



MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
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DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

August 1, 2025

Town of Chilmark Selectboard
Town Hall
Chilmark, MA 02535

Town of Aquinnah Selectboard
Town Hall
Aquinnah, MA 02535

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has notified the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) of an outbreak of *Campylobacter sp.* illnesses linked to oysters harvested from the Menemsha Pond (V2) shellfish growing area in the towns of Chilmark and Aquinnah. Oysters linked to five confirmed illnesses were harvested between July 7th and 17th, 2025 and consumed raw between July 12th and July 21st, 2025.

Under the requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance, when shellfish are implicated in an illness outbreak and there is no evidence of illegal harvest from a closed area or post-harvest contamination the Shellfish Control Authority must immediately place the harvest area in the closed status. Therefore, the status of Menemsha Pond (V2) was changed to **"Closed to Shellfishing" for oysters only** effective at **10:00 AM on August 1, 2025**.

Under authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, section 74A, the status of the below-defined area has been changed to **"Closed to Shellfishing"** to the taking of oysters. Digging, harvesting or collecting and/or attempting to dig, harvest or collect oysters and the possession of oysters from the below-defined area is prohibited.

Under authority of 322 CMR 7.01(7) all permits issued thereunder are hereby conditioned to prohibit the taking, selling or possession of oysters from the below-defined area.

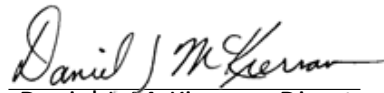
V2 Menemsha Pond

"The waters, flats, and all tributaries of Menemsha Inlet and Pond in the Towns of Aquinnah and Chilmark, south of a line drawn across the end of the Menemsha Inlet entrance jetties, north of a line drawn across the mouth of Nashaquitsa Pond, and excluding Menemsha Harbor Basin (V2.1), Red Beach West (V2.5), Pasture Way Wetland (V2.6), and Laboratory Beach (V2.7)."

The preceding area will remain closed until examined by the Division and notification is made that the area has been placed in the open status.

DPH and DMF are continuing to investigate the shellfish growing area conditions of Menemsha Pond (V2) as well as the harvest and handling practices associated with the implicated oysters. Please contact Alex Boeri (alex.boeri@mass.gov) for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. McKiernan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

CC: J. Monaghan, C. Baker, MEP
R. Glenn, C. Petitpas, M. Camisa, W. Castonguay,
M. Moore, E. Hickey, DPH
I. Scheffer, Chilmark Shellfish Constable
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U.S.FDA
Massachusetts Aquaculture Association