



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

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June 7, 2023

Town of Chatham Selectboard
Town Hall
Chatham, MA 02633

Town of Orleans Selectboard
Town Hall
Orleans, MA 02653

Town of Harwich Selectboard
Town Hall
Harwich, MA 02646

Ladies & Gentlemen:

The Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that softshell clams (*Mya arenaria*) from growing areas in Pleasant Bay **SC53 through SC64**, defined below, **no longer contain biotoxins (Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP))** from the phytoplankton *Alexandrium* (spp.) in excess of established standards. Areas in Pleasant Bay (**SC53 through SC64**) will remain **closed to the harvesting of all species of carnivorous snails**.

Therefore, under authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, section 74A, the PSP closures for bivalve shellfish in areas SC53 through SC64 issued on April 14, 2023, **will be rescinded for softshell clams at sunrise on Thursday, June 8, 2023**. All areas SC53 through SC64 **remain closed to the harvesting of all carnivorous snails**. Areas currently classified as APPROVED and in the "open" status may now be harvested for direct human consumption subject to local rules and regulations under authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 130, section 52. Similarly, those areas classified as CONDITIONALLY APPROVED and in the "open" status are subject to the classification conditions.

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, SC63 and SC64.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: P. Moran, C. Baker, OLE
J. Kennedy, DMF
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