

Findings and Decision- Renewal Application of MacDonald² Aquaculture & Consultation for AQ#1299

1. Overview:

On April 13, 2017, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from MacDonald² Aquaculture & Consultation to renew Aquaculture Licence #1299 (AQ#1299), as described below:

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence #1299

Type: Landbased	Current Size: N/A
Number: AQ#1299	Current Cultivation Method: Hatchery & Grow Out
Applicant: MacDonald ² Aquaculture & Consultation	Current Species: Striped bass
Location: Lower Stewiacke, Colchester County	Proposed Term: 10 year Licence

2. History

AQ#1299 was first issued to Two Rivers Bass Fish Hatchery Ltd. on December 1, 2003 for a ten year term (October 1, 2002 to October 1, 2012) upon expiry of experimental aquaculture licence AQ#8279. AQ#1299 was renewed on January 8, 2015 for a five year term (October 1, 2012 to October 1, 2017). AQ#1299 was assigned on March 14, 2017 from Two Rivers Bass Fish Hatchery Ltd to MacDonald² Aquaculture & Consultation.

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 May 16, 2017.

3.2 Public Comment Period

Notice of the application for the renewal of AQ#1299 for the 30-day public comment period was published on NSDFA's website (<http://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/public-information/>) for the period of June 8, 2017 to July 7, 2017. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on June 7, 14, 21 and 2017.

3.3 Submissions

Zero submissions were received by NSDFA during the 30-day public comment period.

4. Factors to be considered

The nature in which MacDonald² Aquaculture & Consultation intends to operate this landbased site is consistent with the Act, Regulations, licence requirements, guidelines, and policies of the Department. The applicant has a background in Aquaculture science and extensive facility management experience.

The applicant proposes modifications to the operation to increase production and commercialization, which are technically viable. The technical information provided suggests that the proper infrastructure is in place or currently being modified for the proposed method and scale of the operation. The performance review noted that the facility is located near the Stewiacke river, which has a local population of striped bass. All other aspects of the application information submitted and the subsequent review of this information supports the assignment of this licence.

5. Decision

Based on the considerations above, Aquaculture Licence #1299 shall be renewed for a period of ten years (October 1, 2017 to October 1, 2027).

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*.

6. Conditions

1. The Licence shall be renewed in the name of ‘Amelia A. MacDonald and Sean R. MacDonald carrying on business under the name of ‘MacDonald² Aquaculture & Consultation’’



Brennan Goreham
Aquaculture Administrator
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture



Date