

## **Findings and Decision- Renewal Application of Scotian Halibut Limited for AQ#1234**

### **1. Overview:**

On December 15, 2015, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from Scotian Halibut Limited to renew Aquaculture Licence #1234 (AQ#1234), as described in Table 1.

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence #1234

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|---|--|
| <b>Type:</b> Landbased Grow-Out           | <b>Location:</b> Woods Harbour, Shelburne County   |
| <b>Number:</b> AQ#1234                    | <b>Species:</b> Atlantic halibut, Atlantic cod, Haddock, Green sea urchin, Irish Moss, Dulse, Cunner, Lumpfish, American oyster, Rainbow trout |
| <b>Applicant:</b> Scotian Halibut Limited | <b>Proposed Term:</b> 10 year Licence  |

### **2. History**

AQ#1234 was first issued to Scotian Halibut Ltd. on March 1, 2001 for a ten year term (March 1, 2001 to March 1, 2011). AQ#1234 was amended on March 25, 2004 to allow for the cultivation of Atlantic cod and Haddock. AQ#1234 was amended on August 18, 2010 to allow for the cultivation of Green sea urchin. AQ#1234 was renewed on November 1, 2011 for a five year term (March 2, 2011 to March 1, 2016). AQ#1234 was amended on November 10, 2011 to allow for the cultivation of Rainbow trout. AQ#1234 was amended on June 18, 2014 to allow for the cultivation of American oyster. AQ#1234 was amended on November 6, 2014 to allow for the cultivation of Cunner and Lumpfish.

### **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 26, 2016.

#### *3.2 Public Comment Period*

Notice of the application for the renewal of AQ#1234 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 in decisions related to marine aquaculture sites**

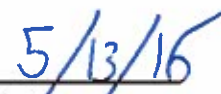
The site has demonstrated consistent levels of production and employment. AQ#1234 operates in conjunction with AQ#1233, a land-based facility in Shelburne County also licensed to Scotian Halibut Limited. The production history of the operator, and the proposed production levels for the renewed tenure, 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 flow-through technology and the technical information provided suggests that the proper infrastructure is in place for the proposed method and scale of the operation. The performance review noted that biosecurity measures are in place, and that water is withdrawn from Wood's Harbour via two pipelines. 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 #1234 shall be renewed for a period of 10 years (March 1, 2016 to March 1, 2026). 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**  
**Aquaculture Administrator**  
**Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture**

  
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**Date**