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Division of Marine Fisheries

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September 2, 2015

Board of Selectmen
Town Hall
Edgartown, MA 02539

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has confirmed three additional cases of **Vibrio parahaemolyticus** (*Vp*) tied to oysters harvested from V:20 in Katama Bay in Edgartown. Oysters linked to the first illness were harvested from V:20 on August 8, 2015 and consumed raw on August 9, 2015; oysters linked to the second illness were harvested from V:20 on August 14, 2015 and consumed raw on August 14 and 15, 2015 and; oysters linked to the third illness were harvested from V:20 on August 17 and 18, 2015 and consumed raw on August 18, 2015.

As a result, the Department of Public Health and the Division of Marine Fisheries are again exercising their option at Section D.5. of the 2015 Massachusetts Vp. Control Plan to institute a 7- day precautionary closure in order to prevent additional illnesses and protect public health.

In accordance with Chapter 130, Section 74A of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that the below defined shellfish growing area, Katama Bay V:20 in the Town of Edgartown continues to not meet the established criteria for the commercial harvest of oysters.

Therefore, under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, section 74A, the below defined area has been placed in a "Closed" status to the commercial harvest of oysters effective at sunrise on September 3, 2015. Commercial digging, harvesting, or collecting and/or attempting to commercially dig, harvest or collect oysters and the possession of commercially harvested oysters from the below defined area is prohibited until the area is returned to the open status.

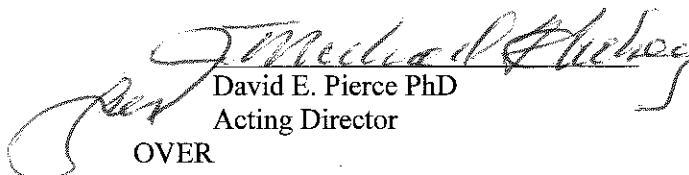
The status of the below defined area will automatically revert back to "Open" status at sunrise on September, 10, 2015 unless otherwise notified from this office.

STATUS: CLOSED TO COMMERCIAL OYSTER HARVEST.

Katama Bay
V:20

"The waters and flats and all tributaries of Katama Bay in the Town of Edgartown, south of a line drawn due west from Snows Point to the opposite shore."

Under authority of 322 CMR 7.01 (7) all permits issued there under are hereby conditioned to prohibit the commercial taking, selling or possession of oysters from the above defined area.


David E. Pierce PhD
Acting Director
OVER

CC: J. McGinn, P. Moran, ELE
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