



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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



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Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

August 15, 2025

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

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with Chapter 130, Section 74A of Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that the emergency closure initially issued on July 25, 2025, due to CSO discharges impacting portions of Buzzards Bay (BB11, BB12) in the town of Dartmouth and City of New Bedford, may be **rescinded**. Shellfish growing areas BB11 and BB12, 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, 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 sunrise on Sunday August 17th, 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.

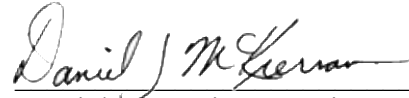
STATUS: OPEN TO THE TAKING OF SHELLFISH

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: BB11 and BB12 in the town of Dartmouth and the 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, 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, C. Baker, MEP
R. Glenn, C. Petitpas, DMF
J. Hobill, DEP
FDA, DPH
S. Melo, Dartmouth Shellfish Constable
T. Ringuette, New Bedford Shellfish Constable