



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lt. Governor

REBECCA L. TEPPER
Secretary

THOMAS K. O'SHEA
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

September 25, 2025

The Honorable Select Boards and Mayor of the following Commonwealth of Massachusetts coastal municipalities: Dartmouth, New Bedford, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Falmouth and Gosnold.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with Chapter 130, Section 74A of Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that an additional portion of Buzzards Bay including shellfish growing areas BB7, BB10, BB20, BB55.1, E1 and E4.1 in the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Falmouth and Gosnold, no longer meet the established criteria for a status of "Open to Shellfishing" due to combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharges associated with heavy rainfall on September 24-25, 2025. Shellfish growing areas BB11, BB12, BB14, BB16, BB18, BB19, BB21, BB22 and BB23 in the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett and the city of New Bedford, previously closed due to CSO discharges, were also impacted by the additional CSO discharges and remain under an emergency closure. The status of BB7, BB10, BB20, BB55.1, E1 and E4.1 shall be changed to **"Closed to Shellfishing"** effective at **2:30pm on 9/25/2025** 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 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 area 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 area listed below.

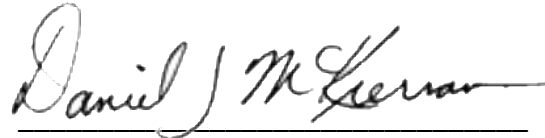
STATUS: CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF ALL SHELLFISH AS LISTED BELOW

The waters, flats and all tributaries of that portion of Buzzards Bay within the following Shellfish Growing Areas and municipalities: BB7, BB10, BB20, BB55.1, E1 and E4.1 in the towns of Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Falmouth and Gosnold.

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

Shellfish growing areas BB7, BB10, BB11, BB12, BB14, BB16, BB18, BB19, BB20, BB21, BB22, BB23, BB55.1, E1 and E4.1 shall remain in the "**Closed to Shellfishing**" status until examined by the Division and notification is made that the areas are 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
T. Ringuette, New Bedford Shellfish Constable
T. Cox, Fairhaven Shellfish Constable
I. Perry, Mattapoisett Shellfish Department
C. Martinsen, Falmouth Shellfish Constable
A. Lombard, Gosnold Shellfish Constable