



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: Westport, Dartmouth, New Bedford and Fairhaven.

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 BB1, BB2 and BB4-BB15, issued on September 28, 2026 due to CSO discharges impacting portions of Buzzards Bay, may be **partially rescinded for oysters only**. Shellfish growing areas BB1, BB2 and BB4-BB15 in the towns of Westport, Dartmouth, Fairhaven and the City of New Bedford, placed in the "Closed to Shellfishing" status due to the emergency CSO discharges, shall revert to an "Open to Shellfishing" status (**for oysters only**), 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

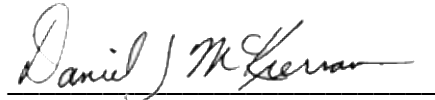
For oysters and bay scallops harvested for the adductor muscle only
Subject to conditional area management plan criteria where applicable

The waters, flats and all tributaries of that portion of Buzzards Bay within the following Shellfish Growing Areas and municipalities: BB1, BB2 and BB4-BB15 in the towns of Westport, Dartmouth, Fairhaven and the City of New Bedford.

BB3 in the town of Westport remains closed due to poor water quality until further investigations by the Division of Marine Fisheries determine the area can be reopened.

Individual shellfish growing area definition boundaries are mapped on the Division's website at [Shellfish classification areas | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/shellfish-classification-areas).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel J. McKiernan", written over a horizontal line.

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
W. Chase, Westport Shellfish Constable
S. Melo, Dartmouth Shellfish Constable
T. Ringuette, New Bedford Shellfish Constable
T. Cox, Fairhaven Shellfish Constable