



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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



MAURA T. HEALEY
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Lt. Governor

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Secretary

THOMAS K. O'SHEA
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

January 10, 2025

The Honorable Selectboard and Mayor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the following coastal municipalities: Dartmouth and New Bedford.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with Chapter 130, Section 74A of Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that the emergency closure initially issued on November 22, 2024 and spatially expanded twice on November 29, 2024 and December 12, 2024 due to CSO discharges impacting portions of Buzzards Bay (BB11 and BB12) in the town of Dartmouth and the City of New Bedford may be **rescinded for oysters only**. Shellfish growing areas placed in the "Closed to Shellfishing" status due to the emergency closure shall revert to an **"Open to Shellfishing"** status **for oysters only** subject to Conditional Area Management Plan criteria where applicable.

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 8:00 AM on Friday, January 10, 2025**.

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

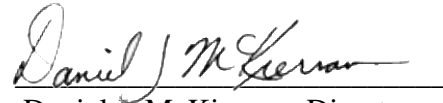
Under authority of 322 CMR 7.01(7) all permits issued thereunder are hereby conditioned to permit the taking, selling or possession of shellfish from the areas listed below.

**STATUS: OPEN TO THE TAKING OF OYSTERS
AND BAY SCALLOP ADDUCTOR MUSCLES 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: BB11 and BB12 in the town of Dartmouth 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", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: C. Mason, C. Baker, MEP
R. Glenn, C. Petitpas, DMF
J. Hobill, DEP
FDA, DPH
S. Melo, Dartmouth Shellfish Constable
T. Ringuette, New Bedford Shellfish Constable