



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lt. Governor

REBECCA L. TEPPER
Secretary

THOMAS K. O'SHEA
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

October 23, 2025

The Honorable Selectboards and Mayor of the following Commonwealth of Massachusetts coastal municipalities: Westport, Dartmouth, New Bedford, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Falmouth and Gosnold.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with Chapter 130, Section 74A of Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that some of the emergency closures initially issued on September 25, 2025 (BB7, BB10, BB11, BB12, BB14, BB16, BB18, BB19, BB20, BB21, BB22, BB23, BB55.1, E1 and E4.1) due to CSO discharges impacting portions of Buzzards Bay may be **rescinded**. Shellfish growing areas BB20, BB55.1, E1 and E4.1 in the towns of Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Falmouth and Gosnold, placed in the "Closed to Shellfishing" status due to the emergency closure, shall revert to an "Open to Shellfishing" status, subject to Conditional Area Management Plan criteria where applicable. Until further notice by the Division of Marine Fisheries; BB7, BB10, BB11, BB12, BB14, BB16, BB18, BB19, BB21, BB22 and BB23 in Westport, Dartmouth, New Bedford, Fairhaven, and Mattapoisett remain closed to all bivalve shellfish harvest except bay scallops harvested for the adductor muscle only.

Therefore, under authority of MGL, Chapter 130, Section 74A the areas listed below will revert to their former status prior to the emergency closure, or in the case of CONDITIONALLY APPROVED areas, acquire the status dictated by its Conditional Area Management Plan criteria, and local rules and regulations under authority of MGL Chapter 130, section 52, **effective at 7:30 AM on Thursday, October 23, 2025**.

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

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.

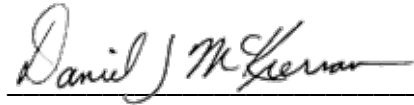
STATUS: OPEN TO THE TAKING OF SHELLFISH

Subject to conditional area management plan criteria where applicable

The waters, flats and all tributaries of that portion of Buzzards Bay within the following Shellfish Growing Areas and municipalities: BB20, BB55.1, E1 and E4.1 in the towns of Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Falmouth and Gosnold.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel J. McKiernan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: J. Monaghan, C. Baker, R. Forsythe, J. Chapin, MEP
R. Glenn, C. Petitpas, M. Camisa, DMF
J. Hobill, DEP
FDA, DPH
B. Chace, Westport Shellfish Constable
S. Melo, Dartmouth Shellfish Constable
T. Ringuette, New Bedford Shellfish Constable
T. Cox, Fairhaven Shellfish Constable
I. Perry, Mattapoisett Shellfish Department
C. Martinsen, Falmouth Shellfish Constable
A. Lombard, Gosnold Shellfish Constable