



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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



MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

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REBECCA L. TEPPER
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Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

July 26, 2025

Town of Dartmouth Selectboard
Town Hall
Dartmouth, MA 02747

Mayor of City of New Bedford
City Hall
New Bedford, MA 02470

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with Chapter 130, Section 74A of Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that portions of Buzzards Bay including shellfish growing areas BB11 and BB12 in the town of Dartmouth and the City of New Bedford no longer meet the established criteria for a status of "Open to Shellfishing" due to combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharges associated with rainfall from the storm event on July 25, 2025. The status of the areas identified below shall be changed to **"Closed to Shellfishing"** effective at **sunrise on 7/26/2025** for 21 days or 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

BB11

"The waters, flats and all tributaries of that portion of Buzzards Bay in the Town of Dartmouth and the City of New Bedford, east of a line drawn due south from Round Hill Point in the Town of Dartmouth to the Dukes/Bristol County Line; west of a line drawn due south from Clark Point in the City of New Bedford to the Dukes/Bristol County Line; northerly of the Dukes/Bristol County Line; southerly of a line drawn across Clark Cove from Ricketsons Point in the Town of Dartmouth to Clark Point in the City of New Bedford; and southeasterly of a line drawn across Apponagansett Bay from the Birchfield Farms Pier to Ricketsons Point."

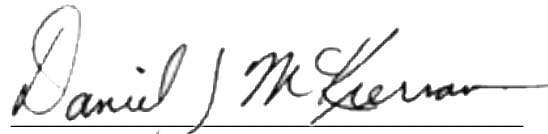
BB12

“The waters, flats and all tributaries of Apponagansett Bay in the Town of Dartmouth, northerly of a line drawn across the entrance of Apponagansett Bay from the Birchfield Farms Pier to Ricketsons Point.”

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

These shellfish growing areas shall remain in the “**Closed to Shellfishing**” status and will not automatically revert to “Open to Shellfishing” but will remain closed 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 drawn underneath it.

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
S. Melo, Dartmouth Shellfish Constable
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