

Strategic Indicator**Animal Welfare**Indicator Outcome Number**4,5,6**Indicator Measure

The number of category 3 & 4 welfare incidents recorded at the farm, in transport and at meat plants.

What is the role of FSS?

One of the key functions of Food Standards Scotland (FSS) is to ensure that animals are protected by FBOs prior to and during slaughter and killing.

On behalf of SG, FSS enforces legislation that ensures only licensed, trained and competent operatives are involved in slaughter, killing and related operations.

FSS also plays an important role in relation to assisting the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and Local Authorities with animal welfare on farm and during transport under a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with SG.

Where sufficient evidence is available, enforcement action is taken against any non-compliant business in relation to animal welfare. This is reflected in audit reports and the audit frequency will increase for non-compliant premises.

Why is this Strategic Indicator Important?

- It provides an overall view of welfare levels at slaughter
- It shows origin of welfare issues
- It allows FSS to detect negative trends and act, advising relevant organisations of emerging risk
- An area of interest for public and media, leading to queries/FOI requests.
- A possibility of reputational risk to FSS

Severity of Welfare IncidentsCategory 3

Technical breach of the Regulations but there was **no evidence** of any avoidable pain, distress or suffering to the animal during their killing and related operations.

Category 4

Breach of welfare Regulations with **evidence of** avoidable pain, distress or suffering to the animal during their killing and related operations, or a contravention poses a serious and imminent risk to animal welfare.

FSS Performance update – (refer to graphs – overview)

FSS is continuing to improve the monitoring and reporting system for animal welfare breaches. Initiatives in 2016 raised the profile of animal welfare resulting in an increased level of reporting. FSS engaged in discussions and collaboration with the enforcement authorities competent for farm and/or transport (APHA and LAs) to improve monitoring and action on animal welfare non-compliances. FSS is collaborating with the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy Group and LA local panels to address non-compliances spanning multiple agencies. The Scottish Livestock Welfare Group (SLWG) was created to review welfare data and intelligence, address areas for improvement in a coordinated approach and review welfare policy to secure improvements in welfare.

Animal welfare breaches that occur within approved slaughterhouses in Scotland are investigated and proportionate action is taken by official veterinary personnel. The action will range from verbal advice, enforcement letters, welfare enforcement notices to investigations with a view to providing reports to the Procurator Fiscal, and if required the suspension or revocation of slaughterer's Certificate of Competence.

FSS Influence on performance markers

- FSS has enforcement power/tools to stop/change/influence processes to ensure animal welfare at slaughter is protected.
- FSS report all issues to competent authorities (APHA/LA), providing the required information and evidence to improve welfare on farm and during transport.
- FSS collaborate with APHA and LAs to improve the overall welfare of animals in Scotland.

Issues within reporting Quarter

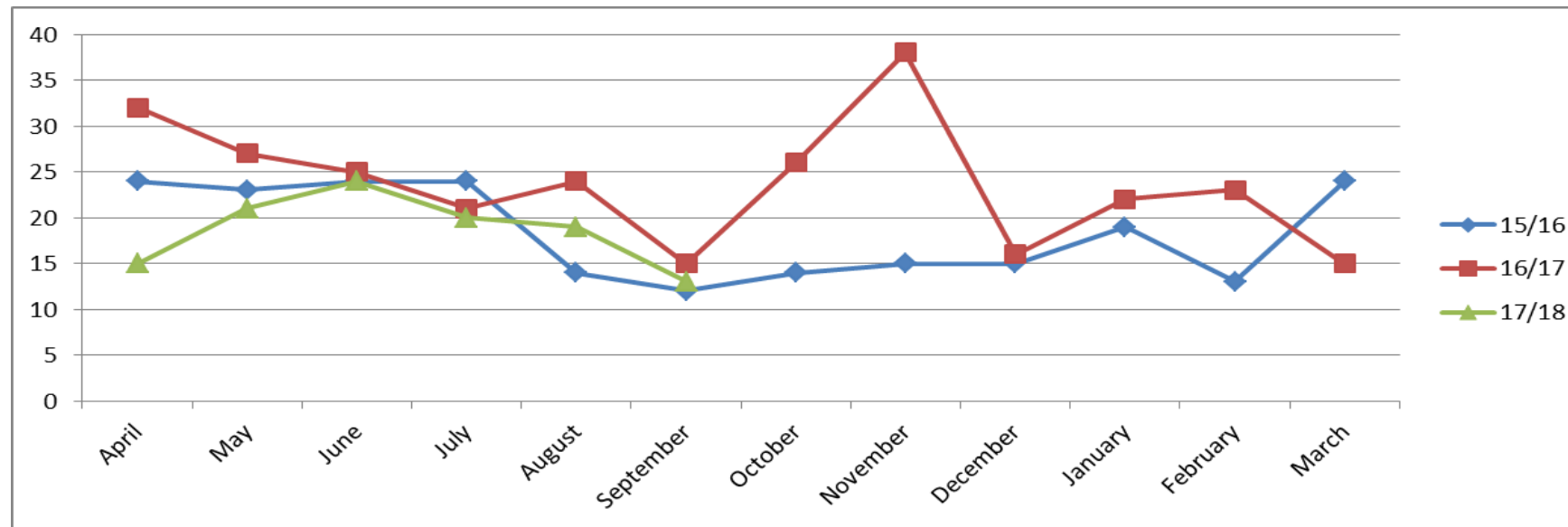
In Quarter 2 there was an increase in score 4 incidents related to farm and transport issues with the majority being related to cattle and pigs being injured, weak or dead on arrival

Scottish Trends

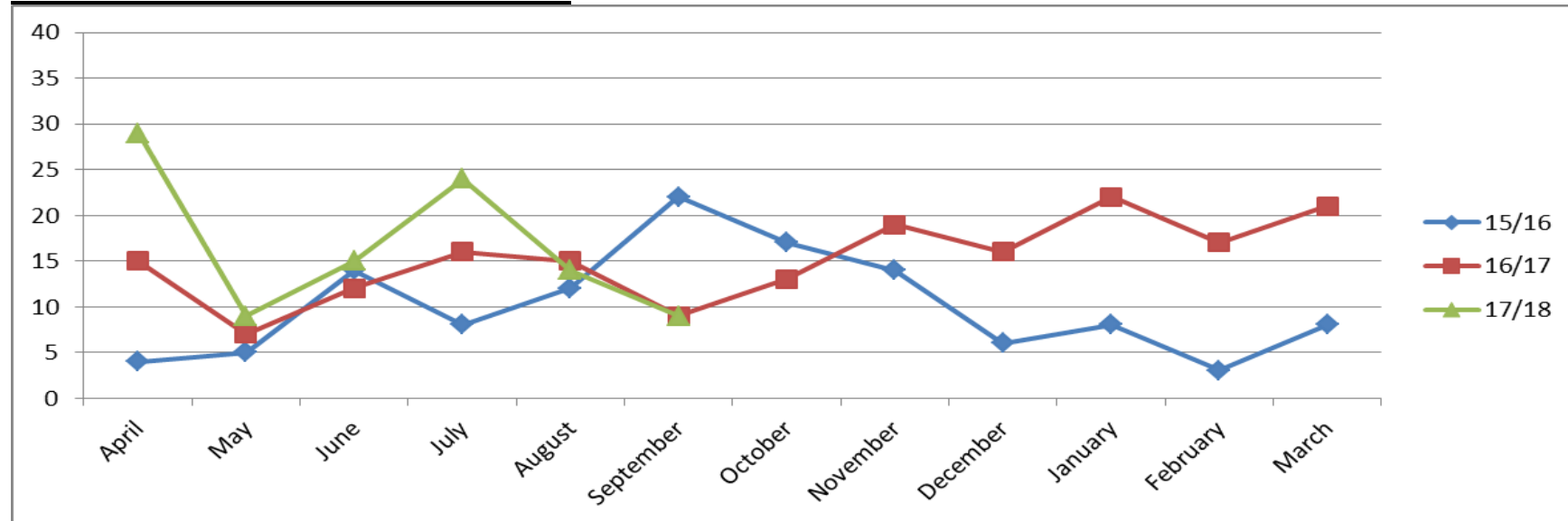
Graphs overleaf show welfare incident trends

WELFARE BREACHES

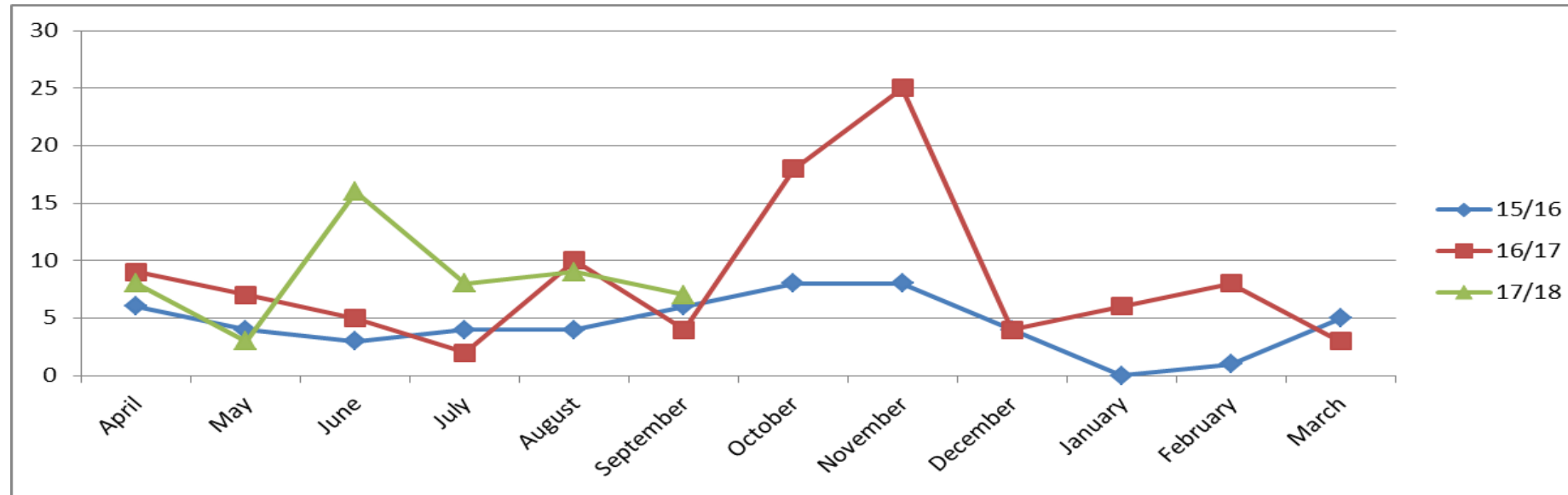
NON COMPLIANCE SUMMARY SCORE 3



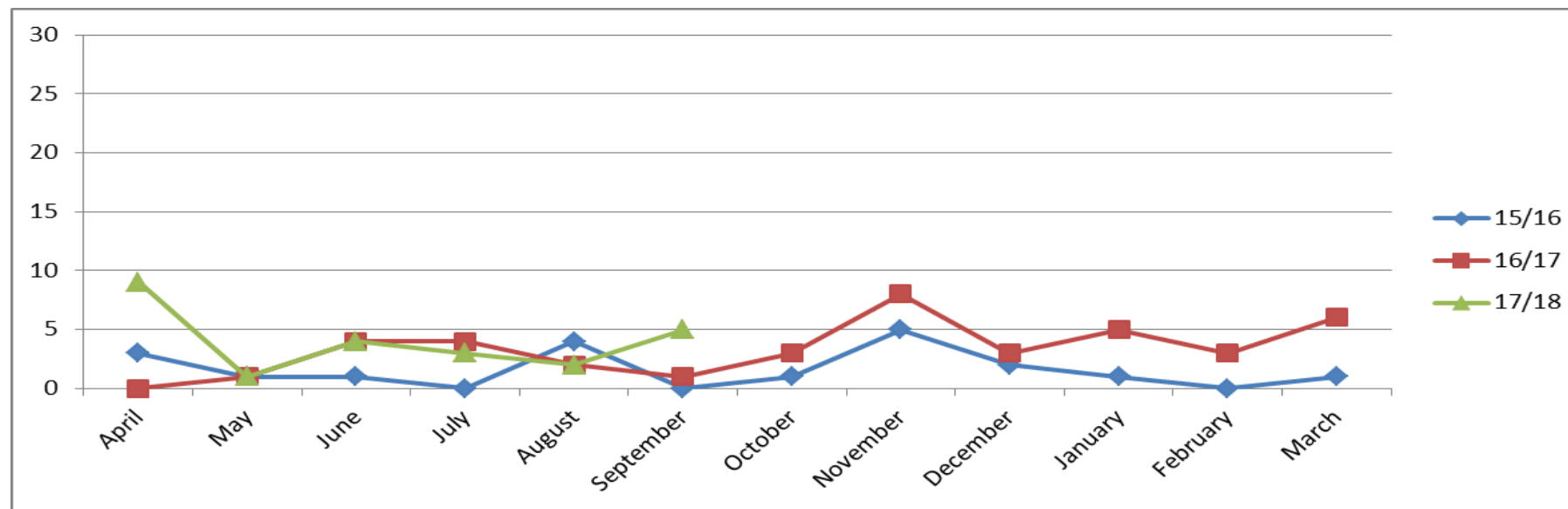
NON COMPLIANCE SUMMARY SCORE 4



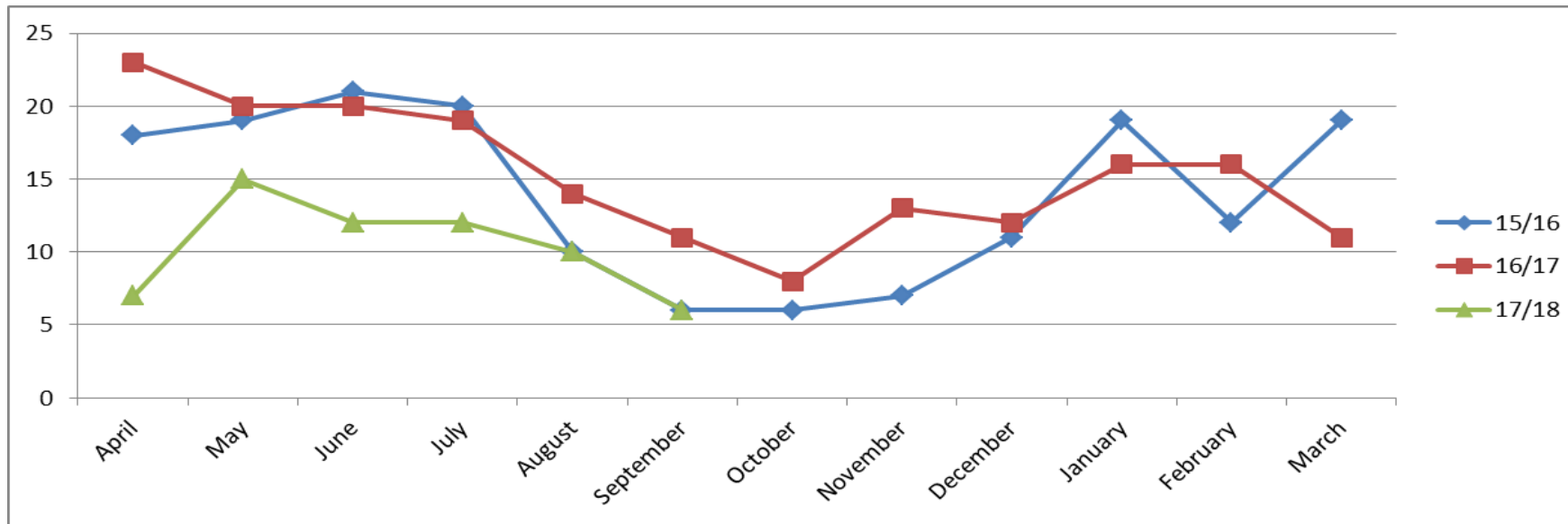
WELFARE BREACHES IN ABATTOIRS – SCORE 3



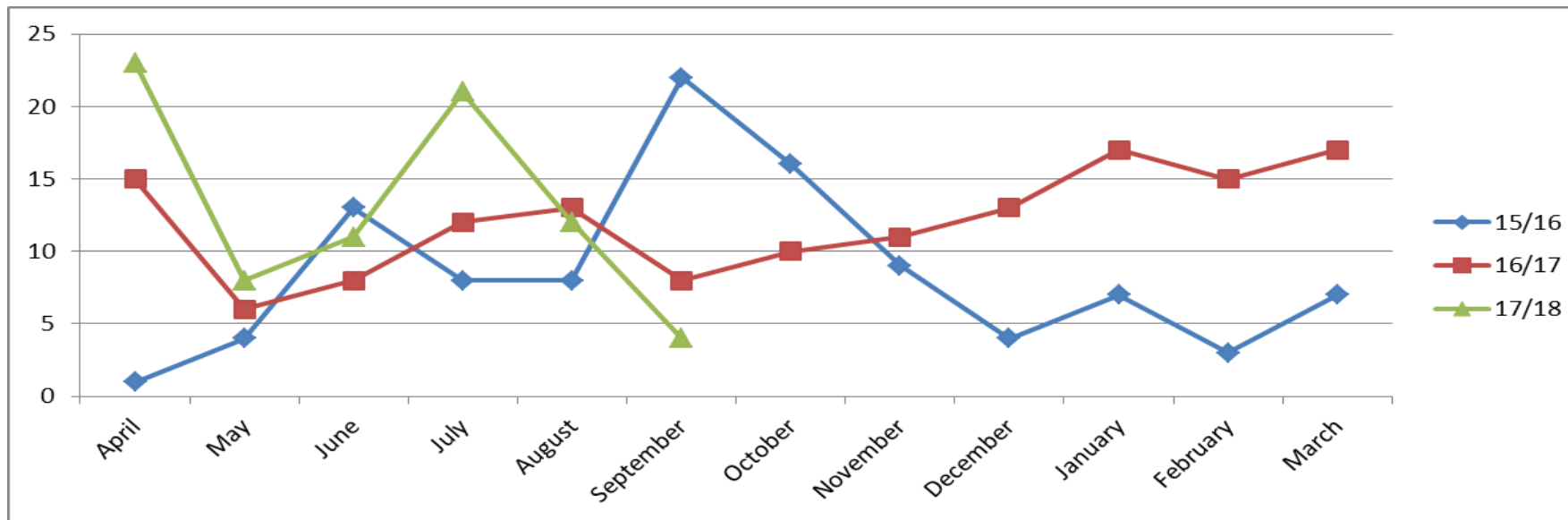
WELFARE BREACHES IN ABATTOIRS – SCORE 4



WELFARE BREACHES ON FARM OR TRANSPORT - SCORE 3



WELFARE BREACHES ON FARM OR TRANSPORT - SCORE 4



Strategic Indicator**Visible Contamination**Indicator Outcome Number**1,5,6**Indicator Measure

Number of contaminated carcasses presented to FSS staff for inspection

What is the role of FSS?

FSS engages with FBOs to secure reducing levels of contamination. FSS inspectors record every instance where a contaminated carcass is presented for inspection and this is a proxy measure for hygienic production.

FSS ensures that all carcasses (red meat) where a health mark is applied are free from visible contamination and fit for human consumption.

FSS Official Veterinarians re-inspect a pre-set quantity of carcasses and offal to provide assurance on the effectiveness of inspection.

Why is this Strategic Indicator Important?

It is the responsibility of the FBO in slaughterhouses to present carcasses and offal to the FSS for final inspection free from contamination by faeces, gut content, hair, wool, bile, etc. in accordance with the FBO's procedures based on HACCP principles

- To protect public Health
- To ensure meat is fit for human consumption
- To provide an overview of dressing practices of premises in Scotland which can help to monitor possible emerging risks

FSS Influence on performance markers

FSS exercises enforcement powers to stop/alter unhygienic dressing practices and engages with FBOs to promote best practice. Real time monitoring allows for timely corrective actions at plant level and analysis of trends and comparative plant data allows for detection of possible emerging risks

FSS Performance update

Contaminated carcasses presented for inspection remain below the levels set as an internal target with FBOs.

Carcass contamination across all 3 species was stable during the quarter with pig and sheep contamination tracking below our internal targets for carcasses presented for inspection. A review of cleanliness of cattle on receipt at abattoirs was completed and concluded that there is no correlation with carcass contamination. Data capture will continue for another 12 months.

We are developing a best practice guide for the red meat industry to share our experiences of the most effective practices in Scottish plants which secure lasting visible contamination reduction and control.

Contamination Graphs

Each red meat species has a contamination level for carcasses presented for inspection below which we expect all plants to operate whilst recognising no contamination is acceptable.

Cattle - 4%

Sheep - 4%

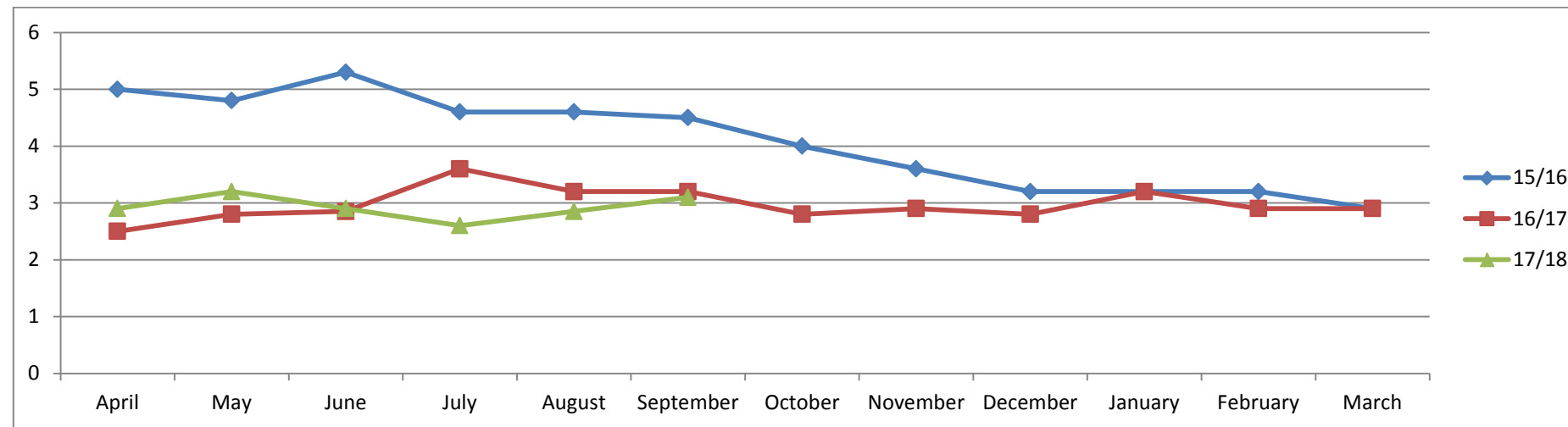
Pigs - 2%

Each graph shows the total percentage for each month by species..

Scottish Trends

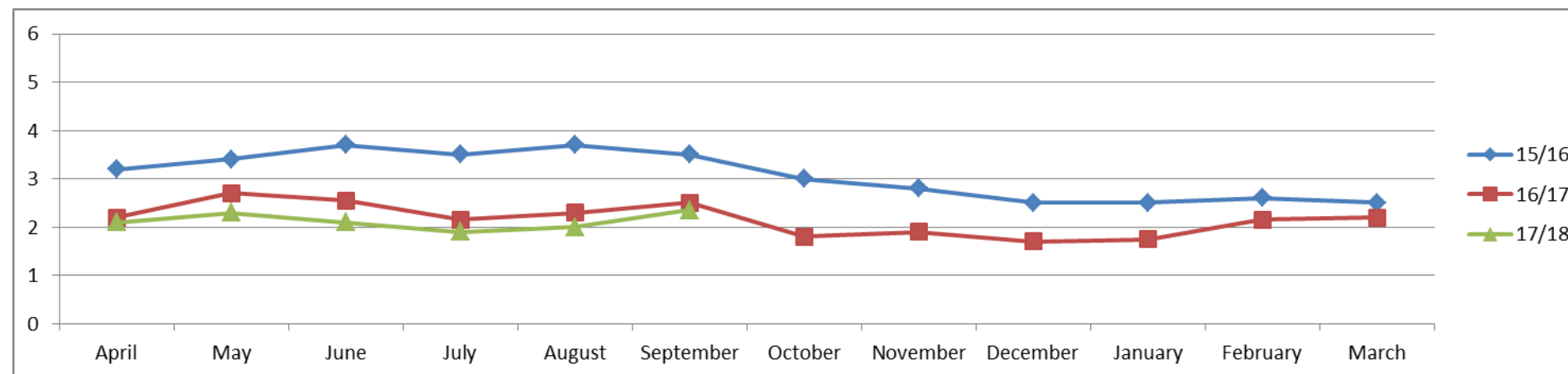
Graphs overleaf showing contamination monthly averages (Average % Carcasse Contamination by species)

BOVINE CONTAMINATION %

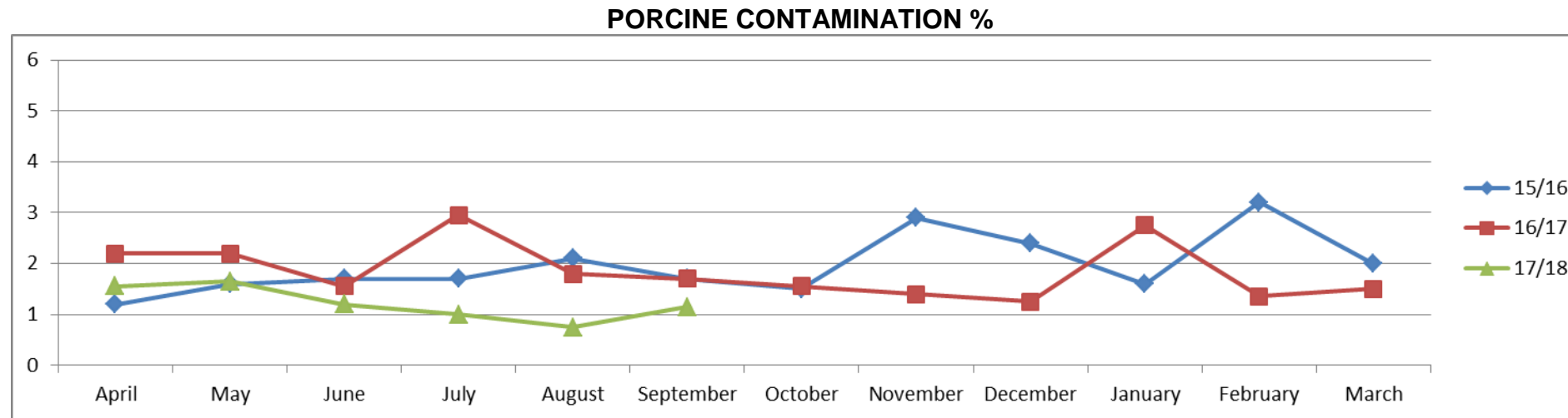


In Q1 of 2017, cattle (bovine) contamination shows a slight increase in April and May as controls in a large plant went out of control for a period of time. Robust enforcement action brought the plant back into control and in Q2 performance has been maintained. OV's continue to take immediate action when sudden spikes are observed and highlighted by MHIs. This normally results in FBOs taking corrective action.

OVINE CONTAMINATION %



Sheep (ovine) contamination levels are tracking at levels slightly below last year which is a welcome performance. In Q2 of 2017 Ovine contamination is showing a slight upward trend but still below last year's figures. OV's continue to take immediate action when sudden spikes are observed and highlighted by MHIs. This normally results in FBOs taking corrective action



Pig (porcine) contamination continues to show a downward trend although this may be a short term effect resulting from the closure of Brechin due to their fire. Other Scottish pig plants operate at lower contamination levels than Brechin albeit with much lower throughputs. Even though smaller plants processing pigs are finding it a challenge to work to the 2% level they continue to do so.

Strategic Indicator

Veterinary Audit

Indicator Outcome Number

1,4,5,6

Indicator Measures

The number of approved meat premises with ‘good’ or ‘generally satisfactory’ audit outcomes and the number of approved meat premises with ‘improvement necessary’ or ‘urgent improvement necessary’.

What is the role of FSS?

The audit frequency is determined by the categorisation of any non-compliance identified and in the level of permanent supervision within the plant by FSS staff.

Audits and follow-up audits are carried out on an announced basis, with unannounced inspections also taking place in between scheduled inspections in cutting plants.

FSS has a dedicated in-house team of trained veterinary auditors carrying out these audits in Scotland.

Why is this Strategic Indicator Important?

These audits have two main aims:

- To make sure that food business operators are complying with food law requirements
- To ensure that food business operators are meeting relevant standards in relation to public health and, in slaughterhouses, animal health and welfare.

Audit Categories and Frequency

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Good | No majors or critical on day of audit or during audit period – 12/18 months |
| Generally Satisfactory | No more than 2 majors during audit or during audit period rectified promptly. No critical during audit period – 12 months |
| Improvement Necessary | 3-6 majors during audit or during audit period. No critical during audit period – 3 months |
| Urgent Improvement Necessary | 1 critical or >6 majors during audit or during audit period – 2 months |

FSS Performance update

From 1st April 2017 to the end of August 2017, 3 plants received an Improvement Necessary Audit Outcome and one of these plants received this outcome twice, and two plants received an Urgent Improvement Necessary outcome during this period.

In the same period, 1st April 2017 to the end of August 2017, there have been a total of 49 major non compliances identified and 2 critical non compliances in 45 audits carried out.

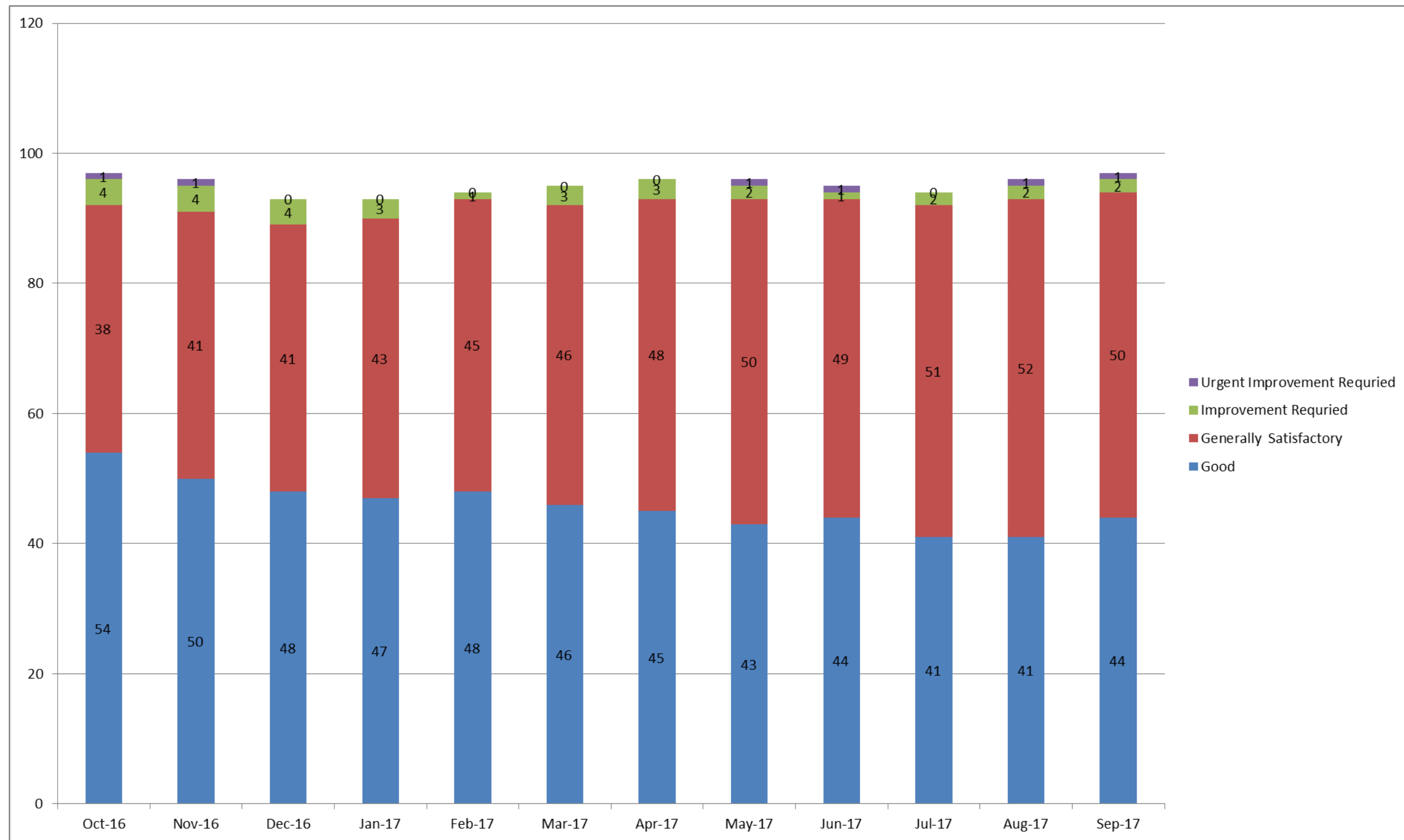
Major Non compliances include the following: monitoring procedures for critical control points hygienic production - all handling and processes from slaughtering to dispatch should be done in a way that avoids the contamination of meat and offal entering the food chain, staff training and instruction, processing compliance - controls ensure that risk of cross contamination is minimised, prevented or reduced to acceptable levels during operation and appropriate action taken should contamination occur. The critical non compliances related to Animal Welfare and Water Supply procedures implementation.

FSS Influence on performance markers

Take appropriate enforcement action when non-compliance is observed.

Scottish Trends

Graph overleaf showing veterinary audit outcome trends



Improvement Necessary Plants
(at September 24 2017)

| Plant Number | Name |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 1758 | Kismet Halal Meat & Donor |
| 1210 | Rodgers Butchers Wholesale Ltd |

Urgent Improvement Necessary Plants
(at September 24 2017)

| Plant Number | Name |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1598 | Highland Meats |

Strategic Indicator

Local Authority Audit

Indicator Outcome Number

1

Audit Assurance Categories

| | |
|---|--|
| Substantial Assurance <i>Controls are robust and well managed</i> | Risk, governance and control procedures are effective in supporting the delivery of any related objectives. Any exposure to potential weakness is low and the materiality of any consequent risk is negligible. |
| Reasonable Assurance <i>Controls are adequate but require improvement</i> | Some improvements are required to enhance the adequacy and effectiveness of procedures. There are weaknesses in the risk, governance and/or control procedures in place but not of a significant nature. |
| Limited Assurance <i>Controls are developing but weak</i> | There are weaknesses in the current risk, governance and/or control procedures that either do, or could, affect the delivery of any related objectives. Exposure to the weaknesses identified is moderate and being mitigated. |
| Insufficient Assurance <i>Controls are not acceptable and have notable weaknesses</i> | There are significant weaknesses in the current risk, governance and/or control procedures, to the extent that the delivery of objectives is at risk. Exposure to the weaknesses identified is sizeable and requires urgent mitigating action. |

What is FSS' Role?

The power to set standards, monitor and audit the performance of enforcement authorities was conferred on Food Standards Scotland by Sections 3 and 25 of the Food (Scotland) Act 2015 and Regulation 7 of The Official Feed and Food Controls (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

As a designated competent authority as defined within Schedule 5 of the Official Feed and Food Control (Scotland) Regulations 2009 Local Authorities are required to comply with Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 (*in that they shall carry out internal audits or may have external audits carried out, and shall take appropriate measures in the light of their results, to ensure that they are achieving the objectives of this regulation*). In order to help Local Authorities fulfil this requirement, (as part of its central role under the Food (Scotland) Act 2015 and Official Feed and Food Control (Scotland) Regulations 2009) Food Standards Scotland deliver external audit arrangements in addition to the monitoring role described above.

Why is this Strategic Indicator Important?

Food Standards Scotland has a key role in overseeing delivery of feed and food law (any form of control that is performed for the verification of compliance with feed and food law).

Food Standards Scotland seeks to work in partnership with Local Authorities and others to help them to enforce feed and food law and is therefore pro-active in setting and monitoring standards, and auditing delivery of feed and food law and ensuring that this activity complies with the Scottish Regulators' Strategic Code of Practice.

Current Audit Programme - Capacity and Capability

The specific aims of this audit programme are to:

- Evaluate the organisational, management and information systems in place to ensure they are effective and suitable to achieve the objectives of the relevant food law.
- Assess the capacity and capability of the Local Authority to deliver the food service.
- Provide a means to identify under performance in Local Authority food law enforcement systems.
- Assist in the identification and dissemination of good practice to aid consistency.
- Provide information to aid the formulation of Food Standards Scotland policy.

Completed Audits (November 2016-NOVEMBER 2017)

| Local Authority | Audit Scope | Audit Date | Audit Outcome |
|---------------------|--|------------|---|
| Scottish Borders | Capacity and Capability | Nov-16 | Insufficient Assurance |
| Falkirk | Capacity and Capability | Dec-16 | Limited Assurance |
| Inverclyde | Capacity and Capability | Jan-17 | Substantial Assurance |
| South Ayrshire | Capacity and Capability | Feb-17 | Substantial Assurance |
| Dumfries & Galloway | Follow Up Audit – Audit of Core Enforcement Activities | Mar-17 | Audit file closed on successful completion of the action plan |
| Perth & Kinross | Capacity and Capability | May-17 | Reasonable Assurance |
| Moray | Capacity and Capability | Jun-17 | Limited Assurance |
| East Lothian | Capacity and Capability | Jul-17 | Substantial Assurance |
| Argyll & Bute | Capacity and Capability | Aug-17 | DRAFT |

Strategic Indicator

Shellfish Sample Compliance

Indicator Outcome Number

1,5,6

Indicator Measure

The number of samples collected against risk-based sampling plans

What is the role of FSS?

As the Competent Authority for food safety, FSS delivers official controls to determine the safety of marine waters used for the harvesting of live bivalve molluscs in Scotland, as described in EC Regulations. FSS is responsible for ensuring that shellfish from designated harvesting areas meet the health standards laid down in EC Regulation 853/2004. Shellfish classifications are awarded based on the levels of E. coli in shellfish flesh. See Shellfish classification categories and permitted levels of E. coli are shown below.

Why is this Strategic Indicator Important?

- To ensure that FSS carries out its responsibility in effectively managing the shellfish monitoring programmes, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and contracts which ensures compliance with relevant food safety regulations
- To ensure that all sampling requirements are met and shellfish from designated harvesting areas meet the health standards stipulated in EU Regulations.

Shellfish classification categories and permitted levels of E. coli/100g flesh:

Treatment processes are specified according to the classification status of the area.

| Category | Classification criteria | Action |
|----------|---|--|
| A | 80 % of samples collected during the review period ≤ 230 E. coli/100 g of flesh and intravalvular liquid. The remaining 20% of samples ≤ 700 E. coli/100 g of flesh and intravalvular liquid. | May go directly for human consumption if end product standard met |
| B | 90 % of samples collected during review period ≤ 4 600E. Coli/100 g of flesh and intravalvular liquid. The remaining 10% of samples ≤ 46 000 E. Coli/100 g of flesh and intravalvular liquid. | Must be subject to purification, relaying in Class A area (to meet category A requirements) or cooked by an approved method. |
| C | Samples ≤ 46,000 E coli/100g of flesh and intravalvular liquid | Must be subject to relaying for a period of at least 2 months or cooked by an approved method |
| | Any value exceeding 46,000 E coli /100g of flesh and intravalvular liquid | Prohibited. Harvesting not permitted |

FSS Influence on performance markers

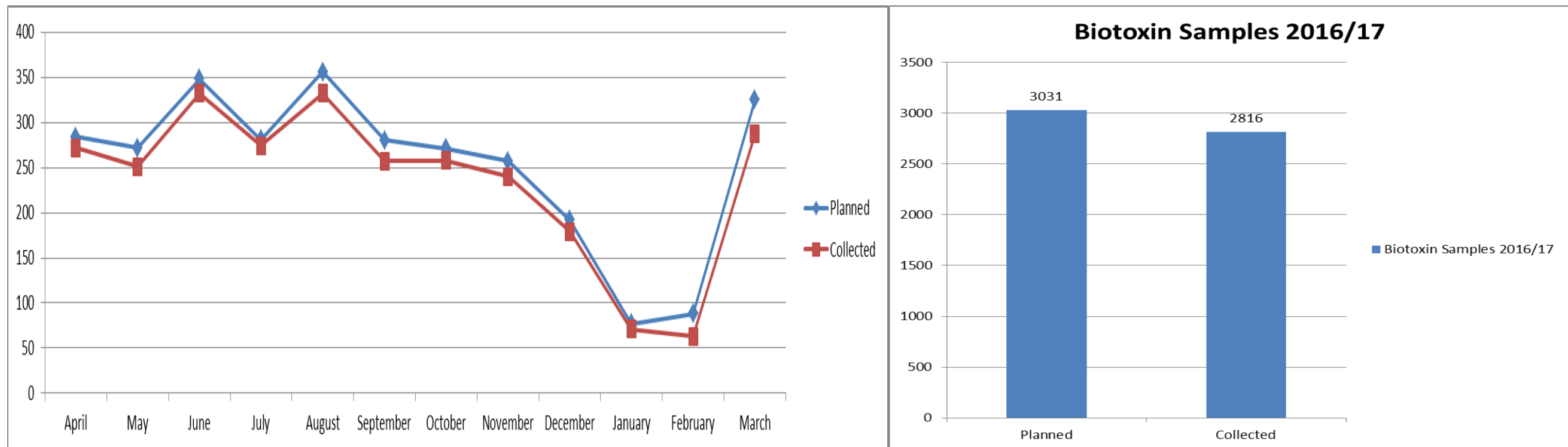
- Effective management of the MoU and contracts to ensure compliance

FSS Performance Update

Levels of marine biotoxins in shellfish samples from shellfish production areas determines whether an area should be open or closed for harvesting. This is evidenced in the Graphs overleaf, illustrating biotoxin sample compliance figures.

2016/17

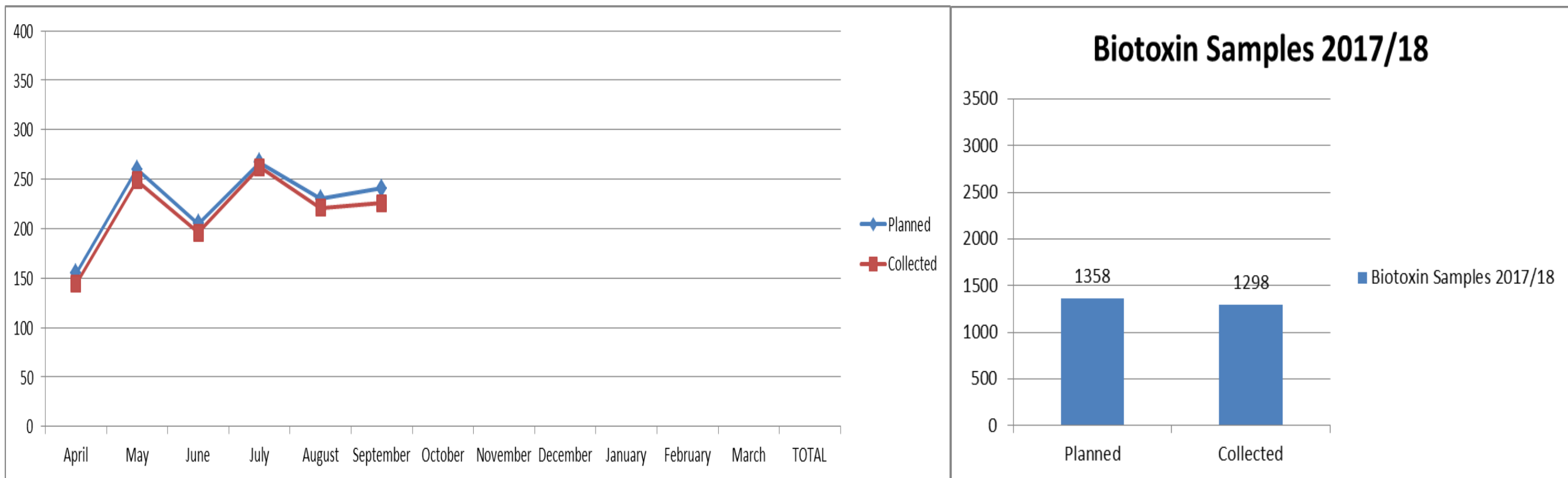
Across 179 classified areas, there were 89 biotoxin representative monitoring points that provided 2816 samples in 2016/17



Throughout the period April 2016 to March 2017, across nine local authority areas, four sampling contractors planned a total of 3309 biotoxin samples, 2816 of which were received at the laboratory for testing. Compliance for 2016/17 was 93%. Again, this can be routinely affected by a number of factors including the following: no active harvesting taking place, availability of vessels or weather conditions.

2017/18

To date, across 186 classified areas, 97 biotoxin representative monitoring points have provided 1271 samples in 2017/18



Throughout the period April 2017 to September 2017, across nine local authority areas, four sampling contractors planned a total of 1358 biotoxin samples, 1271 of which were received at the laboratory for testing. To date, compliance for 2017/18 was 94%. Again, this can be routinely affected by a number of factors including the following: no active harvesting taking place, availability of vessels or weather conditions.