



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



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberly Driscoll
Lt. Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Thomas K. O'Shea
Commissioner

Daniel J. McKiernan
Director

December 18, 2025

Town of Eastham Selectboard
Town Hall
Eastham, MA 02642

Town of Orleans Selectboard
Town Hall
Orleans, MA 02653

Ladies & Gentlemen:

The Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that **bivalve shellfish** from areas OC2 through OC6, defined below, **do not contain biotoxins (Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning -PSP)** from the phytoplankton *Alexandrium* (spp.) in excess of established standards.

Therefore, under authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, sections 74A, the precautionary PSP closures for **bivalve shellfish** issued on December 10, 2025, **will be rescinded at sunrise on Friday, December 19, 2025**, in areas OC2 through OC6. Bivalve shellfish in areas currently classified as APPROVED and placed in the "open" status may now be harvested for direct human consumption subject to local rules and regulations under authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 130, section 52. Similarly, those areas classified as CONDITIONALLY APPROVED may be placed in the "open" status subject to Conditional Area Management Plan conditions. All areas, OC2 through OC6, remain closed to the harvesting of **all species of carnivorous snails**.

Status: Open to Bivalve Shellfish Harvesting.

These areas remain closed to the harvesting of all carnivorous snails.

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 Mill Pond 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.

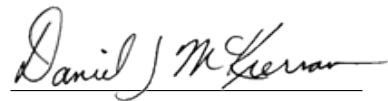
OC5 NAUSET MARSH, EASTHAM

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
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