



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lt. Governor

REBECCA L. TEPPER
Secretary

THOMAS K. O'SHEA
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

May 16, 2024

The Honorable Select Boards and Mayor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the following coastal municipalities: Westport, Dartmouth, 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 additional portions of Buzzards Bay, including shellfish growing areas Little Beach Coastal (BB5) and Dartmouth Center Coastal (BB7) in the towns of Dartmouth and Westport, and Naushon West Coastal (E1) and Gosnold West Coastal (E4) in the towns of Falmouth and Gosnold, no longer meet the established criteria for a status of "Open to Shellfishing" due to excessive rainfall and combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharges associated with the storm event on May 15th and 16th. Shellfish growing areas BB10 through BB23 in the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, and the City of New Bedford, closed on May 9th due to CSO discharges, were also impacted by the additional CSO discharges and remain under an emergency closure. The status of BB5, BB7, E1 and E4 identified below shall be changed to **"Closed to Shellfishing"** effective immediately 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 below-identified areas 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.

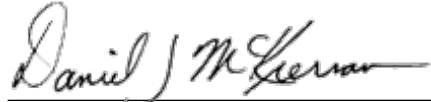
STATUS: CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF ALL SHELLFISH AS DEFINED BELOW

The waters, flats and all tributaries of that portion of Buzzards Bay within the following Shellfish Growing Areas and municipalities: BB5 and BB7 in the towns of Westport and Dartmouth, and E1 and E4 in the towns of Falmouth and Gosnold.

Individual shellfish growing area definition boundaries are mapped on the Division's website at [Shellfish classification areas | Mass.gov](#).

Shellfish growing areas BB5 through BB23, E1 and E4 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, reading "Daniel J. McKiernan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath it.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: P. Moran, C. Baker, MEP
R. Glenn, C. Petitpas, DMF
J. Hobill, DEP
FDA, DPH
C. Leonard, Westport Shellfish Constable
S. Melo, Dartmouth Shellfish Constable
T. Ringuette, New Bedford Shellfish Constable
T. Cox, Fairhaven Shellfish Constable
K. Massey, Mattapoisett Shellfish Constable
C. Martinsen, Falmouth Shellfish Constable
S. Garfield, Gosnold Shellfish Constable