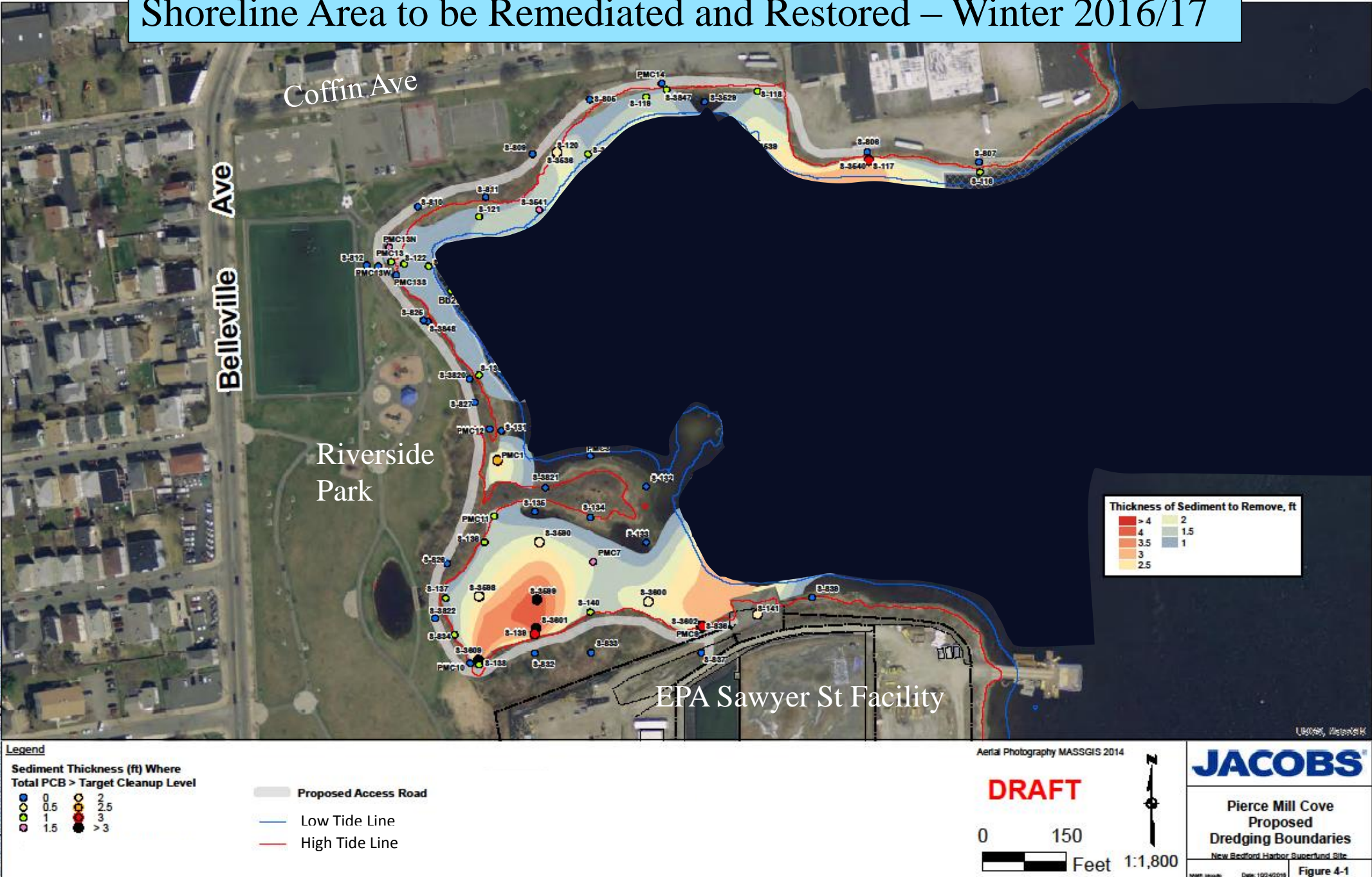
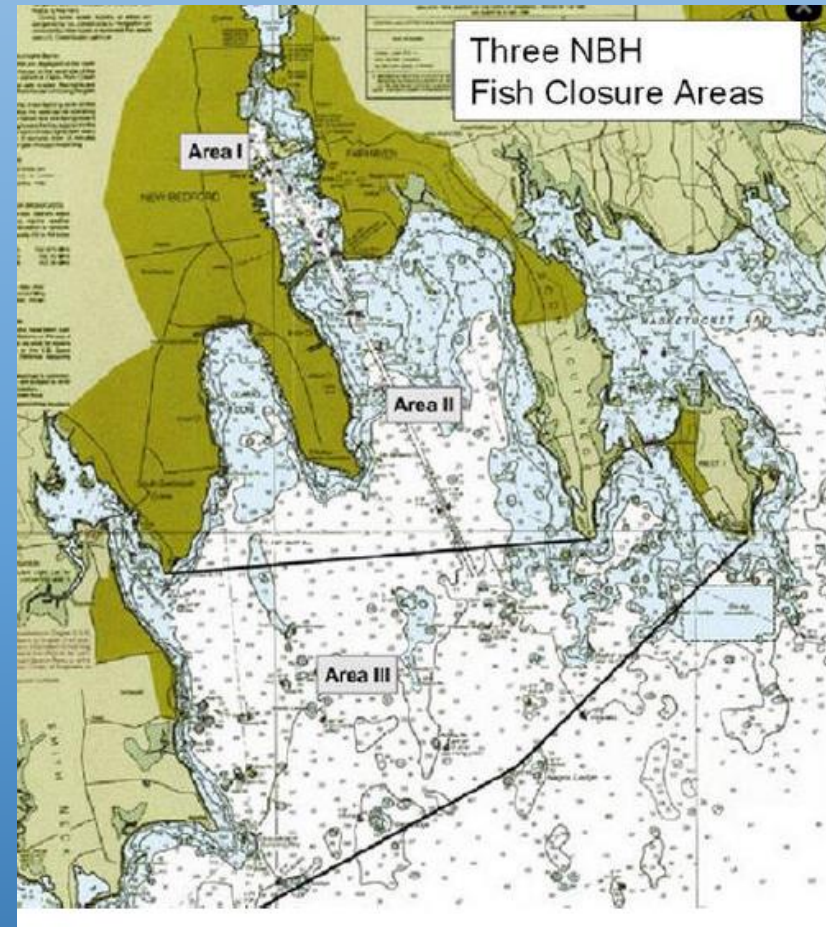


# Shoreline Area to be Remediated and Restored – Winter 2016/17



# Community Involvement Update



Kelsey O'Neil, Community Involvement Coordinator



# Important Information about Eating Seafood from New Bedford Harbor



## Why should I worry about eating fish out of New Bedford Harbor?

As a result of historic dumping in the harbor, there are levels of a contaminants called PCBs (polychlorinated Biphenyls) in fish and shellfish that pose a risk to human health.

## What are PCBs and why do I care?

PCBs are a known cancer causing agent. Accumulation of PCBs in an individual's body over a number of years can lead to cancer and a number of other health effects. Fish and Shellfish in New Bedford Harbor have been sampled by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection since 1979 when state regulations put a prohibition on fishing/shellfishing in certain areas of the harbor.

PCBs belong to a broad family of man-made organic chemicals and were manufactured from 1929 until they were banned in 1979.

## What has been done to inform people?

EPA has been working with the state and City of New Bedford to clean up the PCB contamination in New Bedford Harbor since the early 1980's. EPA coordinates regularly with the city and state and makes efforts to reach community members in a variety of ways. A Community Involvement plan, finalized in 2015, outlines EPA's most recent efforts at outreach and can be found here <http://www2.epa.gov/new-bedford-harbor>

### How Can I Learn More?

Please visit our website

<http://www2.epa.gov/new-bedford-harbor> or contact

Kelsey O'Neil, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator at

617-918-1003 or [oneil.kelsey@epa.gov](mailto:oneil.kelsey@epa.gov)

## Can I eat any fish out of New Bedford Harbor?

EPA has recommendations on how much seafood should be consumed for different ages and populations. To see those recommendations please contact the individuals below or visit our website at <http://www2.epa.gov/new-bedford-harbor/fish-consumption-regulations-and-recommendations>

\*\*\*Please also see maps on back page.

## Will I be safe from PCBs if I follow the EPA recommendations?

Yes. The only way to avoid PCB contamination from New Bedford harbor is to avoid catching and eating fish out of the harbor. PCBs will not be removed from fish or shellfish through any cooking process. PCB's build up in your body over time and can lead to long term health effects.

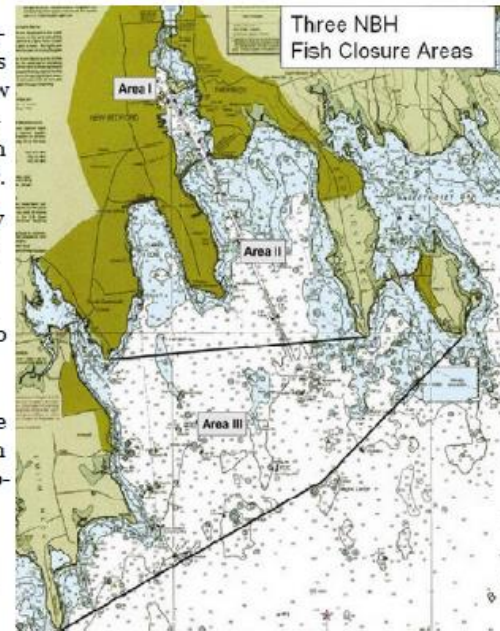
## Can I fish if I throw the fish back?

Yes. Catch and release is a welcome activity in New Bedford Harbor.



Since 1979, Massachusetts regulations have prohibited eating fish and/or shellfish caught in certain areas of New Bedford Harbor. The tables on this page show Massachusetts regulations and U.S. EPA recommendations for eating fish, shellfish and lobster caught in three fish closure areas around New Bedford Harbor.

EPA's seafood consumption restrictions do not apply to seafood caught beyond the boundaries of the Site by the New Bedford area commercial fishing fleet. Exposure to PCBs is linked to infant development problems in children whose mothers were exposed to PCBs before becoming pregnant. Meal advice for PCB-contaminated fish is intended to protect children from developmental problems. PCBs also cause changes in human blood, liver, and immune function of adults. In addition, PCBs cause cancer in laboratory animals and may cause cancer in humans.



### CLOSURE AREA 1\*

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

### CLOSURE AREA 2\*

If you catch...	then...
Fish:	
Black sea bass	Eat no more than one meal per month
All bottom-feeding fish including:	
Eel	Do not eat it
Flounder	Do not eat it
Scup	Do not eat it
Tautog	Do not eat it
All other fish	U.S. EPA has no data yet so we cannot make a recommendation
Lobster	Do not eat it
Shellfish (clams, quahogs, mussels etc.)	Eat no more than one meal per month. Exception -- Shellfish caught in Clarks Cove; eat no more than one meal per week

\*More stringent recommendations for pregnant woman, nursing mothers, children under 12 or woman who may become pregnant can be found on EPA's website at <http://www2.epa.gov/new-bedford-harbor/fish-consumption-regulations-and-recommendations#Recommendations>

### CLOSURE AREA 3\*

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



# OUTREACH CHECKLIST

\*Fill out one of these sheets every time you do outreach, if you go to more than one location, please fill out one sheet for each location

Today's date:

Your Name:

Time/Hours of outreach:

Location (Circle one, or write location/event):

Slocum Street	Sawyer Street	Coffin Ave	Howland Road (near 195 bridge)	Sawyer St/Market Basket	Pope's Island	Gifford Street	
Fort Phoenix	Hurricane Barrier	Homer/Leonard's Wharf	Clara/Butler Street (Davy's Locker)	Ft Rodman	Ft Taber	Clark's Cove - Jones Park, Hazelwood Park, Padanaram St	Ricketson Point

## FISHING FEEDBACK

Was there anyone fishing at this location?

No  Yes

If yes, about how many people were fishing?

Did you speak to anyone?

No  Yes

If yes, about how many people did you speak with?

What languages were did people speak at this location? (Check all that apply)

Portuguese  Spanish  Mayan  Vietnamese  English

Other: If other, do you know what language?

Did you hand out any of the flyers?

No  Yes

If yes, about how many did you hand out?

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Was there anyone fishing at this location?

No  Yes

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What languages were did people speak at this location? (Check all that apply)

Portuguese  Spanish  Mayan  Vietnamese  English

Other: If other, do you know what language?

Did you hand out any of the flyers?

No  Yes

If yes, about how many did you hand out?



# SEAFOOD CONSUMPTION QUESTIONNAIRE

\*This information is anonymous, none of the answers will be associated with your name or any family member/friends you may be fishing or eating fish with. Please answer ONLY based on fish caught and eaten from New Bedford Harbor.

QUESTION	NOTES
Do you fish in the Harbor?	
Where do you usually fish?	
What type of fish do you typically catch?	
Are you eating the fish you catch from the harbor?	
Does anyone else eat the fish that you catch from the harbor?	
If you do eat seafood and/or shellfish from the harbor, how often would you estimate you eat it as a meal? Ex: 1x per week, 1x per month	
How many months a year do you normally fish? Only during the summer months, or year round?	
If you catch a lot of fish, do you freeze it and eat it year round?	
Do you have any concerns about the potential health effects of consuming seafood from the harbor?	

- Do you fish in the harbor?
- Where do you usually fish?
- What type of fish do you typically catch?
- Are you eating the fish you catch from the harbor?
- If you do eat seafood and/or shellfish from the harbor, how often would you estimate you eat it as a meal? Ex: 1x per week, 1x per month
- How many months a year do you normally fish? Only during the summer months, or year round?
- If you catch a lot of fish, do you freeze it and eat it year round?
- Do you have any concerns about the potential health effects of consuming seafood from the harbor?



# Data Results

- Recorded 70 visits to 15 different locations.
  - 40 (57%) visits were inside of the hurricane barrier in Fish Closure Area 1.
  - 30 (43%) visits were outside of the hurricane barrier in Fish Closure Area 2.
- Observed 230 people fishing
- Spoke with 178 individuals
- Distributed 243 EPA fact sheets.



- 73 people answered the question “do you consume the fish you catch?”
  - 62 (85%) reported yes, 11 (15%) reported no.
  - 22 (35%) consuming reported freezing for later
- Data showed a wide variety of fish were being caught in the harbor including: scup, tautog, blue fish, striper, and sea bass.
- ❖ Of the 73 questionnaires completed, not one individual reported collecting or consuming shellfish. The questionnaires were completed by line fishermen, the outreach coordinators did not speak to anyone shell fishing in the area. This data is not conclusive or indicative of whether shellfish is or is not consumed in these areas.

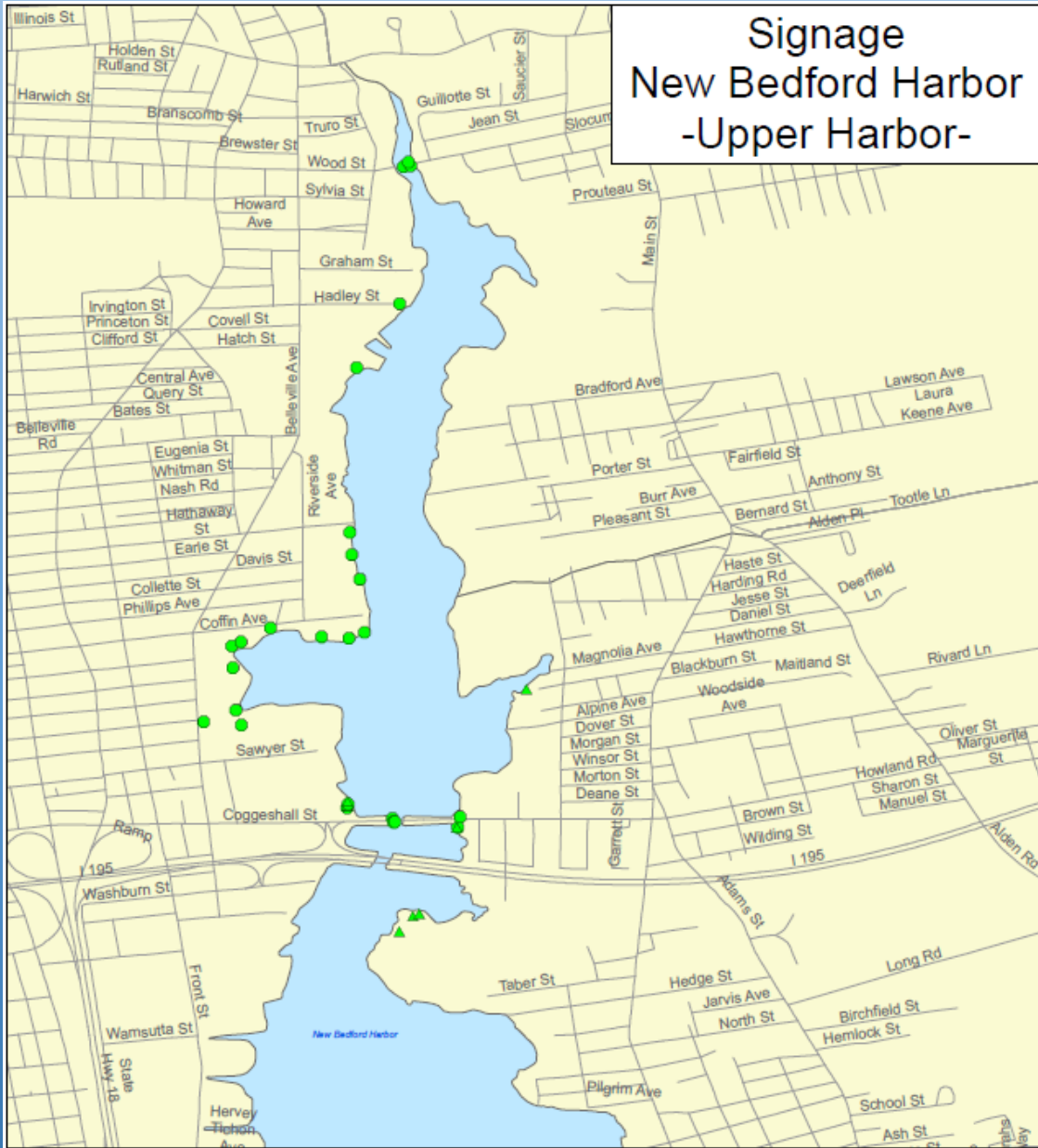


- Of the 59 individuals who responded to the question “How often do you consume the fish you catch?”
  - 1 reported daily
  - 18 reported once a week
  - 21 reported 2-3 times a week
    - 1 response came from individuals fishing inside the hurricane barrier
  - 8 reported once a month
    - 2 responses came from individuals fishing inside the hurricane barrier
  - 8 reported twice a month
    - 3 responses came from individuals fishing inside the hurricane barrier
  - 2 reported bi-monthly
  - 1 reported 3 times annually





## Signage New Bedford Harbor -Upper Harbor-



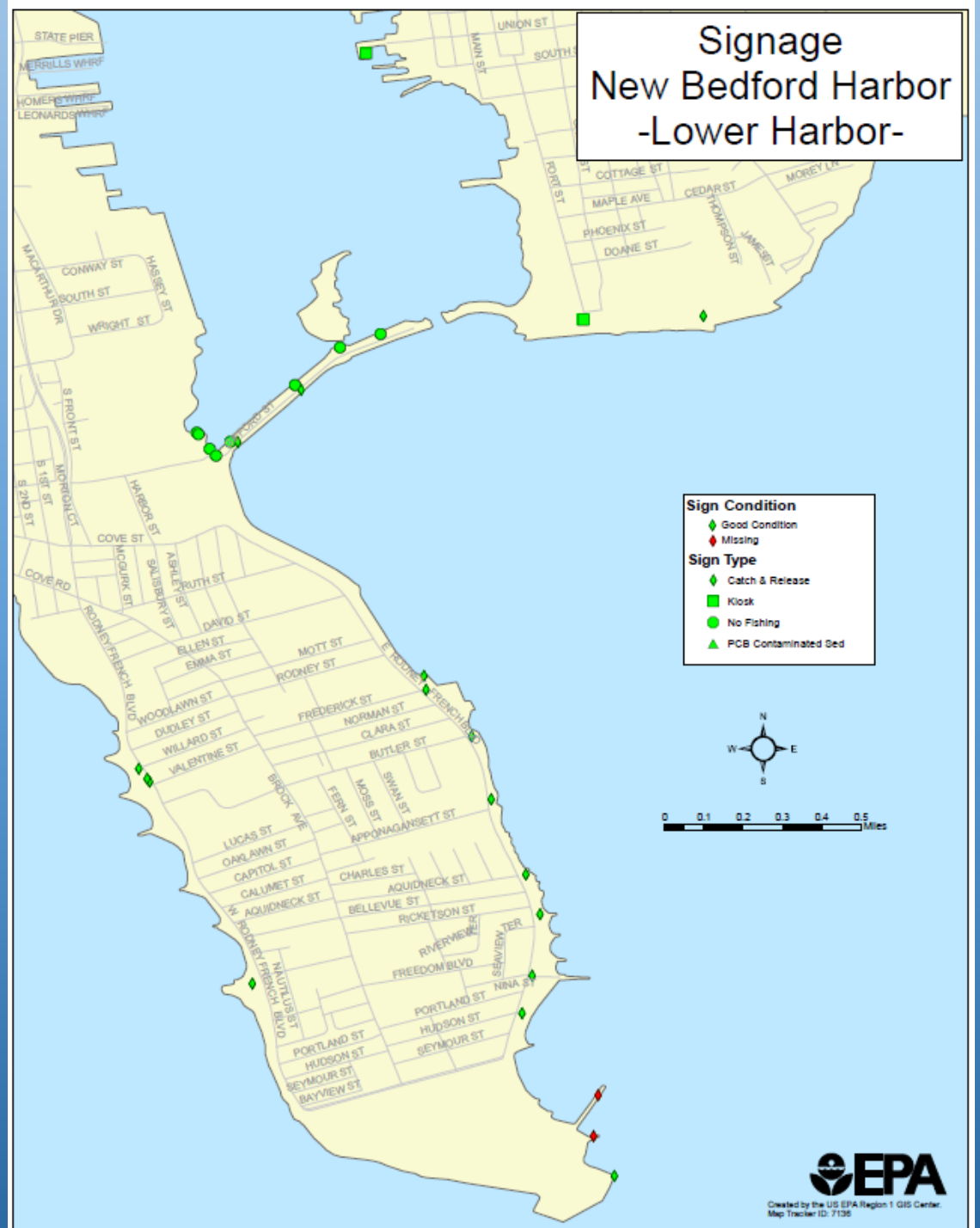
- Sign Condition**
- ◆ Good Condition
  - ◆ Missing
- Sign Type**
- ◆ Catch & Release
  - Kiosk
  - No Fishing
  - ▲ PCB Contaminated Bed

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles



Created by the US EPA Region 1 GIS Center.  
Map Tracker ID: 7136

## Signage New Bedford Harbor -Lower Harbor-



- Sign Condition**
- ◆ Good Condition
  - ◆ Missing
- Sign Type**
- ◆ Catch & Release
  - Kiosk
  - No Fishing
  - ▲ PCB Contaminated Bed



0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles



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