



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



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Daniel J. McKiernan
Director

May 15, 2026

Town of Chatham Selectboard
Town Hall
Chatham, MA 02633

Ladies & Gentlemen:

The Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that **bivalve shellfish** from the Chatham Harbor (SC52) shellfish growing area, 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 blue mussels, softshell clams, razor clams, and carnivorous snails; with SC63 remaining closed to the harvesting of all bivalve shellfish.

Therefore, under authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, sections 74A, the PSP closure for **bivalve shellfish** issued on April 29, 2026, **will be rescinded effective immediately** in growing area **SC52 Chatham Harbor**. The sub-areas within SC52 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 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.

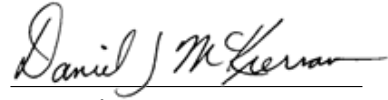
SC52

Chatham Harbor

"The waters, flats, and all tributaries of that portion of Chatham Harbor in the Town of Chatham, south of the Chatham/Orleans town line from the north tip of Strong Island (41.72442°, -69.95110°) to a point east of Nauset Beach at 41.72214°, -69.92500°; north of a line drawn east from the northern tip of North Monomoy Island (41.64400°, -69.97151°) to 41.64400°, -69.92500°; west of a line drawn south from 41.72214°, -69.92500° to 41.64400°, -69.92500°; east of a line drawn from the northern tip of North Monomoy Island to the south end of Morris Island (41.65315°, - 69.96364°); and east of a line drawn from Allen Point (41.70512°, -69.94665°) to the southeast tip of Strong Island (41.71518°, - 69.95145°)."

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

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.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

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