



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)



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DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN  
Director

April 24, 2024

Town of Dartmouth Selectboard  
Town Hall  
Dartmouth, MA 02747

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with Chapter 130, Section 74A of Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that all emergency closures of shellfish growing areas in the town of Dartmouth (BB10-BB12) due to CSO discharges that occurred from February 28 to April 15, 2024, may be rescinded. These shellfish growing areas placed in the "Closed to Shellfishing" status due to the emergency closure shall revert to an **"Open to Shellfishing"** status for all bivalves (except bay scallops) **effective at sunrise on Thursday, April 25, 2024.**

The Division has also determined that a portion of Apponagansett Bay (BB12.0) no longer meets the established criteria for a classification of "APPROVED" due to National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) dilution requirements around wastewater treatment plant discharges. Therefore, under authority of MGL, Chapter 130, Section 74A the classification of BB12.0 shall be changed to "CONDITIONALLY APPROVED" and the area will be absorbed into BB12.5 forming a single classification area redefined below.

### **CLASSIFICATION: CONDITIONALLY APPROVED** **Status: Open to Shellfishing**

#### **BB12.5 Apponagansett Bay Deep Water Mooring Area**

"The waters, flats and all tributaries of Apponagansett Bay in the Town of Dartmouth west of a line drawn approximately 300' from the western end of the Padanaram Bridge to the western end of Knowle's Pier (41.57839°, -70.94860°); south of a line drawn from the western end of Knowle's Pier to the western end of Bush Point (41.581128°, -70.942899°); and north of a line drawn from the southern end of Ricketson's Point to the western end of the Padanaram Breakwater, thence to the Birchfield Farms Pilings (41.57211°, -70.94543°)."

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

**CLASSIFICATION: CONDITIONALLY APPROVED**

**Status: Open to Shellfishing**

**Subject to conditional area management plan criteria**

The waters, flats and all tributaries of that portion of Buzzards Bay in the town of Dartmouth within the following Shellfish Growing Areas: BB10.0, BB11.0, BB12.3 and the newly redefined BB12.5.

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

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

Sincerely,



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Daniel J. McKiernan, Director  
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: P. Moran, C. Baker, MEP  
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J. Hobill, DEP  
FDA, DPH  
S. Melo, Dartmouth Shellfish Constable