

Findings and Decision - Renewal Application of Blaine E. Bond for AQ#0652**1. Overview:**

On October 31, 2017, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from Blaine E. Bond to renew Aquaculture Licence and Lease #0652 (AQ#0652), as described below:

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence and Lease #0652

Type: Marine Shellfish	Size: 1.05 HA
Number: AQ#0652	Cultivation Method: Suspended shellfish with gear
Applicant: Blaine E. Bond	Species: Blue mussel, Giant sea scallop, European oyster
Location: Mahone Bay, Lunenburg County	Proposed Term: 10 year Licence/20 year Lease

2. History

AQ#0652 was first issued to Armstrong Aquaculture Products on June 21, 1993 for a ten year term (June 28, 1993 to June 28, 2003). AQ#0652 assigned on August 31, 2000 from Armstrong Aquaculture Products to Blaine E. Bond and Duncan Bates. AQ#0652 was renewed on September 24, 2003 for a five year term (July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2008). AQ#0652 was renewed on September 30, 2008 for a five year term (July 2, 2008 to July 1, 2013). AQ#0652 was renewed on February 25, 2014 for a five year term (July 2, 2013 to July 2, 2018). AQ#0652 was assigned on April 29, 2016, from Blaine E. Bond and Duncan Bates to Blaine E. Bond.

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 5, 2018.

3.2 Public Comment Period

Notice of the application for the renewal of AQ#0652 for the 30-day public comment period was published on NSDFA's website (<http://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/public-information/>) for the period of from March 8, 2018 to April 6, 2018. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on March 7, March 14, March 21, and March 28, 2018.

3.3 Submissions

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

4. Factors to be considered

AQ#0652 is one of several sites currently issued to Blaine Bond. The renewal application and associated information indicates continued production, and thus employment. 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 were no ecological concerns identified in the past performance of this site with respect to negative impacts on other fisheries. There is no evidence that the renewal of AQ#0652 will have impacts on the sustainability of wild salmon. 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#0652 interfering with other users of the public waters surrounding the operation. AQ#0652 is authorized to cultivate both shellfish species using suspended gear, and as such the gear must remain within the geographic boundaries of the 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. Furthermore, AQ#0652 must maintain compliance with relevant Transport Canada provisions as they relate to navigable waters.

AQ#0652 is located approximately 150 metres from Snake Island at its nearest point. AQ#0652 is located approximately 2.50 km from Graves Island Provincial Park. The nearest site to AQ#0652 is AQ#0995 (Bay Tender Shellfish Ltd.), which is approximately 400 metres away. Thus, the physical separation of AQ#0652 from the shoreline and neighbouring aquaculture sites provides for multiple corridors within the harbour. 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 #0652 shall be renewed for a period of 10 years (July 2, 2018 to July 2, 2028) and Aquaculture Lease #0652 shall be renewed for a period of 20 years (July 2, 2018 to July 2, 2038).

The Licence and Lease documents shall be prepared in accordance with the standard operating documents of NSDFA, and shall be made publicly 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

Brennan Goreham
Aquaculture Administrator
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

June 27, 2018

Date