

## BIOTOXIN UPDATE

Friday, July 8, 2022

Decreasing *Alexandrium* cell abundances have been observed in North Shore areas as well as declining toxicity results in both blue mussels and softshell clams.

This most recent South Shore toxin analyses resulted in an additional mussel monitoring station in Scituate exceeding the toxicity threshold for mandatory closure. Low levels of toxicity were observed in wild mussel populations off the coast of Plymouth. *Alexandrium* cell abundance at our primary monitoring station in Duxbury have declined since observing a peak abundance on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

According to national standards, in order to re-open shellfish areas, three descending counts under the established action level are needed over a span of at least 14 days. The determination to re-open areas must consider whether toxin levels and cell abundances in adjacent areas are also declining.

With the latest information available, the below shellfish areas can be expected to remain closed to shellfish harvests for the durations below at a minimum.

Merrimack (N2): Week ending July 15

Plum Island Sound (N4): Week ending July 15

Essex (N7): Softshell clams open Friday July 8. All other shellfish, week ending July 15

Gloucester (N9): Week ending July 22.

Massachusetts Bay (MB1-MB14): Week ending July 29

Cape Cod Bay: (CCB41-CCB47): Week ending July 15