

Findings and Decision - Renewal Application of Blaine Bond Carrying on Business Under the Name of Long Reef Shellfish for AQ#1244

1. Overview:

On February 11, 2016, 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 #1244 (AQ#1244), as described below:

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence and Lease #1244

Type: Marine Shellfish	Size: 5.40 HA
Number: AQ#1244	Cultivation Method: Suspended shellfish method
Applicant: Long Reef Shellfish	Species: Blue mussel
Location: Mahone Bay, Lunenburg County	Proposed Term: 10 year Licence/20 year Lease

2. History

AQ#1244 was first issued to Long Reef Mariculture on May 31, 2001 for a ten year term (July 21, 2001 to July 21, 2011). AQ#1244 was renewed on October 2, 2012 for a five year term (July 21, 2011 to July 20, 2016). AQ#1244 was assigned from Long Reef Mariculture to Long Reef Shellfish on October 2, 2012.

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 22, 2016.

3.2 Public Comment Period

Notice of the application for the renewal of AQ#1244 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 28, 2016 to May 27, 2016. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on April 27, 2016, May 4, 2016, May 11, 2016, and May 18, 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 levels of annual production and employment. 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#0652 and AQ#0846). Should the operator not operate the site as indicated, the Department's site utilization review procedures will be triggered.

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. Records indicate past instances of predation of product on site AQ#1244, for which the operator is taking measures to mitigate. AQ#1244 is located approximately 650 metres from the shoreline at its nearest point, and is approximately 1.80 km from Graves Island Provincial Park. There is no evidence on file, nor any evidence presented during the performance review or public comment period, to suggest that AQ#1244 has had a negative impact on other users of the marine environment.

AQ#1244 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. AQ#1244 is licensed for shellfish aquaculture, and there is no evidence that shellfish aquaculture has impacts on the sustainability of wild salmon.

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#1244 is located approximately 2.50 km from the nearest aquaculture operation (AQ#0595). There is no evidence to suggest that the extent of existing aquaculture in the area has exceeded the carrying capacity of the area.

4. Decision

Based on the considerations above, Aquaculture Licence #1244 shall be renewed for a period of 10 years (July 21, 2016 to July 21, 2026) and Aquaculture Lease #1244 shall be renewed for a period of 20 years (July 21, 2016 to July 21, 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"'.

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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6/16/16

Date