



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health - Bureau of Environmental Health  
Food Protection Program  
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[www.mass.gov/dph](http://www.mass.gov/dph)

## Massachusetts Shellfish Recall Notice October 13, 2016

- Areas covered by recall:** Wellfleet Harbor (CCB11)  
Herring River (CCB12)  
Wellfleet Inner Harbor (CCB13)  
Loagy Bay (CCB14)
- Product involved in recall:** Oysters, hard-shell clams ("quahogs"), soft-shell clams ("steamers"), mussels, and razor clams
- Dates involved in recall:** From September 26, 2016 to October 13, 2016  
(inclusive)

**Background:** On October 13, 2016, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) issued a finding that two or more cases of an illness with Norovirus-like symptoms were linked to the consumption of raw shellfish harvested from CCB11 and CCB14.

Since areas CCB11 through CCB14 are all contiguous and part of the same hydrographic area, all of these areas were closed to shellfish harvesting by the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, Division of Marine Fisheries.

Shellfish harvested from these areas from **September 26, 2016 to October 13, 2016** are to be recalled. Wholesale seafood dealers who distributed implicated product should initiate recalls of all shellfish from these areas immediately. Wholesale dealers with questions about the recall should contact Supervisor John Racioppi at (617)983-6748 or via email at [john.racioppi@state.ma.us](mailto:john.racioppi@state.ma.us).

Shippers with shellfish lots affected by this closure and recall are in the process of initiating recalls. The following information should be collected during the recall of implicated products:

- 1) Harvest location and harvest dates affected by this recall,
- 2) The names and contact information of consignees who received this product, and
- 3) Types and quantities of shellfish that have been shipped from these areas.

Shippers should advise consignees that the product is not to be sold or shipped, unless advised otherwise by the Food Protection Program. As the recall proceeds, the Food Protection Program should be notified of the quantities of products returned or corrected by each consignee contacted and the quantity of products accounted for.

Wholesale Seafood Dealers who are Primary Buyers in possession of aquaculture reared shellfish identified under this recall may be allowed to be return shellfish to aquaculturists for re-submergence. Only shellfish that can be linked to individual aquaculturists may be returned for re-submergence. Prior to returning any shellfish to aquaculturists, primary buyers must first contact the DMF Aquaculture Specialist Chris Schillaci at (978)380-4211 or via email at [christopher.schillaci@state.ma.us](mailto:christopher.schillaci@state.ma.us) for authorization

If recalled shellfish is identified, the product should be placed on hold or under embargo, and stored in a manner that clearly identifies that the product should not be sold. Then notify the supplier and follow the recall instructions of the supplier.

Restaurants and retail establishments may have received product from a Massachusetts certified dealer or an ICSSL listed dealer. Not all dealers who may have shipped the affected product have been identified yet.



Michael J. Moore, Director  
MDPH/BEH Food Protection Program



David E. Pierce  
Director

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

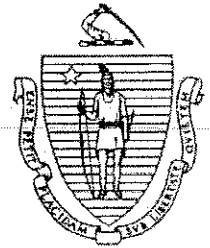
## Division of Marine Fisheries

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Governor

Karyn E. Polito  
Lieutenant Governor

Matthew A. Beaton  
Secretary

George N. Peterson, Jr.  
Commissioner

Mary-Lee King  
Deputy Commissioner

October 13, 2016

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Wellfleet  
Town Hall  
Wellfleet, MA 02667

Ladies & Gentlemen:

In accordance with Chapter 130, section 74A of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has determined that the below defined shellfish growing areas, CCB11 through CCB14 in the Town of Wellfleet no longer meet the established criteria for the harvest of shellfish as a result of notification by the Department of Public Health that illnesses have been linked to the consumption of shellfish harvested from CCB11 and CCB14. Since areas CCB11, 12, 13 and 14 are contiguous and part of one hydrographic area, all these growing areas are included in the closure. CCB10 is already a prohibited area due to bacterial contamination. This closure is effective at 1:45PM October 13, 2016.

In accordance with of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 130, sections 74A and 75, the status of the below defined areas has been changed to "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 are prohibited.

Removal of any shellfish (seed or market size) from the aquaculture sites for offsite culling is prohibited. Work to maintain gear or shellfish aquaculture sites will be allowed provided the grower gives prior daily notice to the local shellfish department who will maintain a daily list. Sale of seed shellfish from Wellfleet Harbor for purposes of aquaculture or propagation is prohibited except for within Wellfleet Harbor.

Under authority of 322 CMR 7.01 (7) all permits issued hereunder are hereby conditioned to prohibit the taking, selling or possession of shellfish, offsite culling, or seed sales from the below defined areas.

**CLASSIFICATION: APPROVED AND CONDITIONALLY APPROVED**

**Status: Closed To Shellfishing with the exception of bay and sea scallop adductor muscles and carnivorous snails including conchs and whelks**

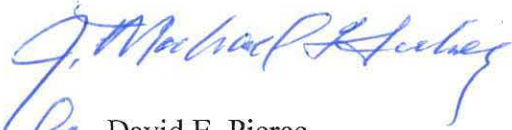
Wellfleet Harbor  
CCB11 – CCB14

" The waters, flats and all tributaries of Wellfleet Harbor in the Town of Wellfleet, northerly of a line drawn from Jeremy Point to the Eastham/Wellfleet Town Marker."

This closure will remain in effect until DMF determines the shellfish is safe to harvest for human consumption.

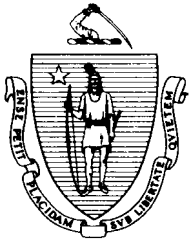
OVER

Sincerely,



David E. Pierce  
Director

cc: J. McGinn, B. Perrin, P. Moran, G. Duncan, OLE  
D. McKiernan, M. Hickey, T. Shields, DMF  
G. Peterson, M. King, DFG  
WPC. DEP  
FDA  
DPH  
A. Koch Wellfleet Shellfish Constable



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Tom Lyons, Mass. DPH  
(617) 624-5293, or  
Katie Gronendyke, Mass. DMF  
(617) 626-1129

## Public Health Advisory

### **Wellfleet Shellfish Beds Closed, Harvested Shellfish from Area Recalled** *Suspected Norovirus Outbreak On Cape Cod Linked To Eating Local Shellfish.*

**BOSTON, MA** (October 13, 2016) – The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), working in conjunction with local health and shellfish authorities, announced today that **shellfish beds in the town of Wellfleet** have been closed effective immediately due to a large outbreak of suspected norovirus illness believed to be linked to consumption of shellfish from that area.

Public health officials have received reports of approximately 75 suspect cases of norovirus over the past two days, primarily associated with eating raw shellfish at weddings and restaurants in the Outer Cape Cod area.

Officials from the DMF have notified the Town of Wellfleet and shellfish harvesters in the area about the closure. The DPH Food Protection Program is notifying businesses to recall any affected shellfish that was harvested on or after September 26, 2016.

#### **Shellfish Growing Areas in Wellfleet Affected by Closure and Recall:**

- CCB11 [Wellfleet Harbor](#)
- CCB12 [Herring River](#)
- CCB13 [Wellfleet Inner Harbor](#)
- CCB14 [Loagy Bay](#)

#### **About Noroviruses:**

Noroviruses are easily spread through food, person-to-person contact, or through contact with contaminated surfaces such as countertops or door knobs. The viruses can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Other symptoms may include headache, fever, chills and muscle aches.

For most people noroviruses cause a very unpleasant but brief illness that usually lasts 1 to 2 days. The elderly, very young and people with weakened immune systems are at higher risk of more serious illness from noroviruses. The greatest danger is from dehydration.

**Advice for the Public:**

- Do not eat any shellfish from the affected areas if harvested or purchased on or after September 26, 2016. This includes oysters, hard-shell clams (“quahogs”), soft-shell clams (“steamers”), mussels and razor clams.
- If you are unsure where shellfish was harvested, contact the retailer or restaurant where the product was purchased.
- If you are experiencing symptoms of norovirus, or are caring for someone who is, practice good hand washing with warm, soapy water to prevent further spread of the illness.
- After episodes of vomiting or diarrhea, clean contaminated surfaces immediately with a bleach-based household cleaner and wash hands thoroughly afterwards. The virus is present in large numbers in both stool and vomitus.
- Contact your healthcare provider if you have more severe illness or if you think you may be dehydrated.
- [Download this factsheet](#) on noroviruses for more tips on how to prevent norovirus infection.

For more information on noroviruses, residents can contact the DPH Division of Epidemiology at (617) 983-6800. For more information on the DMF shellfish harvesting closure notice, call (508) 990-2860.

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