

Summary

Advice 22-2007 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the presence of malachite green and leucomalachite green in farmed fish.

The Scientific Committee was asked to give an advice on the presence of malachite green (MG) and leucomalachite green (LMG) in farmed fish.

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the presence of MG and LMG in farmed fish could be a consequence of pollution (discharge or by historical use as a drug). Until now it is difficult to prove a direct scientific link. There is a lack of information available concerning the intake, distribution, bioaccumulation of (L)MG residues in fish, about possible interspecies variation, about degradation of (L)MG in the environment,...

Two kind of measures are advised:

- to realise a follow-up and a profound research study to confirm the hypothesis of a historical contamination of the location (type of the pond, origin of the water, presence upstream of other fish farms, information on preceding events of contamination (in which year and which measured concentrations), measuring MG and LMG in the sediment, evolution of the detected contamination rates,...)
- to perform cleansing measures, like for example emptying or dredging the pond. With regard to a possible treatment (plaster, stimulation of the microbial demolition), it is necessary to obtain further information on the effectiveness, the possible disadvantages and the feasibility.

Finally, the Scientific Committee indicates that there is a need for development and registration of effective animal medicines in aquaculture to be able to offer an alternative to possible fraudulent application of products such as malachite green.

The full text is available on <http://www.favv-afsc.fgov.be/wetenschappelijkcomite/adviezen/2007.asp> in French and Dutch.