



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
(617) 626-1520 | mass.gov/MarineFisheries



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberly Driscoll
Lt. Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Thomas K. O’Shea
Commissioner

Daniel J. McKiernan
Director

January 7, 2026

The Honorable Selectboards and Mayor of the following Commonwealth of Massachusetts coastal municipalities: Dartmouth, New Bedford and Fairhaven.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with Chapter 130, Section 74A of Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that the emergency closures in growing areas BB11, BB12, BB14 and BB16 due to CSO discharges impacting portions of Buzzards Bay may be **partially rescinded**. Shellfish growing areas BB11, BB12, BB14 and BB16 in the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven and the City of New Bedford, placed in the “Closed to Shellfishing” status due to the emergency closure, shall revert to an “Open to Shellfishing” status **for oysters only**, subject to Conditional Area Management Plan criteria where applicable.

Therefore, under authority of MGL, Chapter 130, Section 74A the areas listed below will revert to their former status, **for oysters only**, prior to the emergency closure, or in the case of CONDITIONALLY APPROVED areas, acquire the status dictated by their Conditional Area Management Plan criteria, and local rules and regulations under authority of MGL Chapter 130, section 52, **effective at 12 PM on Wednesday, January 7, 2026**.

Areas classified as “PROHIBITED” shall remain closed to the harvest of shellfish for direct human consumption.

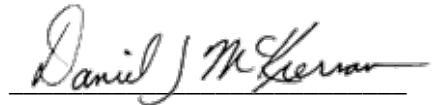
Under authority of 322 CMR 7.01(7) all permits issued thereunder are hereby conditioned to permit the taking, selling or possession of shellfish (oyster only) from the areas listed below.

STATUS: OPEN TO THE TAKING OF SHELLFISH (oysters only)
Subject to conditional area management plan criteria where applicable

The waters, flats and all tributaries of that portion of Buzzards Bay within the following Shellfish Growing Areas and municipalities: BB11, BB12, BB14 and BB16 in the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven and the City of New Bedford.

Individual shellfish growing area definition boundaries are mapped on the Division’s website at Shellfish classification areas | Mass.gov.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. McKiernan
Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: J. Monaghan, C. Baker, R. Forsythe, J. Chapin, MEP
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