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Charles D. Baker Governor Karyn E. Polito Lieutenant Governor Matthew A. Beaton Secretary Ronald Amidon Commissioner Mary-Lee King Deputy Commissioner

April 9, 2019

MarineFisheries Advisory Public Meeting Scheduled to Provide Information and Training to Harvesters Regarding the 2019 Vibrio Parahaemolyticus Control Plan for Oysters

Four public meetings have been scheduled to solicit comments and provide information on the 2019 Massachusetts *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vp) Control Plan for Oysters (Control Plan). No changes to the plan or implementing regulations are proposed for the 2019 season, but all aquaculturists and wild harvesters who commercially harvest oysters between May 19 and October 19 are encouraged to attend. The meetings will include a recap of the 2018 *Vp* control season and a review of the *Vp* control plan and existing implementing regulations.

The Vp Control Plan is intended to control the post-harvest growth of Vp bacteria in oysters 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 conjunction with the Massachusetts shellfish industry in order to protect public health and comply with the requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program.

If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to provide feedback you can submit comments via email at <u>vibrio.feedback@state.ma.us</u>. Additional Vp Control Plan resources can be found on <u>DMF's website</u>.

Industry Vibrio Outreach Public Meeting Schedule

12:00PM – 1:30PM Tuesday, May 7, 2019 Otto Fehlow Rm, Plymouth Public Library 132 South Street, Plymouth, MA 02360

1:00PM – 2:30PM Thursday, May 9, 2019 Earl Mountain Rm, Eastham Town Hall 2500 State Highway, Eastham, MA 02651 10:00AM – 11:30AM Wednesday, May 8, 2019 Katharine Cornell Theatre, Tisbury Town Hall 51 Spring Street, Tisbury, MA 02568

4:00PM – 5:30PM Thursday, May 9, 2019 Harborview Rm, Barnstable County Complex 3195 Main Street, Barnstable, MA 02630

For more information visit <u>DMF's Vibrio Website</u> or contact Christopher Schillaci at the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries via email at <u>Christopher.Schillaci@state.ma.us</u> or by telephone at (508) 742-9760.