

**Findings and Decision- New Aquaculture Application of Finleaf Technologies Inc. for AQ#1405**

**1. Overview:**

On May 11, 2016, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from Finleaf Technologies Inc. for a new Aquaculture Licence #1405 (AQ#1405), as described in Table 1.

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence #1405

<b>Type:</b> Landbased	<b>Location:</b> Brooklyn, Queens County
<b>Number:</b> AQ#1405	<b>Species:</b> Tilapia, Koi
<b>Applicant:</b> Finleaf Technologies Inc.	<b>Proposed Term:</b> 10 year Licence

**2. History**

AQ#1405 is a new licence. The operator *Finleaf Technologies Inc.* has never held an aquaculture licence with NSDFA.

**Procedure**

*3.1 Performance Review*

The performance review for AQ#1405 was completed on July 21, 2016. This review recommended that the site proceed to network review 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 Network Review*

AQ#1405 was sent for review on September 13, 2016 to the following agencies: Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, NSDFA Inland Fisheries Division, Nova Scotia Department of Environment, Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Canadian Food and Inspection Agency.

Comments received from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada indicate that the applicant will require an Introductions and Transfers licence, which is applied for after NSDFA approval.

*3.3 Public Comment Period*

Notice of the application for AQ#1405 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 9, 2017 to March 10, 2017. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on February 8, 2017, February 15, 2017, February 22, 2017 and March 1, 2017.

*3.4 Submissions*

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

**3. Factors to be considered**

The nature in which Finleaf Technologies Inc. intends to develop and operate this landbased site is consistent with the Act, Regulations, licence requirements, guidelines, and policies of the Department. The company is working with an experienced scientist with extensive knowledge of finfish biology.

The applicant's proposal was determined to be technically viable. The technical information provided suggests that the proper infrastructure will be put in place for the proposed method and scale of the operation. The performance review noted that aquaculture production is secondary to Aquaponics production in this system, and that any potential fish health issues will be managed appropriately. All other aspects of the application information submitted and the subsequent review of this information supports the issuance of this licence.

Finleaf Technologies Inc. will be required to prepare a Farm Management Plan before stocking this site that will be reviewed by NSDFA. They will also require an Introductions and Transfers permit from the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans before moving fish to the site. Once fully operational, the applicant anticipates a requirement of over 15 full-time positions, which will provide significant economic benefit to this rural area of Nova Scotia.

**4. Decision**

Based on the considerations above, Aquaculture Licence #1405 shall be issued to Finleaf Technologies Inc. for a period of 10 years (March 14, 2017 to March 14, 2027).

The Licence 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**

March 14, 2017  
**Date**