

5 April 2018

Reference: Update 18/ 17-18

To all interested parties:

Updated Classifications of the Bivalve Mollusc Production Areas in England and Wales for 2017-18

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

Upgrades

Blackwater – Outer Blackwater (*C. gigas* and *O. edulis*) B014X

This class B-LT site now meets the criteria for upgrade to class A. The rolling one-year compliance with 230 is 100% (12 samples) and the three-year compliance is 94.1% (34 samples), with no results above 700.

Crouch – Easter reach (*M. mercenaria*) B015W

This class B-LT bed now meets with criteria for upgrade to class A. The rolling one-year compliance with 230 is 100% (10 samples) and the three-year compliance is 97.1% (34 samples), with no results above 700.

Thames – Southend Flats (*Mytilus* spp.) B16AX

Over the rolling review year, the RMP for this class C site has recorded 100% compliance with the class B threshold (4,600) from 12 samples. Over the last three years, it has recorded 91.2% (34 samples) compliance with the class B threshold. There were three failures in the last three years: 4,900 on 5 August 2015, 7,900 on 11 April 2016 and 35,000 on 13 June 2016. Given the good one and three-year compliance figures this site is upgraded to year-round class B. The Environment Agency advises that there have been ongoing improvements in Southend due to both shellfish and bathing water improvement drivers.

Declassification

Langstone Harbour – Sinah Lake (*O. edulis* and *C. gigas*) B019M

The LA has advised that this class B bed is within an area which has been closed by the Southern IFCA for conservation purposes. A note 7 is being added, to denote that no sampling is taking place.

Seasonal Classifications to be Updated

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

This bed is currently within its class C season (the class B season ended on 30th September).

Poole – Wareham Channel (*Mytilus* spp.) B54BS

The class B season for this bed ended on 28th February so this site now reverts to class C.

Lyme Bay – Sites 1 and 2 (*Mytilus* spp.) B090M and B090P

The class A season for these beds is due to start on 1st April.

Taw/Torridge – Power Station (*Mytilus* spp.) B36AA

The class B season for this bed is due to start on 1st April.

Revision of Prohibited Area

Fal (Upper) – East Bank Mussels (*Mytilus* spp.) B33BQ & B33BR

Turnaware Point Relay Area (upper zone) was designated as prohibited in September 2015, following high results from the Turnaware Point RMP. In March 2017, an RMP assessment was carried out following interest in harvesting mussels from the southern end of the prohibited area. The RMP assessment recommended that parallel sampling be carried out from two RMPs (East Bank North and East Bank South). There are now 12 samples from both RMPs, all showing 100% compliance with 4,600. Based on the results from both RMPs, it is now appropriate to reduce the extent of the prohibited zone, and to classify the area covered by the new RMPs as class B (‘East Bank Mussels’ production area). The results from East Bank North are slightly higher so this RMP should be used for ongoing monitoring.

Explanatory Note 4 to be Added to Marginal Bed

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

RMP	RMP Name	Council	Classification Zone	Class	% Compliance with 4600: 1 Year	% Compliance with 4600: 3 Year	% Compliance with 4600: 5 Year
B035B	Gentle Jane	Cornwall PHA	Gentle Jane (<i>Mytilus</i> spp.)	B	75.0%	87.5%	87.5%

DESIGNATED BIVALVE MOLLUSC PRODUCTION AREAS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Upgrades

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Blackwater	Outer Blackwater	<i>C. gigas</i> & <i>O. edulis</i>	A		Maldon DC
Crouch	Easter Reach	<i>M. mercenaria</i>	A		Maldon DC
Thames	Southend Flats	<i>Mytilus</i> spp.	B		London PHA

Declassifications

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Langstone Harbour	Sinah Lake	<i>C. gigas</i> & <i>O. edulis</i>	Declassified B	7	Portsmouth PHA

Seasonal Classifications to be Updated

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Swale	Swale Inner North	<i>C. gigas</i>	Seasonal B	Transition period 1 st April – 30 th May Class B season 1 st June – 30 th September (reverting to class C at all other times)	Boston BC
Poole Harbour	Wareham Channel	<i>C. edule</i> , <i>Tapes</i> spp. & <i>Mytilus</i> spp.	Seasonal C	Transition period 1 st May – 30 th June Class B season 1 st July to 28/29 th February (reverting to class C at all other times)	Poole BC
Lyme Bay	Site 1	<i>Mytilus</i> spp.	Seasonal A	Transition period 1 st March – 31 st March Class A season 1 st April - 31 st December (reverting to class B at all other times)	Torbay BC
Lyme Bay	Site 2	<i>Mytilus</i> spp.	Seasonal A	Transition period 1 st March – 31 st March Class A season 1 st April - 31 st December (reverting to class B at all other times)	Torbay BC
Taw/Torridge	Power Station	<i>Mytilus</i> spp.	Seasonal B	Transition period 1 st Feb – 31 st March Class B season 1 st April – 30 th June (reverting to class C at all other times)	North Devon DC

Revision of Prohibited Area

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Fal (Upper)	East Bank mussels	<i>Mytilus</i> spp.	B		Cornwall PHA

Addition of Explanatory Note 4

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Camel	Gentle Jane	<i>Mytilus</i> spp.	B	4	Cornwall PHA

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

The classification list will be updated 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

Shellfish team,
Regulatory Delivery Division,
Food Standards Agency,
Aviation House,
125 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NH,
Tel: 0207 276 8454 / 07771 345180, Email:
shellfishharvesting@food.gov.uk

