



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

May 19, 2026

The Honorable Selectboard 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the emergency closures in growing areas BB11 and BB12 due to CSO discharges impacting portions of Buzzards Bay may be rescinded. Shellfish growing areas BB11 and BB12 in the town of Dartmouth and the City of New Bedford, 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 their Conditional Area Management Plan criteria, and local rules and regulations under authority of MGL Chapter 130, section 52, **effective at sunrise on Wednesday, May 20, 2026.**

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

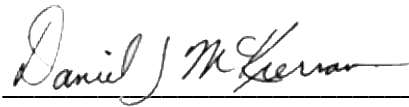
Under authority of 322 CMR 7.01(7) all permits issued thereunder are hereby conditioned to permit the taking, selling or possession of shellfish (oysters only) from the areas listed below.

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 cursive script that reads "Daniel J. McKiernan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: J. Monaghan, 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