



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Director

March 12, 2024

The Honorable Selectboards and Mayor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the following 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 (DMF) has determined that portions of Buzzards Bay require Reclassification and/or Redefinition due to National Shellfish Sanitation Program requirements for shellfish growing waters around wastewater treatment plant discharges. An effluent dilution assessment was conducted for the New Bedford and Fairhaven wastewater treatment plant outfalls and DMF has determined that the following shellfish growing areas in the city of New Bedford and the towns of Westport, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion, Falmouth and Gosnold require classification changes and/or boundary redefinitions: Little Beach Coastal (BB5), Dartmouth Center Coastal (BB7), Smith Neck South Coastal (BB10), Dartmouth East Coastal (BB11), New Bedford East Coastal (BB14), Fairhaven South Coastal (BB16), West Island South (BB17), West Island North (BB18), West Island East Coastal (BB19), Fairhaven East Coastal (BB20), Nasketucket Bay (BB21), Brandt Island Cove (BB23), Mattapoisett South Coastal (BB24), Mattapoisett Harbor (BB25), North Buzzards Bay (BB28), Point Connett (BB29), Hiller Cove (BB30), Aucoot Cove (BB31), Falmouth West Coastal (BB55), Naushon West Coastal (E1) and Gosnold West Coastal (E4).

Under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 130, Section 74A, the status of the below-identified Prohibited 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.

RECLASSIFICATION/REDEFINITION

CLASSIFICATION: PROHIBITED

Status: Closed to Shellfishing

BB11.2

Dartmouth East Coastal North

“The waters and flats of that portion of Dartmouth East Coastal, in the Town of Dartmouth and City of New Bedford, within the following coordinates: from the southern end of Clark Point (41.59135°, -70.90127°) to Ricketson’s Point (41.57730°, -70.93798°); southeasterly to USCG navigation buoy #R”4” at 41.53103°, -70.91623°; easterly to 41.53083°, -70.90184° and continuing north to Clark Point.”

BB14.2

New Bedford East Coastal North

“The waters and flats of that portion of New Bedford East Coastal, in the Town of Fairhaven and the City of New Bedford, within the following coordinates: from the southern end of Clark Point (41.59135°, -70.90127°) in New Bedford to the southern end of Wilbur’s Point (41.58222°, -70.85474°) in Fairhaven; continuing southerly to 41.53028°, -70.85527°; continuing westerly to 41.53083°, -70.90184° and continuing northerly to Clark Point (41.59135°, -70.90127°).”

BB16.1

Fairhaven South Coastal North

“The waters and flats of that portion of Fairhaven South Coastal in the Town of Fairhaven within the following coordinates: from Wilbur’s Point (41.58222°, -70.85474°) on Sconticut Neck in the Town of Fairhaven to Rocky Point (41.58235°, -70.82225°) on West Island; continuing southerly to USCG navigation buoy #G”1” (41.53017°, -70.84794°), continuing westerly to 41.53028°, -70.85527° and continuing northerly to Wilbur’s Point (41.58222°, -70.85474°).”

CLASSIFICATION: CONDITIONALLY APPROVED

Status: Open to Shellfishing

BB5.1

Little Beach Coastal North

“The waters and flats of Little Beach Coastal in the Towns of Dartmouth and Westport, within the following coordinates: from the Dartmouth/Westport Town Line at the end of Horseneck Road south to 41.46258°, -71.02236°, continuing southeasterly to 41.45001°, -70.98327°, continuing northerly to Barneys Joy Point, and south of a line drawn across the entrance to Allens Pond.”

BB11.0**Dartmouth East Coastal South**

“The waters and flats of that portion of Dartmouth East Coastal, in the Town of Dartmouth and City of New Bedford within the following coordinates: from Ricketson’s Point (41.57730°, -70.93798°) southerly to USCG navigation buoy #R”4” (41.53103°, -70.91623°) easterly to 41.53083°, -70.90184°, Southerly to 41.48980°, -70.90221°, continuing southwesterly to 41.47820°, -70.92849°, continuing northerly to Round Hill Point and south of a line drawn from 41.57218°, -70.94534° to the western end of the Padanaram Breakwater to Ricketson’s Point (41.57730°, -70.93798°).”

BB14.0**New Bedford East Coastal South**

“The waters and flats of that portion of New Bedford East Coastal, in the Town of Fairhaven and the City of New Bedford, within the following coordinates: from 41.53028°, -70.85527°, continuing westerly to 41.53083°, -70.90184°, continuing southerly to 41.48982°, -70.90221°, continuing easterly to 41.51038°, -70.85543° and continuing northerly to 41.53028°, -70.85527°.”

BB16.0**Fairhaven South Coastal South**

“The waters and flats of that portion of Fairhaven South Coastal in the Town of Fairhaven, within the following coordinates: from Rocky Point (41.58235°, -70.82225°) on West Island, continuing southwesterly to USCG navigation buoy #G”1” (41.53017°, -70.84794°), continuing westerly to 41.53028°, -70.85527°, continuing southerly to 41.51039°, -70.85545°, continuing northeasterly to 41.52472°, -70.82288° and continuing northerly to Rocky Point (41.58235°, -70.82225°).”

BB20.1**Fairhaven East Coastal West**

“The waters and flats of that portion of Buzzards Bay, in the Towns of Fairhaven, Mattapoisett and Marion, within the following coordinates: from North Point on West Island to 41.60595°, -70.72116°, continuing northerly to 41.62590°, -70.72820°, continuing westerly to 41.62640°, -70.80489°, and continuing southwesterly to North Point on West Island.”

BB24.1**Mattapoisett South Coastal West**

“The waters and flats of that portion of Buzzards Bay, in the Towns of Mattapoisett and Marion, within the following coordinates: from 41.62640°, -70.80489°, continuing easterly to 41.62590°, -70.72820°, continuing northerly to 41.64026°, -70.73328°, continuing westerly to Angelica Point, and continuing southwesterly to 41.62640°, -70.80489°.”

BB28.1**North Buzzards Bay West**

“The waters and flats of that portion of Buzzards Bay in the Towns of Mattapoisett, Marion, Wareham, Bourne and Falmouth within the following coordinates: from Angelica Point in the Town of Mattapoisett to 41.64026°, -70.73328°, continuing northerly to Converse Point,

continuing westerly to Joes Point, continuing southerly to Peases Point and continuing southwesterly to Angelica Point.”

BB55.1

Falmouth West Coastal West

“The waters and flats of Buzzards Bay in the Town of Falmouth, within the following coordinates: from the northern most tip of Penzance Point to 41.60595°, -70.72116°, continuing southwesterly to 41.59217°, -70.72964° and 41.57278°, -70.74957°, and continuing southeasterly to Penzance Point.”

E4.1

Gosnold West Coastal East

“The waters, flats and all tributaries of that portion of Buzzards Bay and Rhode Island Sound in the Town of Gosnold, within the following coordinates: from 41.50599°, -70.86541°, to 41.45913°, -70.80727°, northerly of a line drawn across the northern entrances to Robinsons Hole, Quicks Hole and Cuttyhunk Harbor, continuing from 41.43181°, -70.92784° to 41.45001°, -70.98327°, and southerly of Dukes/Bristol County Line.

RECLASSIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION: PROHIBITED

Status: Closed to Shellfishing

BB17 West Island South

CLASSIFICATION: CONDITIONALLY APPROVED

Status: Open to Shellfishing

BB7.0 Dartmouth Center Coastal
BB10.0 Smith Neck South Coastal
BB18.0 West Island North
BB18.5 Bella Vista Cove
BB19.0 West Island East Coastal
BB21.0 Nasketucket Bay
BB21.20 North Cove

BB23.0 Brandt Island Cove
BB25.0 Mattapoissett Harbor
BB29.0 Point Connett
BB30.0 Hiller Cove
BB31.0 Aucoot Cove
E1.0 Naushon West Coastal

Individual shellfish growing area definition boundaries are mapped on the Division’s website at [Shellfish classification areas | Mass.gov](http://Shellfish%20classification%20areas%20|%20Mass.gov).

Sincerely,



Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

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