

**Findings and Decision- Renewal Application of St. Peter's Fish Hatchery Limited for
AQ#0245**

1. Overview:

On August 17, 2015, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from St. Peter's Fish Hatchery Limited to renew Aquaculture Licence #0245 (AQ#0245), as described below:

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence #0245

Type: Land Based Facility (Hatchery)	Location: St. Peter's, Richmond County
Number: AQ#0245	Species: Atlantic Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Brook Trout, Arctic char
Applicant: St. Peters Fish Hatchery Limited	Proposed Term: 10 year Licence

2. History

AQ#0245 was first issued to Salmonid Propagation Associates Co-Operative Limited on September 10, 1990 for a ten year term (September 1, 1990 to August 31, 2000). AQ#0245 was renewed, in the name of 3014275 Nova Scotia Limited, on October 30, 2000 for a five year term (October 30, 2000 to October 30, 2005). AQ#0245 was renewed, in the name of St. Peters Fish Hatchery Limited on June 21, 2006 for a five year term (October 30, 2005 to October 30, 2010). AQ#0245 was renewed on June 9, 2011 for a five year term (October 30, 2010 to October 30, 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 October 20, 2015.

3.2 Public Comment Period

Notice of the application for the renewal of AQ#0245 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 3, 2016 to March 3, 2016. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on February 3, 2016, February 10, 2016, February 17, 2016, and February 24, 2016.

3.2 Submissions

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

4. Factors to be considered

The site has demonstrated consistent levels of production and employment. The hatchery is an important component of the parent company's production and processing operation in Nova Scotia, supplying a sister company (Ocean Trout Farms Inc.) with smolt for their grow-out operations. The production history of the operator, and the proposed production levels for the renewed tenure, suggest that the proposed continuation of the operation is financially 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 operator indicates that the operation will continue as a flow-through land-based fish hatchery with the appropriate intake infrastructure, rearing facility, and effluent filtration. 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 #0245 shall be renewed for a period of 10 years (October 30, 2015 to October 30, 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*.

In additions, the following conditions shall apply

6. Conditions

- a) Compliance with Schedule C: *Certificate of Compliance- Rainbow Trout Introduction Policy*
- b) Compliance with Schedule D: *Atlantic Salmon Introduction Policy*
- c) Compliance with Schedule E: *Arctic Char Introduction Policy*



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Date