



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Director

March 28, 2025

Town of Aquinnah Selectboard
Town Hall
65 State Road
Aquinnah, MA 02535

Town of Chilmark Selectboard
Town Hall
401 Middle Road
Chilmark, MA 02535

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with Chapter 130, Section 74A of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has re-examined portions of Menemsha Inlet and Pond (V2) in the Town of Aquinnah, classified as "APPROVED" and in the "Closed to Shellfishing" status due to unacceptable water quality. As a result of this examination, the Division has determined that the below-defined areas meet the established criteria for the harvest of shellfish and has changed the status to **"Open to Shellfishing" as of sunrise on March 28, 2025**. Additionally, the area previously defined as Red Beach East (V2.4), has been re-integrated into the waters of V2.0.

The below-defined areas may be opened to the harvest of shellfish for direct human consumption subject to local rules and regulations under authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, Section 52.

STATUS CHANGE
CLASSIFICATION: APPROVED
Status: Open to Shellfishing

V2.5
Red Beach West

"The waters, flats, and all tributaries of Menemsha Pond in the Town of Aquinnah within a 300-foot arc centered around the point (41.34356°, -70.78430°)."

V2.6
Pasture Way Wetland

"The waters, flats, and all tributaries of Menemsha Pond in the Town of Aquinnah within a 200-foot arc centered around the point (41.33631°, -70.78566°)."

V2.7

Laboratory Beach

“The waters, flats, and all tributaries of Menemsha Pond in the Town of Aquinnah, southwest of a line drawn from the Herring Creek Road kayak launch (41.33118°, -70.78452°) to the boulder on the western shore of the cove (41.33203°, -70.78575°).

As a result of the re-integration of V2.4 into V2.0, the official definition of the V2.0 sub-area shall be amended to read as follows:

REDEFINITION
CLASSIFICATION: APPROVED
Status: Open to Shellfishing

V2.0

Menemsha Inlet and Pond

“The waters, flats, and all tributaries of Menemsha Inlet and Pond in the Towns of Aquinnah and Chilmark, south of a line drawn across the end of the Menemsha Inlet entrance jetties, north of a line drawn across the mouth of Nashaquitsa Pond, and excluding Menemsha Harbor Basin (V2.1), Red Beach West (V2.5), Pasture Way Wetland (V2.6), and Laboratory Beach (V2.7).”

The status of the above areas shall remain classified as “APPROVED” with a status of "Open to Shellfishing" for the harvest of all shellfish for direct human consumption subject to local rules and regulations under authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 130, Section 52.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: C. Mason, C. Baker, MEP
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