

## **Findings and Decision- Renewal Application of Atlantic Canada Eels Inc. for AQ#1206**

### **1. Overview:**

On November 26, 2018, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from Atlantic Canada Eels Inc. to renew Aquaculture Licence # 1206 (AQ#1206), as described below:

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence #1206

<b>Type:</b> Land based facility	<b>Number:</b> AQ#1206
<b>Applicant:</b> Atlantic Canada Eels Inc.	<b>Species:</b> American eel
<b>Location:</b> Springhill, Cumberland County	<b>Proposed Term:</b> 10-year Licence

### **2. History**

AQ#8297 was first issued as an experimental licence to Springhill Fish Farms Incorporated on February 14, 1996 for a two-year term (February 14, 1996 to February 14, 1998). AQ#8297 was renewed on February 2, 1998 for a five-year term (February 14, 1998 to February 14, 2003). AQ#8297 was transitioned into a long term licence (AQ#1206 on April 5, 2000 for a ten-year term (April 5, 2000 to April 5, 2010). AQ#1206 was renewed on June 16, 2004 for a ten-year term (June 10, 2004 to June 10, 2014). AQ#1206 was renewed on May 1, 2014 for a five-year term (June 10, 2014 to June 10, 2019).

### **3. Procedure**

#### *3.1 Performance Review*

A performance review of the information submitted by the operator in support of their renewal application was completed. This review recommended that the site be renewed based on the technical and biological assessment. This performance review is required pursuant to Subsection 72(c) of the Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations, and was completed on June 4, 2019.

#### *3.2 Public Comment Period*

Notice of the application for the renewal of AQ#1206 for the 30-day public comment period was published on NSDFA's website (<http://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/public-information/>) for the period of February 7, 2019 to March 8, 2019. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on February 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2019.

#### *3.3 Submissions*

Zero submissions were received by NSDFA during the 30-day public comment period.

### **4. Factors to be considered**

AQ#1206 is a land-based operation and has demonstrated past levels of production and

employment. The history of the operator, and the proposed production levels for the renewed tenure, suggest that the proposed continuation of the operation is viable. The site has a record of compliance with respect to the Act, Regulations, guidelines, and policies of the Department. The nature in which Atlantic Canada Eels Inc. intends to operate this landbased site is consistent with the Act, Regulations, licence requirements, guidelines, and policies of the Department.

The technical information submitted with respect to the renewal application indicates that the proposed continuation of the operation is technically viable. The facility makes use of recirculation technology with water sourced from Springhill municipal water infrastructure. Technical information supplied indicates that acceptable infrastructure and procedures are in place for the method and scale of operation. All other aspects of the application information submitted and subsequent review of this information supports the renewal of this site.

#### **5. Decision**

Based on the considerations above, Aquaculture Licence #1206 shall be renewed for a period of 10 years (June 10, 2019 to June 10, 2029).

The Licence and Lease documents shall be prepared in accordance with the standard operating documents of NSDFA, and shall be made publicly available subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.



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**Brennan Goreham**  
**Aquaculture Administrator**  
**Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture**



**Date**