

Notice of Growing Area Closure – Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game's, Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) announced this evening a precautionary 7-day closure of oyster beds located in growing areas CCB42 (Plymouth Harbor), CCB43 (Kingston Bay), CCB45 (Duxbury Bay), CCB46 (Bluefish River), and CCB47 (Back River) effective Saturday, September 15, 2018, at one half hour before sunrise. This closure is due to two (2) confirmed cases of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (*Vibrio*) linked to the consumption of raw oysters from CCB45 harvested on August 24th or between August 27th and August 31st. Please see attached DMF Closure Notice.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Bureau of Environmental Health requests that you notify Eric Hickey, the MA State *Vibrio* Contact, if you have knowledge of or have investigated any confirmed cases of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* in your state that are associated with consumption of oysters harvested from the Massachusetts growing areas identified as CCB42 (Plymouth Harbor), CCB43 (Kingston Bay), CCB45 (Duxbury Bay), CCB46 (Bluefish River), and CCB47 (Back River) on or after August 24, 2018. Mr. Hickey may be reached by phone at (617) 983-6747 or by email at eric.hickey@state.ma.us. It is important that receiving states report illnesses associated with growing areas CCB42, CCB43, CCB45, CCB46, and CCB47 to the MA State *Vibrio* Contact as there may be additional steps the Massachusetts Department of Public Health may be required to take in order to prevent further illnesses.



David E. Pierce, Ph.D.
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

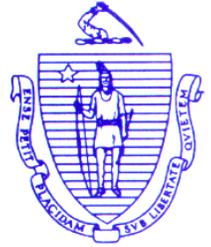
Division of Marine Fisheries

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September 14, 2018

Boards of Selectmen
Town of Duxbury
Town of Plymouth
Town of Kingston

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In a letter from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) sent earlier today, the Duxbury Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen were advised that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) notified DMF of a single case of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (*Vp*) epidemiologically linked to the consumption of oysters harvested from shellfish growing area CCB45 (Duxbury Harbor) in Duxbury, MA. Oysters linked to the illness were harvested on 8/28/2018 or 8/30/2018 and consumed raw on 8/31/2018.

DPH has subsequently notified DMF of a second *Vp* illness epidemiologically linked to the consumption of oysters harvested from Duxbury Bay. Oysters linked to this illness were harvested during a range of dates between 8/27/2018 and 8/30/2018 and consumed raw on 9/1/2018.

Under the requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance, when shellfish are implicated in an illness the Shellfish Control Authority is required to conduct an investigation to determine whether or not the implicated growing area should be closed to shellfish harvest. Due to the overlap in the range of potential harvest dates identified in the two completed DPH illness investigations, DMF and DPH are exercising their option at Section D.5. of the 2018 Massachusetts *Vp*. Control Plan to institute a precautionary 7-day closure of the harvest area in order to prevent additional illness and protect public health.

DMF and DPH will continue to monitor the situation to determine if a mandatory closure is warranted under Chapter II @.02 A(2) and A(4) of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish (2015 Revision). As additional information becomes available you will be updated.

Therefore, under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, section 74A, **effective one half hour before Sunrise on September 15, 2018, the below defined area has been placed in the "Closed" status to the harvest of oysters.** Digging, harvesting, or collecting and/or attempting to dig, harvest or collect oysters and the possession of oysters harvested from the below defined area is prohibited until the area is returned to the open status.

The status of the below defined area will automatically revert back to the "Open" status at one half hour before sunrise on September 22, 2018 unless otherwise notified by the Division of Marine Fisheries.

STATUS: CLOSED TO OYSTER HARVEST.

Duxbury:

Duxbury Bay (CCB: 45) Bluefish River (CCB: 46) and Back River (CCB: 47)

Plymouth

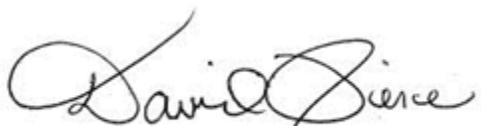
Plymouth Harbor (CCB: 42)

Kingston

Kingston Bay (CCB: 43)

“The waters and flats and all tributaries of Duxbury Bay (CCB: 45), Bluefish River (CCB: 46) and Back River (CCB: 47) in the Town of Duxbury; Plymouth Harbor (CCB: 42) in the Town of Plymouth; and Kingston Bay (CCB: 43) in the Town of Kingston.”

Under authority of 322 CMR 7.01 (7) all permits issued there under are hereby conditioned to prohibit the taking, possession, or landing of oysters for commercial purposes from the above defined area.



David E. Pierce PhD
Director

CC: R. Amidon, M. King, DFG
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DAR
DEP
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Massachusetts Aquaculture Association