

1 June 2018

Reference: Update 19/ 17-18

To all interested parties:

### **Updated Classifications of the Bivalve Mollusc Production Areas in England & Wales for 2017-18**

The Food Standards Agency wishes to notify you of the following update to the classifications of bivalve mollusc production areas:

#### **New classifications**

##### **Porthallow – Porthallow Cove North (*Mytilus* spp.) B34AA**

This site was previously classified in 2010 (class B) but was declassified in 2012 and removed from the classification list in 2013. Commercial interest has since resumed and monitoring towards classification commenced in July 2017. We now have a total of 10 results showing 100% compliance with 230, therefore, this site is now classified as class A with a note 1 (as monitoring does not yet cover one year).

##### **Thames Estuary – East Barrows (*C. edule*) RMP to be confirmed**

There is commercial interest to harvest cockles from this site from the season opening on 18th June. Barrow Deep the neighbouring site is classified for native oysters (class A) and East Barrows is further away from any possible contamination sources. A preliminary classification at class B is awarded, initially based on the monitoring of B16CN Crouch Approaches (cockles).

#### **Downgrades**

##### **Poole Harbour - Rockley (*Mytilus* spp.) B54BR**

A result of 54,000 was recorded from this site on 6 March 18, triggering a possible downgrade for this long-term B site. To qualify for long term B classification, sites must not have returned a result >46,000 in the last 5-year period, therefore, this site is downgraded to an annual class B and loses its long-term status. The rolling 3-year compliance with 4,600 is 87.9%, which is marginal, therefore a note 4 is added and this site will be assessed in the 2018 annual review.

##### **West Mersea - Salcott Channel (*Tapes* spp.) B13AJ**

This bed was classified (class B note 1) in January 2018. From 16 results in total from this site, there have been three results >4,600 (7,000 on 13 December 17, 7,900 on 13 March 18 and 7,900 on 11 April 18). The rolling compliance with 4,600 is now only 81.3% since sampling began in June 2017. No grounds have been found to discount any of the high results. There is insufficient data to assess for a seasonal classification and there is no commercial interest in a class C bed, so this site is downgraded to class C and declassified, with no sampling, note 7.

## Declassifications

### Teign - Gappa bank (*Mytilus* spp.) B27AE

The Local Authority has advised that there is no commercial harvesting and low stocks of mussels at this site. It is therefore declassified with no sampling as Class B, note 7.

### Morecambe Bay – East - Bare Ayre (*Mytilus* spp.) B047P

Sampling at this site is difficult due to low stock levels, this bed has been declassified B-LT note 2 and will continue to be sampled quarterly.

## Seasonal Classifications - updates

### The Wash – Welland and Witham Inner (*Mytilus* spp.) B003M

The class B season for this site finishes at the end of May therefore harvesting reverts to class C from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018.

### Swale – Swale Inner North (*C. gigas*) B076N

The class B season for this bed will commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. Sampling during the transitional period has been within class B limits.

### Poole Harbour – Wareham Channel (*Mytilus* spp. *Tapes* spp. and *C. edule*). B54BS

This bed is a seasonal class B between 1 July – 28/29 February (transitional period 1 May – 30 June). 2 samples have been taken in the transitional period, which are both within class B limits, 1300 on 1 May 2018 and 1700 on 24 May 18 therefore the class B season commences with effect of today's date.

## Marginal Beds

Compliance at the following bed falls within the 85-90% buffer and so it has been is marginal so it is given an explanatory note 4. The classification status for this bed will be assessed at the 2018 annual review.

RMP	RMP Name	Council	Classification Zone	Class	% Compliance with 4600: 1 Year	% Comp 4600: 3 Year	% Comp 4600: 5 Year
B019L	Langstone Channel	Portsmouth PHA	Langstone Channel ( <i>O. edulis</i> & <i>C. gigas</i> )	B	83.3%	87.5%	85.0%

## DESIGNATED BIVALVE MOLLUSC PRODUCTION AREAS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

### New Classifications

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Porthallow	Porthallow Cove North	<i>Mytilus</i> spp.	A	1	Cornwall PHA
Thames Estuary	East Barrows	<i>C. edule</i>	Preliminary B		London PHA

### Downgrades

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Poole Harbour	Rockley	<i>Mytilus</i> spp.	B	4	Poole BC

### Downgrade/Declassification

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
West Mersea	Salcott Channel	<i>Tapes</i> spp.	Declassified C	7	Colchester BC

### Declassifications

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Teign	Gappa Bank	<i>Mytilus</i> spp.	Declassified B	7	Teignbridge DC
Morecambe Bay – East	Bare Ayre	<i>Mytilus</i> spp.	Declassified B-LT	2	Lancaster CC

### Seasonal Classifications to be Updated

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
The Wash	Welland and Witham Inner	<i>Mytilus</i> spp.	Seasonal C	<b>Transition period</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov – 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec <b>Class B season</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 30 <sup>th</sup> May (reverting to class C at all other times)	Boston BC
Swale	Swale Inner North	<i>C. gigas</i>	Seasonal B	<b>Transition period</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> April – 31 <sup>st</sup> May <b>Class B season</b>	Swale BC

				1 <sup>st</sup> June – 30 <sup>th</sup> September (reverting to class C at all other times)	
Poole Harbour	Wareham Channel	<i>C. edule</i> , <i>Tapes spp.</i> & <i>Mytilus spp.</i>	Seasonal B	Transition period 1st May – 30th June Class B season 1st July to 28/29th February (reverting to class C at all other times)	Poole BC

#### Addition of Explanatory Note 4

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Langstone Harbour	Langstone Channel	<i>O. edulis</i> and <i>C. gigas</i>	B	4	Portsmouth PHA

These amendments have been made under Regulation (EC) 854/2004 and take immediate effect.

The classification list will be updated shortly on the FSA website:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/monitoring/shellfish/shellharvestareas>

If you require further information or wish to discuss these amendments further please contact Catherine Miller or Emily Davis on the details below.

Yours sincerely

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