

**UK Modified Declaration of a Programme for the Early  
Detection of OsHV-1  $\mu$ var in England and Wales**

## **1. Introduction**

This modified Declaration of a Programme for the Early Detection of OsHV-1  $\mu$ var in England and Wales is in respect of all of England and Wales with the exception of Compartment 6: Swale, Thames and North Kent coast where a containment zone was established on 20 July 2010 following the detection of OsHV-1  $\mu$ var.

England and Wales has established a sampling and testing programme in accordance with Commission Regulation 175/2010 to ensure early detection of any occurrence of OsHV-1  $\mu$ var in farms or mollusc farming areas and will control imports from containment areas and areas previously subject to containment measures.

## **2. The zone**

The proposed programme comprises 11 compartments located around the coast of England and Wales.

## **3. Supporting information required by 2009/177/EC (Annex IV)**

Requirements/information needed	Information/further explanation and justification
<b>1. Identification of the programme</b>	
1.1. Declaring Member State	United Kingdom
1.2. Competent authority (address, fax, e-mail)	<p>The competent authority in England is: Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Wildlife, Aquatic and Zoological Health Area 5D, Nobel House 17, Smith Square London SW1P 3JR</p> <p>Tel: +44 207 238 5110 Fax: +44 207238 3087 E-mail: fishhealth@defra.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>The competent authority in Wales is: Welsh Assembly Government Department for Rural Affairs Hen Ysgol Ffordd Alexandra Aberystwyth Ceredigion SY23 1LD</p> <p>Tel: +44 300 062 2005/6 Fax: +44 1970 611928 E-mail: agriculture.camarthen@Wales.gsi.gov.uk</p>
1.3. Reference of this document	
1.4. Date sent to the Commission	
<b>2. Type of communication</b>	
2.1. <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration for surveillance programme	
2.2. <input type="checkbox"/> Application for surveillance programme	
<b>3. National legislation (<sup>1</sup>)</b>	
<b>4. Diseases</b>	

4.1. Fish	<input type="checkbox"/> VHS <input type="checkbox"/> IHN <input type="checkbox"/> ISA <input type="checkbox"/> KHV
4.2. Molluscs	<input type="checkbox"/> infection with <i>Marteilia refringens</i> <input type="checkbox"/> infection with <i>Bonamia ostreae</i>
4.3. Crustaceans	<input type="checkbox"/> White spot disease
<b>5. General information</b>	
5.1. Competent authority <sup>(6)</sup>	<p>The Competent Authority for aquatic animal health in England is the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. In Wales the competent authority is Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). The Departments are responsible for policy on aquatic animal health and the development of legislation.</p> <p>The official service acting on behalf of the competent authorities, and responsible for the operational control of aquatic animal diseases in England and Wales is the Fish Health Inspectorate based at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas).</p>
5.2. Organisation, supervision of all stakeholders involved in the programme <sup>(7)</sup>	<p>All aquaculture production businesses (APB's), including mollusc farming areas, in England and Wales are under the supervision of the Competent Authorities and must be authorised in accordance with Directive 2006/88/EC under the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009. It is an offence under the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 to fail to notify Cefas or a veterinarian immediately of any increased mortalities. It is also a condition on all authorisations that the operator must notify Cefas immediately of any unexplained increased mortality. In addition it is an offence to fail to notify the competent authority of any suspicion of a listed disease in aquatic animals.</p>
5.3. An overview of the structure of the aquaculture industry in the area in question including types of production and species kept	<p>England and Wales currently has 76 authorised shellfish production businesses. In 2008 the shellfish sector in England and Wales produced over 15,000 tonnes of shellfish valued at over £12m. The main shellfish species cultivated are mussels and Pacific oysters (<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>). In 2008 production of Pacific oysters was 591 tonnes, valued at over £2m*.</p> <p><i>* Figures based on information received from aquaculture producers during the annual survey of production</i></p>
5.4. The notification to the competent authority of the suspicion and confirmation of the disease(s) in question has been compulsory since when (date)?	
5.5. Early detection system in place throughout the Member State, enabling the competent authority to undertake effective disease investigation and reporting since when (date)? <sup>(8)</sup>	<p>Consignments placed on the market in England and Wales from a containment area or a Member State or compartment previously subjected to containment measures as regards increased mortalities in <i>Crassostrea gigas</i> oysters will only be accepted if they meet the conditions of Commission Regulation 175/2010 and are accompanied by the appropriate health certification. All consignments will be inspected by the FHI on arrival. If there are any concerns samples (30-90 dependent on size) will be taken for testing.</p> <p>Cefas will undertake sampling of all active <i>Crassostrea gigas</i> sites in 2010 when water temperatures reach the permissive level for expression of the disease (16°C) and continue surveillance on a risk basis.</p> <p>The Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 make it an offence for a person who knows or suspects that increased mortality has occurred or is occurring to fail to notify immediately the competent authority or a veterinarian. APB operators are aware of this obligation and are trained and provided with information to identify signs of disease. All APB's are subject to regular inspections by the FHI for compliance with statutory requirements and for disease</p>

	<p>monitoring purposes. There are excellent communications between FHI and APB operators and any suspicion of disease or increased mortality is immediately notified.</p> <p>The FHI is responsible for the investigation of disease in the wild and in farmed fish and responds rapidly to any report of suspected disease.</p> <p>In England and Wales Cefas, Weymouth is the National Reference Laboratory for fish, shellfish and crustacean diseases and has the capacity to investigate and report on suspected disease outbreaks using histology, virus isolation and PCR.</p>
5.6. Source of aquaculture animals of species susceptible to the disease in question entering in the Member State, zone or compartments for farming	
5.7. Guidelines on good hygiene practice <sup>(9)</sup>	
5.8. Epidemiological situation of the disease in at least the previous 4 years before the commencement of the programme <sup>(6)</sup>	
5.9. Description of the submitted programme <sup>(7)</sup>	<p>Historically England and Wales had no history of increased mortalities in <i>Crassostrea gigas</i> oysters in connection with the detection of OsHV-1 <math>\mu</math>var. However OsHV-1 <math>\mu</math>var was confirmed in a mortality event of Pacific oysters in Compartment 6 (Whitstable Harbour) on 16 July 2010. A containment zone was established in Compartment 6 on 20 July 2010.</p> <p>England and Wales will undertake a programme of sampling and testing in accordance with Commission Regulation 175/2010 to ensure early detection of OsHV-1 <math>\mu</math>var and will control consignments of <i>Crassostrea gigas</i> placed on the market originating from containment areas and areas previously subjected to containment measures as set out in Commission Regulation 175/2010</p> <p>The diagnostic method used to test for OsHV-1 <math>\mu</math>var is the PCR as stipulated in Commission Regulation 175/2010.</p>
5.10. Duration of the programme	
<b>6. Area covered</b>	
6.1. <input type="checkbox"/> Member State	
6.2. <input type="checkbox"/> Zone (entire water catchment area) <sup>(10)</sup>	
6.3. <input type="checkbox"/> Zone (part of water catchment area) <sup>(11)</sup>	
Identify and describe the artificial or natural barrier that delimits the zone and justify its capability to prevent the upward migration of aquatic animals from the lower stretches of the water catchment area	
6.4. <input type="checkbox"/> Zone (more than one water catchment area) <sup>(12)</sup>	
6.5. <input type="checkbox"/> Compartment independent of the surrounding health status <sup>(13)</sup>	
Identify and describe for each farm the water supply <sup>(14)</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> Well, borehole or spring  <input type="checkbox"/> Water treatment plant inactivating the relevant pathogen <sup>(15)</sup>
Identify and describe for each farm natural or artificial barriers and justify its capability to prevent that aquatic animals enter each farm in a compartment from the surrounding watercourses	

Identify and describe for each farm the protection against flooding and infiltration of water from the surrounding watercourses	
6.6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compartment dependent on the surrounding health status <sup>(16)</sup>	This Declaration is in respect of aquaculture sites in England and Wales holding <i>Crassostrea gigas</i> oysters. The compartments are located around the coast (see map at Annex A). This Declaration and the subsequent controls and testing regime will apply to all <i>Crassostrea gigas</i> oyster consignments placed on the market in England and Wales.
<input type="checkbox"/> One epidemiological unit due to geographical localisation and distance from other farms/farming areas <sup>(17)</sup>	
<input type="checkbox"/> All farms comprising the compartment fall within a common biosecurity system <sup>(18)</sup>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Any additional requirements <sup>(19)</sup>	
6.7. Farms or mollusc farming areas covered (registration numbers and geographical situation)	<p><b><u>Compartment 1</u></b>  (1) Lindisfarne  Authorisation No.: EW000-U-800</p> <p><b><u>Compartment 2</u></b>  (2) Garnett &amp; Sons Hatchery  Authorisation No.: EW057-C-176</p> <p><b><u>Compartment 3</u></b>  (3) Brancaster - R E Loose  Authorisation No.: EW001-J-387  (4) Brancaster (Thornham Oysters)  Authorisation No.: EW016-Y-976  (5) Blakeney – Randall  Authorisation No: EW000-U-488</p> <p><b><u>Compartment 4</u></b>  (6) Home Reach - River Alde  Authorisation No.: EW001-L-025  (7) Butley Creek  Authorisation No.: EW001-K-934  (8) Kirby and Twizzle Creek (Bloom)  Authorisation No.: EW002-V-049</p> <p><b><u>Compartment 5</u></b>  (9) Goldhanger and Lawling Creek  Authorisation No.: EW000-H-891  (10) Tollesbury and Salcott (William Baker)  Authorisation No.: EW002-R-019  (11) Blackwater Estuary – Dawson  Authorisation No.: EW001-K-154</p> <p><b><u>Compartment 7</u></b>  (12) Northern Arm - Portland Harbour  Authorisation No.: EW036-J-331  (13) Poole Fishery Order  Authorisation No.: EW053-Z-403  (14) Fleet Oyster Farm  Authorisation No.: EW000-C-834</p> <p><b><u>Compartment 8</u></b>  (15) River Exe West - Cockwood Harbour  Authorisation No.: EW001-S-604  (16) River Exe - Exmouth Mussels  Authorisation No.: EW024-H-577  (17) River Teign – Sessions  Authorisation No.: EW000-L-661</p> <p><b><u>Compartment 9</u></b>  (18) Geese Quarries (Limosa)  Authorisation No.: EW040-H-957  (19) Avon Estuary (Bigbury Bay Oysters)</p>

	<p>Authorisation No.: EW034-N-879 (20) River Dart Mollusc Farming Area Authorisation No.: EW004-J-091</p> <p><b>Compartment 10</b> (21) Duchy of Cornwall Oyster Farm &amp; Fishery Authorisation No.: EW001-V-529 (22) Pont Creek/Wisemans Reach Authorisation No.: EW001-E-512 (23) Wisemans Reach &amp; Pont Pil (Rawle) Authorisation No.: EW046-O-138</p> <p><b>Compartment 11</b> (24) Mussel Beds (Fort Belan) Authorisation No.: CW048-P-063 (25) Menai Strait (West) Authorisation No.: CW053-A-404</p> <p><b>Compartment 12</b> (26) South Walney Island -Seasalter (Walney) Ltd Authorisation No.: EW001-V-737 (27) Roosebeck Foreshore -Seasalter (Walney) Authorisation No.: EW001-B-639 (28) Dubmill Point/ Dubmill Scar Authorisation No.: EW035-G-392</p>
Requirements/information to be submitted	
<b>7. Description of the measures of the programme</b> <sup>(19)</sup>	
7.1. Target population/ species	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i> oysters
7.2. Used tests and sampling schemes. Laboratories involved in the programme <sup>(20)</sup>	<p>The Cefas Weymouth laboratory is the National Reference Laboratory for fish shellfish and crustacean diseases in England and Wales.</p> <p>Sampling and testing will be carried out in accordance with the Commission Regulation 175/2010 with samples selected, prepared and examined as set down.</p> <p>The diagnostic method used to detect OsHV-1 <math>\mu</math>var is the PCR.</p> <p>Following the suspicion of oysters on a site being infected, an official investigation to confirm or rule out the presence of the disease will be carried out as quickly as possible, involving at least one health inspection and one sampling of 12 individuals, tested in accordance with Commission Regulation 175/2010.</p>
7.3 Rules on movements of animals	<p>Consignments placed on the market in England and Wales will only be accepted from a containment area established in accordance with Commission Regulation 175/2010 and which according to Article 3(2)(a) or (b) of that Regulation is allowed to leave that area or from an area previously subject to containment measures where the farm or mollusc farming area has no indication of increased mortalities or where the absence of OsHV-1 <math>\mu</math>var is demonstrated by sampling and testing carried out in accordance with Annex I to Commission Regulation 175/2010. All imports must be accompanied by the health certificate set out in Commission Regulation 175/2010 and all consignments will be inspected by the FHI on arrival.</p> <p>In the event of suspicion or confirmation of OsHV-1 <math>\mu</math>var on a site the FHI will, under the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009, make an initial or confirmed designation imposing movement restrictions into, out of or within the area. Sampling and testing will be carried out in accordance with Commission Regulation 175/2010.</p>
7.4 Measures in case of a positive result <sup>(21)</sup>	<p>Where the Cefas FHI has confirmed that OsHV-1 <math>\mu</math>var is present in aquatic animals it will make a confirmed designation under the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 and notify the Commission accordingly.</p> <p>Where the Cefas FHI has made a confirmed designation, it shall -</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• place any farm or mollusc farming area in the confirmed designation area under surveillance;</li> <li>• take, or arrange to have taken, samples of or from any aquatic animal or water in the confirmed designation area as may be necessary to monitor the presence of the disease; and</li> <li>• examine or arrange to have examined, the samples in a laboratory designated in accordance with Article 57 of Directive 2006/88.</li> </ul> <p>It is an offence for a person, unless with the approval of the Cefas FHI, to -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• move any aquatic animal or aquaculture product into, out of or within a confirmed designation area; or</li> <li>• dispose of any aquatic animal (whether alive or dead) which comes from a confirmed designation area.</li> </ul> <p>The Cefas FHI may also -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prohibit or restrict the movement of any equipment, material or substances liable to transmit disease into, out of or within the confirmed designation area or any part of that area;</li> <li>• impose such additional control measures as Cefas considers necessary to eradicate the disease or to prevent or limit the spread of disease to other aquatic animals.</li> </ul>
<p>7.5. Control and supervision on the implementation of the programme and reporting</p>	<p>As the competent authorities for aquatic animal health in England and Wales, Defra and WAG are responsible for control and supervision of the programme for early detection of OshV-1 <math>\mu</math>var. Defra will report to the Commission any positive results for the virus. The Cefas FHI will also keep up-to-date Internet-based information pages as specified under Article 10 of Decision 2009/177/EC.</p>

(<sup>1</sup>) National legislation in force applicable to the declaration of and application for disease-free status

(<sup>2</sup>) Applicable if none of the species susceptible to the disease(s) in question is present in the Member State, zone or compartment, and where relevant in its water source.

(<sup>3</sup>) Applicable if the pathogen is known not to be able to survive in the Member State, zone or compartment, and where relevant in its water source. Provide the scientific information supporting the inability of the pathogen to survive in the Member State, zone or compartment.

(<sup>4</sup>) Applicable if susceptible species are present, but where there has not been any observed occurrence of the disease for at least a period of 10 years before the date of declaration of or application for the disease-free status, despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, and if it complies *mutatis mutandis* with the requirements laid down in Part I.1 of Annex V to Directive 2006/88/EC. This ground for disease-free status must be declared or applied for by 1 November 2008. Provide detailed information on the compliance with Part I.1 of Annex V to Directive 2006/88/EC.

(<sup>5</sup>) Applicable if targeted surveillance complying with Community requirements has been in place for at least a period of two years without the detection of the disease agent on farm, or in mollusc farming areas that rear any of the susceptible species.

Where there are parts of the Member State, zone or compartment in which the number of farms or mollusc farming areas is limited, but in which there are wild populations of susceptible species, information on the targeted surveillance in those wild populations shall be given.

Describe diagnostic methods and sampling schemes. When OIE or EU standards are applied, reference must be made to them. If not, describe them. Name the laboratories involved in the programme (national reference laboratory or designated laboratories).

(<sup>6</sup>) A description shall be provided of the structure, competencies, duties and powers of the competent authority involved.

(<sup>7</sup>) A description shall be provided of the competent authority in charge of the supervision and coordination of the programme and the different operators involved.

(<sup>8</sup>) The early detection systems shall in particular ensure the rapid recognition of any clinical signs consistent with the suspicion of a disease, emerging disease, or unexplained mortality in farms or mollusc farming areas, and in the wild, and the rapid communication of the event to the competent authority with the aim of activating diagnostic investigation with minimum delay. The early detection system shall include at least the following:

(<sup>9</sup>) broad awareness, among the personnel employed in aquaculture businesses or involved in the processing of aquaculture animals, of any signs consistent with the presence of a disease, and training of veterinarians of aquatic animals health specialists in detecting and reporting unusual disease occurrence;

(<sup>10</sup>) veterinarians or aquatic animal health specialists trained in recognising and reporting suspicious disease occurrence;

(<sup>11</sup>) access by the competent authority to laboratories with the facilities for diagnosing and differentiating listed and emerging diseases.

(<sup>12</sup>) A description shall be provided in accordance with Article 9 of Directive 2006/88/EC.

(<sup>13</sup>) An entire water catchment area from its sources to its estuary.

(<sup>14</sup>) Part of a water catchment area from the source(s) to a natural or artificial barrier that prevents the upward migration of aquatic animals from the lower stretches of the water catchment area.

(<sup>15</sup>) More than one water catchment area, including their estuaries, due to the epidemiological link between the catchment areas through the estuary.

(<sup>16</sup>) Compartments comprising one or more farms or mollusc farming areas where the health status regarding a specific disease is independent of the health status regarding that disease of surrounding natural waters.

(<sup>17</sup>) A compartment which is independent of the health status of surrounding waters, shall be supplied with water:

(<sup>18</sup>) through a water treatment plant inactivating the relevant pathogen in order to reduce the risk of the introduction of the disease to an acceptable level; or

(<sup>19</sup>) directly from a well, a borehole or a spring. Where such water supply is situated outside the premises of the farm, the water shall be supplied directly to the farm, and be channelled through a pipe.

(<sup>20</sup>) Provide technical information to demonstrate that the relevant pathogen is inactivated in order to reduce the risk of the introduction of the disease to an acceptable level.

(<sup>21</sup>) Compartments comprising one or more farms or mollusc farming areas where the health status regarding a specific disease is dependent on the health status of surrounding natural waters regarding that disease.

(<sup>22</sup>) A description shall be provided of the geographical localisation and the distance from other farms/farming areas that makes it possible to consider the compartment as one epidemiological unit.

(<sup>23</sup>) A description shall be provided of the common biosecurity system.

(<sup>24</sup>) Each farm or mollusc farming area in a compartment which is dependent on the health status of surrounding waters shall be subject to additional measures imposed by the competent authority, when considered necessary to prevent the introduction of diseases. Such measures may include the establishment of a buffer zone around the compartment in which a monitoring programme is carried out, and the establishment of additional protection against the intrusion of possible pathogen carriers or vectors.

<sup>(20)</sup> The geographical demarcation shall be clearly described and identified on a map, which must be attached as an Annex to the declaration/application. Any substantial modification in the geographical demarcation of the zone or compartment to be declared free must be subjected to a new application.

<sup>(21)</sup> In connection with a zone or a compartment dependent on the health status of surrounding waters, a buffer zone in which a monitoring programme is carried out shall be established, as appropriate. The demarcation of the buffer zones shall be such that it protects the disease-free zone from passive introduction of the disease. (Part II.1.5 of Annex V to Directive 2006/88/EC).

<sup>(22)</sup> Health status in accordance with Part A of Annex III to Directive 2006/88/EC.

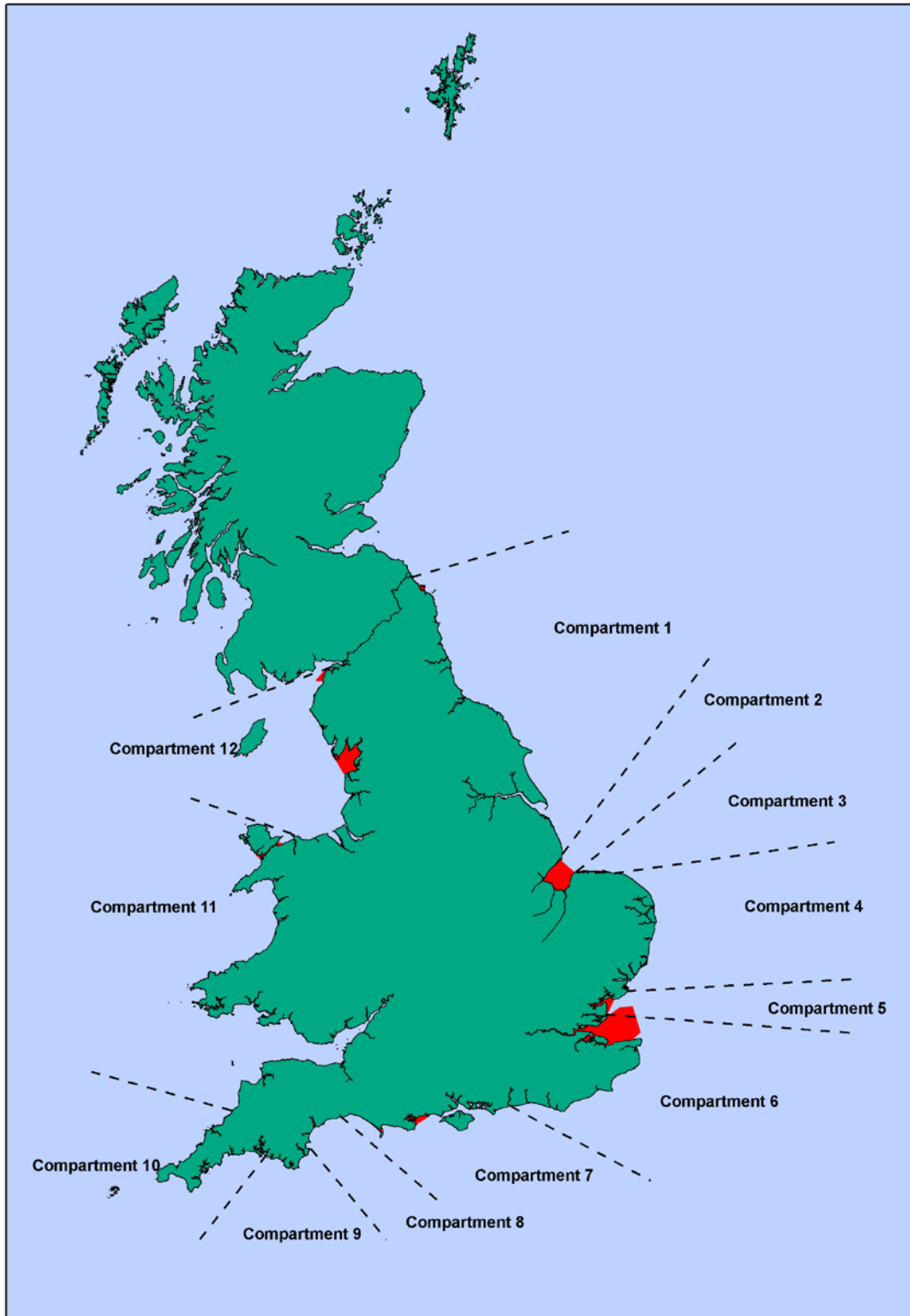
<sup>(23)</sup> Relevant in cases of declaration of disease-free Member States, where minor areas of the Member State are not considered disease-free.

<sup>(24)</sup> Where a zone extends to more than one Member State, it may not be declared a disease-free zone unless the conditions set out in points 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5 of Part II of Annex V to Directive 2006/88/EC apply to all areas of that zone. In that case both Member States concerned shall apply for approval for the part of the zone situated in their territory.

<sup>(25)</sup> In accordance with Part II.4 of Annex V to Directive 2006/88/EC.

## Annex A: England and Wales - OsHV-1 $\mu$ Var Surveillance 2010

Silloth, Morecambe, Barrow and Lune, Menai Strait, Camel, Helford, Fowey, Yealm, Bigbury and Avon, Salcombe, Dart, Teign, Exe, Portland, Poole, Colne to Blackwater, Walton Backwater, Alde to Butley, Blakeney, Brancaster, Wash, Holy Island



Compartment 1: Holy Island



Compartment 3: Blakeney



Compartment 2: The Wash



Compartment 4: Alde to Butley



Compartment 3: Brancaster



Compartment 4: Walton Backwater



Compartment 5: Colne to Blackwater



Compartment 8: Exe



Compartment 7: Poole



Compartment 8: Teign



Compartment 7: Portland



Compartment 9: Dart



Compartment 9: Salcombe



Compartment 10: Camel



Compartment 9: Bigbury and Avon



Compartment 11: Menai Strait



Compartment 9: Yealm



Compartment 12: Morecambe, Barrow and Lune



Compartment 10: Fowey



Compartment 12: Silloth

