

28 May 2020

Reference: Update 10/ 19-20

To all interested parties:

Updated Classifications of the Bivalve Mollusc Production Areas in England & Wales for 2019-20

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) 2019/627 of 15 March 2019 and take immediate effect.

Upgrade

Blackwater – St Peters and Batchelor (*C. gigas* and *O. edulis*) B014A

Monitoring results from this class B-LT site now complies with the criteria for A classification. It is 100% compliant with 230 *E. coli*/100g in the last year (12 samples) and is 100.0% compliant over the last three years (36 samples) with no results >700 *E. coli*/100g. This site is upgraded to class A with immediate effect.

New Classifications

Colne – Main Channel Central (*Tapes spp.*) B12AQ

Following an application to add Manila clams to the current classification at Main Channel Central, sampling commenced at Brightlingsea Outfall in December 2018. 15 samples from this RMP are all compliant with 4,600 *E. coli*/100g therefore it is classified as class B.

Roach – Inner Roach (*Tapes spp.*) B73AG

Following an application to add Manila clams (*Tapes spp.*) to the current classification at Inner Roach, sampling commenced at Barton Hall in August 2019. There are now 12 samples from this RMP; there have been four results over 4,600 *E. coli*/100g (4,900 *E. coli*/100g on 27 August 2019, 7,000 *E. coli*/100g on 25 September 2019, 35,000 *E. coli*/100g on 9 January 2020 and 4,900 *E. coli*/100g on 9 March 2020) so compliance falls below the minimum 90% requirement for class B. Therefore, Manila Clams in this area are designated class C. This bivalve species returns higher *E.coli* results than the other bivalve species in the area which could indicate differing uptake/clearing of microbial contamination.

Roach – Barlinghall Creek (*Tapes spp.*) B73AH

Following an application to add Manila clams (*Tapes spp.*) to the current classification at Barlinghall Creek, sampling commenced at Barling Hall in August 2019. There are now 12 samples from this RMP; there have been two results over 4,600 *E. coli*/100g (11,000 *E. coli*/100g on 9 January 2020 and 11,000 *E. coli*/100g on 9 March 2020) so compliance falls below the minimum 90% requirement for class B. Therefore, Manila Clams are classified as class C. This bivalve species returns higher *E.coli* results than the other bivalve species in the area which could indicate differing uptake/clearing of microbial contamination.

Preliminary Classification

Thames Estuary – East Cant, Middle and Red Sand – TECFO Area 11 (*C. edule*) B16CT

Following the application and sanitary survey assessment, a preliminary classification at C is designated for this area. This is based on monitoring cockles (*C.edule*) from the existing Pollard RMP and mussels (*Mytillus spp.*) from Sheppey Barton which are both classified long-term B and is subject to review of ongoing monitoring.

Amendment to Classification List

Thames Estuary – North Sheppey (*Mytilus* spp.) B016R

This bed is listed under the Swale production area as it was assessed as part of the Swale Sanitary survey. However, this monitoring point is located within the Thames Estuary production area, therefore the listing has been revised.

Adjustment of Classification Zone

Thames Estuary – West Cant and Scrapsgate – TECFO Area 13 (modified) (*C. edule*) B16CU

Following the application and sanitary survey assessment for this area, it is recommended that the current area classified for cockles (listed as North Sheppey) is extended seaward based on existing mussel monitoring at Sheppey Barton Point (currently B-LT). As there is currently no monitoring covering the mouth of the Medway, this area cannot be included in the classified zone at this time. However, the classified zone can be extended to include this area once data becomes available from a new RMP at Medway Mouth.

The name 'North Sheppey' for cockles can be removed from the list as this area is covered by the new zone.

Possible downgrade – marginal compliance

Liverpool Bay – Leasowe and New Brighton (*C. edule*) B058R

This class B-LT site (represented by monitoring at Harrison Drive East) has had three results above 4,600 *E. coli*/100g in the last year (4,900 *E. coli*/100g on 19 June 2019, 4,900 *E. coli*/100g on 30 September 2019 and 11,000 *E. coli*/100g on 6 April 2020). It is 72.7% compliant with 4,600 *E. coli*/100g in the last year (11 samples) and 86.7% compliant over the last three years (45 samples) with no results >46,000 *E. coli*/100g.

No exceptional rainfall or pollution incidents have been reported in the 48 hours leading up to the high results. However, in relation to the high result on 19 June 2019, the Environment agency reported some very exceptional rainfall six days before sampling which is being reviewed.

An explanatory note 4 is added to the classification listing indicating this site has marginal compliance and could be downgraded following another high result.

DESIGNATED BIVALVE MOLLUSC PRODUCTION AREAS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Upgrade

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Blackwater	St Peters and Batchelor	<i>O. edulis</i> and <i>C. gigas</i>	A		Maldon DC

New Classifications

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Colne	Main Channel Central	<i>Tapes</i> spp.	B		Colchester BC
Roach	Inner Roach	<i>Tapes</i> spp.	C	1	London PHA
Roach	Barlinghall Creek	<i>Tapes</i> spp.	C	1	London PHA

Preliminary Classification

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Thames Estuary	East Cant, Middle and Red Sand – TECFO Area 11	<i>C. edule</i>	C	Preliminary	London PHA

Amendment to Classification List

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Thames Estuary	North Sheppey	<i>Mytilus</i> spp.	B-LT	Moved from Swale listing	London PHA

Adjustment of Classified Zone

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Thames Estuary	West Cant and Scrapsgate – TECFO Area 13 (modified)	<i>C. edule</i>	B-LT	Add name to listing – remove 'North Sheppey'	London PHA

Possible downgrade – marginal compliance

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Liverpool Bay	Leasowe and New Brighton	<i>C. edule</i>	B-LT	4	Mersey PHA

The classification list will be updated on the FSA website in due course:

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

If you require further information or wish to discuss these amendments further, please contact the Shellfish Hygiene Delivery team on the details below.

Yours sincerely



Catherine Miller
Shellfish Hygiene Delivery
Food Standards Agency

Email: shellfish@food.gov.uk