

Slice

Introduction



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Presentation

A premix for medicated feed containing 0.2 % w/w emamectin benzoate (pure).

Uses

For the treatment and control of infestations of all parasitic stages of sea lice (*Lepeophtheirus* sp. and *Caligus* sp.) on Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) ranging in size from smolts in freshwater (just prior to transfer to seawater) to market weight fish in seawater.

Dosage and administration

Administer medicated feed to fish at the recommended feeding rate of 0.5% biomass/day for 7 days in order to yield a dose rate of 50 micrograms per kg of fish daily. If the feeding rate differs from 0.5% biomass/day, then the concentration of SLICE in feed must be adjusted proportionately. The following table is provided for reference.

Feeding rate (% biomass of fish)	Concentration of emamectin benzoate in feed medicated with SLICE (mg/kg)	Quantity of SLICE per 1,000 kg of medicated feed (kg)	Quantity of SLICE-medicated feed per 1,000 kg of fish per day (kg)
0.25	20.0	10.0	2.5
0.5	10.0	5.0	5.0
1.0	5.0	2.5	10.0
2.0	2.5	1.25	20.0
3.0	1.67	0.833	30.0
4.0	1.25	0.625	40.0

SLICE-medicated fish feed is to be prepared only at commercial fish feed mills and not at fish farms. SLICE is to be coated onto feedstuff comprised of extruded pellets of varying thickness and length, e.g. 3.5 mm, 5.0 mm, 7.0 mm and 10,00 mm.

Recommended Method of Incorporation

SLICE is to be coated onto feedstuff comprised of extruded cylindrical pellets, which may be of varying thickness and length. SLICE may be coated onto the surface of non-medicated fish feed in the following manner:

1. Standard feed is transported by a conveyor belt to a fractioning sieve where dust and fragments are sorted out.
2. The sorted pellets are transferred to an intensive mixer.
3. The pellets are dry-mixed/coated with a predetermined amount of SLICE for up to 2 minutes.
4. 0.5% to 1% fish or vegetable oil is added and mixing continued for up to 5 minutes. The added oil seals the premix powder to the feed pellet.
5. At the completion of mixing, the product is transferred to a feeder tank for packaging into sacks.

Smolts should only be treated when raised either in tanks or in flowing waterways (see contraindications). Smolts should be transferred to seawater 1-2 days after the seven day treatment period has ended.

To ensure that tissue residues do not exceed the MRL, fish must not be treated more than once in the 60 days prior to the first fish being harvested for human consumption.

The recommended maximum number of marine treatments is 5 per 2 year growth cycle and not more than 3 per 12 month period.

To reduce the possibility of resistance development in sea lice it is recommended that emamectin benzoate is used in integrated control programmes with the following considerations:

- Administration of the correct dosage rate over the full seven day period
- Medication of an appropriate amount of feed to ensure complete and homogeneous consumption
- Careful feeding practices to monitor feeding behaviour
- Use of the product in the absence of any intercurrent disease affecting appetite
- Simultaneous medication of all fish on a site
- Coordination of treatments of all farms in a loch or bay system to reduce cross-infestation
- Use of good management practices such as single age sites, all-in-all-out systems and following between production cycles

It is important that the level of infestation and the effectiveness of control measures are monitored by routine counting of sea lice stages on samples of representative fish. Counts should be conducted on at least five fish from each of 20% of cages on the farm at weekly intervals in summer and every second week in winter.

Contra-indications, warnings, etc

Do not use in adult Atlantic salmon intended for broodstock. Do not use for treatment of smolts in freshwater cages due to potential environmental risks. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after use of the medicated feed. Dispose of any unused product or waste materials in accordance with guidance from your local waste regulation authority, e.g. the local regional office of the Environment Agency or SEPA. It is essential to obtain a discharge consent from the local regional office of the Environment Agency or SEPA before using SLICE medicated feed.

At the recommended dose emamectin benzoate produced no undesirable effects in the clinical trials, apart from a slight reduction in appetite during the medication period in two trials. A change in the source and pellet size of the medicated diet may have contributed to this effect.

Emamectin benzoate administered to Atlantic salmon smolts in freshwater at 5.4 times the the recommended dose pro dark skin colouration and incoordination during the treatment.

Emamectin benzoate administered to Atlantic salmon in seawater at seven times the recommended dose produced lethargy, dark skin colouration and incoordination commencing on the fifth day of medication and inappetence commencing two days after treatment in either fish treated in freshwater or in seawater. Recovery was not evident in the week following treatment. There is no known antidote.

Keep out of reach of children. For animal treatment only.

Withdrawal Period

No withdrawal period is necessary. To ensure that tissue residues do not exceed the MRL, Atlantic salmon must not be treated more than once in the 60 days prior to the first fish being harvested for human consumption.

Storage

No special storage conditions are required.

Legal category

POM-V

Packaging Quantities

Each 2.5 kg sachet of SLICE® contains 5 g of emamectin benzoate.
Eight 2.5 kg satchets are packed in a fibre drum.

Further information

Nil.

Marketing authorisation number

Vm 00201\4153.