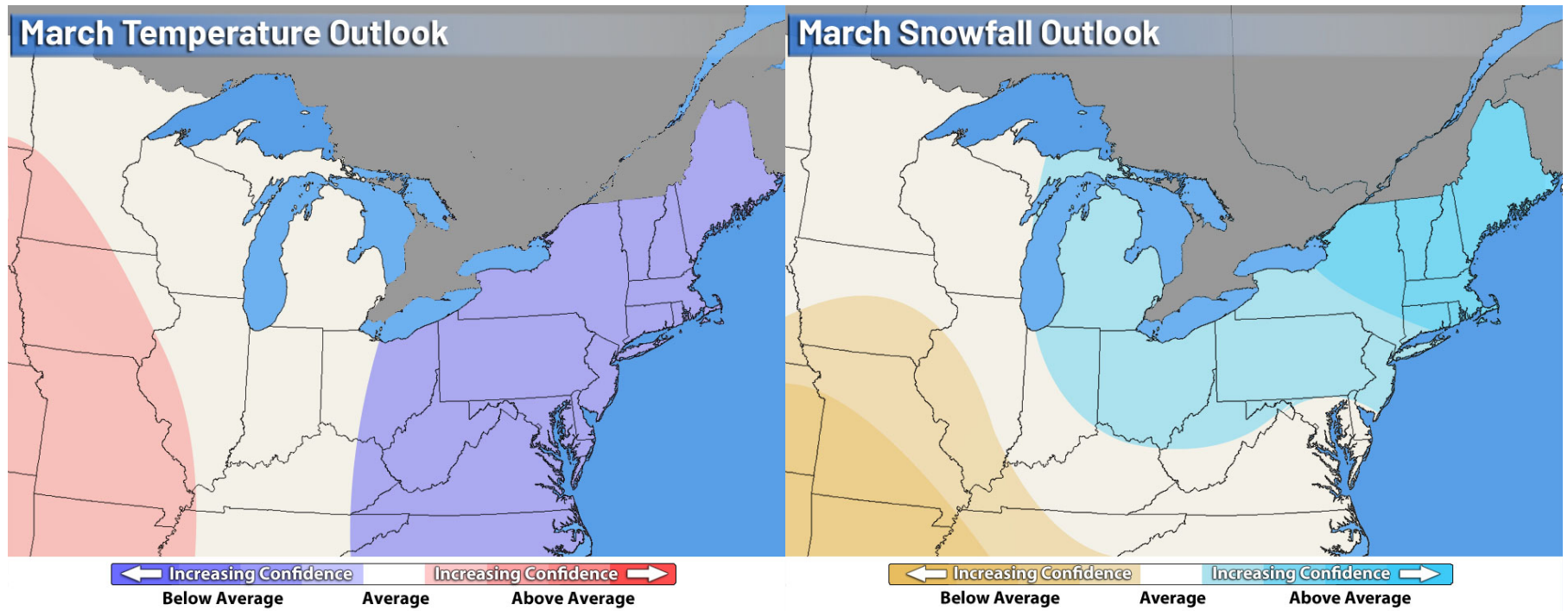


Feb 2026 : Winter's Last Gasp



After milder Februaries, La Niñas have a tendency to revert to a colder pattern in March, and our updated seasonal analogs suggest this may be the case this year. The main thing to look out for in March is whether high latitude blocking near Greenland can develop (-NAO). So far this winter, the polar vortex has been fairly weak, and there is some indication a late-season stratospheric warming event could occur. This often marks the beginning of high latitude blocking episodes that can last a few weeks. While we are not ready to declare any kind of major cold weather pattern in March at this point, there is some indication March will at least begin chillier before maybe warming up as we head toward the official start of spring. When you average it all out, we expect near to slightly below normal temperatures in March from the Ohio Valley to the East Coast, with the coldest weather relative to normal likely setting up in the northern mid-Atlantic and New England.

What about snowfall? While the end of January and early February should present some opportunities for snow, we believe that early to mid-March may present some of the best opportunities to get that larger snowstorm along the East Coast. There have been a number of La Niña winters that have been pretty lean through February, before the snow season gets "saved" in March. The winters of 2008-2009, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018 are some recent examples of this. Our chances of this happening this year will of course have somewhat to do with whether a late-season -NAO can form, but even without one, the analog years listed above have featured a few fluke snow events in March nonetheless. Should one happen this year, we believe it would

probably happen by March 15th or so, before snow risks wind down for the season. Putting it all together, our current forecast is for above normal snow in March in areas north of the Maxon-Dixon Line. New England has the best snow potential at this point, which is nothing out of the ordinary in a La Niña winter.

- March is expected to at least start chilly before warmer weather starts to kick in mid-late month
- We will monitor the polar vortex closely the rest of winter, as a disruption could allow for a more significant cold period
- Late season fluke snowstorms have occurred in March during La Nina winters, and one could happen this year
- Odds are decent for above normal snowfall in March north of the Maxon-Dixon Line, especially in New England