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 7, 2026

The Honorable Select Board and Mayor of the following Commonwealth of Massachusetts coastal municipalities: Westport, 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 portions of Buzzards Bay including shellfish growing areas BB5.1, BB7, BB10, BB11, BB12, BB14, BB16, BB18, BB19, BB20, BB21, BB22, BB23, BB24, BB25, BB28.1, BB29, BB30, BB31, BB55.1, E1 and E4.1 in the towns of Westport, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion, Falmouth, Gosnold and the city of New Bedford, no longer meet the established criteria for a status of "Open to Shellfishing" due to combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharges associated with heavy rainfall on November 6-7, 2026. The status of BB5.1, BB7, BB10, BB11, BB12, BB14, BB16, BB18, BB19, BB20, BB21, BB22, BB23, BB24, BB25, BB28.1, BB29, BB30, BB31, BB55.1, E1 and E4.1 shall be changed to "**Closed to Shellfishing**" effective at **8:00am on 11/7/2026** until further notification is made by the Division of Marine Fisheries.

Under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 130, Section 74A, the status of the areas identified below shall be changed to "**Closed to Shellfishing**" for all bivalve shellfish except scallops harvested for the adductor muscle only. Digging, harvesting or collecting and/or attempting to dig, harvest or collect shellfish, and the possession of shellfish from the below areas is prohibited until further notice.

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

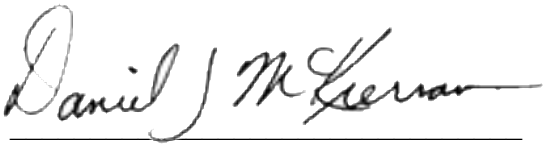
**STATUS: CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF ALL SHELLFISH AS LISTED BELOW**
**(except scallop adductor muscle)**

The waters, flats and all tributaries of that portion of Buzzards Bay within the following Shellfish Growing Areas and municipalities: BB5.1, BB7, BB10, BB11, BB12, BB14, BB16, BB18, BB19, BB20, BB21, BB22, BB23, BB24, BB25, BB28.1, BB29, BB30, BB31, BB55.1, E1 and E4.1 in the towns of Westport, 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.

These shellfish growing areas shall remain in the "**Closed to Shellfishing**" status until examined by the Division and notification is made that the areas have been placed in the open status.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: J. Monaghan, J. Chapin, MEP
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