



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries



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Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

July 5, 2023

The Honorable Mayor of Fall River
Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Town of Somerset Selectboard
Town Hall
Somerset, MA 02726

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 130, Section 74A, the Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that portions of the Taunton River (MHB2.3 and the southern end of MHB2.0) in the Towns of Fall River and Somerset no longer meet the criteria for a Restricted classification based on the NSSP Wastewater Treatment Plant and CSO Criteria. Therefore, the previously defined classification area, MHB2.3, and a portion of MHB2.0 have been redefined and reclassified to PROHIBITED. The redefined and reclassified MHB2.3 area will absorb the Taunton River West Area (MHB2.4), Middle Street (MHB2.5) and Dominion Energy (MHB2.6). This redefinition and reclassification shall be effective as of sunrise on July 6, 2023.

Therefore, under authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, Section 74A and 322 CMR section 7.01 (7), the status of the below-defined area will remain **"CLOSED TO SHELLFISHING"**. Digging, harvesting or collecting and/or attempting to dig, harvest or collect shellfish and the possession of shellfish from the below-defined areas is prohibited.

REDEFINITION/RECLASSIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION: PROHIBITED

Status: Closed to Shellfishing

MHB2.3

Taunton River South

"The waters, flats and all tributaries of that portion of the Taunton River, in the Towns of Somerset and Fall River, South of a line drawn Westerly from the utility tower at 41.73667°, -71.13773° to the powerplant bulkhead on the opposite shore at 41.73656°, -71.14562°, and North of a line drawn Easterly from Brayton Point in Somerset to Middle Street in Fall River."

Under authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, sections 17, 69,75, 80 and 83 the below redefined area shall remain classified as "RESTRICTED" and may be used as a source of shellfish for transplanting in accordance with Special Permits for Transplanting Contaminated Shellfish issued by the Division of Marine Fisheries. Under authority of 322 CMR 7.01(7) all permits, other than the transplant permit issued thereunder, are conditioned to prohibit the taking, selling or possession of shellfish from the below redefined area.

REDEFINITION
CLASSIFICATION: RESTRICTED

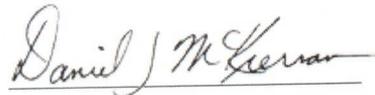
Status: Open to Transplanting

MHB2.0
Taunton River

"The waters, flats and all tributaries of that portion of the Taunton River, in the Towns of Somerset and Fall River, North of a line drawn Westerly from the utility tower at 41.73667°, -71.13773° to the powerplant bulkhead on the opposite shore at 41.73656°, -71.14562°, excluding MHB2.1, MHB2.2 and MHB2.7."

The previously defined areas will remain in the closed status (MHB2.3) and open to transplant status (MHB2.0) until examined by the Division and notification is made that the status has changed.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

Cc: P. Moran, C. Baker, OLE
J. Kennedy, DMF
J. Hobill, DEP
FDA, DPH
R. Smith, Fall River Shellfish Constable