

**Findings and Decision - Assignment Application of Cape d'Or Sustainable Seafoods Inc.
for AQ#0198**

1. Overview:

On March 8, 2017, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from Cape d'Or Sustainable Seafoods Inc. to assign Aquaculture Licence #0198 (AQ#0198), as described in Table 1.

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence #0198

Type: Land-based	Location: South Greenville, Cumberland County
Number: AQ#0198	Size: 0 HA
Assignor: Merlin Fish Farms (2004) Limited	Cultivation Method: Land-based Cultivation
Assignee: Cape d'Or Sustainable Seafoods Inc	Species: Atlantic salmon, Rainbow trout, Brook trout and Arctic char

2. History

AQ#0198 was first issued to Merlin Fish Farms Limited on October 13, 1988 for a ten year term (October 1, 1988 to September 20, 1998). AQ#0198 was renewed on October 1, 1998 for a five year term (October 1, 1998 to October 1, 2003). AQ#0198 was renewed on November 10, 2003 for a five year term (October 1, 2003 to October 1, 2008). AQ#0198 was amended on November 2, 2005 to authorize the cultivation of Arctic char. AQ#0198 was renewed on December 8, 2008 for a five year term (October 2, 2008 to October 1, 2013). AQ#0198 was renewed on March 13, 2014 for a five year term (October 2, 2013 to October 2, 2018).

3. Procedure

3.1 Performance Review

The performance review for AQ#0198 was completed on March 27, 2017. This review recommended that the site be assigned. This performance review is required pursuant to Subsection 72(b) of the Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations.

3.2 Public Comment Period

Notice of the application for the assignment of AQ#0198 for the 30-day public comment period was published on NSDFA's website (<http://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/public-information/>) for the period of April 6, 2017 to May 5, 2017. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on April 5, April 12, April 19, and April 26, 2017.

3.3 Submissions

One submission was received by NSDFA during the 30-day public comment period. This submission expressed concerns with the current location of the operation and suggested that the operation be relocated.


4. Factors to be considered

The applicant has an extensive background in land-based aquaculture at the current location. AQ#0198 has had consistent levels of production and employment, and the assignment information submitted suggests that this will continue. The nature in which Cape d'Or Sustainable Seafoods Inc. intends to operate this land-based site is consistent with the Act, Regulations, licence requirements, guidelines, and policies of the Department. There is no record of non-compliance with respect to the operator or the facility.

AQ#0198 is one of two sites being assigned to Cape d'Or Sustainable Seafoods Inc., and will serve as the hatchery facility for the company's operation. AQ#0198 has the necessary infrastructure and equipment for the proposed scale of operation. Technical elements of the application are suitable for the proposed levels of production. All other elements of the assignment information submitted and subsequent review of this information supports the assignment of AQ#0198.

5. Decision

Based on the considerations above, Aquaculture Licence #0198 shall be assigned to Cape d'Or Sustainable Seafoods Inc. A letter approving this assignment shall be prepared in accordance with NSDFA policy, and shall be made publicly available subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.



Brennan Goreham
Aquaculture Administrator
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture



Date