



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Lt. Governor

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THOMAS K. O'SHEA
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

May 20, 2025

The Honorable Selectboards and Mayor of the following Commonwealth of Massachusetts coastal municipalities: New Bedford, Dartmouth, 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 the emergency closures initially issued or extended on May 10, 2025, due to CSO discharges impacting portions of Buzzards Bay (BB7, BB10, BB11, BB12, BB14, BB16, BB18, BB19, BB20, BB21, BB22, BB23, E1 and E4), in the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Falmouth and Gosnold and City of New Bedford, may be **partially rescinded**. Shellfish growing areas BB14, BB16, BB18, BB19, BB20, BB21, BB22, BB23 and E1, placed in the "Closed to Shellfishing" status due to the emergency closure, shall revert to an "Open to Shellfishing" status, subject to Conditional Area Management Plan criteria where applicable. Shellfish growing areas **BB7, BB10, BB11, BB12 and E4 shall remain in the "Closed to Shellfishing" status, due to the emergency closure, until further notice by the Division of Marine Fisheries.**

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 9:30 AM on Tuesday, May 20, 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.

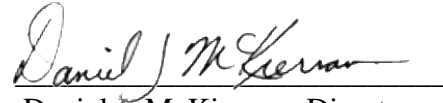
STATUS: OPEN TO THE TAKING OF SHELLFISH

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: BB14, BB16, BB18, BB19, BB20, BB21, BB22, BB23, and E1 in the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Falmouth and Gosnold and 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". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

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