



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
(617) 626-1520 | mass.gov/MarineFisheries



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberly Driscoll
Lt. Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Thomas K. O'Shea
Commissioner

Daniel J. McKiernan
Director

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Select Boards and Mayor of the following Commonwealth of Massachusetts coastal municipalities: Dartmouth, New Bedford and Fairhaven.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with Chapter 130, Section 74A of Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that portions of Buzzards Bay including shellfish growing areas BB11, BB12, BB14, and BB16, in the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven and city of New Bedford, no longer meet the established criteria for a status of "Open to Shellfishing" due to combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharges associated with heavy rainfall on March 5, 2026. The status of BB11, BB12, BB14, and BB16 shall be changed to "**Closed to Shellfishing**" effective at **8:00am on 3/6/2026** 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 areas identified below shall be changed to "**Closed to Shellfishing**". 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 LISTED BELOW

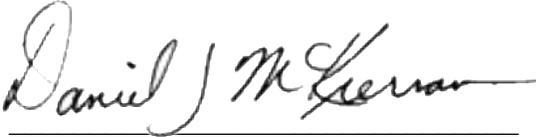
Except for harvest of scallops for adductor muscle only

The waters, flats and all tributaries of that portion of Buzzards Bay within the following Shellfish Growing Areas and municipalities: BB11, BB12, BB14, and BB16, in the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven, and city of New Bedford.

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).

These shellfish growing areas 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 that reads "Daniel J. McKiernan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: J. Monaghan, C. Baker, R. Forsythe, J. Chapin, MEP
R. Glenn, C. Petitpas, M. Camisa, DMF
J. Hobill, DEP
FDA, DPH
S. Melo, Dartmouth Shellfish Constable
T. Ringuette, New Bedford Shellfish Constable
T. Cox, Fairhaven Shellfish Constable