

5 November 2019

Reference: Update 4/ 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) 854/2004 and take immediate effect.

Southampton Water – Netley (*Tapes* spp.) B021U

This area was designated as Prohibited in 2011 on the basis of intermittent high *E. coli* results in shellfish flesh. However, there have been several major discharge improvements in the shellfish waters catchment area in recent years so monitoring was recommenced following a sanitary survey assessment to establish the most appropriate RMP sampling location.

The discharge improvements were summarised by the Environment Agency as follows:

- **June 2014 – Bursledon WWTW transferred to Peel Common WWTW**
- **March 2015 – Slowhill Copse WWTW - upgraded for nitrogen removal** (shown to reduce faecal bacteria levels by about 1 order of magnitude more than standard secondary treatment).
- **March 2015 – Millbrook WWTW – upgraded for nitrogen removal** (shown to reduce faecal bacteria levels by about 1 order of magnitude more than standard secondary treatment).
- **June 2018 - Woolston WWTW upgraded for tertiary treatment (MBR)** and treating higher flows.

To upgrade from prohibited to class C at least 16 samples with no results >46,000 *E. coli*/100g is required. There have been 16 results from this bed since March 2019 and results are 100% compliant with < or = 46,000 *E. coli*/100g and no results >46,000 *E. coli*/100g. Therefore, this site is upgraded to class C with a note 1, (to reflect that only a partial year of sampling has taken place).

Southampton Water – Weston Shelf (*Tapes* spp.) B21AE

As above, this area was designated as Prohibited in 2011 on the basis of intermittent high *E. coli* results in shellfish flesh. However, there have been a number of discharge improvements in the area in recent years so monitoring was recommenced following a sanitary survey assessment to establish the most appropriate RMP location. There have been 16 results from this bed since March 2019 and results are 100% compliant with < or = 46,000 *E. coli*/100g and no results >46,000 *E. coli*/100g. Therefore, this site is upgraded to class C with a note 1, (to reflect that only a partial year of sampling has taken place).

Reclassification

Taw/Torridge – Westleigh (*C. gigas*) B36AE

This bed was declassified B-LT note 7 in the annual review because the bed was not in active production. Commercial interest has resumed, and the Local Authority has recommenced monthly sampling with a view to the bed being reclassified. Prior to this it was last sampled in August 2019, therefore there is only one month when it hasn't been sampled. It remains fully compliant with B-LT criteria and is reclassified B-LT.

DESIGNATED BIVALVE MOLLUSC PRODUCTION AREAS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Upgrades

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Southampton Water	Netley	<i>Tapes</i> spp	C	Note 1	Southampton PHA
Southampton Water	Weston Shelf	<i>Tapes</i> spp	C	Note 1	Southampton PHA

Reclassification

Production Area	Bed Name	Species	Class	Comment	Food Authority
Taw/Torridge	Westleigh	<i>C. gigas</i>	B-LT	--	North Devon DC

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 Delivery team on the details below.

Yours sincerely

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