

Findings and Decision- Assignment Application of Scotian Halibut Limited for AQ#1233

1. Overview:

On October 5, 2016, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from Scotian Halibut Limited to assign Aquaculture Licence #1233 (AQ#1233), as described in Table 1.

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence #1233

Type: Land-based	Location: Clark's Harbour, Shelburne County
Number: AQ#1233	Size: N/A
Assignor: 3007688 Nova Scotia Limited (formerly Scotian Halibut Limited)	Cultivation Method: Land-based Hatchery
Assignee: Scotian Halibut (2016) Limited	Species: Atlantic halibut, Atlantic cod, Haddock, Cunner, Lumpfish, American oyster

2. History

AQ#1233 was first issued to Scotian Halibut Limited on March 1, 2001 for a ten year term (March 1, 2001 to March 1, 2011). AQ#1233 was amended on March 25, 2004 to allow for the cultivation of Atlantic cod and Haddock. AQ#1233 was renewed on January 16, 2013 for a five year term (March 2, 2011 to March 2, 2016). AQ#1233 was amended on June 18, 2014 to allow for the cultivation of American oyster. AQ#1233 was amended on November 6, 2014 to allow for the cultivation of Cunner and Lumpfish. AQ#1233 was renewed on June 24, 2016 for a ten year term (March 1, 2016 to March 1, 2026).

3. Procedure

3.1 Performance Review

The performance review completed on February 26, 2016 for the renewal of AQ#1233 was also used in support of this assignment application, as the intended use remains the same. This review recommended that the site be renewed based on the technical and biological assessment. 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#1233 for the 30-day public comment period was published on NSDFA's website (<http://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/public-information/>) for the period of November 16, 2016 to December 16, 2016. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on November 16, 2016, November 23, 2016, November 30, 2016 and December 7, 2016.

3.3 Submissions

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

4. Factors to be considered in decisions related to marine aquaculture sites

Scotian Halibut (2016) Limited indicates that they will follow the same development and production plans as the former licence holder. The site has demonstrated consistent levels of production and employment. AQ#1233 operates in conjunction with AQ#1234, a land-based facility in Shelburne County also being assigned from 3007688 Nova Scotia Limited to Scotian Halibut (2016) Limited. The site has a record of compliance with respect to the Act, Regulations, guidelines, and policies of the Department. The nature in which the operator intends to continue operating the site is consistent with the Act, Regulations, licence requirements, guidelines, and policies of the Department.

The technical information submitted with respect to the previous renewal application indicates that the proposed continuation of the operation is technically viable. Specifically, the operation makes use of flow-through technology and the technical information provided suggests that the proper infrastructure is in place for the proposed method and scale of the operation. The performance review noted that biosecurity measures are in place, and that proper authorization is in place for the intake pipeline located in Clark's Harbour. All other aspects of the application information submitted and the subsequent review of this information supports the assignment of this licence.

5. Decision

Based on the considerations above, Aquaculture Licence #1233 shall be assigned to Scotian Halibut (2016) Limited. 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

2/27/17
Date