

# Action Plans and Reduction Programmes

Some recent developments in riverfly conservation

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**Danger  
Sheep Dip**

# Action Plans and Reduction Programmes

Sheep dipping - whys and wherefores

Cypermethrin pollution issues and history

The Ban and Pollution Reduction Programme

The current situation

Riverflies and Biodiversity Action Plans

What next and what can we do?



# Dripping and washings

Cypermethrin is 1000 times more toxic to river invertebrates than Organophosphates (OPs)

0.06 mg of Cypermethrin is sufficient to exceed Environmental Quality Standard

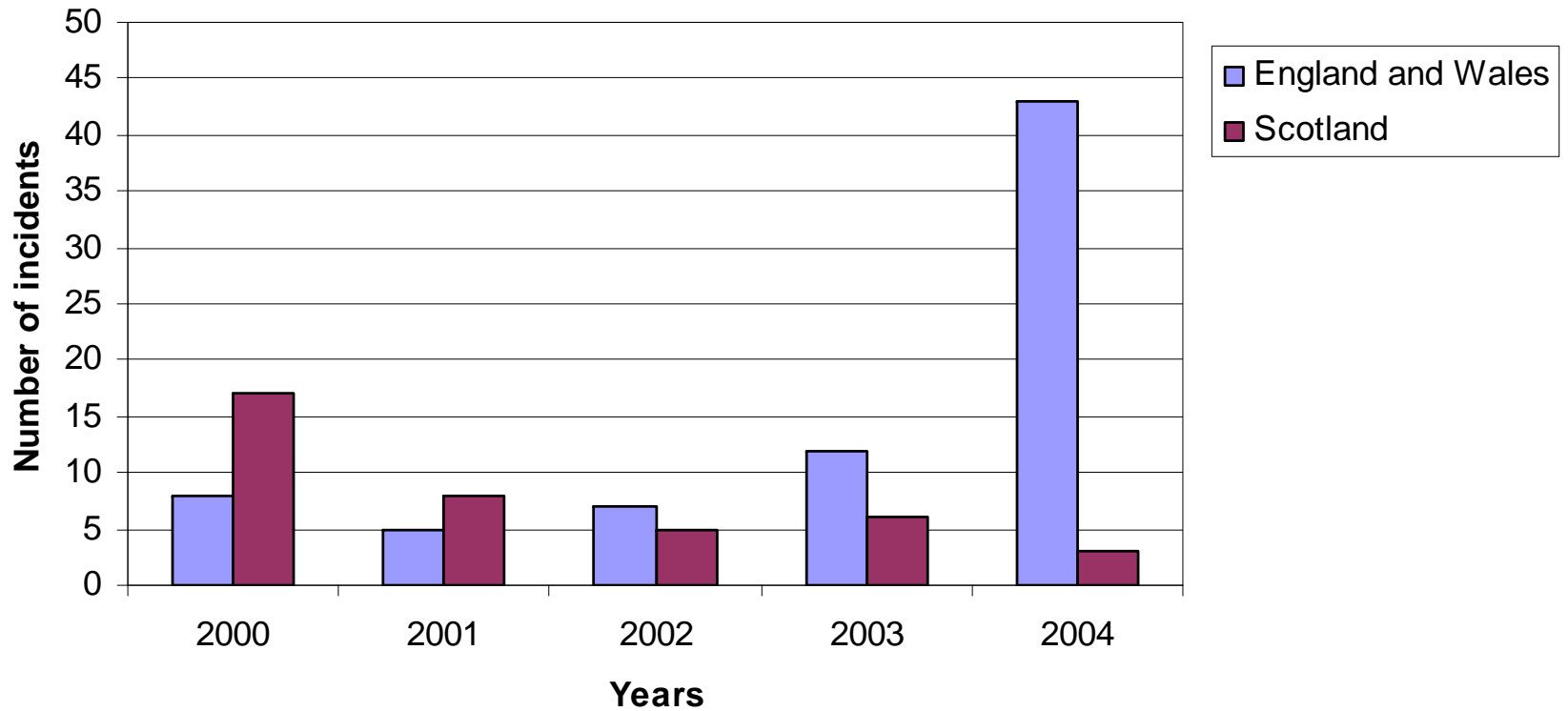
After 48 hours of drying dipped sheep were walked through 9 cm of water

On average each sheep deposited 0.2 mg of Cypermethrin

Current recommended drying time is 10 mins!

- May take months for the sheep to be 'safe'

**Comparison of serious sheep dip pollution incidents in  
England and Wales vs Scotland. source: Veterinary Products  
Committee, EA and SEPA**



# Cypermethrin pollution events

2004 - 5,000 white-clawed crayfish were killed by sheep dip pollution in Cumbria's River Mint.

2005 - ADAS, the government's own advisor on sheep dipping, was prosecuted and fined £5,000 for seriously damaging two rivers.

2005 - the aquatic animal life in Lunan Loch was "virtually eliminated" when an organic farmer, let Cypermethrin sheep-dip into a burn.

Sheep dip chemicals cause around one third of all freshwater Environmental Quality Standard (EQS) failures



# Sheep Dip Steering Group

Oversees the Pollution Reduction Programme:-

1. An options appraisal designed to secure a sustainable solution to the sheep dip problem;
2. A series of measures to raise awareness of the environmental risk of using sheep dip products;
3. A monitoring programme for rivers and streams;
4. A programme of scientific research to support the PRP.



# Sheep Dip Steering Group

1. Option 1 - Do nothing (Cypermethrin sheep dip returns to the market with current level of control & awareness)
2. Option 2 - Continued use of cypermethrin sheep dips together with additional specified control measures
3. Option 3 - Re-introduction of cypermethrin sheep dips for a limited period as part of a wider UK strategy to eradicate scab
4. Option 4 - Permanent withdrawal of cypermethrin sheep dips



# Keep it banned!

Number of Cypermethrin associated Category 1 and 2 incidents in England and Wales in 2006 was 3 - down from 17 in 2005

£2.5 million of damage to the property value of Welsh rivers - fisheries

Half of Wales is at risk of failing to meet the Water Framework Directive objective of Good Ecological Status because of sheep dip

An estimated 1.5 billion aquatic invertebrates will be saved every year for as long as Cypermethrin sheep dip is banned



# Existing BAP Riverflies

*Brachyptera putata* – The Northern February red

*Heptagenia longicauda* - Rare yellow may dun



# New BAP Riverflies

*Nigrobaetis niger* – The Iron blue

*Potamanthus luteus* – The Yellow mayfly

*Brachyptera putata* – The Northern February red

*Isogenus nubecula* – The Scarce yellow sally

*Glossosoma intermedium* – Small grey sedge

*Hagenella clathrata* – Window winged sedge

*Hydropsyche bulgaromanorum* – Scarce grey flag

*Ironoquia dubia* – Scarce brown sedge



# What next and what can we do?

Watch out for potential pollution events

Liaise with EA and SEPA

Ensure that Cypermethrin ban is made permanent

Study and record riverflies

Support organisations working to improve our rivers ecosystems for insect life



Wildlife and  
Countryside

