

## **Findings and Decision - Amendment Application of Mike Cameron for AQ#1036**

### **1. Overview:**

On June 25, 2020, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from Mike Cameron to amend Aquaculture Licence #1036 (AQ#1036) to authorize the cultivation of American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) at a Land-based Hatchery, as described below:

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence and Lease #1036

<b>Type:</b> Land-Based	
<b>Number:</b> AQ#1036	<b>Current Cultivation Method:</b> Land-based
<b>Applicant:</b> Mike Cameron	<b>Current Species:</b> Atlantic salmon, Rainbow trout, Brook trout, Arctic char and Striped bass
<b>Location:</b> Upper North River, Colchester County	<b>Proposed Amendment:</b> Authorize cultivation of American eel ( <i>Anguilla rostrata</i> )
<b>Summary of Application:</b> Mike Cameron is requesting an amendment to the existing aquaculture licence for AQ#1036. This site was first licensed in 1997 for the land-based cultivation of Rainbow trout, Speckled trout and Arctic char. Amended in December 2000 to add Atlantic salmon and in October 2019 to add Striped bass. AQ#1036 currently operates as a flow-through fish hatchery on the North River. The facility has the ability to also make use of well-water and recirculation. The applicant holds a valid Water Withdrawal Approval from the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment (expiration date of March 13, 2029). The intended source of eels are wild-caught eels harvested from coastal bays and river mouths around Eastern Prince Edward Island and the Tracadie River in New Brunswick.	

### **2. History**

AQ#1036 was first issued to Mike Cameron on February 28, 1997 for a ten year term (February 28, 1997 to February 28, 2007). AQ#1036 was amended on December 15, 2000 to authorize the cultivation of Atlantic salmon. AQ#1036 was renewed on May 12, 2008 for a five year term (February 28, 2007 to February 27, 2012). AQ#1036 was renewed on February 12, 2014 for a five year term (February 27, 2012 to February 27, 2017). AQ#1036 was renewed on May 1, 2017 for a ten year term (February 27, 2017 to February 27, 2027). AQ#1036 was amended on October 28, 2019 to authorize the cultivation of Striped bass.

### **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 November 24, 2020.

#### *3.2 Public Comment Period*

Notice of the application for the renewal of AQ#1036 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 3, 2020 to January 1, 2021. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on December 3, December 10, December 17, and December 24, 2020.

#### *3.3 Submissions*

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

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

This site has demonstrated consistent levels of production and employment overall. AQ#1036 is a land-based operation. The production history of the operator, and the proposed production levels for the site suggest that the operation will remain viable. The site has a record of compliance with respect to the Nova Scotia *Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act*, its Regulations, guidelines and policies of the Department. The nature in which the operator intends to operate the site is consistent with the Act, Regulations, licence requirements, guidelines and policies of the Department.

The technical information submitted with respect to the amendment application indicates that the proposed operation is technically viable. Since issuance, this site has produced a number of species. The operation makes use of its current existing technology and has proper biosecurity protocols in place. Technical information provided suggests that the proper infrastructure is in place for the proposed method and scale of the operations. All other aspects of the application and information submitted, and the subsequent review of that information supports the amendment.

The licence holder is responsible for obtaining the required Introductions and Transfer permits prior to stocking fish on the site and is responsible 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. The licence holder is also responsible for confirming licensing requirements and ensuring compliance with them.

## 5. Decision

Based on the considerations above, Aquaculture Licence #1036 shall be amended to authorize the Land-based cultivation of American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*). Except as expressly amended, Licence #1036 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**

February 8, 2021

**Date**