



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**Division of Marine Fisheries**  
(617) 626-1520 | [mass.gov/MarineFisheries](http://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 5, 2026

The Honorable Selectboards and Mayor of the following Commonwealth of Massachusetts coastal municipalities: Dartmouth, Fairhaven 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closures in growing areas BB11, BB12, BB14 and BB16 due to CSO discharges impacting portions of Buzzards Bay may be rescinded. Shellfish growing areas BB11, BB12, BB14 and BB16 in the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven 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 all shellfish, 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 9:00am on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.**

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

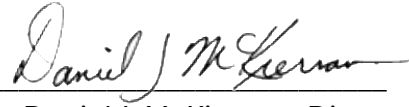
Under authority of 322 CMR 7.01(7) all permits issued thereunder are hereby conditioned to permit the taking, selling or possession of shellfish from the areas listed below.

**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: BB11, BB12, BB14 and BB16 in the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven 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 that reads "Daniel J. McKiernan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director  
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: J. Monaghan, R. Forsythe, 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  
T. Cox, Fairhaven Shellfish Constable