



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

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Lt. Governor

REBECCA L. TEPPER
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THOMAS K. O'SHEA
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

April 25, 2025

Town of Orleans Selectboard
Town Hall
Orleans, MA 02653

Town of Chatham Selectboard
Town Hall
Chatham, MA 02633

Town of Harwich Selectboard
Town Hall
Harwich, MA 02646

Ladies & Gentlemen:

Due to a bloom of the phytoplankton *Alexandrium* spp. (also known as “Red Tide”) and **Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)** toxin in shellfish, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is issuing a biotoxin closure of the Namequoit River shellfish growing area (**SC63**) in the Town of Orleans. Additionally, due to proximity to the SC63 shellfish growing area and a lack of toxicity data in the broader Pleasant Bay system DMF is issuing a precautionary closure to the harvest of all shellfish in SC53 through SC62 and SC64 in the towns of Chatham, Harwich and Orleans.

Therefore, under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130 Section 74A, the status of the below-identified areas will be changed to **"Closed to Shellfishing" 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-identified 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 areas identified below. These areas will remain closed until further notice.

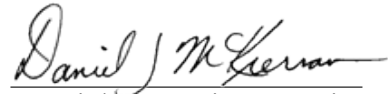
AREAS CLOSED TO THE HARVEST OF ALL SHELLFISH

All of the Pleasant Bay system including shellfish growing areas SC53, SC54, SC55, SC56, SC57, SC58, SC59, SC60, SC61, SC62, SC63 and SC64.

Individual shellfish growing area definition boundaries are mapped on the Division's website at [Shellfish classification areas | Mass.gov](#).

These shellfish growing areas shall remain in the “**Closed to Shellfishing**” status and will not automatically revert to “Open to Shellfishing” but will remain closed until examined by the Division and notification is made that the areas have been placed in the open status.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. McKiernan", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

Cc: C. Mason, C. Baker, MEP
R. Glenn, C. Petitpas, M. Camisa, T. Pugh, DMF
J. Hobill, DEP
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