NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES IN AQUACULTURE OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture has reviewed the directives from the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the impacts to aquaculture services and licensing and leasing processes. Please refer to the following list of changes. This list will be updated as required.

- The Shelburne and Halifax offices are closed to the public. For inquiries please call 902-875-7439. Meetings with clients of the Department are now being held online or via telephone.
- The Aquatic Animal Health Section will continue to operate. The Certificate of Health for Transfer sampling, laboratory processing and the issuance of certificates will be maintained. The section is also available to address urgent health issues should they arise.
- New aquaculture applications will continue to be accepted, processed and reviewed.
- There is a temporary suspension of approved Option period expiry dates and referral of adjudicative applications to the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Review Board. The suspension will allow applicants to continue community engagements but only after the social distancing restrictions are discontinued.
- Administrative applications will continue to be processed as usual.
- The Department is currently reviewing aquaculture fee due dates. More information will be provided to licence holders when available.
- The Nova Scotia Department of Environment continues to respond to aquaculture regulatory complaints. They can be reached at their toll-free line at 1-800-565-2224.