

13 June 2019

Reference: Update 10 / 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 for the classification year July 2018 to June 2019:

Preliminary Classification

Thames Estuary – West Barrows (Zone 9) and Barrows (Zone 12) (*C. edule*)

The Local Authority has requested that these two areas be classified for cockles as they will be open to harvesting in mid-June by IFCA due to replenished stocks. These areas are immediately adjacent to Barrow Deep which is classified for native oysters (class B).

The preliminary classification is based on monitoring at the three Maplin Sands cockle beds: B16CN Crouch Approaches, B16CM East of Havengore Creek and B16CL East of Shoebury Buoy (all class A) and based on evidence of monitoring at Barrow Deep and the sanitary survey assessment of pollution sources. West Barrows and Barrows are given preliminary B classification. Ongoing monitoring points will be assigned following a new pRMP assessment.

Adjustment of Classification Zone Boundaries

Thames Estuary – Maplin East, Maplin Central, Maplin West, Phoenix, Southend Flats (*C. edule*)

The seaward boundaries on the classification zone maps for the beds listed above have been extended slightly to match up with the Kent and Essex IFCA management zones to aid enforcement. There are no known additional pollution sources (i.e. additional to those already taken into account under the sanitary survey in defining the existing boundaries) that will affect the area to be added to the classification zones. Once updated, the revised map can be found on Cefas' website on this [link](#).

Reclassifications

Bigbury and Avon – East Bank (*C. gigas*) B030K

This bed is currently listed as declassified C note 7. The Local Authority has advised that commercial interest has resumed, and they have recommenced sampling. The Local Authority have collected ten samples from the RMP (B030K, East Bank North – *C. gigas*) since August 2018, showing 100% compliance with Class C (50% compliance with the class B threshold (4,600)). Therefore, the site is reclassified at the previous class C level, with a note 1, denoting a preliminary classification.

Bigbury and Avon – West Bank (*C. gigas*) B030I

This bed is currently listed as declassified C note 7. The Local Authority has advised that commercial interest has resumed, and they have recommenced sampling. The Local Authority have collected ten samples from the RMP (B030I, West Bank North – *C. gigas*) since August 2018, showing 100% compliance with Class C (70% compliance with the class B threshold (4,600)). Therefore, the site is reclassified at the previous class C level, with a note 1, denoting a preliminary classification.

DESIGNATED BIVALVE MOLLUSC PRODUCTION AREAS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Preliminary Classifications

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Thames Estuary	West Barrows	<i>C. edule</i>	B	Preliminary	London PHA
Thames Estuary	Barrows	<i>C. edule</i>	B	Preliminary	London PHA

Reclassifications

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Bigbury & Avon	East Bank	<i>C. gigas</i>	C	1	South Hams DC
Bigbury & Avon	West Bank	<i>C. gigas</i>	C	1	South Hams DC

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 David Cracknell on the details below.

Yours sincerely



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