



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lt. Governor

REBECCA L. TEPPER
Secretary

THOMAS K. O'SHEA
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

March 21, 2024

The Honorable Select Boards and Mayor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the following coastal municipalities: Westport, 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 the emergency closure initially issued on February 28, 2024 and expanded on March 10, 2024 due to CSO discharges impacting portions of Buzzards Bay (shellfish growing areas BB7, BB10, BB11, BB14, BB16, BB18-BB23, E1 and E4) in the towns of Westport, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Falmouth, Gosnold, and the City of New Bedford may be rescinded. Shellfish growing areas 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 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 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: BB7, BB10, BB11, BB14, BB16, BB18-BB23, E1 and E4 in the towns of Westport, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, 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](#).

Sincerely,



Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: P. Moran, C. Baker, MEP
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