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

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Governor	***Lt. Governor***	***Secretary***	***Commissioner***	***Director***

November 18, 2026

The Honorable Selectboards and Mayors of the following Commonwealth of Massachusetts coastal municipalities: Dartmouth, New Bedford, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion, 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 closures in growing areas BB14, BB16, BB18, BB19, BB20, BB21, BB22, BB23, BB24, BB25, BB28.1, BB29, BB30, BB31, BB55.1 and E1, due to CSO discharges impacting portions of Buzzards Bay may be rescinded. Shellfish growing areas BB14, BB16, BB18, BB19, BB20, BB21, BB22, BB23, BB24, BB25, BB28.1, BB29, BB30, BB31, BB55.1 and E1 in the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion, Falmouth, Gosnold and the City of New Bedford, 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.

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 08:00 AM on Wednesday, 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 that portion of Buzzards Bay within the following Shellfish Growing Areas and municipalities: BB14, BB16, BB18, BB19, BB20, BB21, BB22, BB23, BB24, BB25, BB28.1, BB29, BB30, BB31, BB55.1 and E1 in the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion, 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,

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: J. Monaghan, J. Chapin, MEP
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