



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
(617) 626-1520 | mass.gov/MarineFisheries



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberly Driscoll
Lt. Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Thomas K. O'Shea
Commissioner

Daniel J. McKiernan
Director

October 7, 2026

The Honorable Select Board and Mayor of the following Commonwealth of Massachusetts coastal municipalities: New Bedford, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion, Bourne, Falmouth and Gosnold.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with Chapter 130, Section 74A of Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that the emergency CSO closures in shellfish growing areas BB16-BB32, BB51, BB55, E1 and E4, issued on September 28, 2026 due to CSO discharges impacting portions of Buzzards Bay, may be rescinded. Shellfish growing areas BB16-BB32, BB51, BB55, E1 and E4 in the towns of Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion, Bourne, Falmouth, Gosnold and the City of New Bedford, placed in the "Closed to Shellfishing" status due to the emergency CSO closure, shall revert to an "Open to Shellfishing" status, subject to Conditional Area Management Plan criteria where applicable.

Therefore, 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 their Conditional Area Management Plan criteria, and local rules and regulations under authority of MGL Chapter 130, section 52. These changes will be **effective at 12:00pm on Wednesday, October 7, 2026.**

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.

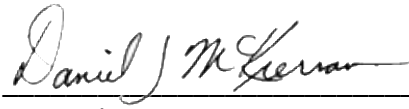
STATUS: OPEN TO THE TAKING OF SHELLFISH

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: BB16-BB32, BB51, BB55, E1 and E4 in the towns of Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion, Bourne, Falmouth, Gosnold and the City of New Bedford.

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, J. Chapin, MEP
R. Glenn, C. Petitpas, M. Camisa, DMF
J. Hobill, DEP
FDA, DPH
T. Ringuette, New Bedford Shellfish Constable
T. Cox, Fairhaven Shellfish Constable
L. Melo, Mattapoisett Shellfish Constable
C. Wentworth, Marion Shellfish Constable
H. Lawrence, Bourne Shellfish Constable
C. Martinsen, Falmouth Shellfish Constable
S. Garfield, Gosnold Shellfish Constable