



**WAT-PS-17-03: Interim position statement for protecting the water environment until such time as a direction is issued on an EQS in relation to emamectin benzoate in finfish farm regulation.**

THIS DOCUMENT OUTLINES SEPA'S POSITION ON FINFISH FARMING ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDES A BASIS FOR INTERPRETING SEPA'S OBJECTIVES UNDER THE CONTROLLED ACTIVITY REGULATIONS (CAR).

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## 1 PURPOSE

SEPA commissioned a review of the current EQS in relation to emamectin benzoate and the commissioned report from WRc (formerly Water Research Centre) proposes new Environmental Quality Standard (EQS) values. SEPA is now consulting externally for the purposes of obtaining any relevant scientific data and any additional relevant information on the report. WRc will be asked to consider any scientific data received and if appropriate undertake a review of its report. SEPA will thereafter instruct an external peer review of the final report and, taking account of that and other information from the consultation, make a recommendation to Scottish Government on the appropriate EQS. Scottish Government will then make a decision on the appropriate EQS and issue a Direction to SEPA.

This position statement sets out how SEPA will regulate discharges of emamectin benzoate from marine cage fish farms in the interim, pending a decision by Scottish Government on whether a new EQS will be set.

## 2 REGULATORY GUIDANCE

### A. Interim position for the determination of applications for new licences or variations to existing licences where new or increased discharges of emamectin benzoate are proposed

When determining such applications, SEPA will limit the total quantity of in-feed treatment that can be administered to the lesser of:

- 40% of the maximum quantity that could be administered without breaching the applicable environmental standards; or
- twice the quantity needed for a single treatment if treating when the biomass of fish is at the greatest permitted by the licence.

The applicable environmental standards will be as follows:

		Location of proposed discharge	
		Within or otherwise liable to result in deposition within a relevant protected area*	Not liable to result in deposition within a relevant protected area*
		Standards recommended by WRc	<a href="#">Existing SEPA standards</a>
<b>Environmental standards that SEPA will apply when determining an application</b>	Long term (or far field) marine sediment	12 ngkg <sup>-1</sup> (dry weight)	763 ngkg <sup>-1</sup> (wet weight)
	Short term (or near field) marine sediment	120 ngkg <sup>-1</sup> (dry weight)	7630 ngkg <sup>-1</sup> (wet weight)

\*Note - A **relevant protected area** means:

- an area designated as a [marine protected area](#) for the protection of habitats and/or species; or where a Priority Marine Feature has been identified; **and**
- in which the conservation interest may be susceptible to the effects on the area of emamectin benzoate

If an applicant wishes, they will be able to agree an extension of the determination period with us, so that any decision on the application is delayed until the Scottish Government has made a decision on whether to set a new EQS.

Where a new or increased discharge is authorised, SEPA will carry out enhanced environmental monitoring of environmental effects. If environmental effects are identified, SEPA will take appropriate action.

**B. Interim position for authorised discharges of emamectin benzoate**

SEPA will work with operators to seek their agreement to a voluntary reduction in the maximum quantity of in-feed treatment permitted for use by 60%.