

## What is SLICE®?

SLICE® is a veterinary product available by prescription to minimize the number of sea lice on farmed salmon. The active ingredient in SLICE® is emamectin benzoate, a derivative of a naturally occurring chemical produced by soil bacteria. Among other uses, emamectin is approved for use in Japan and the USA on vegetable crops and in Norway and Scotland for salmon. In advance of completion of the full registration process which is currently under way, Health Canada provides access to SLICE® to veterinarians through the emergency drug release (EDR) program. Health Canada assesses the efficacy, safety and environmental impact of products before providing access to them through EDRs.

## How is SLICE® used?

SLICE® is added to the feed of farmed fish at a dose of 50µg/kg of body weight each day for 7 days. Salmon eat the feed and the treatment reaches lice feeding on the salmon by way of the skin and mucous of the salmon.

## Does SLICE® work?

The treatment is effective against all the life stages of sea lice and reduces the abundance of sea lice on affected fish. It also helps to prevent further infestations of the same group of fish for months afterward.

## What happens to SLICE® after it is used?

The active ingredient in SLICE® is not very soluble in sea water and instead has a strong tendency to bind to particles like fish feed or faeces or other organic matter. In its bound form, it loses its active properties. It is biodegradable and will eventually be incorporated into soil components.

## Is SLICE® safe for fish and other marine animals?

Salmon tolerate treatment with SLICE® well and show no measurable effects at the recommended dose and treatment length. Other animals living in the marine environment adjacent to fish farms have been studied to determine the impacts of the treatment for sea lice. Overall, no toxic effects were found; however, marine worms living in the sediment are considered to be slightly sensitive to emamectin particles.

## Human Food Safety - Is SLICE Harmful to People?

The public can feel confident in the Canadian food supply including farmed salmon. Health Canada has set stringent conditions regarding the use of veterinary products such as SLICE®. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency routinely inspects food products to ensure wholesomeness and to enforce food safety guidelines.

## Quick Reference –

**Health Canada** – Questions and Answers Emamectin Benzoate (SLICE®):  
[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/vet/faq/faq\\_slice\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/vet/faq/faq_slice_e.html)

**Pest Management Regulatory Agency** – Integrated Pest Management of Sea Lice in Salmon Aquaculture:  
[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/vet/faq/faq\\_slice\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/vet/faq/faq_slice_e.html)

**Fisheries and Oceans Canada** – Managing Risk and Sustaining Wild Pacific Salmon Populations  
[http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sci/aquaculture/sok/risk\\_e.htm](http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sci/aquaculture/sok/risk_e.htm)