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Explanatory note on Reissue of UKTAG Recommendation for Environmental Quality Standards for Emamectin Benzoate (published 30 June 2022)

A correction to the value of organic carbon in the test sediment of the key study used to derive the EQS for marine sediment has been made. This means the recommended EQS has been updated, because the ecotoxicity value on which the EQS is based is adjusted for the content of organic carbon in the test sediment. This adjustment is accepted practice and enables comparison of sediment data from different studies on a common basis. **The recommended EQS for marine sediment, on the basis of the recommended default sediment organic carbon content of 5%, has therefore changed from 131 ng/kg dry weight to 272 ng/kg dry weight.** The reissued report has been updated accordingly. This updated EQS is protective of the marine environment, and is about 3.5 times more stringent than an existing standard that SEPA have used to regulate fish farms since 1999.

This correction has been made as a result of the fact that Salmon Scotland contacted UKTAG in late January 2023 because they had identified that the value of organic carbon for the test sediment in the key study seemed to be incorrect in the UKTAG Recommendation report. Salmon Scotland have access to the original, Industry owned study report, whereas the UKTAG derivation used summaries of the study that are included in EU regulatory reports that relate to regulation of plant protection products as well as a previous report commissioned by SEPA to synthesise all available data for emamectin benzoate and derive updated standards. It is standard practice in the derivation of EQS to collate all available reliable and relevant data as a first step. Regulatory reports, such as these that have been peer reviewed as part of the programme they are produced for, are used as principal sources of information where original study reports are not readily accessible.

UKTAG does not routinely request study reports owned by Industry, as these are proprietary information and may contain trade secrets or confidential commercial information that the study owners claim exempt them from public disclosure. In this case UKTAG have worked with Salmon Scotland and are satisfied that the organic carbon content of this study in the UKTAG Recommendation was incorrectly reported as 4.8%, when the correct value is 2.3%.