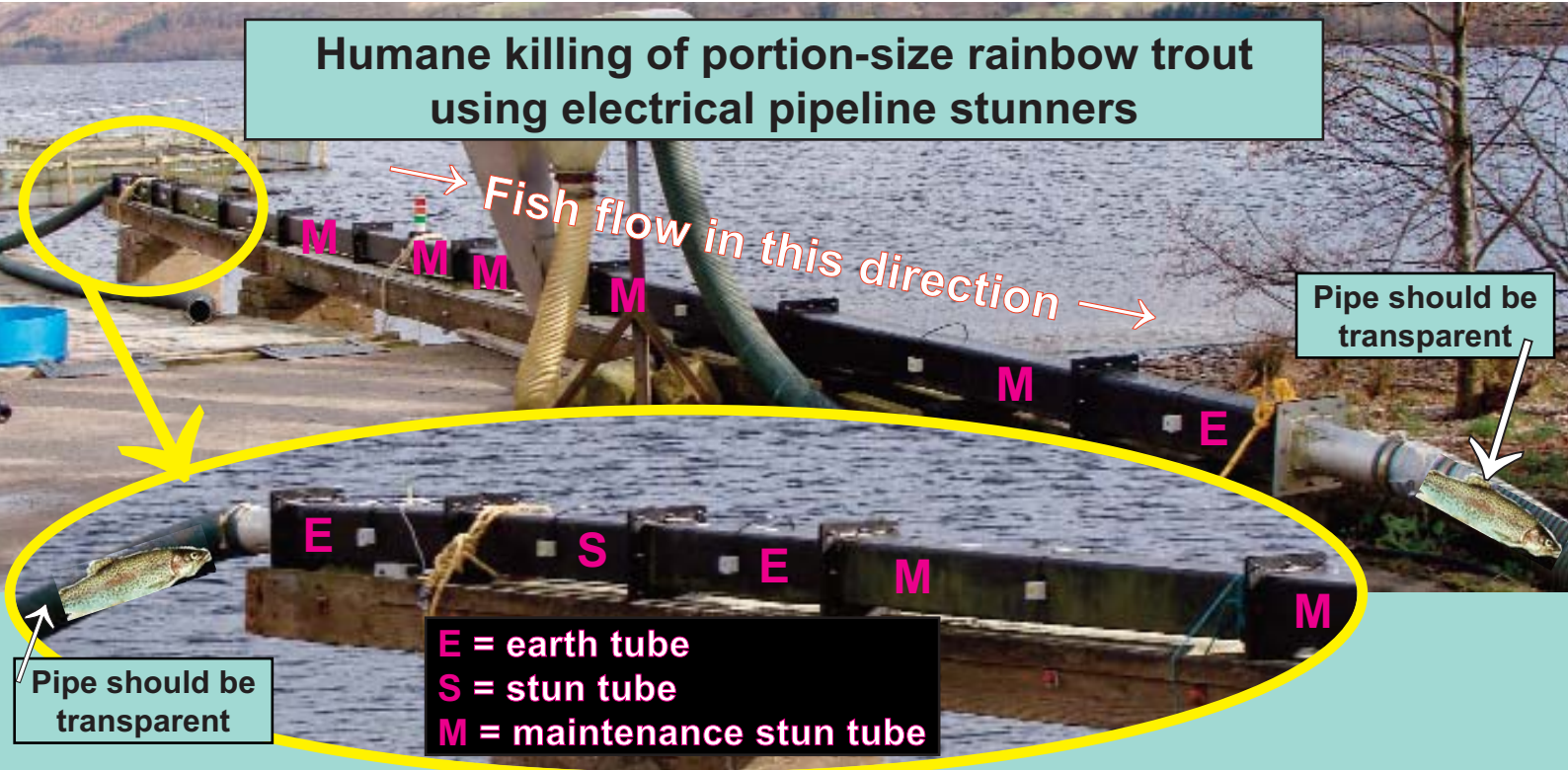


Humane killing of portion-size rainbow trout using electrical pipeline stunners



Application

- At every harvest, make sure it takes between 33 and 36 seconds for a fish to pass through the stunner. Shorter times may lead to fish recovering.
 - ▶ Use transparent pipes immediately before entry to, and exit from, the stunner.
 - ▶ Pass one recently killed fish through the stunner to time the stun duration.
- Keep pipeline gaskets watertight.
- Harvest bins must not contain water. This will prevent fish recovering. Ice can be used.
- After passing through the stunner, at least 10 fish per harvest bin must be assessed for signs of recovery.
 - ▶ At every harvest the operator must aim to achieve 100% mortality.
 - ▶ Records of the proportion of fish that do recover must be kept and reviewed.
 - ▶ If in any one harvest the proportion of recovering fish increases significantly, the operator must attempt to determine why. If necessary, the manufacturer of the stunner must be contacted.

Assessment

Signs of an effectively stunned fish

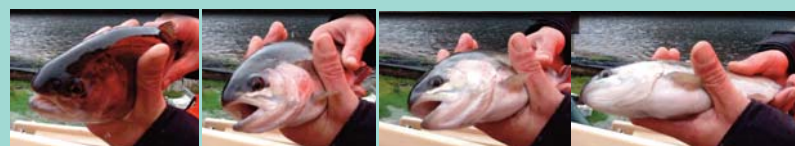
- No rhythmic breathing - look at the gill covers. Irregular random gasps are not a concern.
- Eyes are fixed, and do not move in sockets*
- Muscle tremors and rippling of skin
- Random convulsions or flipping of tail

Signs of an ineffectively stunned fish

- Rhythmic breathing - regular opening and closing of the gill covers
 - Eye(s) move in socket(s) as fish is turned[§]
 - Fish attempts to turn upright in water
 - Escape behaviour e.g. controlled flips or swimming
- Apply a back-up killing method e.g. priest

* negative 'eye roll' reflex

§ positive 'eye roll' reflex



For more details see HSA Guidance Notes No.5 Humane Harvesting of Salmon and Trout. Go to www.hsa.org.uk or contact:

Humane Slaughter Association • The Old School • Brewhouse Hill • Wheathampstead • Hertfordshire • AL4 8AN • UK
t: +44(0)1582 831919 • f: +44(0)1582 831414 • e: info@hsa.org.uk