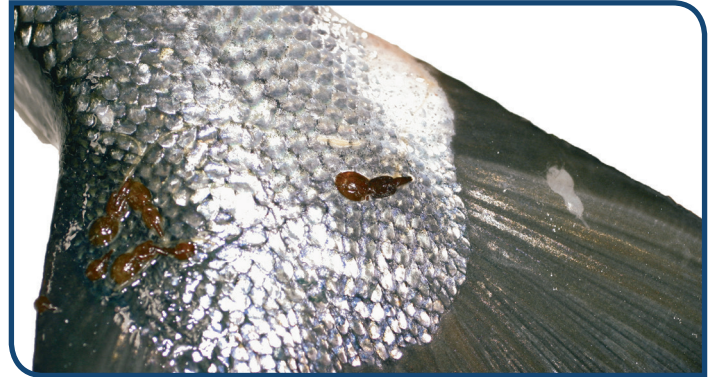


## THE REGULATION OF SEA LICE IN SCOTLAND



### 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, physical 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, control or reduction 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, control or reduction of sea lice.

### Revised policy

Marine Scotland's policy with regards to satisfactory measures for the control of sea lice changed in July 2017, introducing reporting and intervention levels.

### Updated reporting levels - from 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019

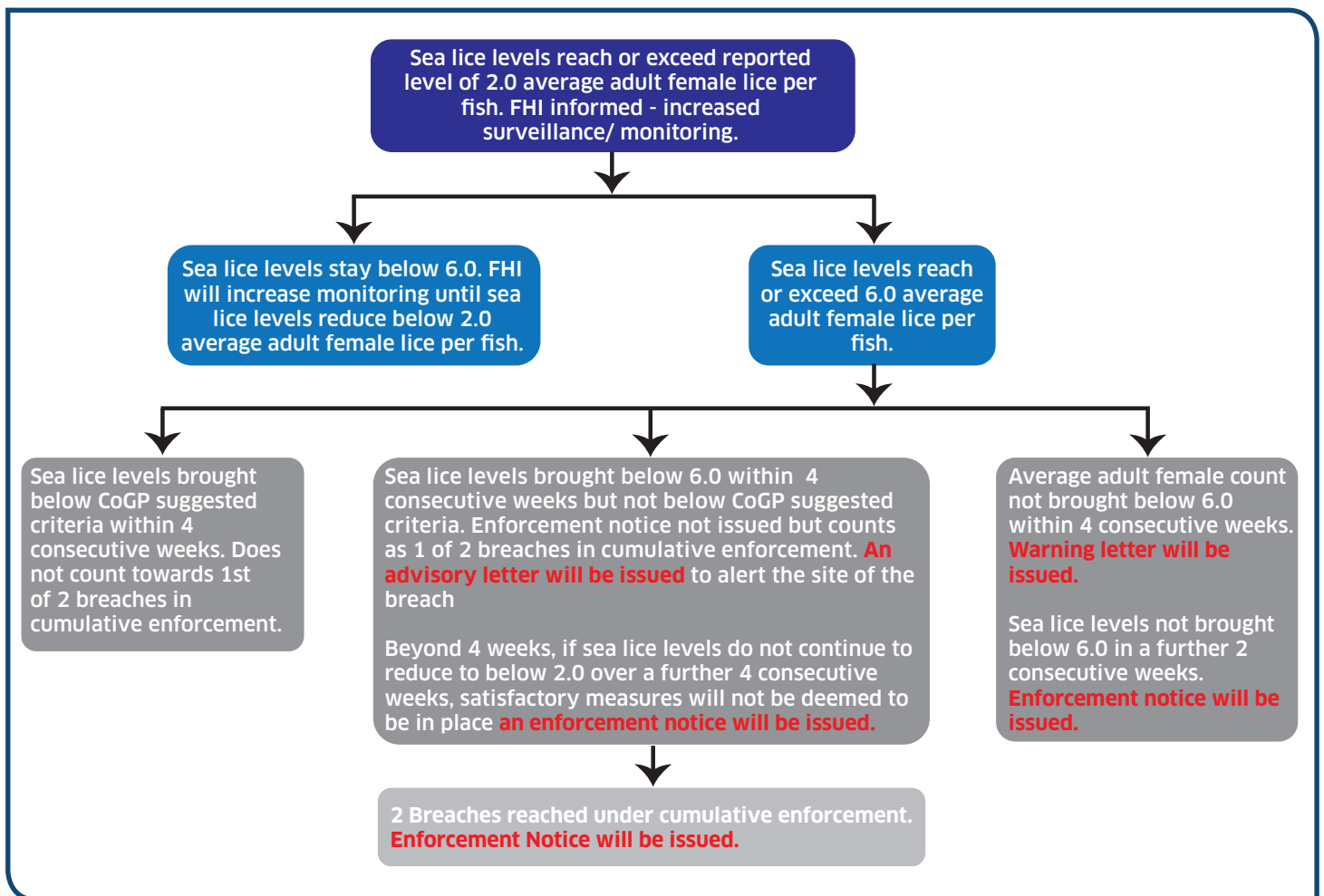
If a weekly average adult female sea lice count per fish of 2 (or above) is recorded on any fish farming site in Scotland, this number should be reported to the FHI within one week in arrears. Marine Scotland Science consider a weekly average adult female sea lice count per fish to be an average of all adult female sea lice count data per fish taken during a calendar week (a seven day period from Monday to Sunday). Where the reporting level is reached, the FHI will increase the monitoring of that site and continue to do so until either the weekly

average adult female sea lice count per fish is reduced to below the reporting level of 2, or an intervention limit of an average of 6 adult female sea lice per fish (or above) on any fish farming site is reached. Reaching the intervention limit requires the Aquaculture Production Business to take action which will reduce the weekly average

number of adult female sea lice per fish at the site below the reporting level of 2.

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

For further information about our work:

Email:

✉ [marinescotland@gov.scot](mailto:marinescotland@gov.scot)

Access our website:

🌐 [www.gov.scot/marinescotland](http://www.gov.scot/marinescotland)

Write to us at:

Area 1A/B, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ.