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*

November 17, 2026

The Honorable Selectboards of the following Commonwealth of Massachusetts coastal municipalities: Marion, Wareham, Bourne and Falmouth.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with Chapter 130, section 74A of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that the following Buzzards Bay shellfish growing areas: BB33 - 36, 41, 42, 46, and 50 in the towns of Marion, Wareham, Bourne and Falmouth, closed on November 7, 2026, due to heavy rain, now meet the National Shellfish Sanitation Program guidelines for an "Open to Shellfishing" status.

Therefore, the areas identified below will revert to their former status prior to the closure issued on November 7, 2026, 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. This opening will be **effective at sunrise on November 18, 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 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts within the Buzzards Bay shellfish growing areas of BB33 – 36, 41, 42, 46, and 50 in the towns of Marion, Wareham, Bourne and Falmouth.

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

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: J. Monaghan, J. Chapin, MEP
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