



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health - Bureau of Environmental Health  
Food Protection Program  
305 South Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
Phone: 617-983-6712 Fax: 617-524-8062

CHARLES D. BAKER  
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO  
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS  
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH  
Commissioner

**Public Meetings Scheduled:**  
***Vibrio parahaemolyticus* Control Plan for Oysters**

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Four public meetings have been scheduled to announce the **2016 Massachusetts *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vp) Control Plan for Oysters**. Highlights of the 2016 plan include a reduction in the time that oysters are required to be re-submerged after removal for harvest; a reduction in time from harvest to placement of oysters in ice between July 1 and September 15 for oysters harvested in Duxbury Bay, Kingston Bay, Plymouth Harbor, and Katama Bay in Edgartown; clarifying language for floating harvest structures used in the culture of oysters in Duxbury Bay and other areas; and wholesale dealers will be required to cool oysters to 45° F instead of 50° F. All commercial harvest of oysters in Massachusetts must comply with *Vp* controls during the period May 21 through October 16, 2016.

The plan is intended to control the post-harvest growth of *Vp* bacteria in oysters during warm weather to prevent *Vp* related illnesses. The plan was developed by the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, Division of Marine Fisheries and the Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health, Food Protection Program in order to comply with the requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program.

**Public Meeting Schedule**  
**Industry *Vibrio* Outreach (Dealers & Harvesters)**

**Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at the Tisbury Town Hall, Captain Cornell Theatre  
51 Spring Street, Tisbury, MA 02568, 11:00AM - 1:00PM.**

**Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at the Barnstable Senior Center,  
825 Falmouth Rd, Hyannis, MA 02601, 9:00AM – 11AM.**

**Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at the Eastham Town Hall,  
2500 State Highway, Eastham, MA 02651, 12:30PM – 2:00PM.**

**Thursday, April 21, 2016 at the Duxbury Bay Maritime School  
457 Washington Street Duxbury, MA 02332, 10:00AM -12:00PM.**

*Note: We realize these meetings may conflict with tides optimal for oyster harvesting.  
We apologize for any inconvenience.*