



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
(617) 626-1520 | mass.gov/MarineFisheries



Maura T. Healey
Governor

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Lt. Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Thomas K. O'Shea
Commissioner

Daniel J. McKiernan
Director

December 10, 2025

Town of Eastham Selectboard
Town Hall
Eastham, MA 02642

Town of Orleans Selectboard
Town Hall
Orleans, MA 02653

Ladies & Gentlemen:

Due to a bloom of the phytoplankton *Alexandrium* spp., which is known to produce **Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)** toxin (also known as "Red Tide") in shellfish, the Division of Marine Fisheries is expanding its existing closure of Salt Pond (OC6) in Eastham to include the entire below-defined Nauset Marsh System (OC2 – OC6) to the harvest of all shellfish.

Therefore, under authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, Section 74A and 75, the status of the below-defined areas will be changed to **"Closed to Shellfishing"** except for bay scallop harvest for the adductor muscle only, **effective immediately**. Digging, harvesting, or collecting and/or attempting to dig, harvest or collect shellfish and the possession of shellfish, including carnivorous snails, from the below-defined areas is prohibited.

Under authority of 322 CMR 7.01(7) all permits issued thereunder are hereby conditioned to prohibit the taking, selling or possession of shellfish from the below-defined areas. These areas will remain closed until further notice.

AREAS CLOSED TO THE HARVEST OF ALL SHELLFISH
Except for harvest of bay scallops for adductor muscle only

NAUSET SYSTEM OC2-OC6

OC2 NAUSET HARBOR, EASTHAM/ORLEANS

"The waters, flats and all tributaries of Nauset Harbor in the Towns of Eastham and Orleans, northerly of a line drawn across the mouth of Roberts Cove in the Town of Orleans; southerly of a line drawn across the Middle Channel at the Eastham/Orleans town line; southerly of a line drawn across the southern mouth of the Hemenway River in the Town of Eastham; and easterly of a line drawn across the mouth of Town Cove."

OC3 MILL POND, ORLEANS

“The waters, flats and all tributaries of Mill Pond in the Town of Orleans, southerly of a line drawn across the mouth of Roberts Cove.”

OC4 TOWN COVE, ORLEANS/EASTHAM

“The waters, flats and all tributaries of Town Cove in the Towns of Eastham and Orleans, southwesterly of a line drawn from Snow Point in the Town of Orleans to the western side of the mouth to the Hemenway River at Fort Hill in the Town of Eastham.”

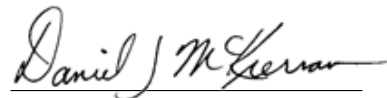
OC5 NAUSET MARSH, EASTHAM

“The waters, flats and all tributaries of Nauset Marsh in the Town of Eastham, northerly of a line drawn across the Middle Channel at the Eastham/Orleans Town Line; westerly of a line drawn across the mouth of Nauset Harbor; northerly of a line drawn across the mouth of the Hemenway River at Fort Hill in the Town of Eastham; and easterly of a line drawn across the entrance of Salt Pond in the Town of Eastham.”

OC6 SALT POND, EASTHAM

“The waters, flats and all tributaries of Salt Pond in the Town of Eastham, westerly of a line drawn across the mouth of Salt Pond River.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Daniel J. McKiernan".

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

Cc: J. Monaghan, J. Chapin, B. Forsythe, C. Baker, MEP
R. Glenn, C. Petitpas, DMF
J. Hobill, DEP
FDA, DPH
N. Sanders, Eastham Shellfish Constable
N. Sears, Orleans Shellfish Constable