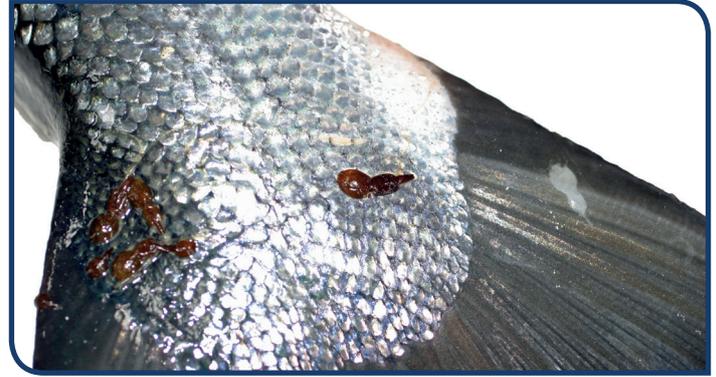


THE REGULATION OF SEA LICE IN SCOTLAND



Introduction

Sea lice occur naturally in the marine environment and live on the skin of fish. There are two species of sea lice that infect salmonids in Scottish Waters - *Lepeophtheirus salmonis*, which only infects salmonids, and *Caligus elongatus* which has been reported to infect over 80 different fish species, including salmonids.

Infection with *L. salmonis* is one of the most important health issues for the Scottish salmon aquaculture industry, and sea lice are controlled on farmed fish in a variety of ways. This includes using licensed medicines, mechanical methods or using cleaner fish such as wrasse and lumpfish.

Regulation

The Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007, as amended in 2013, gives Scottish Ministers legal powers to carry out inspections, to look at sea lice records, and assesses the measures in place to prevent, control and reduce parasites on farms. These powers are exercised by Marine Scotland's Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) and the failure, by any aquaculture production business to have satisfactory measures for the prevention, reduction or control of sea lice may result in the serving of an enforcement notice. This notice may

require the execution of works or the taking of other steps to ensure the prevention, reduction or control of sea lice.

Revised policy from 1st April 2017

Marine Scotland's policy with regards to satisfactory measures for the control of sea lice has changed. This change in approach aims to drive improvements in sea lice control where it is demonstrated not to be satisfactory on fish farm sites, improving controls for sea lice on individual farms and in farm management areas throughout Scotland.

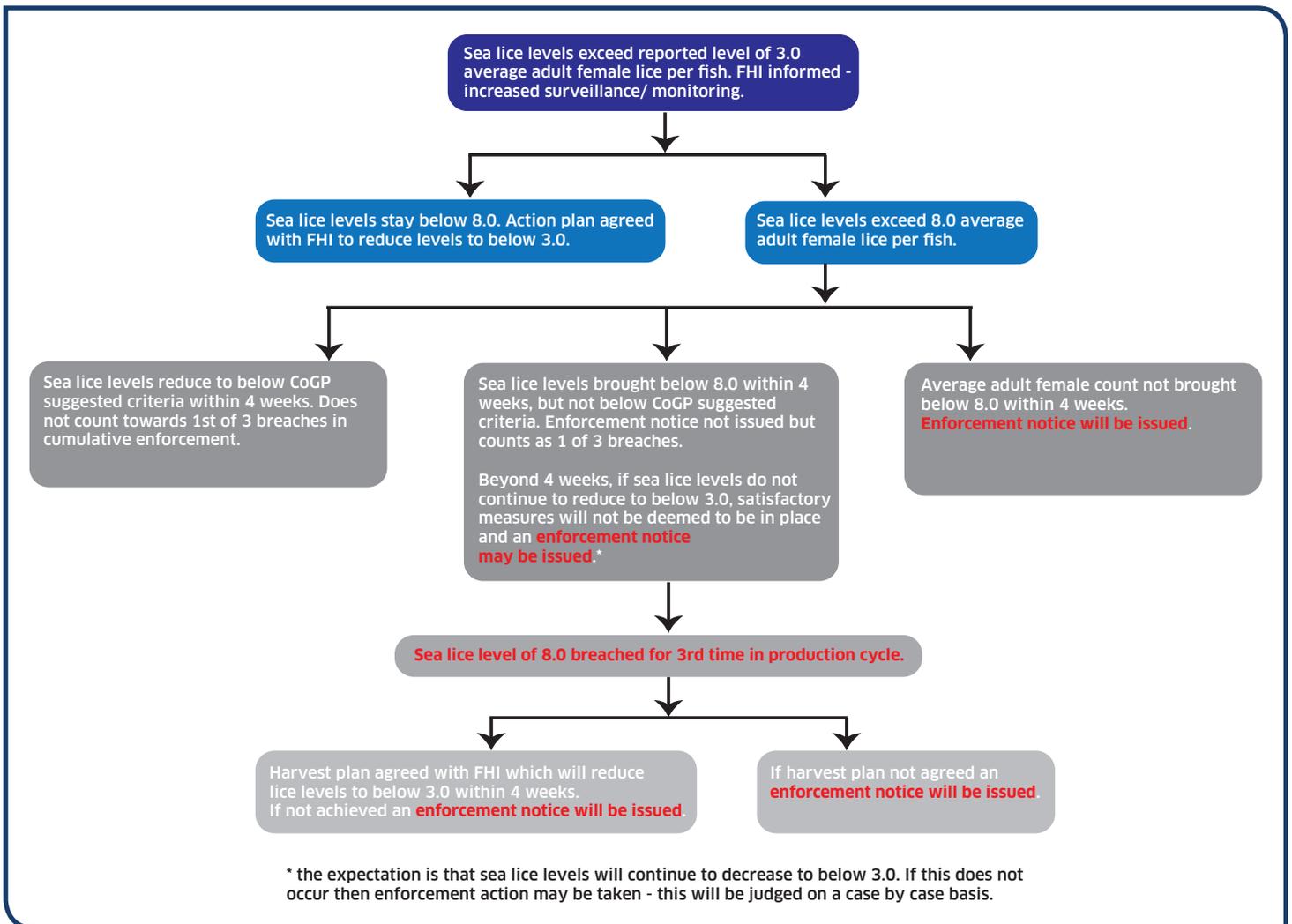
Reporting Levels

It is a requirement that if there is an average of 3 adult female sea lice per fish found during a weekly count on any fish farming site in Scotland, this must be reported to the FHI. Where the reporting level is reached, the FHI will increase the monitoring of that site and continue to do so until either the average adult female sea lice count per fish is reduced to below the reporting level of 3, or an intervention limit of an average of 8 adult female sea lice

per fish on any fish farming site is reached. Reaching the intervention limit requires the implementation of an explicit action plan, agreed with the FHI, which will reduce and maintain the average number of adult female sea lice per

fish at the site below the reporting level of 3. If satisfactory measures cannot be demonstrated then enforcement action will be taken (a diagram showing the various steps of that enforcement action is shown below.)

Sea Lice Policy - Enforcement Regime



Further Information

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