



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

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



MAURA T. HEALEY  
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Director

September 3, 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 02645

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has determined that the precautionary closure initially issued on August 18, 2025 due to *Vibrio* sp. illnesses linked to oysters harvested from the Little Pleasant Bay (SC61) shellfish growing area in the town of Orleans, may be **rescinded**. Shellfish growing areas SC52-SC63, placed in the "Closed to Shellfishing" status for oysters only, shall revert to an "**Open to Shellfishing**" status for all bivalve species, subject to Conditional Area Management Plan criteria where applicable.

Under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 130, Section 74A, the areas listed below will revert to their former status prior to the precautionary closure, or in the case of CONDITIONALLY APPROVED areas, acquire the status dictated by its Conditional Area Management Plan criteria, and local rules and regulations under authority of MGL Chapter 130, section 52, **effective at 8:00 am on Wednesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**.

Areas classified as "PROHIBITED" shall remain closed to the harvest of shellfish for direct human consumption.

Under authority of 322 CMR 7.01(7) all permits issued thereunder are hereby conditioned to permit the taking, selling or possession of shellfish from the areas listed below.

**STATUS: OPEN TO THE TAKING OF SHELLFISH**  
**Subject to conditional area management plan criteria where applicable**

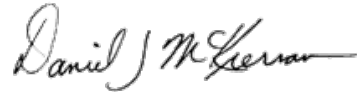
The waters, flats and all tributaries of that portion of Pleasant Bay within the following Shellfish Growing Areas and municipalities: SC52-SC63 in the towns of Chatham, Harwich and Orleans.

DMF advises that town shellfish control authorities continue to verify harvester compliance with the Massachusetts 2025 *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vp) Control Plan and Marine Fisheries regulations pertaining to Vp management for safe harvest and handling of oysters at 322 CMR § 16.07.

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

Please contact Alex Boeri ([alex.boeri@mass.gov](mailto:alex.boeri@mass.gov)) or Christian Petitpas ([Christian.petitpas@mass.gov](mailto:Christian.petitpas@mass.gov)) for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. McKiernan".

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director  
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: J. Monaghan, C. Baker, B. Forsythe, MEP  
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S. Sykes, Harwich Shellfish Constable  
Massachusetts Aquaculture Association