



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

March 11, 2026

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