

## **Findings and Decision- Renewal Application of Royal B. Stevens for AQ#0074**

### **1. Overview:**

On October 6, 2017, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from Royal B. Stevens to renew Aquaculture Licence and Lease #0074 (AQ#0074), as described below:

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence and Lease #0074

<b>Type:</b> Marine	<b>Current Size:</b> 0.51 HA
<b>Number:</b> AQ#0074	<b>Current Cultivation Method:</b> Marine finfish
<b>Applicant:</b> Royal B. Stevens	<b>Current Species:</b> Atlantic salmon, Rainbow trout
<b>Location:</b> Mahone Bay, Lunenburg County	<b>Proposed Term:</b> 10 year Licence/20 year Lease

### **2. History**

AQ#0074 was first issued on January 19, 1988 for a ten-year term (February 1, 1988 to January 31, 1998). AQ#0074 was renewed on March 2, 1998 for a five-year time (March 2, 1998 to March 2, 2003). AQ#0074 was renewed on April 20, 2005 for a five-year term (April 1, 2003 to April 1, 2008). AQ#0074 was renewed on April 29, 2008 for a five-year term (April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2013). AQ#0074 was renewed on January 9, 2014 for a five-year term (March 31, 2013 to March 31, 2018)

### **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 January 2, 2018.

#### *3.2 Public Comment Period*

Notice of the application for the renewal of AQ#0074 for the 30-day public comment period was published on NSDFA's website (<http://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/public-information/>) for the period of December 7, 2017 to January 5, 2018. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on December 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2017.

#### *3.3 Submissions*

One submission was received by NSDFA during the 30-day public comment period.

### **4. Factors to be considered**

Review of the file indicates that over the past tenure of the lease and licence that the site has had consistent production and records indicate continuous employment. Renewal plan indicates

continued production is planned for this site and therefore resulting employment. AQ#0074 is operated in conjunction with AQ#0200, a hatchery issued to Royal B. Stevens and Karen Westhaver-Stevens.

The performance review did not note the presence of fishery activities in the area of the site. There were no ecological concerns identified in the past performance of this site with respect to negative impacts on other fisheries. The successful growth of marine finfish at this site is proven. The information reviewed during the performance review did not indicate adverse impacts on the surrounding public waters.

There are no recorded instances on file of AQ#0074 interfering with other users of the public waters surrounding the operation. It is a requirement for the equipment and aquacultural produce to remain within the geographic boundaries of that site. 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. AQ#0074 must also continue to hold approval from Transport Canada as it relates to navigable waters.

The operator is required to adhere to all elements of the *Aquaculture Management Regulations*. As part of the Farm Management Plan, the operator must define and adhere to their containment management measures to minimize potential impacts on wild salmon. There is no information on file regarding ecological concerns involving species listed through the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*, including wild Atlantic salmon.

AQ#0074 is located in the nearshore environment, in the northwest portion of Princes Inlet. The nearest marine aquaculture site to AQ#0200 is located approximately 4.00 km away, on the opposite side of Herman's Island. There is no evidence to suggest that the extent of existing aquaculture in the harbour has exceeded the carrying capacity of the harbour.

## **5. Decision**

Based on the considerations above, Aquaculture Licence #0074 shall be renewed for a period of 10 years (March 31, 2018 to March 31, 2028) and Aquaculture Lease #0074 shall be renewed for a period of 20 years (March 31, 2018 to March 31, 2038).

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*.

## **6. Conditions**

In addition, the following condition shall apply:

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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**Brennan Goreham**  
**Aquaculture Administrator**  
**Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture**

*May 18, 2018*

**Date**