

MEMO FOR RECORD

DATE: 3 Jan. 2006

SUBJECT: Ice jam on Kennebec River at Hallowell, ME

In the morning of Jan. 3, 2006, I received a call from Sean Goodwin of Kennebec County Emergency Management Agency at Augusta, ME. Sean reports that a large ice jam has formed on the Kennebec at Hallowell, which is about 2.5 miles below Augusta. The river he said had frozen to well above Augusta during the cold spell before Christmas, then with the warmer weather and rain of last week, the ice at Augusta had cleared out. KCEMA Director Vincent Cerasulo first noticed the Hallowell jam forming on Saturday morning at 8:30. From Sean's description, the jam resulted from a release of breakup ice from upstream and contained woody debris and tree trunks. At this point some minor road flooding has occurred. It is unknown from how far upstream the ice originated. Sean reports that, as of this morning, the jam is still building as more ice arrives from upstream. From today's web camera photos of drifting frazil ice at Augusta and the recent colder temperatures it appears the original breakup jam has transitioned into a freezeup-type jam.

Review of the attached hydro-met data suggests the following scenario: The cold temperatures of 12-17 Dec. caused an ice cover to progress up past the Augusta Father Curran Bridge gage by about Dec 17th. This newly formed ice cover at Augusta appears to have released on about the 25th due to warming temperatures. Even warmer air temperatures and rain on the 29th probably caused the ice cover above Waterville to release and move downstream to form the jam that was observed at Hallowell on the 31st. Since then, more seasonal temperatures are producing the frazil which is building against the earlier breakup ice accumulation. The temperature trend for the remainder of the week of daytime highs of about 32 deg. F and nighttime lows in the teens should cause a continued slow building of the ice cover below Augusta.

I plan to make an aerial recon of the river tomorrow morning and report back to the KCEMA and New England District.

Respectfully submitted,

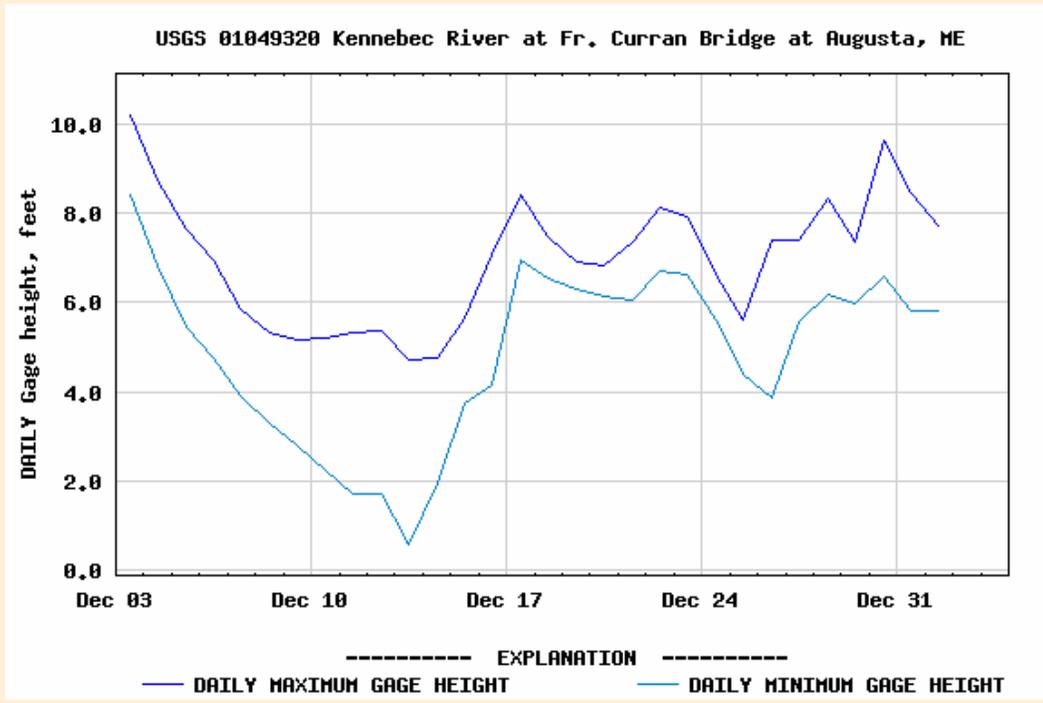
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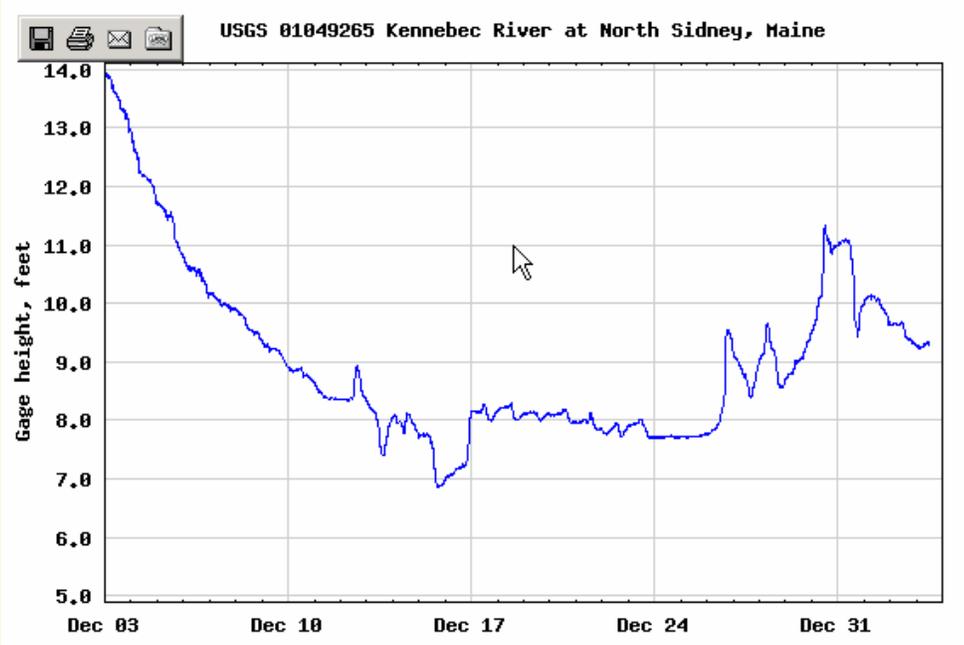
Gage height, feet

Most recent value: 5.29 01-03-2006 08:30



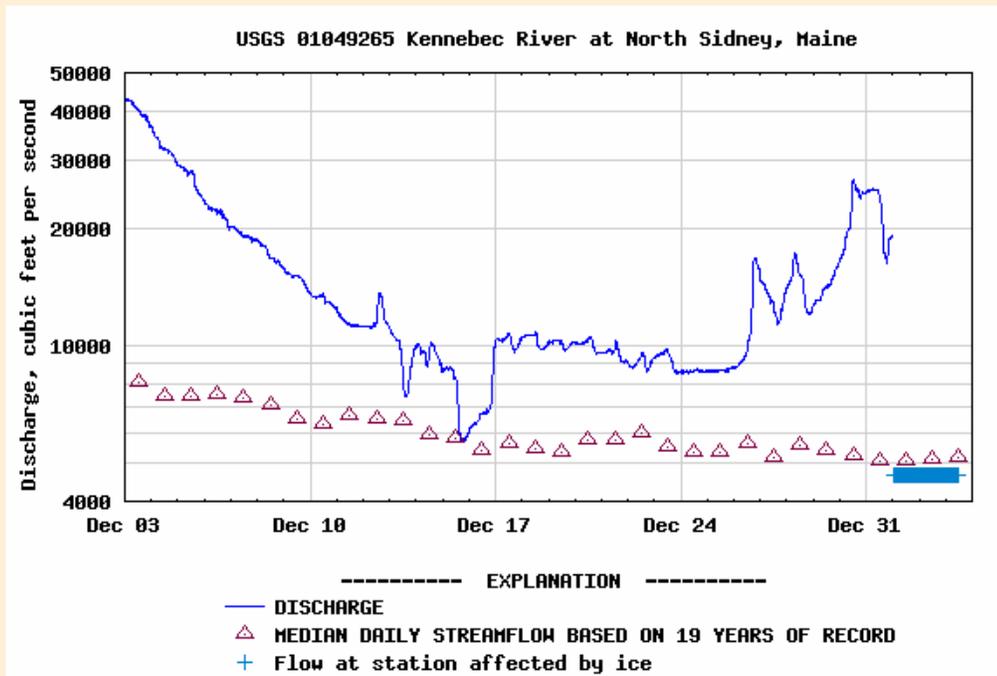
Gage height, feet

Most recent value: 9.27 01-03-2006 11:45



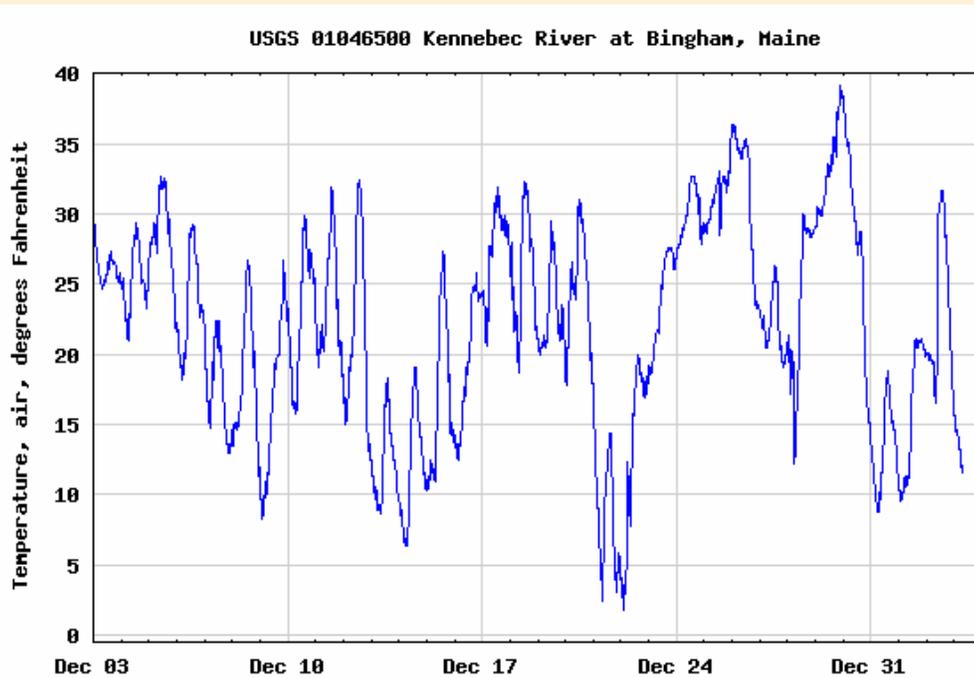
Discharge, cubic feet per second

Most recent value: [Ice](#) 01-03-2006 11:45



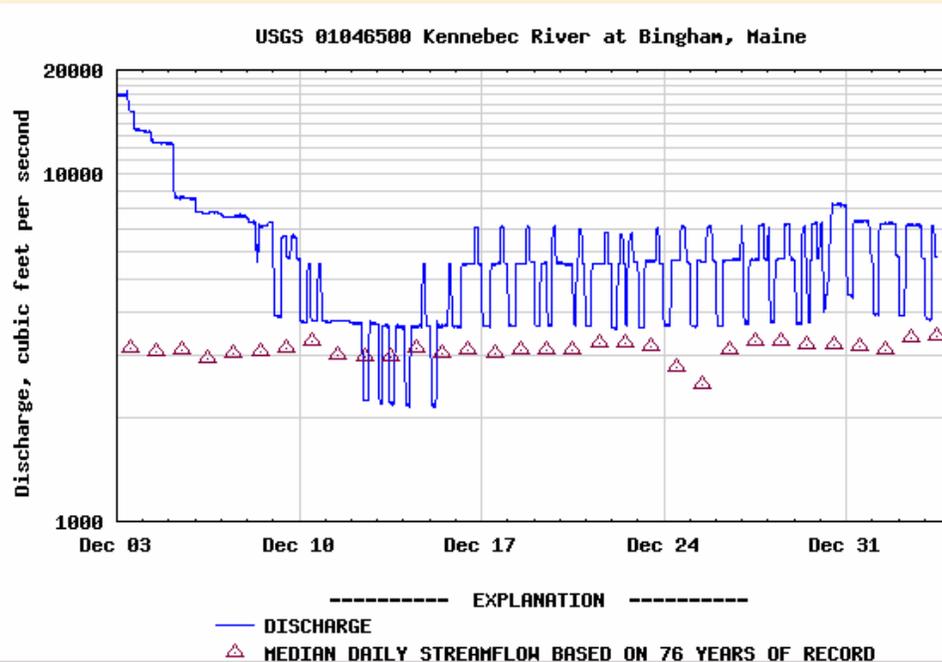
Temperature, air, degrees Fahrenheit

Most recent value: 12.1 01-03-2006 07:30



Discharge, cubic feet per second

Most recent value: 5,780 01-03-2006 11:30





Your National Weather Service forecast



Waterville, ME

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NWS Gray/Portland, ME

Point Forecast: Waterville, ME

44.54N -69.64W

Last Update: 3:00 am EST January 3, 2006

Forecast at a Glance

| This Afternoon | Tonight | Wednesday | Wednesday Night | Thursday | Thursday Night | Friday | Friday Night | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mostly Sunny | Mostly Clear | Sunny | Chance Snow | Chance Snow | Chance Snow | Chance Snow | Chance Snow | Chance Snow |
| Hi 32°F | Lo 14°F | Hi 32°F | Lo 21°F | Hi 32°F | Lo 17°F | Hi 32°F | Lo 17°F | Hi 28°F |