



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)



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DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN  
Director

August 21, 2025

Town of Dartmouth Selectboard  
Town Hall  
Dartmouth, MA 02747

Mayor of City of New Bedford  
City Hall  
New Bedford, MA 02470

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with Chapter 130, Section 74A of Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that portions of Buzzards Bay including shellfish growing areas BB11, BB12, BB14 and BB16 in the town of Dartmouth and the City of New Bedford no longer meet the established criteria for a status of "Open to Shellfishing" due to combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharges associated with rainfall from the storm event on August 20-21, 2025. The status of the areas identified below shall be changed to **"Closed to Shellfishing" effective at 7:00am on 8/21/2025** for 21 days or until further notification is made by the Division of Marine Fisheries.

Under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 130, Section 74A, the status of the below identified areas shall be changed to **"Closed to Shellfishing"**. Digging, harvesting or collecting and/or attempting to dig, harvest or collect shellfish, and the possession of shellfish from the below 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 shellfish from the areas listed below.

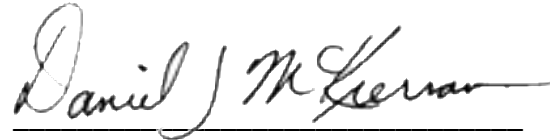
### STATUS: CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF ALL SHELLFISH

The waters, flats and all tributaries of that portion of Buzzards Bay within the following Shellfish Growing Areas and municipalities: BB11, BB12, BB14 and BB16 in the town of Dartmouth and city of New Bedford.

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

These shellfish growing areas shall remain in the “**Closed to Shellfishing**” status and will not automatically revert to “Open to Shellfishing” but will remain closed until examined by the Division and notification is made that the areas have been placed in the open status.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel J. McKiernan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director  
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: J. Monaghan, C. Baker, MEP  
R. Glenn, C. Petitpas, M. Camisa, DMF  
J. Hobill, DEP  
FDA, DPH  
S. Melo, Dartmouth Shellfish Constable  
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