



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



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Director

June 5, 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:

The Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that **bivalve shellfish** from the shellfish growing areas SC53-SC63 **no longer contain biotoxins associated with Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)** from the phytoplankton *Alexandrium* (spp.) in excess of established standards.

Therefore, under authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, sections 74A, the PSP closures for **bivalve shellfish** issued on March 11, 2026, and April 29, 2026, **will be rescinded effective at sunrise on June 6, 2026**. These growing areas will revert to their former status prior to the emergency closures, 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

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

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

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).

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
 MA Division of Marine Fisheries

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