Rivers & Seas Watch
from Southern Water

Overview

Rivers & Seas Watch 1.0 (Beta) is the updated, public storm overflow reporting service. Rivers & Seas Watch offers an evolution of our Beachbuoy service built on a new platform. It includes new features and improvements requested by the community and recommended by experts from our Beachbuoy independent review.

Rivers & Seas Watch will replace Beachbuoy in the coming weeks, however Rivers & Seas Watch will at first be running at the same time as Beachbuoy as a Beta site – a development phase of collective wider public feedback and addressing issues – until Beachbuoy can be shut down and Rivers & Seas Watch is fully released.

Why a new service?

Beachbuoy has been a valuable tool for our community, allowing us to offer transparency about coastal storm overflow releases to the public since 2021. However, Beachbuoy's technology did not allow us to improve it in the ways we wanted.

By adding all our storm overflow releases, implementing the recommendations from the Beachbuoy Independent Review, and including the feature and improvement ideas from our community, Rivers & Seas Watch offers significant improvements today, and the foundations to make further improvements in the future.

Major Improvements

- **ALL storm overflows** are included in Rivers & Seas Watch – Beachbuoy only shows coastal storm overflows.

- **Improved supporting information** – more detailed information on Rivers & Seas Watch is provided, including how it works, and some of the more advanced concepts such as tidal modelling and spatial data accuracy.

- **Increased data update frequency** – data is updated more often, increasing from one update an hour with Beachbuoy, to updates every 15 minutes with Rivers & Seas Watch.

- **Outfalls are visible on the map by default** – storm overflow outfall sites are now shown by default, whereas these were only visible in Beachbuoy when interacting with a Bathing Water location.

- **Mobile device optimisation** – the new service is easier to use and has specific features and a mobile responsive design for mobile devices.

- **Local time conversion** – all times are now shown in dynamic local time whatever time of year (e.g. BST, GMT), whereas Beachbuoy would use GMT all year round.

- **More detailed email notifications** – providing more information in email messages about the storm overflow releases, reducing the need for users to visit Beachbuoy or Rivers & Seas Watch for this information.

- **Advanced filtering of the Release History table feature** – users are now able to filter based on a wide-range of data attributes for a release event.

- **On-going release end date/time** – improvement in how the on-going releases end date is displayed, with the end time now using a null value for on-going releases, instead of the last polled-data date/time.

- **Better load time** – significant reduction in time needed to load pages, particularly the Release History table.

What's new?

- **Exportable Data** – storm overflow release data is exportable from the Release Table in .csv or .json format – this is not available in Beachbuoy.

- **Inclusion of Investment Plans** – integration of our Storm Overflow Investment plans into Rivers & Seas Watch, bringing this important and related information into one service.

- **Location-finding features** – including search, location services, and a map bookmark feature to enable quicker location-finding.

- **Ended and on-going status** – users can now view and filter easily whether a Storm Overflow Release has 'ended', or is 'on-going'.

- **East Cowes Bathing Site** – added the East Cowes Bathing Site.

- **Environment Agency Water Quality Classification** – section included on the map interface to show the current Environment Agency Water Quality Classifications for that site, with a link to the EA site for more information.

- **Receiving watercourse data** – for each outfall, information has been included about the receiving watercourse.

Deprecated Features – features upgraded or replaced

- **Google Map interface** – upgrade to ESRI mapping platform for user experience, performance and maintainability improvements.

- **Release history interface** – upgraded to ESRI platform for better user experience, and improvements in performance and maintainability.

- **Bathing site drop-down list on Release History table** – the ESRI platform does not support drop-down lists within a table row, so storm overflow releases that impact multiple bathing sites are now shown on a separate row.

- Deprecated the 'Sign up to email notifications' feature on map pop-ups for bathing sites and replaced it with a 'Subscribe' form in the River & Seas Watch interface.

Known Issues

- **Non-impacting/clear email notification** – when multiple storm overflow releases impact a bathing site, users will receive an email notification saying that a bathing site is no longer impacted, when it is still impacted by other storm overflow releases. *This is being resolved as a priority.*

- **WCAG accessibility issues** – across the mapping interface and release table there are multiple accessibility issues such as navigation, screen-reader compatibility and visual impairment accommodation. *These issues are planned for development over the next few releases.*

- **Landscape mode on mobile** – there is an issue with using landscape mode when accessing Rivers & Seas Watch on a mobile device – sometimes when using landscape mode on the release history screen, a default ESRI map is displayed. *Users are advised not to use landscape mode on mobile devices until this is resolved.*

- **Investment Plan filtering** – there is a missing filter option on the Investment Plans map.