



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Director

August 18, 2025

Town of Duxbury Selectboard
Town Hall
Duxbury, MA 02332

Town of Kingston Selectboard
Town Hall
Kingston, MA 02364

Town of Plymouth Selectboard
Town Hall
Plymouth, MA 02360

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has notified the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) of four single-source and three multi-source cases of *Vibrio sp.* illness linked to oysters harvested from the Duxbury Bay (CCB45) shellfish growing area in the towns of Duxbury and Plymouth. Oysters linked to these *Vibrio* illnesses were harvested between June 9 and July 29, 2025, and consumed raw between June 15 and August 2, 2025. The town of Duxbury was notified of the first single-source illness in a letter dated July 14, 2025. Additionally, there have been two single-source and 2 multi-source cases of *Campylobacter sp.* Illnesses linked to oysters harvested from this same area. Oysters linked to these *Campylobacter* illnesses were harvested between June 29, 2025 and July 10, 2025, and consumed raw between July 4, 2025 and July 13, 2025.

Under the requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance, when shellfish are implicated in an illness, the Shellfish Control Authority is required to conduct an investigation to determine whether or not the implicated growing area should be closed to shellfish harvest. Because *Vibrio* bacteria are naturally occurring in coastal waterbodies, *Vibrio* closures are implemented to include hydrographically connected areas. Based on review of these cases DMF has determined that a precautionary 7-day closure of the Plymouth/Kingston/Duxbury Bay system (growing areas CCB42-CCB47) is warranted to protect public health. Should additional illnesses be traced to Plymouth/Kingston Duxbury Bay the closure could be extended if triggers for mandatory NSSP closures of 14 or 21 days are reached.

Under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 130, Section 74A, the status of growing areas CCB42-CCB47 shall be changed to "**Closed to Shellfishing**" for oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) only, effective at 7:00 am on August 18, 2025. Harvesting or collecting and/or attempting to harvest or collect oysters, and the possession of oysters from these 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 oysters from CCB42-CCB47.

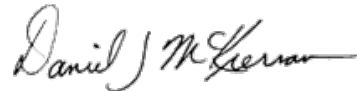
DMF and DPH have partnered with industry representatives to develop controls to mitigate the risk of *Vibrio* illness associated with Massachusetts harvested oysters. When the area reopens to harvest, DMF advises that town shellfish control authorities continue to verify harvester compliance with the Massachusetts 2025 *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vp) Control Plan and Marine Fisheries regulations

pertaining to *Vp* management for safe harvest and handling of oysters at 322 CMR § 16.07. Please conduct regular compliance checks using the attached *Vp* Compliance Monitoring Form.

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

Please contact Alex Boeri (alex.boeri@mass.gov) or Christian Petitpas (Christian.petitpas@mass.gov) for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. McKiernan".

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: J. Monaghan, J. Chapin, B. Forsythe, MEP
R. Glenn, C. Petitpas, M. Camisa, W. Castonguay, T. O'Neil, R. Joyce, DMF
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