



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



MAURA T. HEALEY
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Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

March 21, 2024

Town of Dartmouth Selectboard
Town Hall
Dartmouth, MA 02747

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with Chapter 130, Section 74A of Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that the emergency closure of Apponagansett Bay (BB12) in the town of Dartmouth issued on February 28, 2024 due to CSO discharges may be partially rescinded. The Apponagansett Bay shellfish growing areas placed in the "Closed to Shellfishing" status due to the emergency closure shall revert to an **"Open to Shellfishing"** status for **oysters only** subject to Conditional Area Management Plan criteria where applicable.

Therefore, under authority of MGL, Chapter 130, Section 74A the area below will revert to its former status prior to the emergency closure, or in the case of Conditionally Approved areas acquire the status dictated by its Conditional Area Management Plan criteria, and local rules and regulations under authority of MGL Chapter 130, section 52, **effective at sunrise on Thursday, March 21, 2024.**

Areas classified as "PROHIBITED" shall remain closed to the harvest of shellfish for direct human consumption except for bay scallops harvested for the adductor muscle only.

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 OYSTERS AND BAY SCALLOP
ADDUCTOR MUSCLES ONLY**
Subject to conditional area management plan criteria where applicable

BB12 Apponagansett Bay

"The waters, flats and all tributaries of Apponagansett Bay in the Town of Dartmouth, northerly of a line drawn across the entrance of Apponagansett Bay from the Birchfield Farms Pier to Ricketsons Point."

The Apponagansett Bay (BB12) shellfish growing area shall remain closed to the harvest of all other bivalve shellfish until notification is made by the Division of Marine Fisheries rescinding the emergency closure for all species.

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

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: P. Moran, C. Baker, MEP
R. Glenn, C. Petitpas, DMF
J. Hobill, DEP
FDA, DPH
S. Melo, Dartmouth Shellfish Constable