

Removal of Class B-Long Term Designation When Classifying Live Bivalve Mollusc (Shellfish) Harvesting Areas in England and Wales

Applicable to England, Northern Ireland and Wales

This provides notification of the removal of the use of Class B-Long Term classification designation in production and relaying areas in England and Wales from 1 October 2026.

What is changing?

The monitoring dataset used to classify Class B-Long Term production and relaying areas is being standardised and will align with existing requirements for all other classifications (Class A, Class B [non-long-term] and Class C). This change aligns with recommendations from the EU audit of live bivalve mollusc controls in the UK (GB).

From 1 October 2026, all production and relaying areas will be assessed using a 3-year dataset. The Classification Protocol will be updated in line with this change.

This means from this date, the 'B-Long Term' designation will no longer be applied and this will be reflected in the Annual Classification Review published

in December 2026.

We request local authorities share this notification with their Local Action Group to ensure stakeholders are aware of the change.

Contact the FSA

- England: shellfish@food.gov.uk
- Wales: shellfish.wales@food.gov.uk
- Northern Ireland: executive.support@food.gov.uk

Visit the [Contact the FSA](#) page for information on how to submit a general enquiry or report a technical issue with FSA LINK.

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