

Findings and Decision- Renewal Application of Big Falls Fish Growers Limited for AQ#1028

1. Overview:

On January 14, 2016, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received all required application information from Big Falls Fish Growers Limited to renew Aquaculture Licence #1028 (AQ#1028), as described in Table 1.

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence #1028

Type: Land-based Finfish	Location: Black River Lake, Kings County
Number: AQ#1028	Species: Atlantic Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Arctic Char, Brook Trout, Striped Bass
Applicant: Big Falls Fish Growers Limited	Proposed Term: 10 year Licence

2. History

AQ#1028 was first issued on May 6, 1996 for a 10 year term (May 6, 1996 to May 6, 2006). AQ#1028 was amended on July 2, 2003 to allow for the cultivation of Atlantic salmon. AQ#1028 was amended on December 4, 2003 to allow for the cultivation of Arctic char; AQ#1028 was renewed on September 14, 2006 for a two year and seven month term (August 31, 2006 to March 31, 2009). AQ#1028 was renewed on March 10, 2011 for a four year and four month term (February 10, 2011 to June 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 February 16, 2016.

3.2 Public Comment Period

Notice of the application for the renewal of AQ#1028 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.

3.3 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. AQ#1028 is a land-based hatchery operation. 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.

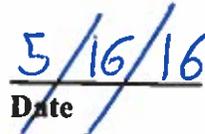
The technical information submitted with respect to the renewal application indicates that the proposed continuation of the operation is technically viable. Since issuance, the site has successfully produced several species. Water is sourced from Black River Lake, and all necessary intake, fish rearing, and effluent management infrastructure is in place and appropriate to the proposed method and scale of the operation. The operation makes use of flow-through technology, with effluent results monitored and tested on an on-going basis. 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 #1028 shall be renewed for a period of 10 years (June 30, 2015 to June 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*.



Brennan Goreham
Aquaculture Administrator
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture


Date