



Classification of a live bivalve mollusc production or relaying area: application form

This form should be used to apply for a new live bivalve mollusc (LBM) production or relaying area or for amendments to an area already classified, i.e. zone boundary or monitoring point adjustment or new species. Sanitary surveys are required for all new production areas prior to the FSA designating a provisional classification, this is a legal requirement under retained EU law Regulation (EU) 2019/627.

Please note commercial harvesting of LBMs prior to classification is an offence.

For further information on shellfish classification please contact shellfish@food.gov.uk (England) or shellfish.wales@food.gov.uk (Wales).

Please note that the classification of a LBM harvesting area does not confer the right to harvest. Permissions may also be required from other bodies (e.g. Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCA), Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, Crown Estate, landowner). It is the responsibility of the applicant (harvester) to obtain these. You can find [further information about appropriate harvesting licences](#) on the *Seafish* website.

This form should be completed electronically by the applicant (harvester) in liaison with the relevant Food Authority and submitted by the Food Authority. Please refrain from completing by hand. Hard copies will not be accepted.

Submit to shellfish@food.gov.uk for England and shellfish.wales@food.gov.uk for Wales.

Incomplete or incorrectly completed forms may be rejected until the information necessary to progress has been provided. **Please ensure you submit all relevant information for the area.**

Application process

Harvester and Food Authority

1. Preliminary requirements before application - engage with your Food Authority, consider effective site selection and permissions from other regulatory agencies. Provide all requested information.



FSA

2. Receives application and map from the Food Authority - subject to FSA review



Contractor

3. Undertakes sanitary survey assessment if required which determines sampling plan



FSA

4. Agrees sampling plan with the Food Authority



FSA

5. Confirms sampling plan for coordination of sampling programme



Food Authority

6. Initial sampling towards provisional classification



FSA

7. Awards a provisional classification based on monitoring results. The classification is added to the published [FSA classification list](#) - commercial harvesting is permitted

Food Authority’s details

Name of EHO/Officer supporting application	
Local Authority	
Address and postcode	
Telephone No	
Email address	

By submitting the application, the Food Authority, is acknowledging the work and cost needed to achieve this, in particular, implementation of the sampling plan and is supportive of the harvester’s application.

This will involve:

- Food Authority official control sampling for microbiological, chemical contaminant, biotoxin and phytoplankton monitoring
- review and implementation of the recommended sampling plan
- review of draft sanitary survey report during consultation
- assistance during a shoreline survey if required

Details of site location

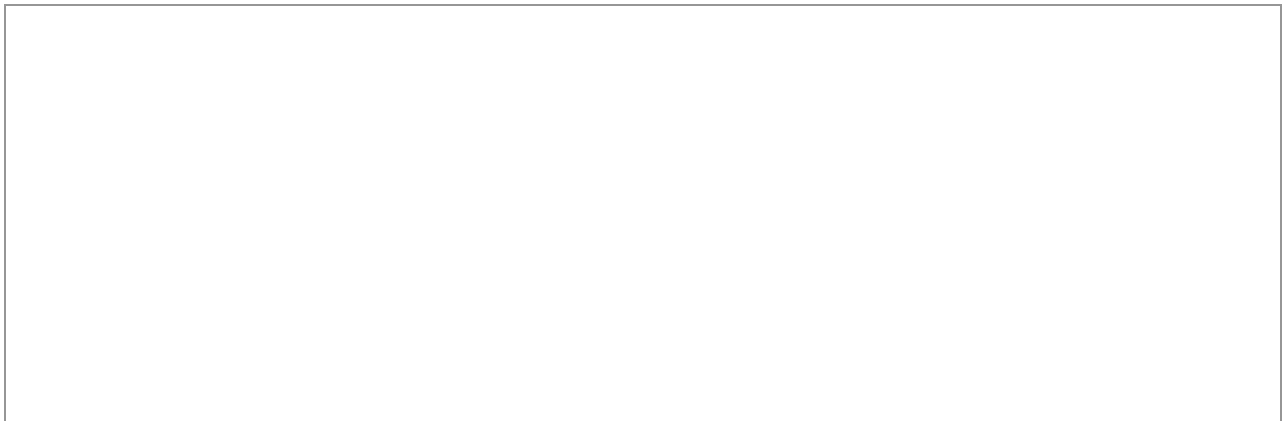
What is this site to be used as? (Please delete as appropriate)

- Production area? YES / NO
- Relay area? YES / NO

Where the site is to be used for relay; buoys, poles or other fixed means must clearly identify the boundaries of the sites. **Please confirm the method of identifying the boundary:**

Please include a map with the application to visually show the area where classification is being requested. Provide the coordinates of the corner points of the area, in either:

- Latitude, longitude e.g. 51.50204, -0.17751
- National grid reference e.g. TQ 26507960



Details of proposed operation and Official Control monitoring

Shellfish species	YES / NO	Wild / Farmed	Method of Growth	Harvesting Method	Harvesting Months Incl. regular periods of no harvesting e.g. spawning/IFCA Byelaw
Mussel (<i>Mytilus spp.</i>)					
Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>)					
Pacific oyster (<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>)					
Hard shell clam (<i>Mercenaria mercenaria</i>)					
Thick trough shell (<i>Spisula solida</i>)					
Manila clam (<i>Tapes philippinarum</i>)					
Native clam or Palourde (<i>Tapes decussatus</i>)					
Cockle (<i>Cerastoderma edule</i>)					
Razor clam (<i>Ensis spp.</i>)					
Other: [Please specify]					

Detail of production timescale (refer to page 1 for the timescale of application process):

Details of any existing classified sites in the proximity of the proposed area (name of bed(s), RMP ID and species):

Detail if shellfish stock for the species in this application is likely to attain the statutory minimum landing and sampling/analysis size before the date by which classification is required:

Further information on statutory minimum size can be obtained from Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities (IFCAs), Environment Agency and Welsh Government.

A sampling plan will be created based on the evidence collected in step 3 (see page 3) and consideration of details provided within this application form.

Once a sampling plan is agreed the Food Authority is responsible for providing samples to award a classification and for ongoing monitoring of [E.coli](#), [biotoxins](#) and [phytoplankton](#).

Food Authority – please confirm agreement to collect samples in accordance with the sampling plan: YES / NO

Other permissions required before proceeding

Provide details of other regulations or controls the shellfishery is subject to (e.g. Several Order, Regulating Order) that would prevent sampling or harvesting, or provide evidence that the shellfishery is private with exclusive rights to harvest.	
Is the Food Authority satisfied all necessary permissions have been obtained to harvest shellfish in the area for potential classification? (e.g. planning permissions from Crown Estate)	YES / NO
Provide details of any stock management / conservation Byelaws or similar applied to the area for potential classification (e.g. closed seasons, MCZs, firing ranges, no anchorage zones):	
Provide the last IFCA/other assessment of stock survey information, including date of assessment and location of stock for open fisheries (essential for cockle and razor clam applications):	
Provide details of known potential pollution/contamination sources , discharges, marinas, public beaches and harbours and if there have been any changes since the last sanitary survey, mark them clearly on the map.	
Please note commercial harvesting in farmed areas cannot commence until authorisation from the Fish Health Inspectorate has been obtained. If authorisation has been obtained at the time of application, please provide date of application & authorisation number:	

Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 states all applicants intending to operate a new shellfish farm are required to apply for authorisation from the Fish Health Inspectorate before any development takes place.

Anticipated annual production in tonnes (if classification is designated):	
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Biotoxin and phytoplankton monitoring is required for classified production areas during periods of harvesting. Two flesh samples for biotoxin analysis taken a minimum of 7 days apart and results compliant with the regulatory limits are required in addition to the provisional samples for microbiological monitoring before any harvesting can commence. Ongoing monitoring for biotoxin and phytoplankton can be set at a maximum frequency of weekly depending on risk assessment.

Harvester details

Name	
Company Name	
Address and postcode	
Telephone No	
Email address	

Further Potential Applications – Yes/No

If 'YES,' provide details:	
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Explanatory notes on legal aspects of sanitary survey

Retained EU law Regulation (EU) 2019/627 determines that a sanitary survey must be undertaken to inform the contents of the sampling plan for microbiological monitoring.

The sanitary survey requirements are:

- (a) inventory of the sources of pollution of human and animal origin likely to be a source of contamination for the production area.
- (b) examination of the quantities of organic pollutants which are released during the different periods of the year, according to the seasonal variations of both human and animal populations in the catchment area, rainfall readings, wastewater treatment, etc.
- (c) determination of the characteristics of the circulation of pollutants by virtue of current patterns, bathymetry and the tidal cycle in the production area.

Explanatory notes on data handling and protection

The information requested in this form is to be used for classification purposes and aims to inform the sanitary survey in line with the good practice guidelines provided by the European Union Working Group on the Microbiological Monitoring of Bivalve Mollusc Harvesting Areas.

The information in this form is required by the Food Standards Agency under retained EU law Regulation (EC) 853/2004 and will be processed by our contractors on behalf of the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

The Applicant has the right to rectify any inaccurate information provided in this form. The applicant also has the right to request a copy of any information held by our contractors and the FSA and personal data held by the FSA, on the proposed shellfish operation.

The FSA, or Cefas may contact the applicant or the Local Authority officer regarding the information provided in this form with the aim of improving the service provided.

The Applicant should note that the information provided in this form may be shared with other Governmental agencies or departments who have shared responsibilities on fisheries or food safety matters.

The [privacy notice for data relating to sanitary surveys](#) can be accessed on the FSA website.

In line with the FSA's openness policy, a final copy of the sanitary survey report will be publicly available. In accordance with the FSA principle of openness, we shall keep a

copy of the completed targeted consultation regarding the draft report and responses received, to be made available to the public on receipt or a request to the FSA Consultation Coordinator (Tel: 020 7276 8140).

In accordance with the provisions of Freedom of Information Act 2000/Environmental Information Regulations 2004, all information contained in your response may be subject to publication or disclosure. If you consider that some of the information provided in your response should not be disclosed, you should indicate the information concerned, request that it is not disclosed and explain what harm you consider would result from disclosure. The final decision on whether the information should be withheld rests with the FSA. However, we will take into account your views when making this decision.

The form will be held for a minimum of 7 years in line with sanitary survey review requirements.

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