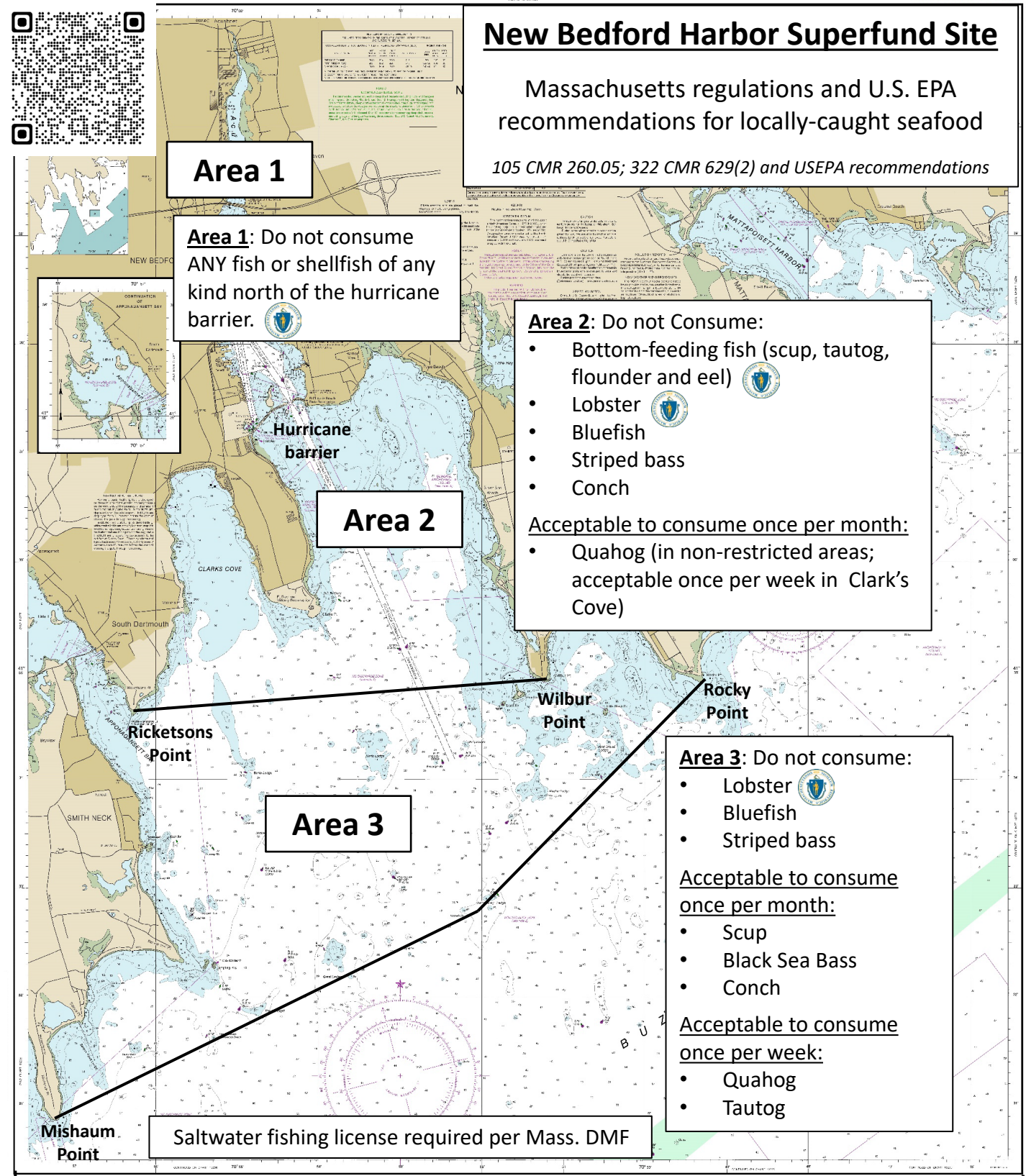
SOUNDINGS IN FEET

New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site

Massachusetts regulations and U.S. EPA recommendations for locally-caught seafood

105 CMR 260.05; 322 CMR 629(2) and USEPA recommendations



Area 1: Do not consume ANY fish or shellfish of any kind north of the hurricane barrier.

Area 2: Do not Consume:

- Bottom-feeding fish (scup, tautog, flounder and eel)
- Lobster
- Bluefish
- Striped bass
- Conch

Acceptable to consume once per month:

- Quahog (in non-restricted areas; acceptable once per week in Clark's Cove)

Area 3: Do not consume:

- Lobster
- Bluefish
- Striped bass

Acceptable to consume once per month:

- Scup
- Black Sea Bass
- Conch

Acceptable to consume once per week:

- Quahog
- Tautog

Saltwater fishing license required per Mass. DMF

For non-English **translation**, recommendations for **sensitive populations,** (young children, pregnant women, etc.) **fish identification photos**, and **health information regarding PCBs** use the QR code in top left corner.

= Massachusetts regulations

SEMS Doc ID 680224

Seafood is an important part of a healthy diet provided it's caught in approved areas. The restrictions listed here are due to PCB (Poly-chlorinated biphenyl) contamination.

New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site, Additional Information for Recreationally Caught Seafood

1. USEPA Seafood Consumption Recommendations for Sensitive Populations (children, pregnant and nursing women, and women of childbearing age).

See signage/main page for map of closure Areas 1, 2 and 3

AREA 1 (all harbor areas north of the hurricane barrier)**:**

Do not consume ANY type of fish or shellfish from closure Area I.

AREA 2 (outer harbor area extending south from the hurricane barrier to the southern tip of Sconticut Neck (Wilbur Point) in Fairhaven)**:**

Do not consume ANY type of fish or shellfish from closure Area II.

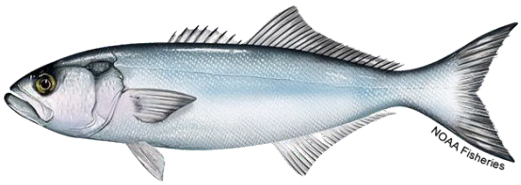
AREA 3 (outer harbor area extending south from the southern tip of Rocky Point on West Island in Fairhaven across to the southern tip of Mishaum Point in Dartmouth)**:**

Conch (whelk) and tautog can be consumed once per month, while quahog can be eaten weekly. All other types of fish and shellfish should be avoided in Area III.

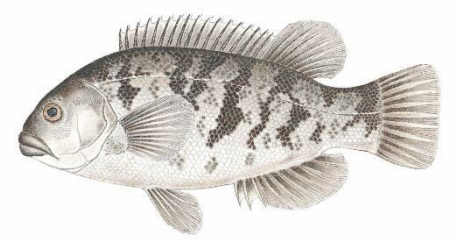
2. Common fish/shellfish identification photos:

Striped Bass (*Morone saxatilis*)

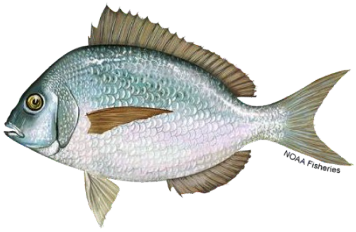
Bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*)



Tautog (*Tautoga onitis*)

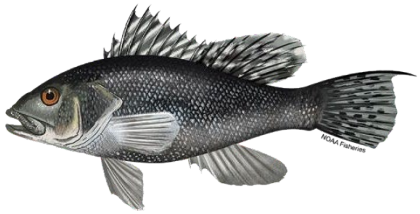


Scup (*Stenotomus chrysops*)



Summer Flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*)

Black Sea Bass (*Centropristis striata*)



American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*)

Quahog or hard clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria)*

Channel Whelk (*Busycotypus canaliculatus)*

Knobbed Whelk (*Busycon carica)*

Lobster (*Homarus americanus*)

3. Toxicity and Health Information for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

Highlights

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are a mixture of individual chemicals which are no longer produced in the United States but are still found in the environment. Health effects that have been associated with exposure to PCBs include acne-like skin conditions in adults and neurobehavioral and immunological changes in children. PCBs are known to cause cancer in animals. PCBs have been found in at least 500 of the 1,598 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

How can polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) affect my health?

The most commonly observed health effects in people exposed to large amounts of PCBs are skin conditions such as acne and rashes. Studies in exposed workers have shown changes in blood and urine that may indicate liver damage. PCB exposures in the general population are not likely to result in skin and liver effects. Most of the studies of health effects of PCBs in the general population examined children of mothers who were exposed to PCBs.

Animals that ate food containing large amounts of PCBs for short periods of time had mild liver damage and some died. Animals that ate smaller amounts of PCBs in food over several weeks or months developed various kinds of health effects, including anemia; acne-like skin conditions; and liver, stomach, and thyroid gland injuries. Other effects of PCBs in animals include changes in the immune system, behavioral alterations, and impaired reproduction. PCBs are not known to cause birth defects

How likely are polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) to cause cancer?

Few studies of workers indicate that PCBs were associated with certain kinds of cancer in humans, such as cancer of the liver and biliary tract. Rats that ate food containing high levels of PCBs for two years developed liver cancer. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has concluded that PCBs may reasonably be anticipated to be carcinogens. PCBs have been classified as probably carcinogenic, and carcinogenic to humans (group 1) by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), respectively.

For more information and updates on exposure to PCBs and potential health effects visit ATSDR's ToxFAQs™ website.