



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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THOMAS K. O'SHEA
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

December 5, 2025

The Honorable Selectboards of the following Commonwealth of Massachusetts coastal municipalities: Fairhaven, Mattapoisett and Marion.

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 BB18, BB19, BB20, BB21, BB22, BB23, BB24, BB25, BB28, BB29, BB30 and BB31 due to CSO discharges impacting portions of Buzzards Bay may be **rescinded**. Shellfish growing areas BB18-BB25 and BB28-BB31, in the towns of Fairhaven, Mattapoisett and Marion, 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, 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 their Conditional Area Management Plan criteria, and local rules and regulations under authority of MGL Chapter 130, section 52, **effective at 2:00 PM on Friday, December 5, 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 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: BB18, BB19, BB20, BB21, BB22, BB23, BB24, BB25, BB28, BB29, BB30 and BB31 in the towns of Fairhaven, Mattapoisett and Marion.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel J. McKiernan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: J. Monaghan, C. Baker, R. Forsythe, J. Chapin, MEP
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FDA, DPH
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