

**Findings and Decision- Renewal Application of Sustainable Fish Farming (Canada) Limited
for AQ#1312**

1. Overview:

On August 10, 2015, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from Sustainable Fish Farming (Canada) Limited to renew Aquaculture Licence #1312 (AQ#1312), as described in Table 1.

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence and Lease #1312

Type: Landbased Grow-out	Location: Centre Burlington, Hants County
Number: AQ#1312	Species: Atlantic halibut, Sablefish, European sea bass, Black sea bass, Striped bass, Gilthead seabream, Atlantic salmon
Applicant: Sustainable Fish Farming (Canada) Limited	Proposed Term: 10 year Licence

2. History

AQ#1312 was first issued to Sustainable Fish Farming (Canada) Ltd. on December 20, 2005 for a ten year term (December 20, 2005 to December 20, 2015). AQ#1312 was amended on February 20, 2008 to allow for the cultivation of European sea bass. AQ#1312 was amended on December 2, 2008 to allow for the cultivation of Black sea bass. AQ#1312 was amended on June 11, 2009 to allow for the cultivation of Striped bass. AQ#1312 was amended on July 31, 2012 to allow for the cultivation of Gilthead seabream. AQ#1312 was amended on December 20, 2012 to allow for the cultivation of Atlantic salmon.

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 March 1, 2016.

3.2 Public Comment Period

Notice of the application for the renewal of AQ#1312 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#1312 is a land-based grow-out operation, and in recent years the operators have utilized Nova Scotian facilities to process their product. 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 produced a number of species. Specifically, the operation makes use of multiple facilities and recirculation technology. Water is sourced from the Avon Estuary, all effluent is recovered and re-purposed, and any waste water is properly treated. Technical information provided suggests that the proper infrastructure is in place for the proposed method and scale of the operation. 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 #1312 shall be renewed for a period of 10 years (December 20, 2015 to December 20, 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*.



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Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture


Date