

**Findings and Decision- Renewal Application of Blaine Bond Carrying on Business Under the Name of Long Reef Shellfish for AQ#0846**

**1. Overview:**

On November 2, 2015, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from Blaine Bond Carrying on Business Under the Name of Long Reef Shellfish to renew Aquaculture Licence and Lease #0846 (AQ#0846), as described below:

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence and Lease #0846

<b>Type:</b> Marine Shellfish	<b>Size:</b> 4.5 HA
<b>Number:</b> AQ#0846	<b>Cultivation Method:</b> Suspended shellfish method
<b>Applicant:</b> Long Reef Shellfish	<b>Species:</b> American oyster, Blue mussel, Giant sea scallop, European oyster
<b>Location:</b> Mahone Bay, Lunenburg County	<b>Proposed Term:</b> 10 year Licence/20 year Lease

**2. History**

AQ#0846 was first issued to Jewel Jean March on May 23, 1996 for a ten year term (May 26, 1996 to May 23, 2006). AQ#0846 was assigned on September 29, 2004 from Jewel Jean March to Blaine E. Bond and Bradley D. Bond. AQ#0846 was amended on September 29, 2004 to allow for the cultivation of Blue mussel and Giant sea scallops. AQ#0846 was renewed on November 15, 2006 for a five year term (May 23, 2006 to May 23, 2011). AQ#0846 was assigned on October 2, 2012 from Blaine E. Bond and D. Bond to Long Reef Shellfish. AQ#0846 was renewed on October 2, 2012 for a five year term (May 23, 2011 to May 22, 2016).

**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(b) of the Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations, and was completed on April 8, 2016.

*3.2 Public Comment Period*

Notice of the application for the renewal of AQ#0846 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 14, 2016 to May 13, 2016. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on April 13, 2016, April 20, 2016, April 27, 2016, and May 4, 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**

Review of the file indicates the site has had consistent annual production and employment since 2006. The renewal plan indicates continued production is planned for this site and therefore resulting employment. Mr. Bond also operates additional aquaculture sites in Mahone Bay (AQ#1244 and 0846). Should the operator not operate the site as indicated, the Department's site utilization review procedures will be triggered. Performance review indicates contribution to local economy through relationship with other aquaculturalists.

The performance review and subsequent public comment period did not note the presence of other fishery activities in the area of the site. There are no ecological concerns identified in the past performance of this site with respect to negative impacts on other fisheries. AQ#0846 is located approximately 150 metres from Seccombes Island. AQ#0846 is authorized to conduct suspended cultivation of marine shellfish. Section 55 of the *Licence and Lease Regulations* requires an aquaculture licence holder to mark each of their sites in a manner determined by the Minister and keep each site marked during the term of their licence. Also, it is a requirement for the equipment and aquacultural produce to remain within the geographic boundaries of that site.

The successful growth of shellfish in the area using suspended methods has been proven. The information reviewed during the performance review did not indicate adverse impacts on the surrounding public waters. AQ#0846 is located approximately 4.25 km from the nearest aquaculture operation. There is no evidence to suggest that the extent of existing aquaculture in the area has exceeded the carrying capacity of the area. AQ#0846 is licensed for shellfish aquaculture, and there is no evidence that shellfish aquaculture has impacts on the sustainability of wild salmon.

#### **4. Decision**

Based on the considerations above, Aquaculture Licence #0846 shall be renewed for a period of 10 years (May 23, 2016 to May 23, 2026) and Aquaculture Lease #0846 shall be renewed for a period of 20 years (May 23, 2016 to May 23, 2036).

The Licence and Lease documents 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*.

#### **5. Conditions**

In addition, the following condition shall apply:

1. The Lease and Licence shall be renewed in the name of 'Blaine Bond carrying on business under the name of "Long Reef Shellfish"'.
  - a) mark all corners of the leased site with cautionary yellow buoys of a minimum of 60 cm in diameter;
2. The operator shall adhere to the following site marking requirements:
  - a) mark all corners of the leased site with cautionary yellow buoys of a minimum of 60 cm in diameter;

- b) mark all corners of the leased bottom with a cement block or similar device of a weight sufficient to ensure the cement block or device remains in place at all times; and
- c) display the licence or lease number at 1 corner of the licensed or leased area.

*Brennan Goreham*

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

*May 24, 2016*

**Date**