



## TOWN OF ORLEANS

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SELECT BOARD

TOWN  
MANAGER

November 13, 2024

Dear Marine and Fresh Water Sampling and Pilgrim Lake Herring Run Count Volunteers:

The Town of Orleans Select Board is writing, along with the Town Marine and Fresh Water Quality Committee, to thank you for your dedication and commitment to monitoring and sampling our water resources. We are surrounded by beautiful marine estuaries and fresh water lakes and ponds, and your efforts are crucial to protecting these important natural resources.

The Town has been sampling its water resources annually for over twenty years. This allows us to see longer-term resource trends and take action when appropriate. We benefit from the sustained efforts of volunteers like you, including approximately ten (10) Pond and Lakes Stewards (PALS) volunteers who sample Orleans fresh water ponds, over fifty (50) volunteers who sample our estuaries, and fifty-six (56) volunteers who count river herring. We are further assisted by the seventeen (17) samplers who monitor cyanobacteria led by the Orleans Pond Coalition. We estimate that through these combined efforts, the Town saves over \$160,000 per year in avoided costs.

We know you have many options for how you spend your valuable time. Thank you for choosing to invest your time and energy in protecting the marine and fresh water resources that are important part of what makes Orleans a great place to call home.

Sincerely,

Mark Mathison  
Chair, Select Board

Cc: Rich Levy, Chair, Marine and Fresh Water Quality Committee  
George Meservey, Director of Planning and Community Development