

**Findings and Decision - Amendment Application of  
Innovative Fishery Products Inc. for AQ#1185**

**1. Overview:**

On October 2, 2020, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from Innovative Fishery Products Inc. to amend Aquaculture Licence #1185 (AQ#1185) to authorize the cultivation of European oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) and American oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) at a Land-based Hatchery, as described below:

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence #1185

<b>Type:</b> Land-Based	
<b>Number:</b> AQ#1185	<b>Current Cultivation Method:</b> Land-based Hatchery
<b>Applicant:</b> Innovative Fishery Products Inc.	<b>Current Species:</b> Bar clam, Bay quahog, Soft shell clam, Razor clam
<b>Location:</b> St. Bernard, Digby County	<b>Proposed Amendment:</b> Authorize cultivation of European oyster ( <i>Ostrea edulis</i> ) and American oyster ( <i>Crassostrea virginica</i> )

**2. History**

AQ#1185 was first issued on September 1, 2000 for a ten year term (September 1, 2000 – September 1, 2010). Most recently, AQ#1185 was renewed on October 5, 2020 for a ten year term (September 2, 2020 – September 1, 2030).

**3. Procedure**

*3.1 Performance Review*

A performance review of the information submitted by the operator in support of their amendment application was completed. This review recommended that the site be amended based on the technical and biological assessment. This performance review is required pursuant to Subsection 72(d) of the Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations, and was completed on April 9, 2021.

*3.2 Public Comment Period*

Notice of the application for the renewal of AQ#1185 for the 30-day public comment period was published on NSDFA's website (<http://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/public-information/>) for the period of February 25, 2021 to March 26, 2021. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on February 24, March 3, March 10 and March 17, 2021.

### 3.3 Submissions

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

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

In addition to AQ#1185, Innovative Fishery Products Incorporated holds marine soft-shell clam aquaculture licences and leases and also operates a soft-shell clam processing facility. AQ#1185 is an important component of the overall production model for Innovative Fishery Products Incorporated. The nature in which Innovative Fishery Products Incorporated intends to operate this land-based site is consistent with the Act, Regulations, and policies of the Department. There is no record of non-compliance with respect to the operator of the facility.

An aquaculture licence for land-based shellfish aquaculture issued pursuant to the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act only grants an approval to conduct commercial farming of the identified species. The operators of AQ#1185, by condition of licence, will be required to comply with any permits, protocols, approvals, licenses or permissions which may be required under the laws of the relevant Municipality, the Province, or Canada. Innovative Fishery Products Incorporated will be responsible for confirming any of the before-mentioned requirements and ensuring compliance with them.

Consideration of all information submitted by the applicant, feedback from other government Departments and Agencies, and submissions from the public, the proposed operation of AQ#1185 in respect to the amendment demonstrates both financial and technical viability.

The technical information submitted with respect to the amendment application suggests that appropriate equipment, infrastructure, and technology will be in place for the proposed method and scale of the operation to include both European and American oysters. In addition, described operational elements are adequate for the proposed method and sale of the operation. To operate the facility, Innovative Fishery Products Incorporated is required to develop and implement an approved Farm Management Plan (FMP), in accordance with the Aquaculture Management Regulations. Information on the Minimum Compliance Points for Farm Management Plans can be found at:

<https://novascotia.ca/fish/documents/compliance-documents/Minimum-compliance-requirements-Landbased.pdf>

This amendment will help increase food production and security for Canada and global markets.

## 5. Decision

Based on the considerations above, Aquaculture Licence #1185 shall be amended to authorize the Land-based cultivation of European oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) and American oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*). Except as expressly amended, Licence #1185 shall continue in full force and effect.

The Licence and Lease amendment 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*.



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**Robert Ceschiutti**  
**Aquaculture Administrator**  
**Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture**

April 9, 2021

**Date**