



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
(617) 626-1520 | mass.gov/MarineFisheries



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberly Driscoll
Lt. Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Thomas K. O'Shea
Commissioner

Daniel J. McKiernan
Director

September 14, 2026

The Honorable Select Board and Mayor of the following Commonwealth of Massachusetts coastal municipalities: Westport and Falmouth.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with Chapter 130, Section 74A of Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that additional portions of Buzzards Bay including shellfish growing areas BB1, BB51 and BB55 in the towns of Westport and Falmouth, no longer meet the established criteria for a status of "Open to Shellfishing" due to additional combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharges associated with rainfall between September 13-14, 2026. The status of BB1, BB51 and BB55 shall be changed to "**Closed to Shellfishing**" effective at **7:00pm on 9/14/2026** until further notification is made by the Division of Marine Fisheries. BB5, BB7, BB10, BB11, BB12, BB14, BB16, BB18, BB19, BB20, BB21, BB22, BB23, E1 and E4 in the towns of Westport, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Falmouth, Gosnold and the city of New Bedford were previously closed at 7:00pm on 9/13/2026.

Under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 130, Section 74A, the status of the areas identified below 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.

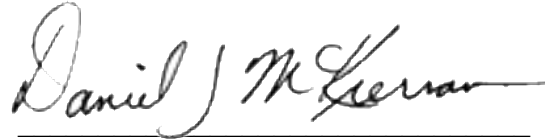
STATUS: CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF ALL SHELLFISH AS LISTED BELOW

The waters, flats and all tributaries of that portion of Buzzards Bay within the following Shellfish Growing Areas and municipalities: BB1, BB51 and BB55 in the towns of Westport and Falmouth.

Individual shellfish growing area definition boundaries are mapped on the Division's website at [Shellfish classification areas | Mass.gov](http://Shellfish%20classification%20areas%20-%20Mass.gov).

These shellfish growing areas shall remain in the “**Closed to Shellfishing**” status 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, J. Chapin, MEP
R. Glenn, C. Petitpas, M. Camisa, DMF
J. Hobill, DEP
FDA, DPH
W. Chase, Westport Shellfish Constable
C. Martinsen, Falmouth Shellfish Constable