



# TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

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## STATE UPDATES FOR FURTHER COLLECTION OF DECEASED WATERFOWL AT PLYMOUTH'S BILLINGTON SEA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 1/25/2025**

**PLYMOUTH, MA** – The Town of Plymouth remains actively engaged with state officials to address the collection of deceased birds at Billington Sea and is committed to providing the community with timely updates. The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife), in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and other partners, is preparing to conduct another collection and disposal effort.

This follows the operation on Sunday, January 19, 2025, during which approximately 55 deceased birds were removed from Billington Sea. **State officials have advised that the follow-up effort will proceed as soon as conditions allow for safe and effective action.** The removal process is unsafe for state appointed crews to proceed at this time due the presence of thin ice. With warmer temperatures forecasted early next week, it is hoped that a second large-scale collection can be safely conducted as soon as possible.

MassWildlife staff conducted an onsite evaluation at Billington Sea Friday afternoon, January 24, 2025, to assess the number of deceased birds and the environmental conditions. They will return to the site for continued assessment of removal conditions on Monday, January 27, 2025. The Town has been safely removing deceased birds along the shoreline whenever conditions permit.

“We recognize the sensitive and stressful nature of this situation and are maintaining consistent communications with state officials to expedite collection efforts as soon as safely possible,” **states Health and Human Services Commissioner Michelle Bratti.**

Town and state officials continue to advise residents to keep all domestic animals away from any deceased birds and to avoid contact themselves. The Town will continue to collaborate with state officials regarding this matter and will update the public as more information becomes available.

If you discover a deceased animal, either domestic or wild, residents should report to the Town’s Health and Human Services Public Health Division by calling 508-322-3339 and to the Animal Control Office by calling 508-888-1186. To report large-scale wild bird die-offs or other unusual

signs in wild birds, contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) by calling 1-866-4-USDA-WS or 1-866-487-3297.

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