



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**Division of Marine Fisheries**  
(617) 626-1520 | [mass.gov/MarineFisheries](http://mass.gov/MarineFisheries)



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**Director**

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December 10, 2025

Town of Orleans Selectboard  
Town Hall  
Orleans, MA 02653

Ladies & Gentlemen:

Due to a bloom of the phytoplankton *Alexandrium* spp. (also known as "Red Tide") which is known to produce **Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning** (PSP) toxin in shellfish, the Division of Marine Fisheries is issuing a precautionary closure of the Namequoit River, Frostfish Cove and Meetinghouse Pond (shellfish growing area **SC63**) in the Town of Orleans to the harvest of all shellfish.

Therefore, under authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130 Section 74A the status of the below-defined area 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 area 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 area. This area will remain closed until further notice.

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

**SC63**

**Namequoit River, Frostfish Cove and Meetinghouse Pond**

"The waters, flats, and all tributaries of the Namequoit River in the Town of Orleans, northwest of a line drawn from Namequoit Point to Old Field Point."

Sincerely,

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. Sears, Orleans Shellfish Constable