

Fish Consumption Regulations and Recommendations

Massachusetts Regulations / U.S. EPA Recommendations for Eating Fish, Shellfish and Lobster Caught in Three Fish Closure Areas Around New Bedford Harbor

UPDATED SEPTEMBER 2015







Closure Area 1

Inner Harbor: North of the hurricane barrier and Ft. Phoenix Beach State Reservation - Includes Palmer Island

If you catch...	Then...
Any shellfish, lobster, or fish, including bottom feeders	Do not eat it

Closure Area 2







Outer Harbor: South of the hurricane barrier to Ricketsons Point and tip of Sciticut Neck (Wilbur Point) - Includes Clarks Cove

If you catch...	Then...
Fish:	
Black Sea Bass 	Eat no more than one meal per month
All bottom-feeding fish including: Eel  Flounder  Scup  Tautog 	Do not eat it
All other fish	U.S. EPA does not have adequate data so cannot make a recommendation
Lobster 	Do not eat it
Shellfish (clams, quahogs, mussels, conch, etc.)	Eat no more than one meal per month. Exception: Shellfish caught in Clarks Cove: Eat no more than one meal per week

Note: Pregnant women, nursing mothers, children under age 12, and women who may become pregnant should not eat fish, shellfish or lobster caught in Closure Area 2, except they can safely eat one, and only one, meal per month of shellfish caught in Clarks Cove.

Closure Area 3

Buzzards Bay: South of Ricketsons Point and tip of Sciticut Neck (Wilbur Point) to Mishaum Point in Dartmouth and West Island South Point in Fairhaven - Includes area south of the West Island Causeway

If you catch...	Then...
Fish:	
Black Sea Bass 	Eat no more than one meal per month
All bottom-feeding fish including: Eel  Flounder  Scup  Tautog 	U.S. EPA does not have adequate data so cannot make a recommendation
	U.S. EPA does not have adequate data so cannot make a recommendation
	Do not eat it
	Eat no more than one meal per month
All other fish	U.S. EPA does not have adequate data so cannot make a recommendation
Lobster 	Do not eat it
Shellfish (clams, quahogs, mussels, conch, etc.)	There are no eating restrictions

Note: Pregnant women, nursing mothers, children under age 12, and women who may become pregnant should not eat fish or lobster caught in Closure Area 3. They can safely eat one, and only one, meal per month of shellfish caught in Area 3.