

TOWN OF SCITUATE

SELECT BOARD



600 Chief Justice Cushing Hwy.
Scituate, Massachusetts 02066
Telephone (781) 545-8740
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November 16, 2021

Mr. Daniel McKiernan, Director
Division of Massachusetts Fisheries
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114

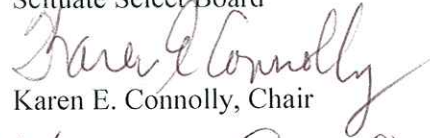
Dear Mr. McKiernan:

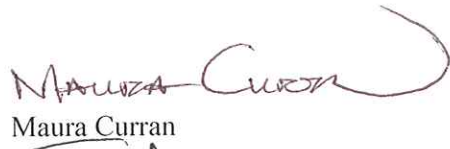
On behalf of the Scituate Select Board, we unanimously support the rescinding of the recreational shellfish closures for the North and South Rivers pending scientific data demonstrating evidence that it affects public health. The shellfish beds are recreational only, not commercial. The USFDA new standard does not specifically apply to recreational only areas, rather is to prevent contamination of shellfish intended for intra/er state commerce, to protect public health.

For decades, the North and South Rivers Watershed Association, towns, and residents have worked and spent millions of dollars on upgrading wastewater and stormwater infrastructure to meet the state's water quality standards based on fecal coliform or bacteria. Due to that hard work, the rivers now meet the shell fishing water quality standards from November 1 – May 31st.

We urge Massachusetts Fisheries to rescind the closure, and not to apply commercial standards to our recreational-only zoned areas of the North and South Rivers.

Sincerely,
Scituate Select Board


Karen E. Connolly, Chair


Maura Curran


Karen B. Canfield, Vice Chair


Anthony Vegnani


Andrew Goodrich, Clerk

Cc:
Thomas Shields, South Shore Regional Supervisor, MA Fisheries
Jeff Kennedy, North Shore Regional Supervisor, MA Fisheries
Patrick O'Connor, Massachusetts Senator
Patrick Kearney, Massachusetts Representative
Town of Marshfield Board of Selectmen
Town of Marshfield, Waterways Commission
Town of Marshfield Harbormaster, Michael DiMeo
Town of Marshfield Counsel, Robert Galvin
North and South River Watershed Association, Samantha Woods
Town of Scituate, Shellfish Advisory Committee