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

**Upgrades**

**Lune** - Pilling Sands (C. edule) B066W
This zone was downgraded from class B to class C in July 2018 following 3 poor results between July and September 2017 and a further poor result in June 2018. Monitoring at the RMP has been intermittent due to extended periods of closures and poor stocks of cockles. Monitoring has been continuous since June 2017. The current 1 and 3 year compliance figures stand at 95.2% (21 samples and 1 failure) and 89.2% (37 samples and 4 failures) respectively and therefore the site not currently meet the current criteria for a year-round upgrade.

All the high results recorded thus far have occurred between June and September and there is a clear seasonal trend in the dataset. A transition period of 1st October to 30th of November and a season from 1st December to 31st May yields 100% compliance over 1 and 3 years. Therefore, this site is upgraded to a seasonal class B. All recent results have been within class B limits therefore the bed may commence its class B season immediately.

**Liverpool Bay** – Leasowe and New Brighton (C. edule) B058R
This zone was reclassified as class C in September 2017. It had been temporarily declassified due to poor stock levels, leading to a reduced classification dataset. The local authority has undertaken fortnightly sampling since May 2018 to increase the dataset. The 1 year compliance currently stands at 94.7% (19 samples) and 3 year compliance is 90% (30 samples). Therefore, the site now meets the criteria for upgrade to year-round class B.

**DESIGNATED BIVALVE MOLLUSC PRODUCTION AREAS IN ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Upgrades**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Production Area</th>
<th>Bed Name</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Food Authority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lune</td>
<td>Pilling Sands</td>
<td>C. edule</td>
<td>Seasonal</td>
<td>Transition period</td>
<td>Wyre BC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>1st October –30th November</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Class B season</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>1st December - 31st May</td>
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<td>(reverting to class C all other times)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liverpool Bay</td>
<td>Leasowe and New Brighton</td>
<td>C. edule</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Mersey PHA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The classification list will be updated on the FSA website: https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/shellfish-classification

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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