



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 25, 2026

Honorable Coastal Select Boards and Mayors of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with Chapter 130, Section 74A of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries shall close all shellfish growing areas in the state as a precaution due to predicted high winds, coastal flooding, and heavy rainfall from the incoming nor'easter expected to affect Massachusetts coastal areas over the next several days.

Therefore, under authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, Section 74A, the status of the areas listed below will be changed to **"Closed to Shellfishing"** and closed to the taking of all shellfish except conch and sea scallop adductor muscle. This precautionary closure will be **effective a half-hour before sunrise on Saturday, September 26, 2026**.

Digging, harvesting or collecting and/or attempting to dig, harvest or collect shellfish and the possession of shellfish harvested from any Massachusetts waters during this closure is prohibited.

Under authority of 322 CMR 7.01 (7) all permits issued thereunder are hereby conditioned to prohibit the taking, selling or possession of shellfish as stated above from the areas listed below. After the storm, holders of aquaculture licenses under the authority of Chapter 130, Section 57, MGL, may conduct necessary maintenance/retrieval of their equipment after notifying, and with the consent of, the local shellfish constable. No shellfish may be harvested during the closure or removed from the site for culling.

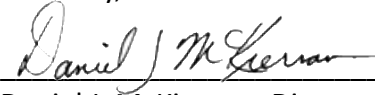
STATUS: CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF ALL SHELLFISH
Except conch and sea scallop adductor muscle

"The waters, flats and all tributaries of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from the Salisbury-New Hampshire State Line south to the Rhode Island – Massachusetts State Line including areas N1-N28, GBH1-GBH6, MB1-MB14, CCB1-CCB48, OC1-OC10, SC1-SC64, NS1, NT1-NT13, V1-V36, E1-E12, MHB1- MHB5 and BB1-BB58."

These areas shall remain closed until notification has been received from the Division that the areas have been placed into the Open to Shellfishing status.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel J. McKiernan", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: J. Monaghan, J. Chapin, MEP
R. Glenn, C. Petitpas, DMF
J. Hobill, DEP
FDA, DPH
All Coastal Shellfish Constables