

March 2011 Weather Summary

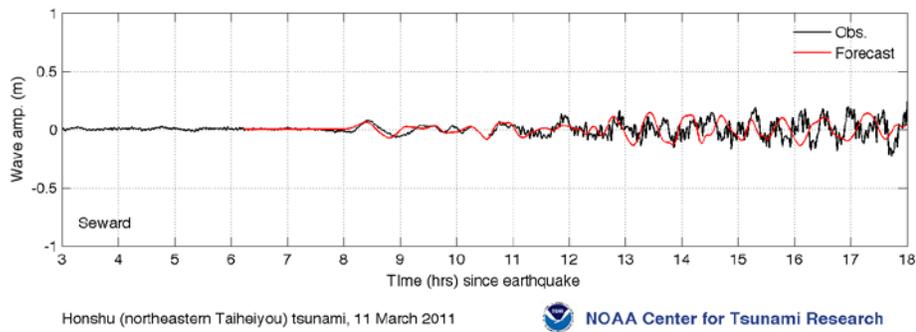
The first half of March in Kenai Fjords National Park was surprisingly clear and dry, while the 2nd half of the month brought little precipitation. To some, the clear weather also made it seem warmer than observed. Snow pack as measured monthly at Exit Glacier Ranger Station is well below normal and substantially less than 2010 conditions. March average temperature was 31.1 degrees F (0.9 degrees F below the 30-year average March temperature). Total precipitation for March was 0.77 inches, 3.37 inches less than the 30-year average. March 30th was the warmest day of the month with a high of 47 degrees F; March 13th was the coldest day with a low of 9 degrees F.

Also of note:

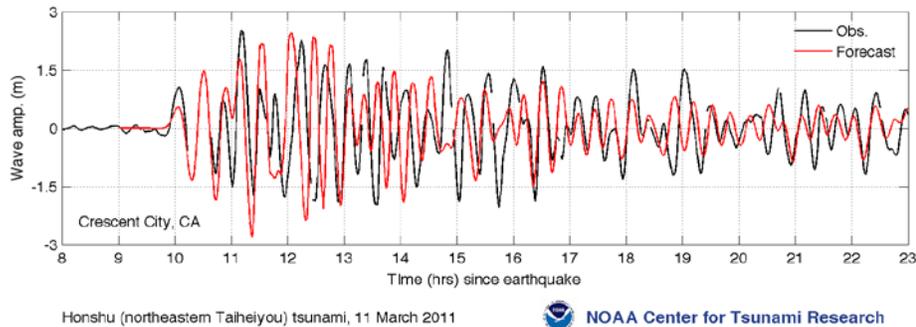
- The spring edition of University of Alaska Fairbanks "[Alaska Climate Dispatch](#)" is now available.
- The National Snow and Ice Data Center reported that the [annual maximum sea ice extent](#) was reached on March 7, 2011.
- Researchers from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory reported that polar ice loss is quickening, raising sea levels at rates exceeding those previously predicted. [News release](#) :: [scientific journal article abstract](#).
- The [National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center's](#) one month weather outlook (April 2011) is for below average temperatures and below median precipitation, with high winds expected in early April. The three month outlook (April-May-June 2011) is for equal probability of above to below average temperatures and above to below median precipitation. Neutral El-Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions are expected by June 2011.
- NOAA climate services portal serves as a single point-of-entry for NOAA's extensive climate information, data, products, services, and the climate science magazine [ClimateWatch](#).
- Additional, detailed climate information is available from the [UAF Alaska Climate Research Center monthly state-wide summaries](#).

The March 11, 2011 Honshu tsunami had a small but measurable influence on the Kenai Fjords NP coastline [as reported for the Seward tide gauge by the NOAA Center for Tsunami Research](#). Our condolences go out to the victims of this earthquake, tsunami, and subsequent devastation.

Seward, Alaska data below.

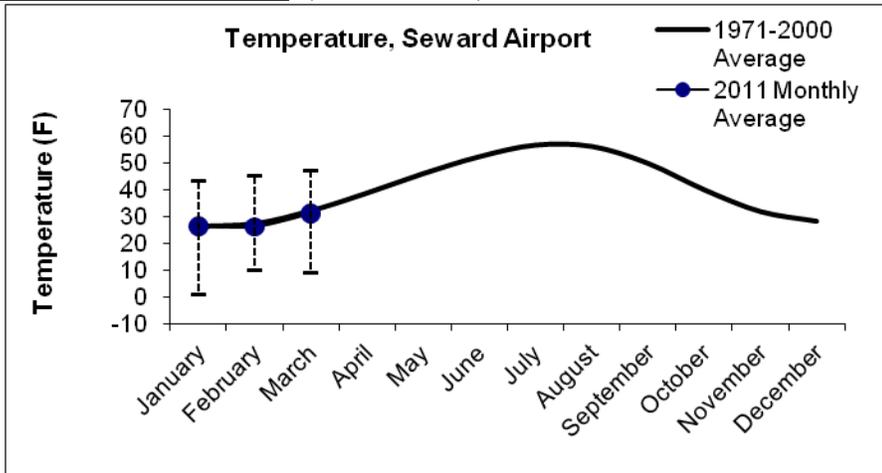


Crescent City, California data for comparison. Note the difference in scales (especially wave amplitude).



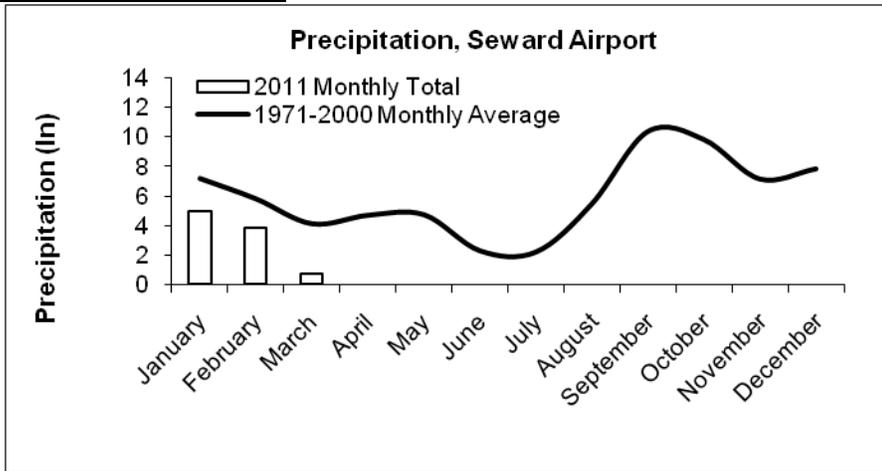
Read more to find out about the local climate for March 2011

Seward Airport Temperature, 2011 (station #26438)



Monthly and 30-year average temperature (F) at Seward airport. 1971-2000. 2011 Monthly average values are shown with thin solid line. The range of maximum and minimum daily temperatures for each month are shown with dashed vertical lines.

Seward Airport Precipitation, 2011



Monthly and 30-year average precipitation (inches) at Seward airport.

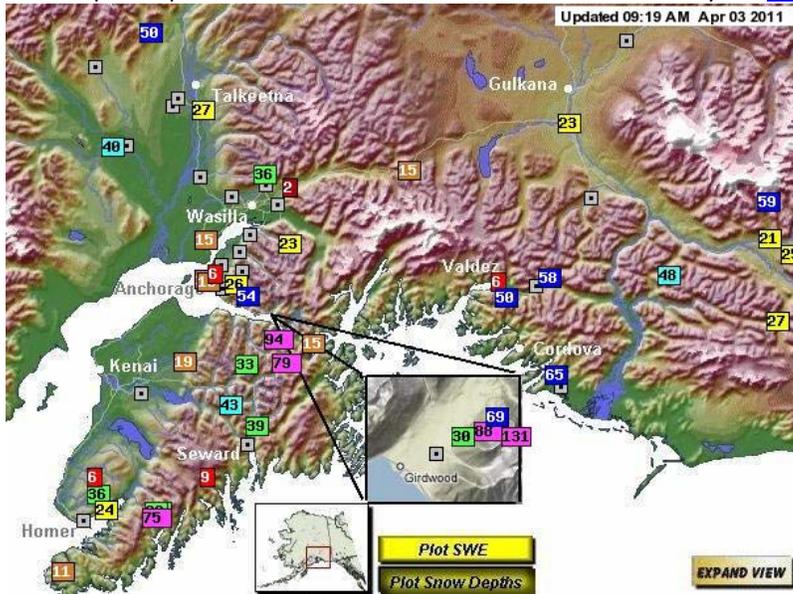
Rivers

Resurrection River at Exit Glacier Bridge is monitored by the [Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center](#). The Resurrection River stage height is currently well below the flood action stage.

Exit Creek water level (stage height) data is not collected in winter.

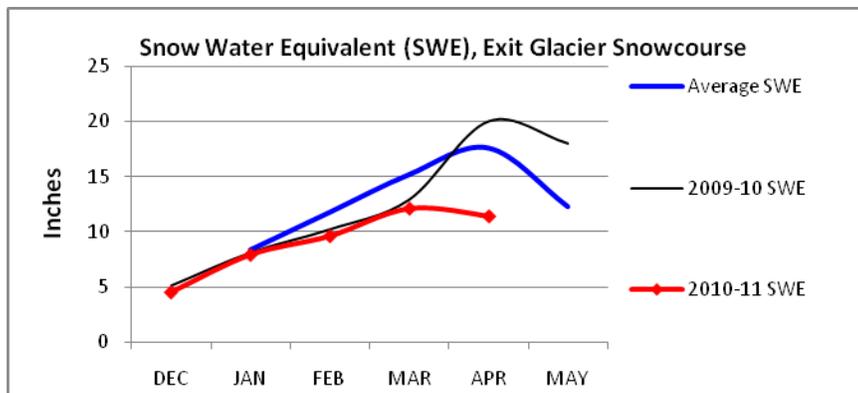
Snow & Ice

Snow depths reported across southcentral Alaska on March 7th by the [National Weather Service](#).



Snow is monitored by the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) with most measurements and reporting taking place December to May.

Snow depth at Exit Glacier Ranger Station on April 1st was 40.1 inches, substantially less than average and last year, with a water equivalent of 11.4 inches.



Weather Station data (map of [some] stations [Western Region Climate Center](#) or [MesoWest](#))

[Seward Airport](#)

[Seward Hwy MP#12](#)

[Grouse Crk Divide](#)

[Exit Glacier](#)

[Harding Icefield](#)

[McArthur Pass](#)

[Nuka Glacier](#)

[Pilot Rock](#)

[Buoy 76-Cape Cleare](#)

Weather Forecasts

[Seward Summary](#)

[Marine Forecast](#)

[Surface Map](#)

[Graphical Forecast](#)

[4-8 Day Forecast](#)