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## MEDIA ADVISORY

### PLYMOUTH WASTEWATER PLANT DYE STUDY

PLYMOUTH, MASS. – Scientists from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), together with staff from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the shellfish departments in the Towns of Plymouth, Kingston and Duxbury, will conduct dye tracing studies in Plymouth Harbor, Kingston Bay and Duxbury Bay during June 11<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> from dye released from the Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant. The purpose of this study is to determine if discharge from the Plymouth Wastewater Treatment outfall into the three bay system (Plymouth, Kingston and Duxbury) has an impact on nearby shellfish harvesting waters.

As part of this study, Rhodamine WT dye, which is harmless to people and the ecosystem, will be released from the Plymouth Wastewater Treatment on Monday June 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>. This will result in portions of the tidal waters turning reddish in color during the release of the dye.

The agencies involved will monitor tidal flows in order to track the dispersion of the dye from the wastewater plant into the three bay system.

Once the studies are complete, DMF and FDA will produce a report regarding study results assessing the Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge into the three bay system. This information will ultimately help ensure the safety of shellfish harvested from the three bay system for human consumption.