

3 June 2019

Reference: Update 9 / 18-19

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:

Possible Upgrades

Thames Estuary - Maplin Central (*C. edule*) B16CM

This B-LT site is represented by monitoring at East of Havengore Creek. This site has been 92.3% compliant with 230 in the last year (13 samples) and 97.1% compliant over the last three years (34 samples) with no results >700 during the 3 years. The monitoring data meets with class A criteria, so therefore this site is upgraded to class A.

Thames Estuary - Maplin East (*C. edule*) B16CN

This B-LT site is represented by monitoring at Crouch Approach. This site is 92.3% compliant with 230 in the last year (13 samples) and 97.1% compliant over the last three years (34 samples) with no results >700 over the last three years. The monitoring data meets with class A criteria, so therefore this site is upgraded to class A.

Thames Estuary - Maplin West (*C. edule*) B16CL

This B-LT site is represented by monitoring at East of Shoebury Buoy. This site has been 100% compliant with 230 in the last year (13 samples) and 97.1% compliant over the last three years (34 samples) with no results >700 in three years.

The Environment Agency reported various discharge improvements in the Southend area, which, although some distance to the west of this area, may have influenced results from this site, such as ongoing improvements in AMP5 and AMP6 due to shellfish water improvement drivers, mainly misconnection work, increased storage overflow improvements to four storm overflows east of Southend Pier and misconnection work by Anglian Water in Leigh foreshore area. The monitoring data meets with class A criteria, so therefore this site is upgraded to class A.

Roach – Paglesham Pool (*C. gigas*) B73AC

This B-LT site has been 81.8% compliant with 230 in the last year (11 samples). It is also 91.4% compliant over the last three years (35 samples) with no results >700. The monitoring data meets with class A criteria, so therefore this site is upgraded to class A.

Reclassification

Blakeney – Simpool Head (*Mytilus* spp.) B006S

This site was declassified (Class C) in January 2016, monitoring ceased in July 2016 and recommenced in August 2018. In mid-2018, a report was produced in partnership with Cefas, the Environment Agency and Norfolk Rivers Trust that highlights several areas that the Environment Agency will be focusing on to improve water quality in the production area which should have a positive effect on contamination levels. The monitoring over the next couple of years will provide a useful marker on how these improvements take effect.

Monitoring since August 2018, 19 samples, indicates compliance with class B, 89.5% and no results >46,000. This site will be reviewed once any significant discharge improvements have been completed and a larger dataset is available. This site is reclassified as class C.

Colne – Pyefleet Channel (*C. edule*) B12AM

This bed is currently listed as declassified C note 2. We have been advised by the local authority that there are now sufficient cockle stocks for this bed to be commercially viable to harvest. Quarterly sampling has been maintained (mussels are sampled to represent cockles here) and we have four results over the last year which are all within class C limits. This bed is reclassified at class C note 1. Monthly sampling will be resumed in June.

Colne – Geedon Creek (*C. edule*) B12AO

This bed is currently listed as declassified C note 2. We have been advised by the local authority that there are now sufficient cockle stocks for this bed to be commercially viable to harvest. Quarterly sampling has been maintained and we have four results over the last year which are all within class C limits. This bed is reclassified at class C note 1. Monthly sampling will be resumed in June.

Seasonal Classifications to be Updated

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

The class B season is due to end on 31st May and this bed will revert to class C at that point. The classification listing is amended to reflect this.

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

This bed is a seasonal class B between 1 June – 31 January (transitional period 1 April – 31 May). The Local Authority has taken 2 samples in the transitional period, which are both within class B limits. 110 on 2 April 2019 and 45 on 16 May 2019. In accordance with the protocol the class B season can now commence with immediate effect.

Poole Harbour – Rockley (*Mytilus* spp. *Tapes* spp. and *C. edule*). B54BR

This bed is a seasonal class B between 1 June – 31 January (transitional period 1 April – 31 May). The Local Authority has taken 2 samples in the transitional period, which are both within class B limits. 130 on 2 April 2019 and 930 on 16 May 2019. In accordance with the protocol the class B season can now commence with immediate effect.

DESIGNATED BIVALVE MOLLUSC PRODUCTION AREAS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Upgrades

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Thames Estuary	Maplin Central	<i>C. edule</i>	A		London PHA
Thames Estuary	Maplin East	<i>C. edule</i>	A		London PHA
Thames Estuary	Maplin West	<i>C. edule</i>	A		London PHA
Roach	Paglesham Pool	<i>C. gigas</i>	A		London PHA

Reclassification

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Blakeney	Simpool Head	<i>Mytilus</i> spp.	C		North Norfolk DC
Colne	Geedon Creek	<i>C. edule</i>	C	Note 1	Colchester Borough Council
Colne	Pyefleet Channel	<i>C. edule</i>	C	Note 1	Colchester Borough Council

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	Transition period 1 st November – 31 st December Class B season 1 st January – 31 st May (reverting to class C at all other times)	Boston BC
Poole Harbour	Rockley	<i>C. edule</i> , <i>Tapes</i> spp. and <i>Mytilus</i> spp.	Seasonal B	Transition period 1 st April – 31 st May Class B season 1 st June – 31 st January (reverting to class C at all other times)	Poole BC
Poole Harbour	Sites 1 & 2	<i>C. edule</i> , <i>Tapes</i> spp. and <i>Mytilus</i> spp.	Seasonal B	Transition period 1 st April – 31 st May Class B season 1 st June – 31 st January (reverting to class C at all other times)	Poole BC

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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