

From: MacIntyre, Stephen
To: "kate.mcintyre@scottishseafarms.com"
Subject: Thermolicer & need for additional cage
Date: 02 September 2016 14:57:37
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks Kate – the principle of this is good and we would seek to minimise regulatory implications. As you outline there are some issues that we will need to consider further with a view to hopefully developing and agreeing some rules that, in preference to site by site considerations, could perhaps be applied uniformly. I have passed this on to colleagues in SEPA's Aquaculture team and we will come back to you in due course.

Regards
Stephen

Stephen MacIntyre, Senior Environment Protection Officer

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From: Kate McIntyre [<mailto:kate.mcintyre@scottishseafarms.com>]
Sent: 02 September 2016 11:05
To: MacIntyre, Stephen
Subject: Thermolicer & need for additional cage

Hi Stephen,

SSF have recently invested in a Thermolicer to assist us in sea-lice control. The system is mounted on a custom-built vessel, and fish are pumped in, bathed in warm water for around 30 seconds and then discharged into another pen. We consider that it is the most fish-friendly of the various mechanical de-licers now coming on the market, as it does not involve abrasive forces being applied directly to the fish. Nevertheless, a degree of stress is unavoidably associated with the necessary crowding and pumping processes. One issue that has come up is that the system requires an additional empty cage to be available on-site. Fish from the first cage to be treated would be transferred into the empty cage following treatment, fish from the second cage would be transferred to the first cage and so on, which would eventually leave the last cage empty. Because of the stress caused to fish by being pumped from cage to cage, we would not then want to immediately re-locate the fish from the first cage back to the last one. The options would be either to add an extra cage to the group permanently, or possibly to have an itinerant cage which could be transferred from site to site as required. In this latter case, the cage would need to spend a minimum of two weeks on site to allow fish to settle down before being moved back out of it. I was wondering whether you could give a SEPA viewpoint for us on these options. There will be implications for the benthic footprint, but these will not be consistent because we won't know how many times we'll want to treat the fish with the Thermolicer and therefore which cage would be left empty for periods of time and when (it could usually be managed so that it is always one of two adjacent end cages, where the cage group is arranged in a double row). There are obviously planning issues involved with either scenario, and I will be consulting with local authorities on this as well. It has occurred to me that an extra cage could be added under existing PDR rules, but in some cases this would need to be smaller than the existing cages in order to meet the 10% surface area rule (e.g. A 70m cage added to a group of 80s). Would SEPA have any issues with this, if stocking densities could be kept within allowed limits? Would there be any scope for allowing a slightly higher limit for that single cage – limited if necessary to a few weeks per cycle? It is hoped that use of the Thermolicer will allow reduced use of chemical treatments, so we are obviously keen to find a solution that will allow us start operating the system as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

Kate

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