

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

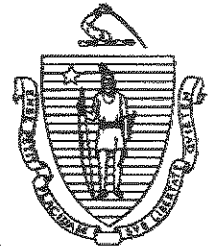
## Division of Marine Fisheries

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Director

September 23, 2015

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has confirmed two additional cases of **Vibrio parahaemolyticus** (*Vp*) tied to oysters harvested from Duxbury Bay (CCB: 45) in Duxbury and one case tied to oysters harvested from Plymouth Harbor (CCB: 42) in Plymouth. Oysters linked to the first illness attributed to Duxbury Bay (CCB: 45) were harvested on August 4, 2015 and consumed raw on August 13, 2015; oysters linked to the second illness were harvested from CCB: 45 on August 18, 2015 and consumed raw on August 21, 2015. The two additional illnesses linked to Duxbury Bay involved oysters harvested from CCB:45 on September 2 and September 4, 2015 that were in order consumed raw on September 5 and September 6, 2015. Oysters from Plymouth Harbor linked to a single illness were harvested from CCB:42 on August 31, 2015 and consumed raw on September 5, 2015.

As a result, the Department of Public Health and the Division of Marine Fisheries are exercising their option at Section D.5., of the **2015 Massachusetts Vp. Control Plan** to institute a 7- day precautionary closure in order to prevent additional illnesses and protect public health.

In accordance with Chapter 130, Section 74A of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that the below defined shellfish growing areas, 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 which are contiguous and part of the same hydrographic area, no longer meet the established criteria for the commercial harvest of oysters.

Therefore, under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, section 74A, the below defined areas have been placed in a "Closed" status to the commercial harvest of oysters effective one half hour before sunrise on September 24, 2015. 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 1, 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)

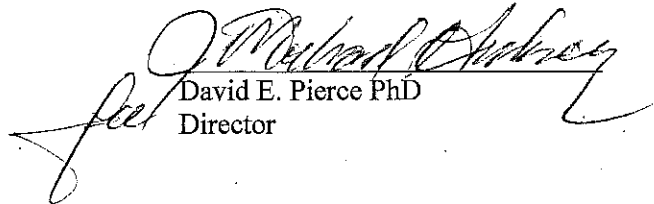
#### Plymouth:

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

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