



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

July 30, 2026

The Honorable Selectboards of the following Commonwealth of Massachusetts coastal municipalities: 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 in growing areas BB18, BB19, BB21, BB22 and BB23 due to CSO discharges impacting portions of Buzzards Bay may be **rescinded**. Shellfish growing areas BB18, BB19, BB21, BB22 and BB23 in the towns of Fairhaven, and Mattapoisett, 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.

Therefore, 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. These changes will be **effective at 08:00 AM on Thursday, July 30, 2026**.

All other growing areas subject to the emergency closure due to the CSO discharges in the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Westport, and the City of New Bedford (BB5, BB7, BB10, BB11, BB12, BB14 and BB16) shall remain closed until further notice.

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.

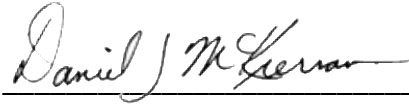
STATUS: OPEN TO THE TAKING OF SHELLFISH

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: BB18, BB19, BB21, BB22 and BB23 in the towns of Fairhaven and Mattapoisett.

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 fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

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
T. Cox, Fairhaven Shellfish Constable
L. Mello, Mattapoisett Shellfish Constable
B. Chase, Westport Shellfish Constable
S. Melo, Dartmouth Shellfish Constable
T. Ringuette, New Bedford Shellfish Constable