



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
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Daniel J. McKiernan
Director

December 31, 2025

Town of Orleans Selectboard
Town Hall
Orleans, MA 02653

Ladies & Gentlemen:

The Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that **bivalve shellfish** from growing area SC63, defined below, **do not contain biotoxins associated with Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)** from the phytoplankton *Alexandrium* (spp.) in excess of established standards. All growing areas in the Pleasant Bay System, SC53 through SC64, remain closed to the harvesting of all carnivorous snails.

Therefore, under authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, sections 74A, the precautionary PSP closure for **bivalve shellfish** issued on December 10, 2025, **will be rescinded immediately**, in growing area **SC63 Namequoit River, Frostfish Cove and Meetinghouse Pond in Orleans**. The sub-areas within SC63 will revert to their former status prior to the emergency closure, or in the case of CONDITIONALLY APPROVED areas, acquire the status dictated by its Conditional Area Management Plan. Bivalve shellfish, except wild bay scallops (currently in the closed season), may now be harvested for direct human consumption subject to local rules and regulations under authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 130, section 52.

Status: Open to Bivalve Shellfish Harvesting

This area remains CLOSED to the harvesting of all carnivorous snails.

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
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