Ice and Freezing Rain Event
January 12th 2020

Update #6

January 12th 2020
9:30 am

Briefing produced as guidance for emergency management officials.

Hazard Risk Assessment Page

Brief Summary

Messy weather is expected across the province today, with an extended period of ice pellets and freezing rain expected over a very large area. Snow accumulation in the north and rainfall in the south is also expected.

Onset Timing

Southern Zone: On going
Western Zone: On going
Central zone: On going
Eastern Zone: On going

Impacts

Similar storms in the past have caused:

- Hazardous driving conditions
- Major travel disruptions
- Ice accumulation on trees, power lines, etc.
- Power outages
- Slippery road and sidewalk conditions from ice build up

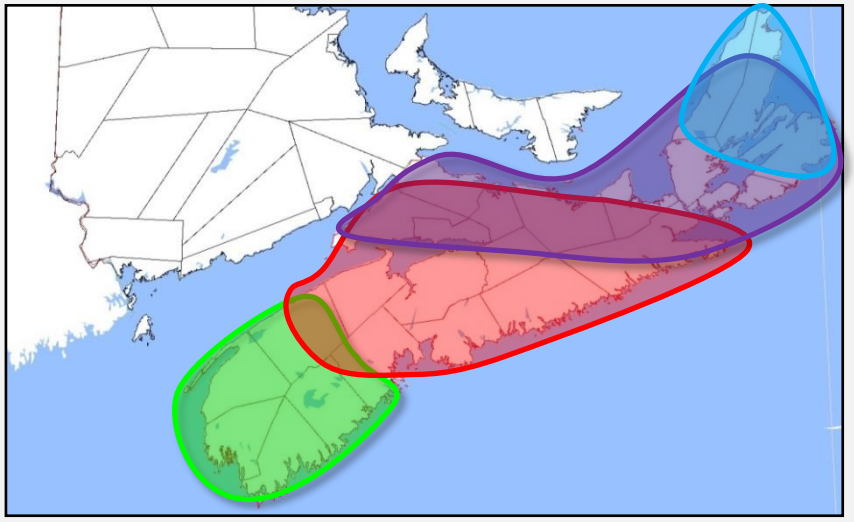
Duration

Worst conditions to last 8 to 12 hours.

Confidence Level	
High	X
Moderate	
Low	

Areas to Monitor

Snowfall
Ice Pellets
Rainfall
Freezing Rain



This page is an experimental summary page. Confidence level is subjective and refers to the overall confidence in the weather scenario based on its complexity and model performance. Low and moderate-confidence storms should be given a wider margin of error. The map highlights regions of higher probability of occurrence of certain hazards but these hazards could extend beyond the highlighted areas depicted on the map. Impacts are based on documented occurrences that have resulted from storms with similar extent and severity of hazards.

Synopsis

The latest model runs are consistent with previous runs and there are no significant changes in the forecast to note.

Rain/showers in the north have changed over to ice pellets and/or snow overnight with the arrival of colder air, as seen on radar and highway cameras early this morning. Radar also shows a broad area over central and eastern regions with not much on it in the way of radar returns. This was suggested in the models as an area of lighter precipitation, but it is quickly filling in as precipitation moves in from the west and intensity of ice pellets and/or freezing rain will pick up shortly. Halifax International and CFB Greenwood are both now reporting freezing rain and ice pellets after drizzle and rain less than a couple of hours ago. This trend will continue moving eastward to fill in the empty area on radar. Further south, rain will become heavy at times today. There are also thundershowers associated with this area of rain and will begin affect the Tri-County region this morning.

As the warm front continues to approach, the set up of precipitation across NS, with snow in the far north, then ice pellets, then freezing rain, then rain furthest south will be in place until the afternoon. As the low center crosses southern NS this afternoon, warmer air from the south will push north and change the freezing rain to rain over more southern regions (Lunenburg, Annapolis, and southern Halifax County). Areas along the immediate Atlantic Coast could stay as rain for this event due to the warming influence of the ocean and light onshore winds. Otherwise freezing rain and ice pellets will persist until this evening until the low moves east and away from NS, taking with it the precipitation.

Behind the low, northeasterly winds will give scattered flurries late this evening and bring in colder air. Overnight lows across the province will range from -4 to -8C. On Monday, a ridge of high pressure will move over the region with no precipitation expected. Day times will range from -4 to -1C. Strong winds are not expected today with this system, some gusts to 40 km/h are forecast today. Winds could gust to 50 km/h tonight in the northeasterlies before diminishing with the approach of the ridge on Monday.

In summary:

Snow –20 to 30 cm for northern Cape Breton/the Highlands.

Ice Pellets – An extended period (8 to 12 hours) over Northern NS and Cape Breton, near 5 cm forecast.

Ice pellets and snowfall accumulations are totalled together in the forecast

Freezing Rain – An extended period covering a large area of the province, with up to 6 hours in the south to 12 hours in the north.

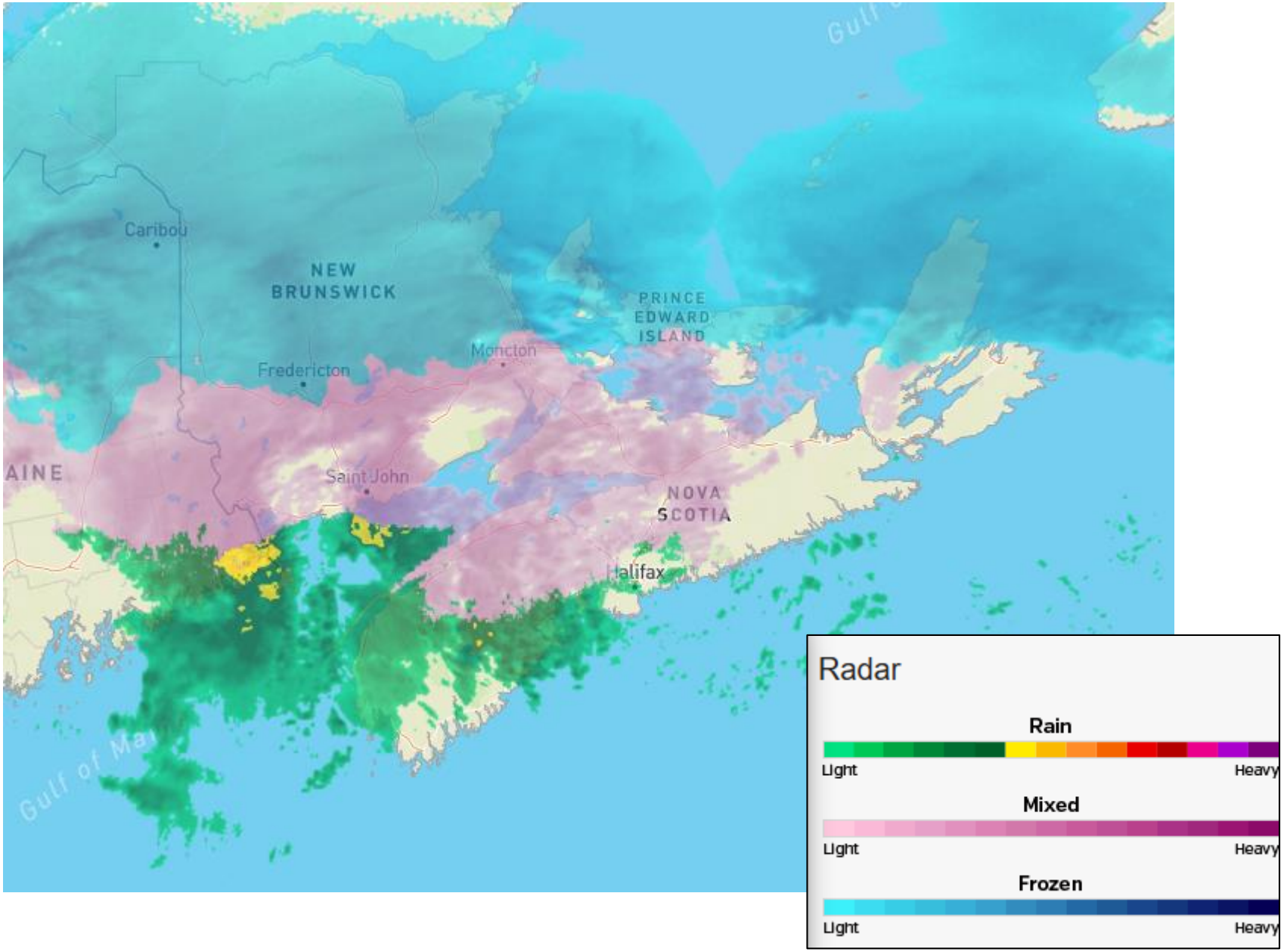
Rainfall – In the extreme southwest, amounts 20 to 30 mm forecast with up to 50 mm possible locally.

Freezing rain, Snowfall and Rainfall Warnings are continued for areas of the province.

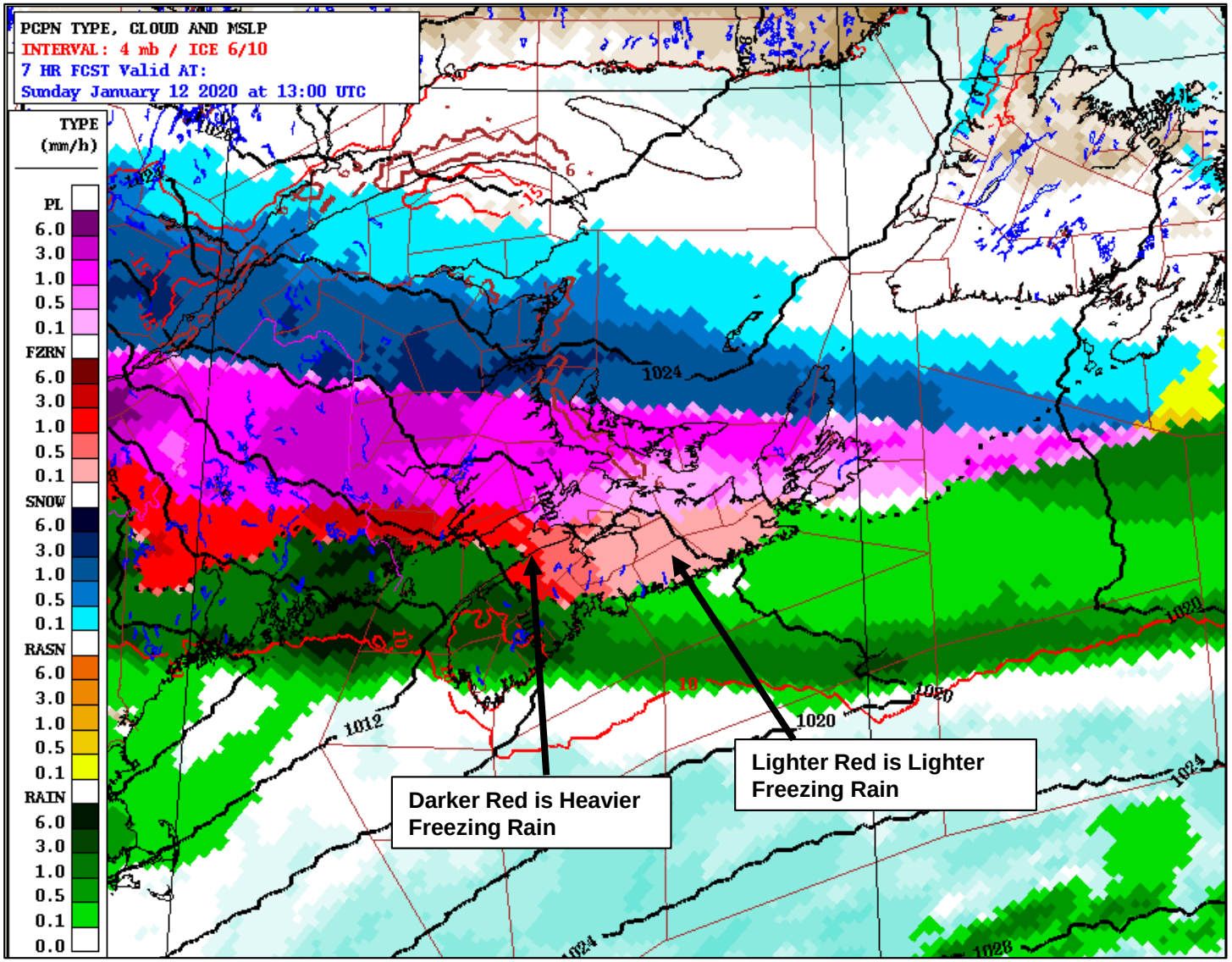
The latest alerts can be found at: http://weather.gc.ca/warnings/index_e.html?prov=ns

This briefing package will be updated this afternoon.

Current Radar Image at 9:20am



Model depiction for 9am this morning



Snow over the Highlands.

Ice pellets over Cape Breton and most of northern NS.

Light freezing rain over parts of central and eastern NS, with heavier freezing rain over the Annapolis Valley.

Rain in the southwest, and along the Atlantic Coast.

Precipitation Type By Colour:

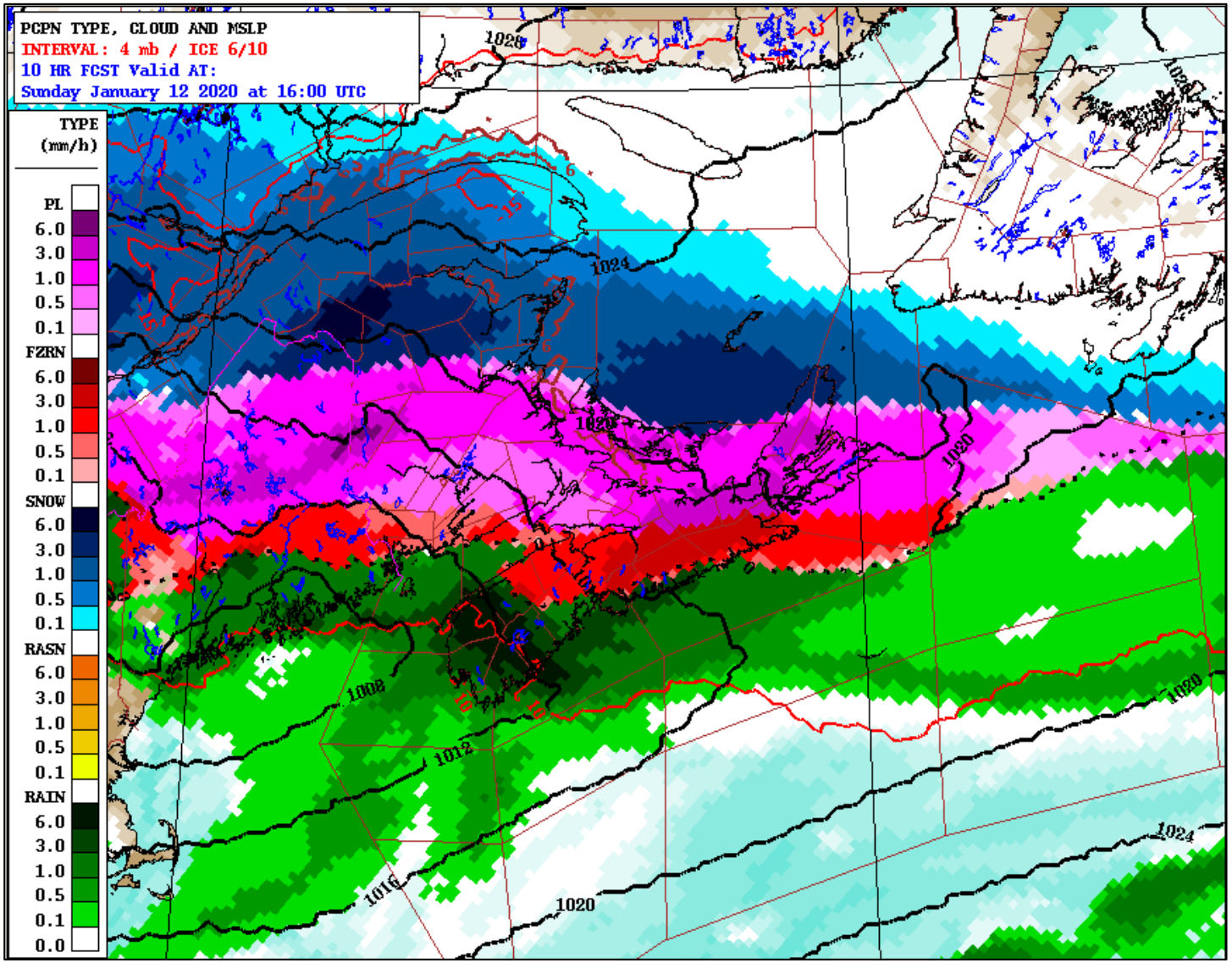
Blue – Snow

Red – Freezing Rain

Purple – Ice Pellets

Green - Rain

Model depiction for 12pm noon



Snow over the Highlands.

Ice pellets over Cape Breton and northern NS.

Freezing rain from eastern shore down to Lunenburg County, and over to Annapolis County.

Heavy rain in the southwest. Rain along the Atlantic Coast.

Precipitation Type By Colour:

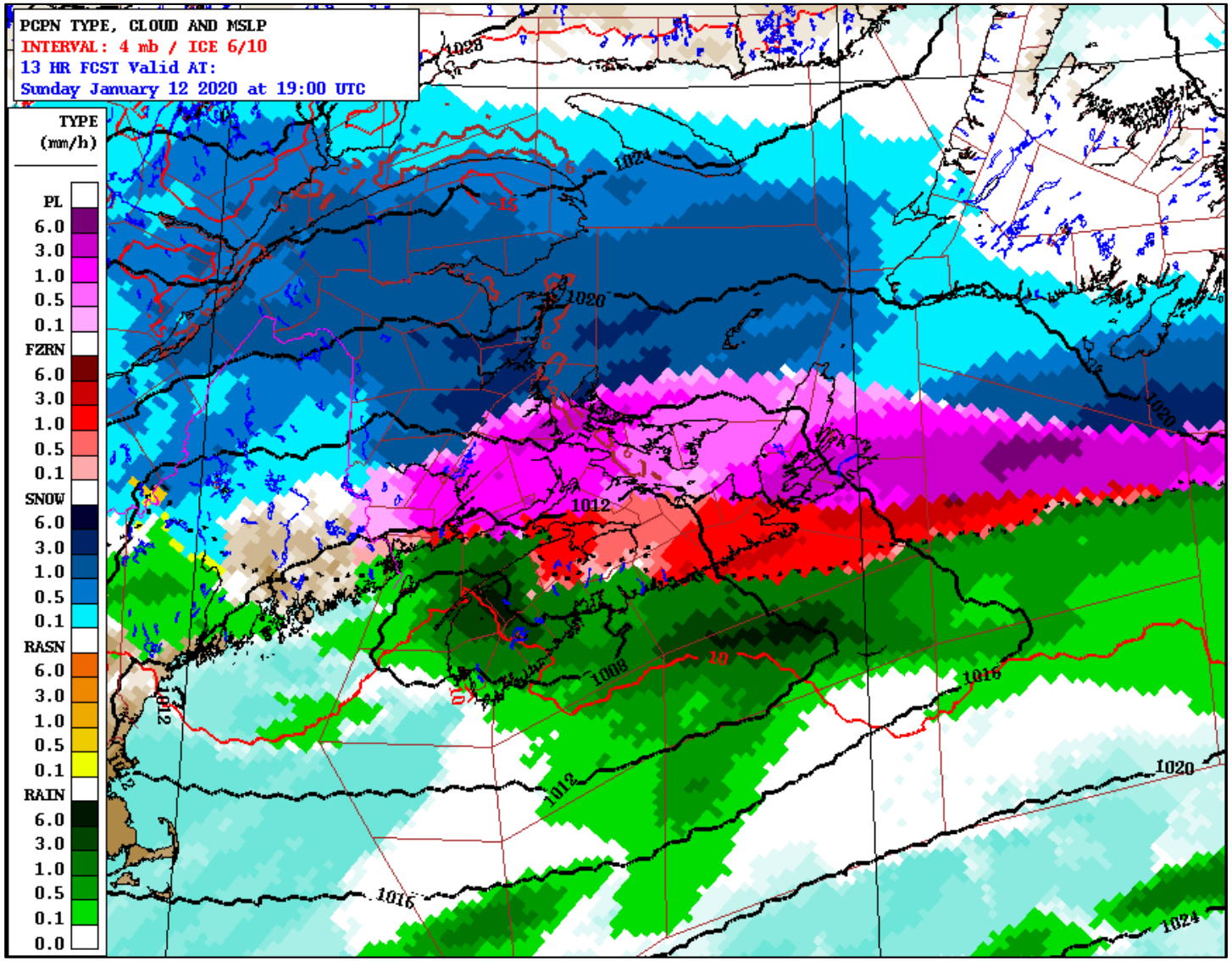
Blue – Snow

Red – Freezing Rain

Purple – Ice Pellets

Green - Rain

Model depiction for 3pm this afternoon

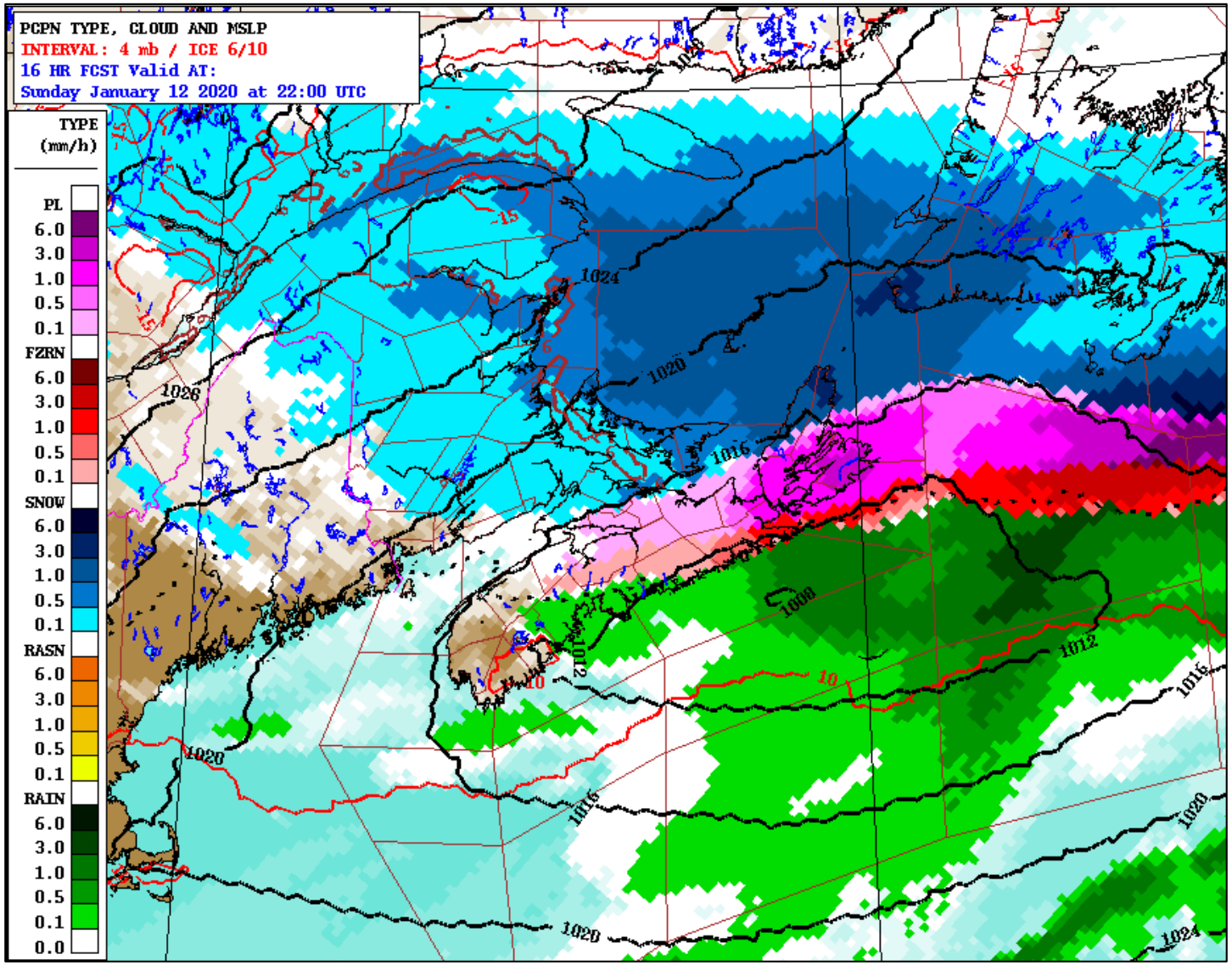


The low is tracking east and centered over southern NS.

Precipitation continues across NS, with each precipitation type having pushed slightly north.

Precipitation Type By Colour:	Blue – Snow	Red – Freezing Rain
	Purple – Ice Pellets	Green - Rain

Model depiction for 6pm this evening



The low center and warm front have moved just east of NS. Precipitation continues in the east, is easing up in intensity over many areas, and has ended in the southwest.

Precipitation Type By Colour:

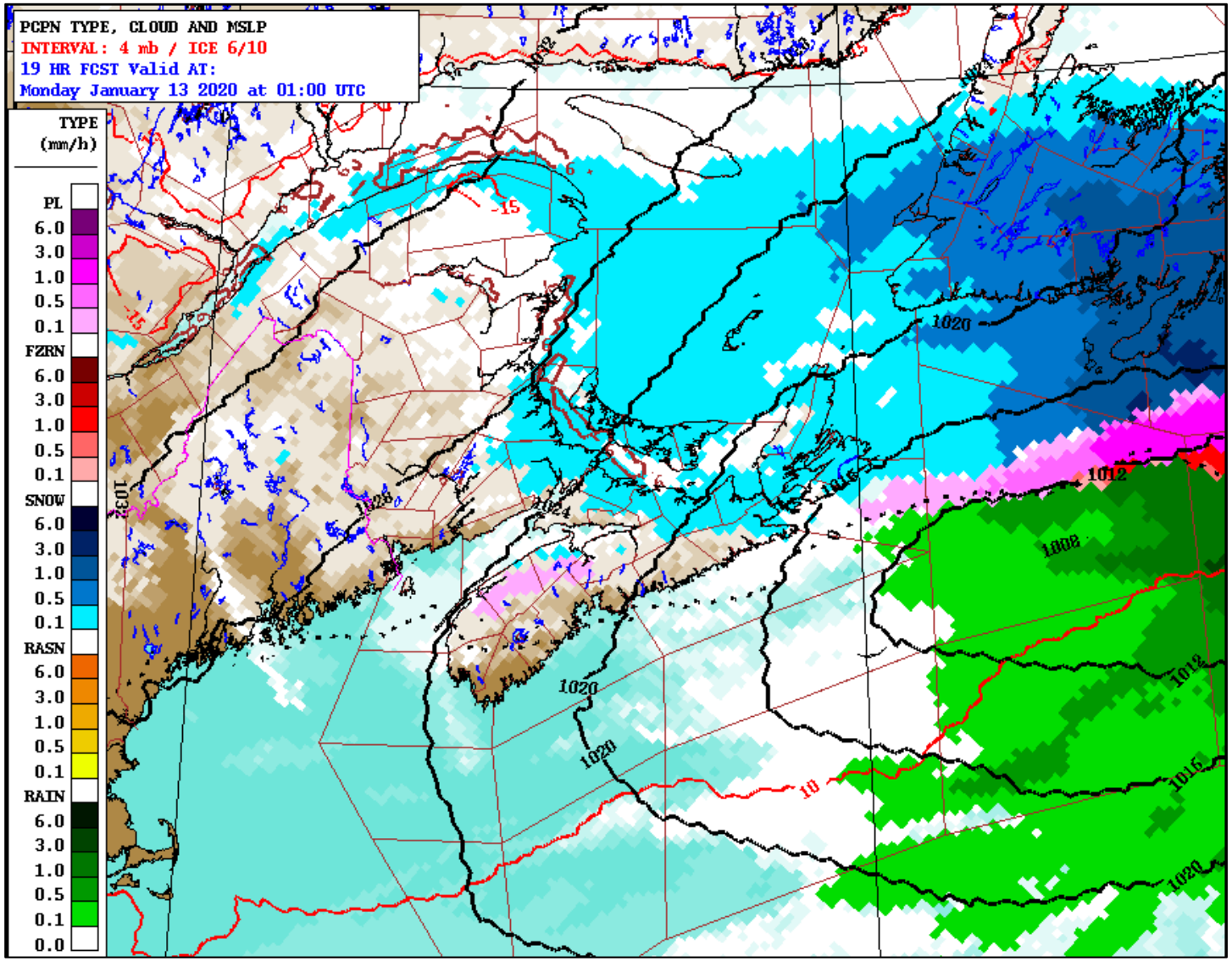
Blue – Snow

Red – Freezing Rain

Purple – Ice Pellets

Green - Rain

Model depiction for 9pm this evening



Low pulling away, taking with it the warmer air. Some lingering flurries in onshore northeasterly winds, but will end overnight as they diminish.

Precipitation Type By Colour:

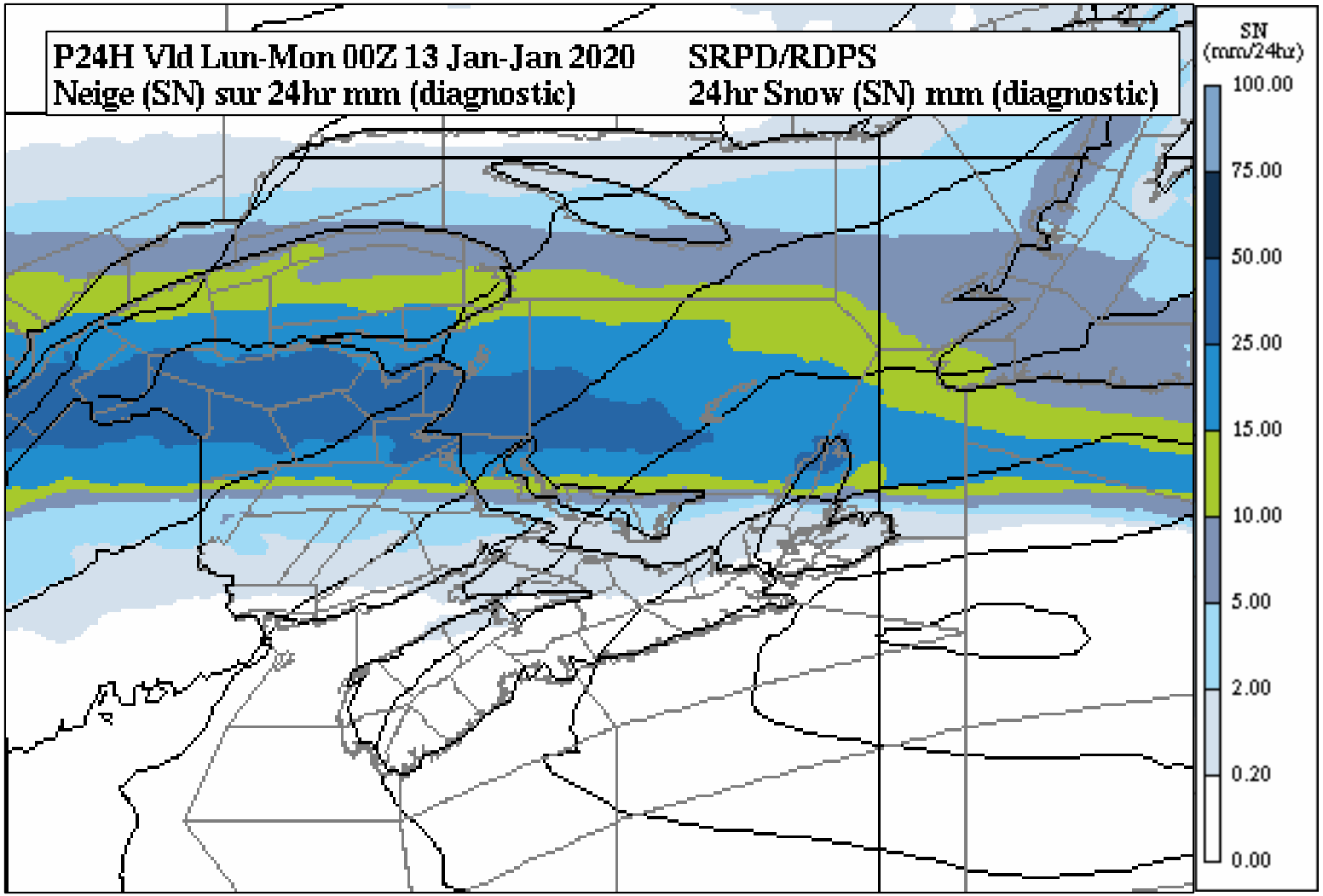
Blue – Snow

Red – Freezing Rain

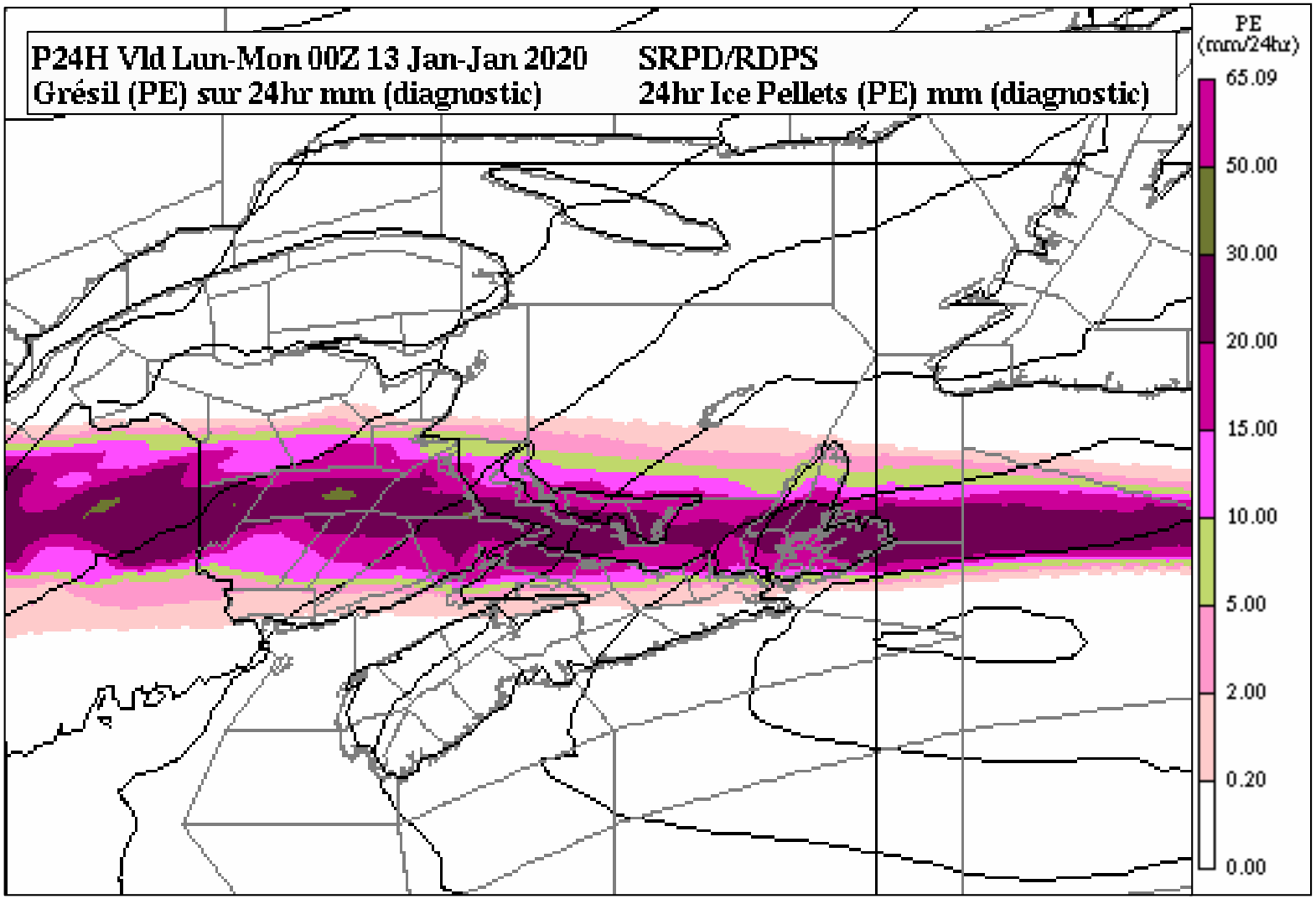
Purple – Ice Pellets

Green - Rain

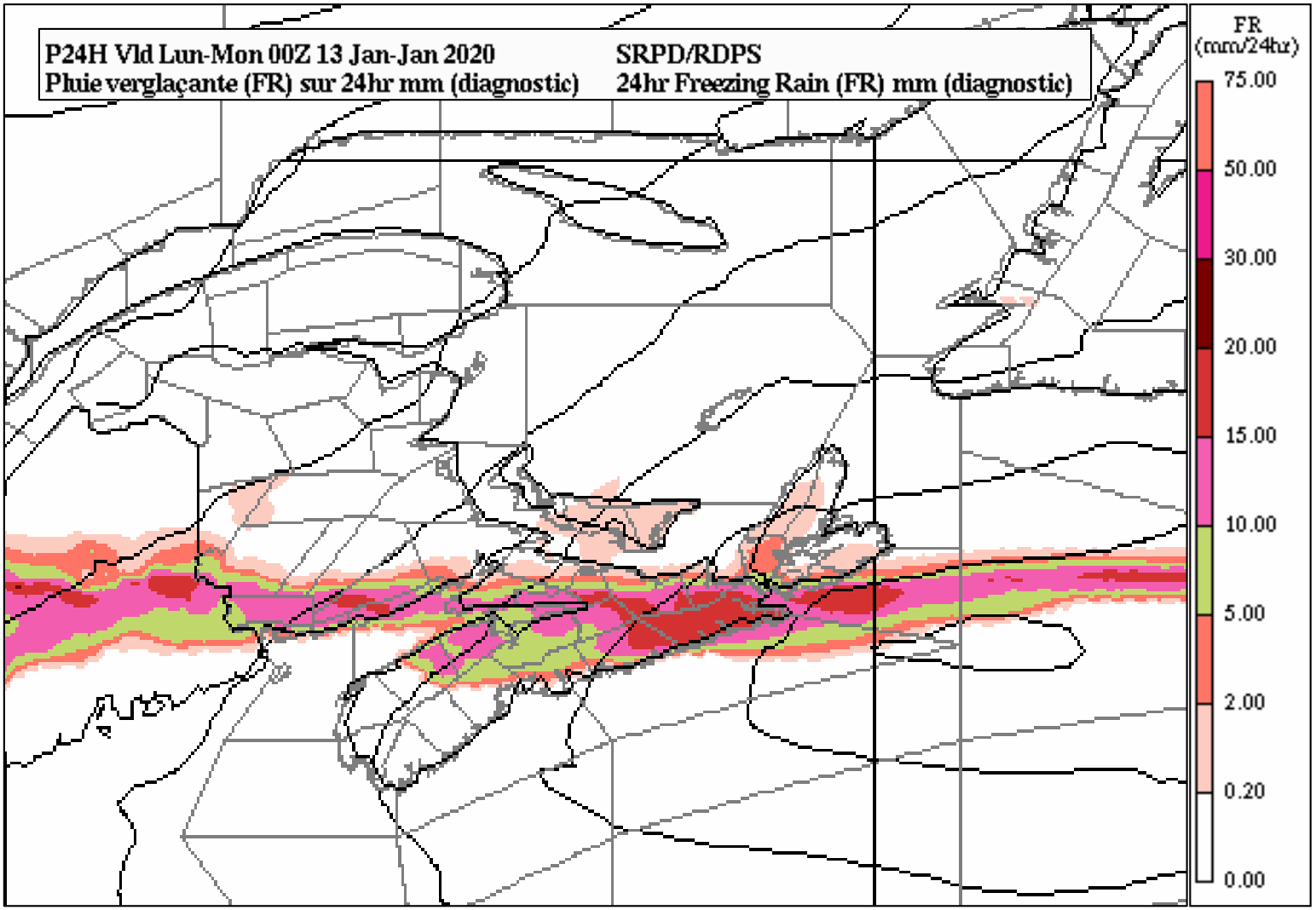
Model Predicted 24hr Snowfall (cm) by 8pm



Model Predicted 24hr Ice Pellets (mm water eq) by 8pm



Model Predicted 24hr Freezing Rain (mm) by 8pm



Model Predicted 24hr Rainfall (mm) by 8pm