



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)



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THOMAS K. O'SHEA  
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN  
Director

April 2, 2025

The Honorable Selectboards and Mayor of the following Commonwealth of Massachusetts coastal municipalities: Dartmouth and New Bedford.

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 March 18, 2025, due to CSO discharges impacting portions of Buzzards Bay (BB11 and BB12) in the town of Dartmouth and City of New Bedford, may be **rescinded for oysters only**. Shellfish growing areas BB11 and BB12, 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 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 8:30 AM on Wednesday, April 2, 2025**.

Areas classified as "PROHIBITED" shall remain closed to the harvest of shellfish for direct human consumption.

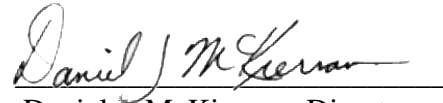
Under authority of 322 CMR 7.01(7) all permits issued thereunder are hereby conditioned to permit the taking, selling or possession of shellfish from the areas listed below.

**STATUS: OPEN TO THE TAKING OF SHELLFISH (oysters only)**  
**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: BB11 and BB12 in the town of Dartmouth 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel J. McKiernan", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director  
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: C. Mason, C. Baker, MEP  
R. Glenn, C. Petitpas, DMF  
J. Hobill, DEP  
FDA, DPH  
S. Melo, Dartmouth Shellfish Constable  
T. Ringuette, New Bedford Shellfish Constable