

# Sarah Horsfall

Shellfish Association of Great Britain

 @SAGB



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Association of Great Britain



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



The  
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Company's

FISHERIES CHARITABLE TRUST

**SEPA**matic



Crown Estate  
Scotland  
Oighreachd a' Chrùin Alba

seafish



Marine  
Management  
Organisation



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**Water Quality**  
**7<sup>th</sup> June 2023**  
**Sarah Horsfall**





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## Timeline

- **Outdated Infrastructure unable to cope with demand and an increasing population**
- **Joining the EEC and environmental protection legislation**
- **Privatisation of water industry 1987 – 1989**
- **Setting up OFWAT in 1989**
- **33 years and counting of pollution of rivers and seas**



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## Some (Estimated) Facts and Figures on Water Companies

- 2020, a dry year, 11 billion litres of untreated sewage discharged
- £1.97 / cubic meter of waste water charged
- £1.97 x 11,000,000 cubic meters = £21,670,000
- Over the 33 years since privatisation, £693 million
- Shareholder dividends over this period £57 billion



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## First Workstream – Project Cleaner Waters

To work with regulators to adjust the classification system

- Assess different test methods
- Use of industry samples
- Extend duration of seasonal classifications
- Amend guidance on closing areas
- Etc

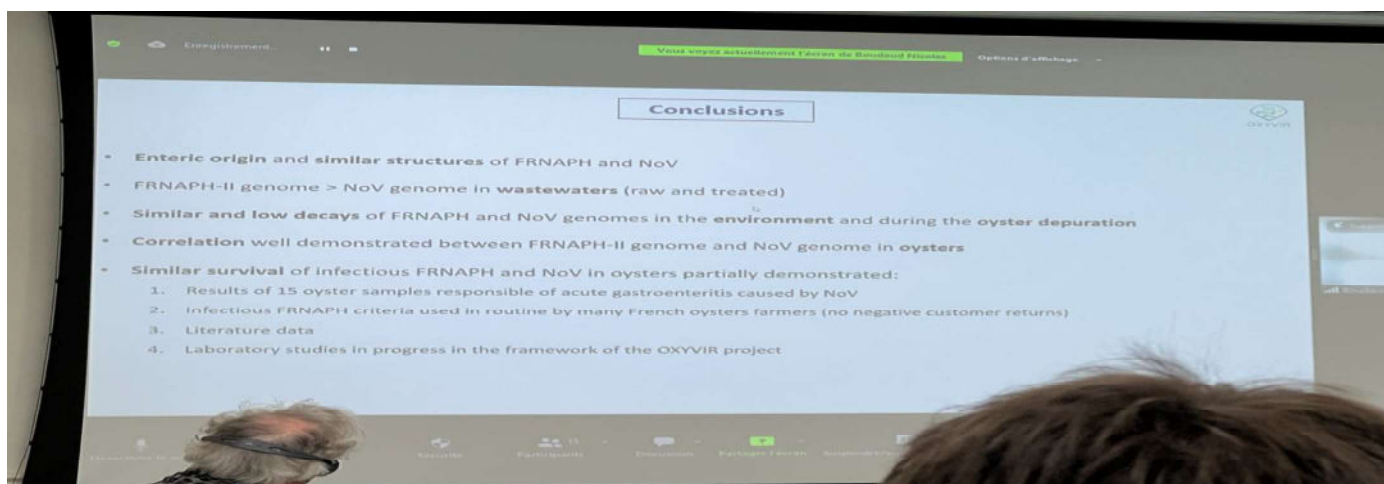


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## Second Workstream – Project Cleaner Waters Norovirus developments in Europe





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## Third Workstream – Project Cleaner Waters

Engagement with other stakeholders in the water quality sector

- Engagement with journalists, print media and television along with scientific publications
- Working together with other interested groups such as the Rivers Trust, Surfers against Sewage, River Action, National Farmers Union and Save Our Seas Whitstable





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**The Telegraph**

**News**

## **River Wye ecological status downgraded as sewage turns water into 'pea soup'**

Waterway's health is reclassified to unfavourable by Natural England as it faces a decline in key species




**Unlock The Telegraph**



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Bloomberg



A parched Greenwich Park during London's heat wave last August. Photographer: Jose Sarmento Matos/Bloomberg

**Britain Is Racing to Fix Its Broken Water System**



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# Campaigners in Devon and Cornwall join paddle-outs in sewage protests

🕒 21 May





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## Fourth Workstream – Water Data Project

- Get the data produced for us by the Rivers Trust
- Integrate this data with the findings of the DASSHH project
- Identify a further 4 – 6 suitable areas
- Begin to develop a predictive system in conjunction with regulators

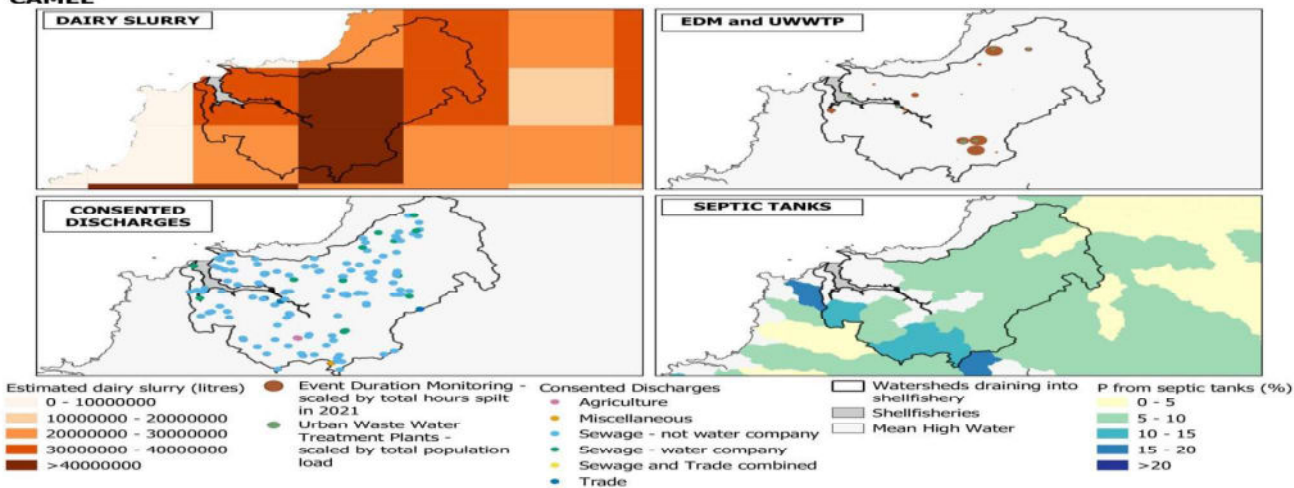


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**CAMEL**





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## **Fifth Workstream – The Grand Coalition**

- Co-operation with other European producer countries on water quality for their shellfish producer areas
- Develop a manifesto of best practice across Europe working with trade associations and NGOs



## Concluding Thoughts

- The shellfish industry is the recipient of pollution in the water
- Why 5 year rainfall events for us, but not for the water industry?
- The Water Framework Directive and no deterioration
- Water quality and thus the shellfish industry low priority for government





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