



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)



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Director

May 8, 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:

The Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that **bivalve shellfish** from growing areas in Pleasant Bay, excluding SC63, **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.

The Namequoit River shellfish growing area (SC63), in the Town of Orleans, remains **Closed to Shellfishing** due to biotoxin presence.

Therefore, under authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, sections 74A, the precautionary PSP closure for **bivalve shellfish** issued on April 25, 2025, **will be rescinded at sunrise on Friday, May 9, 2025**, in growing areas **SC53, SC54, SC55, SC56, SC57, SC58, SC59, SC60, SC61, SC62, and SC64** and areas listed will revert to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. Areas classified as "PROHIBITED" shall remain closed to the harvest of shellfish for direct human consumption.

### **Status: Open to Bivalve Shellfish Harvesting**

These areas remain **CLOSED** to the harvesting of all carnivorous snails.

**The Pleasant Bay system including shellfish growing areas SC53, SC54, SC55, SC56, SC57, SC58, SC59, SC60, SC61, and SC62.**

### **AREA CLOSED TO THE HARVEST OF ALL SHELLFISH**

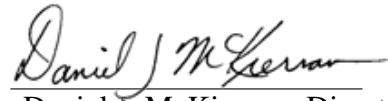
#### **SC63**

#### **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."

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, reading "Daniel J. McKiernan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director  
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

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