



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Secretary

RONALD S. AMIDON
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

March 15, 2023

Town of Swansea Selectboard
Town Hall
Swansea, MA 02777

The Honorable Mayor of Fall River
Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Town of Somerset Selectboard
Town Hall
Somerset, MA 02726

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with Chapter 130, Section 74A of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that the below-defined shellfish growing areas in Mount Hope Bay (MHB1) and a portion of Taunton River (MHB2.3) in the Towns of Swansea, Somerset and Fall River shall be closed to the harvest of shellfish in response to a Fall River sewer discharge event on April 23, 2023. As a result, the status of these areas has been changed to **“CLOSED TO SHELLFISHING”** for 21 days or until further notification is made by the Division of Marine Fisheries, effective as of 8:00 a.m. on April 24, 2023.

Therefore, under authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, Section 74A and 322 CMR section 7.01 (7), the status of the below-defined areas has been 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-defined area is prohibited.

CLASSIFICATION: CONDITIONALLY APPROVED

EMERGENCY STATUS CHANGE

Status: Closed to Shellfishing

MHB1.1 Mount Hope Bay

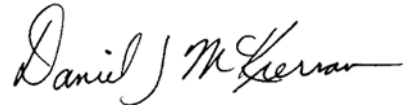
"The waters, flats and all tributaries of that portion of Mount Hope Bay, in the Town of Swansea, south of a line drawn from Massachusetts/ Rhode Island State Line off Seaview Avenue to the southern end of Bay Point and continuing to the Swansea/Somerset Town Line at the mouth of the Lee River, west of the Swansea/Somerset Town Line, north of the Massachusetts/Rhode Island State Line continuing back to the state line at Seaview Avenue."

MHB2.3
Taunton River

“The waters, flats and all tributaries of the Taunton River, in the Town of Somerset and the City of Fall River, within the following boundaries; south of the Braga Bridge and west of the navigational channel, north of a line drawn from the southern end of Brayton Point towards Middle Street as far as the western side of the navigational channel and east of a line drawn from the southern end of Brayton Point to the easternmost point of land at the eastern end of Ripley Street.

The previously defined areas will remain in the closed status until examined by the Division and notification is made that the area has been placed in the open status.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: P. Moran, C. Baker, OLE
J. Kennedy, DMF
R. Amidon, DFG
J. Hobill, DEP
FDA, DPH
S. Mello, Swansea Shellfish Constable
R. Smith, Fall River Shellfish Constable