

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 last evening a 14-day closure of oyster beds located in growing area MA-V20 (also known as Katama Bay, Martha's Vineyard) effective today, September 29, 2017, at one half hour before sunrise. This closure is due to three (3) confirmed cases of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (*Vibrio*) linked to the consumption of raw oysters from MA-V20 harvested on Sept. 4th or 6th and on September 12. 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 area identified as MA-V20 (Katama Bay) on or after September 4, 2017. 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 area MA-V20 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

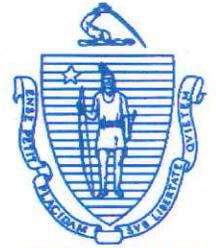
Division of Marine Fisheries

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Charles D. Baker
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Secretary

Ronald Amidon
Commissioner

Mary-Lee King
Deputy Commissioner

September 28, 2017

Town of Edgartown
Board of Selectmen
70 Main Street
Edgartown, MA 02539

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In a letter from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) dated September 26, 2017, you were advised that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has notified DMF of two cases of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (*Vp*) epidemiologically linked to the consumption of oysters harvested from shellfish growing area V20 (Katama Bay) in Edgartown. Oysters linked to the first illness were harvested on 9/4/17 or 9/6/17 and consumed raw on 9/7/17. Oysters linked to the second illness were harvested on 9/12/17 and consumed raw on 9/16/17.

DPH has notified DMF of a third *Vp* illness epidemiologically linked to the consumption of oysters harvested from Katama Bay. Oysters linked to this illness were harvested on 9/12/17 and consumed raw on 9/15/17.

Under Chapter II @.02 A(2) and A(4)(a) of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish (2015 Revision), when two or more cases of *Vp* occur from a single harvest day the implicated harvest area must be placed in the closed status for a minimum of 14-days.

Therefore, under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, section 74A, **effective one half hour before Sunrise on September 29, 2017**, 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.

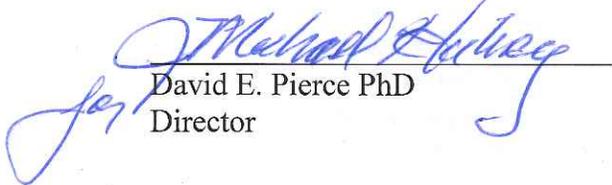
The status of the below defined area will automatically revert back to the "Open" status at one half hour before sunrise on October 13, 2017 unless otherwise notified by the Division of Marine Fisheries

STATUS: CLOSED TO OYSTER HARVEST.

**Katama Bay
V:20**

“The waters and flats of Katama Bay south of a line drawn from the “NO SHELLFISHING “ sign located at the eastern extension of Witchwood Lane at the western shoreline of Katama Bay; thence running easterly to the southernmost point of the northern shoreline of the entrance of Caleb Pond, including Caleb Pond.”

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: J. McGinn, P. Moran, A. Abdal-Khabir, ELE
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