



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



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*Director*

April 29, 2026

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 precautionary biotoxin closure to the harvest of certain species of bivalve shellfish (**blue mussels, softshell clams and razor clams**) in growing areas SC52 through SC62 in the towns of Chatham, Harwich and Orleans. **The Namequoit River growing area (SC63) remains closed to the harvest of all species of shellfish under a previous biotoxin closure.**

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 for the identified species.** Digging, harvesting, or collecting and/or attempting to dig, harvest or collect these shellfish species and the possession thereof, 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 the identified species of shellfish from the areas identified below. These areas will remain closed until further notice.

**AREAS CLOSED TO THE HARVEST OF BLUE MUSSELS, SOFTSHELL CLAMS AND RAZOR CLAMS**

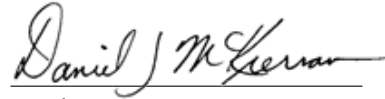
**All of the Chatham Harbor and Pleasant Bay system including shellfish growing areas SC52, SC53, SC54, SC55, SC56, SC57, SC58, SC59, SC60, SC61, and SC62.**

All the shellfish growing areas listed above, including the Namequoit River (SC63), remain closed to the harvest of carnivorous snails.

Individual shellfish growing area definition boundaries are mapped on the Division's website at [Shellfish classification areas | Mass.gov](http://Shellfish%20classification%20areas%20|%20Mass.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 black ink that reads "Daniel J. McKiernan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director  
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

Cc: J. Monaghan, J. Chapin, B. Forsythe, MEP  
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