



David E. Pierce, Ph.D.  
Director

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400

Boston, Massachusetts 02114

(617) 626-1520

fax (617) 626-1509



Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn E. Polito

Lieutenant Governor

Matthew A. Beaton

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Ronald Amidon

Commissioner

Mary-Lee King

Deputy Commissioner

September 22, 2017

Mayors and Select Boards of the following cities and towns:  
Essex, Gloucester, Ipswich, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, and Salisbury

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that **blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*)** from the areas defined below **no longer contain biotoxins (Paralytic Shellfish Poison – PSP)** from the phytoplankton *Alexandrium* spp. in excess of established standards. All areas N1 through N14 remain closed to the harvest of **ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*) and carnivorous snails.**

Therefore, under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, sections 74A and 75 and 322 CMR sections 7.01 (7), 7.02 and 10.00, the PSP closure for **blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*)** issued on June 28, 2017, **will be rescinded at sunrise on September 25, 2017.** All shellfish except ocean quahogs and carnivorous snails in areas currently classified as Approved or Conditionally Approved and in the OPEN status may now be harvested for direct human consumption subject to local rules and regulations under authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 130, section 52. **Ocean quahogs and carnivorous snails in areas N1 through N14 remain closed to harvesting.**

**Status: Open to Shellfish Harvest except ocean quahogs and carnivorous snails.**

### **N1 SALISBURY BEACH**

The shoreline of the Town of Salisbury from the New Hampshire state line to the northernmost breakwater at the entrance of the Merrimack River, to include the waters and flats of the Salisbury marshes north of Rte. 1A to the Massachusetts/New Hampshire border.

### **N2 MERRIMACK RIVER**

The waters, flats and tributaries of the Merrimack River in the City of Newburyport and the Towns of Newbury and Salisbury.

### **N3 PLUM ISLAND**

The eastern shoreline of Plum Island in the City of Newburyport and the Towns of Ipswich, Newbury and Rowley.

### **N4 PLUM ISLAND SOUND**

The waters, flats and tributaries of Plum Island Sound in the Towns of Ipswich, Newbury and Rowley.

### **N5 IPSWICH RIVER**

The waters, flats and tributaries of the Ipswich River in the Town of Ipswich.

**OVER**

**N6 CRANES BEACH**

The waters and flats of Cranes Beach in the Town of Ipswich.

**N7 ESSEX BAY**

The waters, flats and tributaries of Essex Bay in the Towns of Ipswich and Essex and the City of Gloucester, inside and south and west of a line drawn across the Essex Bay inlet from the southern most point of Crane Beach in the Town of Ipswich easterly to the northern most point of Two Penny Loaf in Gloucester.

**N8 COFFINS BEACH**

The waters and flats of Coffins Beach in the City of Gloucester.

**N9 ANNISQUAM RIVER**

The waters, flats, and tributaries of the Annisquam River and Gloucester Harbor in the City of Gloucester.

**N10 OUTER NORTH GLOUCESTER**

The waters and flats of the North Gloucester coastline.

**N11 ROCKPORT**

The waters, flats and tributaries of the Town of Rockport.

**N12 GOOD HARBOR BEACH**

The tidal waters and flats and all tributaries of the Gloucester shoreline from the southern point of Long Beach at the Gloucester-Rockport boundary line at Brier Neck southwesterly to the southern point of Bass Rocks.

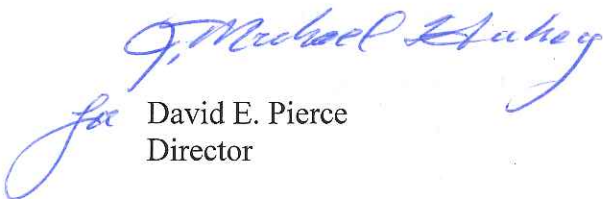
**N13 EASTERN POINT**

The waters and flats of Eastern Point in the City of Gloucester.

**N14 MAGNOLIA**

The waters and flats of Magnolia in the City of Gloucester.

Sincerely,

  
David E. Pierce  
Director

cc: J. McGinn, B. Perrin, P. Moran, OELE  
D. McKiernan, M. Hickey, J. Kennedy, DMF  
R. Amidon, M.King, DFG  
DEP  
FDA  
DPH  
Shellfish constable of the above cities and towns