

## **Findings and Decision- Renewal Application of Royal B. Stevens and Karen Westhaver-Stevens for AQ#0200**

### **1. Overview:**

On August 10, 2015, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from Royal B. Stevens and Karen Westhaver-Stevens to renew Aquaculture Licence #0200 (AQ#0200), as described in Table 1.

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence #0200

<b>Type:</b> Land Based Facility (Hatchery)	<b>Location:</b> Sunnybrook, Lunenburg County
<b>Number:</b> AQ#0200	<b>Species:</b> Atlantic salmon, Rainbow trout, Brook trout
<b>Applicant:</b> Royal B. Stevens and Karen Westhaver-Stevens	<b>Proposed Term:</b> 10 year Licence

### **2. History**

AQ#0200 was first issued to Trail's End Ranch Limited on May 1, 1990 for a ten year term (May 1, 1990 to May 1, 2000). AQ#0200 was assigned on April 14, 1994 from Trail's End Ranch Limited to Royal B. Stevens and Karen Westhaver-Stevens. AQ#0200 was renewed on December 18, 2000 for a five year term (December 18, 2000 to December 18, 2005). AQ#0200 was renewed on December 20, 2005 for a five year term (December 18, 2005 to December 18, 2010). AQ#0200 was renewed on February 23, 2012 for a five year term (December 18, 2010 to December 17, 2015).

### **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 March 1, 2016.

#### *3.2 Public Comment Period*

Notice of the application for the renewal of AQ#0200 for the 30-day public comment period was published on NSDFA's website (<http://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/public-information/>) for the period of March 3, 2016 to April 1, 2016. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on March 2, 2016, March 9, 2016, March 16, 2016, and March 23, 2016.

#### *3.2 Submissions*

Once submission was received by NSDFA during the 30-day public comment period. The submission was in regards to property information of the facility. The submission was reviewed, and a response was provided to the author by NSDFA.

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

The site has demonstrated consistent levels of production and employment. The hatchery is operated in conjunction with AQ#0074, also held by Royal B. Stevens and Karen Westhaver-Stevens. The production 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 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 renewal application indicates that the proposed continuation of the operation is technically viable. Specifically, the operation makes use of three facilities and both recirculation and flow-through technologies. Technical information provided suggests that the proper infrastructure is in place for the proposed method and scale of operation. All other aspects of the application information submitted and the subsequent review of this information supports the renewal of this application.

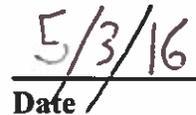
#### **5. Decision**

Based on the considerations above, Aquaculture Licence #0200 shall be renewed for a period of 10 years (December 17, 2015 to December 17, 2025). The Licence document shall be prepared in accordance with the standard operating documents of NSDFA, and shall be made publically available subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.



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

  
Date