marine scotland science

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Dea [redacted]

National Surveillance Scheme for Residues in Fish

In accordance with European Directive 96/23/EC samples were collected on 26 February 2020 at Kyles of Vuia (FS0927), Miavaig Pier, Uig, Isle of Lewis. Two samples were tested for Avermectins and one sample (RIM2001976) was found to contain a residue level exceeding the maximum residue limit (MRL) set for Emamectin. The detailed paperwork regarding this result was issued to you on 6 April 2020 electronically.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions a remote investigation of records was undertaken. All records were found to be maintained in accordance with the requirements of the relevant legislation. Records showed that treatments appeared to have been administered in accordance with veterinary instructions. The withdrawal period was stipulated as 0 (zero) on the prescription for the sixth Slice treatment applied on site since input.
However, we recommend that a review is undertaken with regards to how zero withdrawal is recorded/ shown on treatment records. To improve record keeping it is recommended that a numerical value is recorded for the withdrawal period of all treatments to avoid confusion.

Inspection of the treatment records showed that the maximum recommended number of marine treatments as outlined in the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) for Slice of 5 per 2 year growth cycle, and not more than 3 per 12 month period, had been exceeded and was possibly a contributing factor for the non-compliant sample. The policy position, as set out by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), is that all use outside of the approved Marketing Authorisation and SPC constitutes cascade use, and a statutory minimum withdrawal period of 500 degree days applies.

Information with regards to this investigation has been shared with Food Standard Scotland (FSS) and the VMD and the case has been passed to the VMD Enforcement Team to determine if any further action is appropriate.

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