

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

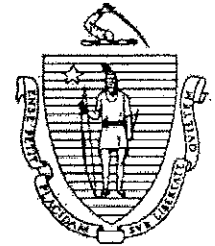
Division of Marine Fisheries

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Director

September 29, 2015

Boards of Selectmen
Duxbury, MA
Plymouth, MA
Kingston, MA

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In a letter dated September 23, 2015, you were advised that epidemiological evidence collected by the Department of Public Health-Bureau of Environmental Health, Food Protection Program (DPH) as of September 22, 2015 indicated that an association exists between five *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (*Vp*) illnesses and the consumption of oysters harvested from shellfish growing area CCB: 42 (Plymouth Harbor) on 8/31, and CCB: 45 (Duxbury Bay) on 8/4, 8/18, 9/2, and 9/4.

During the period from 9/23 to 9/29, DPH has collected additional epidemiological evidence linking two additional *Vp* illness to oysters harvested from Duxbury Bay (CCB: 45) on 9/2 and Plymouth Harbor (CCB: 42) on 9/5. With this new information, there are now seven cases of *Vp* which are associated with consumption of oysters harvested from either Plymouth Harbor or Duxbury Bay.

Since six of these cases of *Vp* were associated with oyster harvests which occurred during a 19 day period from 8/18 to 9/5, a 14 day closure is required by Chapter II @.02 A(2) and A(4)(b) of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, 2013 revision.

In light of this information and the NSSP requirements, DPH and the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) agree that the precautionary 7 day closure issued on 9/23 should be extended for an additional 7 days.

Therefore, under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, section 74A, the below defined areas remains in the "Closed" status to the commercial harvest of oysters. Commercial digging, harvesting, or collecting and/or attempting to commercially dig, harvest or collect oysters and the possession of commercially harvested oysters from the below defined area is prohibited until the area is returned to the open status.

The status of the below defined areas will automatically revert back to the "Open" status at one half hour before sunrise on October 8, 2015 unless otherwise notified by the Division of Marine Fisheries.

STATUS: CLOSED TO COMMERCIAL OYSTER HARVEST.

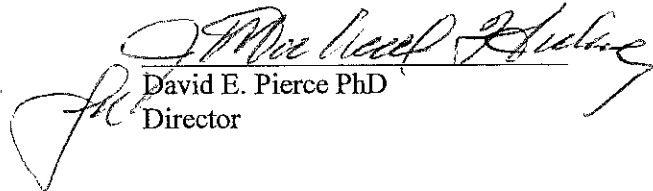
Duxbury: Duxbury Bay (CCB: 45), Bluefish River (CCB: 46) and Back River (CCB: 47)

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: 47) 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 commercial taking, selling or possession of oysters from the above defined areas.


David E. Pierce PhD
Director

CC: J. McGinn, P. Moran, ELE
D. McKiernan, M. Hickey, T. Shields, J. Kennedy, DMF
M. Moore, E. Hickey, DPH
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DEP
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D. Beers, Duxbury Shellfish Constable
C. Hunter, Plymouth Shellfish Constable
D. Carvalho, Kingston Shellfish Constable
C. Sherman, D. Ryan, K. Clark, Massachusetts Aquaculture Association

Yesterday DMF extended the existing 7-day closure (beginning 9/24) for Duxbury Bay, Kingston Bay and Plymouth Harbor (CCB45, 43 and 42, respectively) another 7 days (beginning 10/1). Provided is a table that includes all the original dealers that routinely purchase oysters harvested from these growing areas:

Dealer	Location	Certification Number
CAPE COD SHELLFISH & SEAFOOD	Boston	3257 SS
CAPTAIN MARDEN'S SEAFOODS INC	Westwood	4333 SS
COONAMESSETT FARM INC	East Falmouth	10167 SS
DUXBURY MUSSEL CORP	Duxbury	4695 SS
GEORGES BANK LLC	South Boston	10458 SS
INTERSHELL INTERNATIONAL	Gloucester	7802 SP
IPSWICH SHELLFISH CO INC	Ipswich	286 SP
ISLAND CREEK OYSTERS	Duxbury	9987 SS
LOBSTER TRAP CO INC	Bourne	210 SS
MERRY SHELLFISH FARM LLC DBA MERRY OYSTERS	Duxbury	10252 SS
PANGEA SHELLFISH & SEAFOOD CO., INC.	Boston	9169 SS
PLYMOUTH ROCK OYSTER GROWERS LLC	Plymouth	10772 SS
POWDER POINT SHELLFISH FARM	Duxbury	11271 SS