

10 December 2018

Reference: Update 3/ 18-19

To all interested parties:

## **Updated Classifications of the Bivalve Mollusc Production Areas in England & Wales for 2018-19**

The Food Standards Agency wishes to notify you of the following update to the classifications of bivalve mollusc production areas. These amendments have been made under Regulation (EC) 854/2004 and take immediate effect.

### **Downgrades**

#### **Thames Estuary - Barrow Deep (*O. edulis*) B16CO**

A result of 1,300 was recorded at this class A site on 8 October 2018, triggering an action state. The local authority reported that there were some underwater surveys taking but on further investigation an impact on the shellfish results from this activity is considered very unlikely and there have been no other grounds found to waive the result. Current compliances with 230 are 90% (10 samples) over one-year and 93.5% (31 samples) since sampling began in 2016. This most recent result exceeds the upper limit of 700 for class A and as there is no clear seasonal trend evident, this bed is downgraded to class B.

#### **Lyme Bay – Site 1 (*Mytilus* species) B090M**

Following a result of 35,000 recorded on 16 October 2018 (during the class A season for this site) a possible downgrade was issued. Investigations into the high result did not reveal any grounds to waive the result. Whilst class A compliance over the class A season is 90% (10 samples) over the last year and 89.7% (29 samples) over the last three-years, the high result causes concern. A seasonal trend is still evident at this site, so the class A season will be reduced to 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September (with March as the transitional period). Over this period (including the transitional period), compliance with 230 over the last year is 100% (8 samples) and over the last three years it is 90% (20 samples). There have also been no results over 700 during this class A season and transitional period.

### **Declassification**

#### **Fal (Upper) – Malpas and Lambe Creek (*Mytilus* spp.) – B033C**

This site is being declassified and the local authority will carry out quarterly sampling. Therefore, it is declassified (note 2).

### Salcombe – Geese Quarries (*C. gigas*) – B029D

The local authority advise that the harvester is no longer interested in using this bed (currently B-LT note 4) for shellfish production and there will be no stock present in the area to continue with sampling. Therefore, the bed is declassified (notes 4 & 7).

### Ribble – Penfold North (*C. edule*) – B046C

The local authority advise that the bed represented by the RMP (currently class C) will not be opened this year and is not likely to re-open until the later part of 2019. Quarterly sampling will be maintained for the time being. Therefore, the bed is declassified (note 2).

## Update to Classification List

### North Kent Coast – Hampton Pier (*O. edulis*) – B033C

This area has remained classified as class B note 4 (based on Hampton Pier mussel monitoring) following the prohibition of Swalecliffe. Native oysters are being added to the list under Hampton Pier for clarity.

## DESIGNATED BIVALVE MOLLUSC PRODUCTION AREAS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

### Downgrade

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Thames Estuary	Barrow Deep	<i>O. edulis</i>	B		London PHA
Lyme Bay	Site 1	<i>Mytilus spp.</i>	Seasonal A	<b>Transition period</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> March – 31 <sup>st</sup> March <b>Class A season</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> April - 30 <sup>th</sup> September (reverting to class B at all other times)	Torbay BC

### Declassification

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Fal (Upper)	Malpas and Lambe Creek	<i>Mytilus spp.</i>	Declassified C	Note 2	Cornwall PHA
Salcombe	Geese Quarries	<i>C. gigas</i>	Declassified B – LT	Notes 4 & 7	South Hams DC
Ribble	Penfold North	<i>C. edule</i>	Declassified C	Note 2	West Lancs DC

## Update to List

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
North Kent Coast	Hampton Pier	<i>O. edulis</i>	B	4	Canterbury CC

The classification list will be updated on the FSA website:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/shellfish-classification>

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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