

# 2023 CITIZEN SCIENCE FEEDBACK AND ACTIONS

Date: February 2024

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## Feedback:

Some of the results which we received back from the lab had bacterial numbers which were higher than the upper limit of detection, This meant that results would appear as, for example, '>1000 cfu/100mL' instead of an exact number.

## How this will be improved:

Before we launch our citizen science programme this year, we will fully brief the lab we are working with to ensure that their sample analysis methods are commensurate with the types of samples, and expected bacterial numbers, we are expecting to send them. This means that they can adjust their analysis methods accordingly to suit our sample types.

## Feedback:

More structure and guidance could have been provided around data interpretation.

## How this will be improved:

This year, we will provide detailed, comprehensive written guidance on data interpretation before we launch the programme. This can be referred to throughout the year to aid communities with data interpretation. In addition, we will also hold dedicated sessions over Zoom where we can discuss data, provide the opportunity for questions, and a platform for facilitated discussions about data between communities. We will also work with our campaigns team at SAS to consider how we can provide guidance on using data to support communities' individual campaigns.

## Feedback:

A more centralised way to view, store and use data which is user-friendly would be beneficial.

## How this will be improved:

This year, we have invested in developing a data platform where water quality data will be stored using a map-style system with historic data for each site available alongside the most recent water quality sample results.

### **Feedback:**

Keeping the testing programme running throughout the year will allow us to investigate water quality outside the bathing season, and understand the impact on fisherman, kayakers and other water users.

### **How this will be improved:**

We at SAS recognise that water users access their local waterways all year round, not just within the bathing season. This is why we are calling to an extension to the regulator's testing regime to include water quality testing throughout the year, including the winter months. As a testament to this, we will be extending our citizen science programme into the winter months in 2024 for a number of communities - please see the application form for more details.