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Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Deputy Commissioner

March 1, 2018

Honorable Coastal Mayors and Select Boards of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with Chapter 130, section 74A of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Division of Marine Fisheries has closed all shellfish areas of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a precaution due to the potential effects of the coastal storm of March 1, 2018.

Therefore, under authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, sections 74A, **effective at sunset on March 1, 2018**, the below-defined areas have been placed in a "**CLOSED TO SHELLFISHING**" status to the taking of all shellfish. Digging, harvesting or collecting and/or attempting to dig, harvest or collect shellfish and the possession of shellfish from the below-defined areas is prohibited.

Under authority of 322 CMR 7.01 (7) all permits issued there under are hereby conditioned to prohibit the taking, selling or possession of shellfish as stated above from the below-defined areas. After the storm, holders of aquaculture licenses under the authority of Chapter 130, Section 57, MGL, may do necessary maintenance/retrieval of their equipment after notifying and with the consent of the local shellfish constable. No shellfish maybe harvested during the closure or removed from the site for culling.

STATUS: CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF ALL SHELLFISH AS DEFINED BELOW
Except for the consumption of the adductor muscle of Bay and Sea Scallops Only

"The waters, flats and all tributaries of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from the Salisbury-New Hampshire State Line south to the Rhode Island – Massachusetts State Line out to the State Boundary Line. This includes N1-N28, GBH1-GBH6, MB1-MB14, CCB1-CCB51, OC1-OC10, SC1-SC64, NS1-4, NT1-NT14, V1-V36, E1-E14, MHB1- MHB5 and BB1-BB58.

The above-described areas shall remain closed until notification has been received from the Division that the areas have been placed into an open status.



Sincerely,

David E. Pierce,
Director