



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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



MAURA T. HEALEY
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DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

August 25, 2025

Town of Orleans Selectboard
Town Hall
Orleans, MA 02653

Town of Chatham Selectboard
Town Hall
Chatham, MA 02633

Town of Harwich Selectboard
Town Hall
Harwich, MA 02645

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has notified the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) of eight additional cases of *Vibrio sp.* illnesses linked to the consumption of raw oysters. DPH is actively conducting the tracebacks for these cases. Growing areas SC52-SC63 closed on August 18, 2025 due to *Vibrio* illness cases will remain closed until the sources of the implicated oysters are identified.

Under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 130, Section 74A, the status of growing areas SC52-SC63 shall continue to be **"Closed to Shellfishing" for oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) only**. 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 SC52-SC63.

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](#).

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 notification is made by DMF that the areas have been placed in the open status.

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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" and last name "McKiernan" clearly distinguishable.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: J. Monaghan, C. Baker, B. Forsythe, MEP
R. Glenn, C. Petitpas, M. Camisa, T. O'Neil, DMF
M. Moore, Hickey, DPH
U.S.FDA
N. Sears, Orleans Shellfish Constable
R. Gagne, Chatham Shellfish Constable
S. Sykes, Harwich Shellfish Constable
Massachusetts Aquaculture Association