



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://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

July 17, 2025

The Honorable Selectboards and Mayor of the following Commonwealth of Massachusetts coastal municipalities: Dartmouth, New Bedford, Fairhaven and Mattapoisett.

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 on July 9, 2025, due to CSO discharges impacting portions of Buzzards Bay (BB11, BB12, BB14, BB16, BB18, BB19, BB21, BB22 and BB23), in the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett and City of New Bedford, may be **partially rescinded**. Shellfish growing areas BB14, BB16, BB18, BB19, BB21, BB22 and BB23, 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 **BB11 and BB12 shall revert to an "Open to Shellfishing" status for oysters only**. BB11 and BB12 remain closed to all other bivalve shellfish 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 7:30 AM on Thursday, July 17, 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**

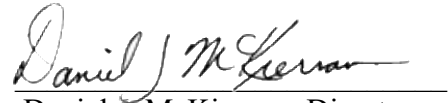
The waters, flats and all tributaries of that portion of Buzzards Bay within the following Shellfish Growing Areas and municipalities: BB14, BB16, BB18, BB19, BB21, BB22 and BB23 in the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett and City of New Bedford.

**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 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, appearing to read "Daniel J. McKiernan", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director  
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: J. Monaghan, 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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T. Cox, Fairhaven Shellfish Constable  
K. Massey, Mattapoisett Shellfish Constable