



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)



MAURA T. HEALEY  
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL  
Lt. Governor

REBECCA L. TEPPER  
Secretary

THOMAS K. O'SHEA  
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN  
Director

March 10, 2024

The Honorable Select Boards and Mayor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the following coastal municipalities: Dartmouth, New Bedford, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Falmouth, and Gosnold

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with Chapter 130, Section 74A of Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that additional portions of Buzzards Bay, including shellfish growing areas Naushon West Coastal (E1) and Gosnold West Coastal (E4) in the towns of Falmouth and Gosnold, no longer meet the established criteria for a status of "Open to Shellfishing" due to combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharges associated with heavy rainfall from the storm event on March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Shellfish growing areas BB10 through BB23 in the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, and the City of New Bedford, closed on February 28<sup>th</sup> due to CSO discharges, were also impacted by the additional CSO discharges and remain under an emergency closure. The status of E1 and E4 identified below shall be changed to **"Closed to Shellfishing"** effective immediately 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 below-identified areas shall be changed to **"Closed to Shellfishing"** except for bay 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.

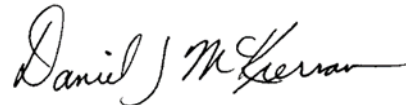
**STATUS: CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF ALL SHELLFISH AS DEFINED BELOW**  
**Except for harvest of bay scallops for adductor muscle only**

The waters, flats and all tributaries of that portion of Buzzards Bay within the following Shellfish Growing Areas and municipalities: E1 and E4 in the towns of Falmouth and Gosnold.

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

Shellfish growing areas BB10 through BB23, E1 and E4 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel J. McKiernan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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Daniel J. McKiernan, Director  
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: P. Moran, C. Baker, MEP  
R. Glenn, C. Petitpas, DMF  
J. Hobill, DEP  
FDA, DPH  
S. Melo, Dartmouth Shellfish Constable  
T. Ringuette, New Bedford Shellfish Constable  
T. Cox, Fairhaven Shellfish Constable  
K. Massey, Mattapoisett Shellfish Constable  
C. Martinsen, Falmouth Shellfish Constable  
S. Garfield, Gosnold Shellfish Constable