

Decision on Application to Renew a Marine Aquaculture Licence and Lease

Application to the Administrator:

On February 23, 2022, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (the “Department”) received an application to renew Aquaculture Licence and Lease #1369 (AQ#1369), as described below:

Application Summary:

Type: Marine	Size: 22.85 HA
Number: AQ#1369	Cultivation Method: Suspended cultivation, Bottom cultivation with gear, Bottom cultivation without gear
Applicant: Shandaph Oyster Co. Inc.	
Location: Merigomish Harbour, Pictou County	Species: American oyster, Bay quahog, Bay scallop, Razor clam
Proposed Term: 10 year Licence / 20 year Lease	

Site History:

AQ#1369 was first issued on September 14, 2012, for a ten year term from September 1, 2012 to August 30, 2022. AQ#1369 was amended on March 29, 2021, to add the suspended shellfish method of cultivation and the additional species, Razor clam.

Performance Reviews Conducted by Administrator:

A performance review was conducted on the aquacultural operation of site AQ#1369, pursuant to Sections 71-72 of the *Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations* (the “Regulations”). There were no concerns raised following the performance review.

Public Submissions on Application to Administrator:

Pursuant to Section 41 of the Regulations, notice of the application was published on the Department’s website and in the Royal Gazette Part I inviting the public to submit written comments on the application to the Administrator within the 30 days following the date the notice was published. This notice was published on June 16, 2022.

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

Factors to be Considered (as set out in Section 43 of the Regulations):

The optimum use of marine resources

The applicant's development plan demonstrates an optimum use of marine resources.

The contribution of the proposed operation to community and Provincial economic development

The species and methods of cultivation authorized for this site are suitable for this area and are expected to be a positive contribution to the local and provincial economy. The applicant uses equipment sourced locally where possible, and has committed to use local suppliers where possible. The applicant acknowledges the use of the local community for employment.

Fishery activities in the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation

As this is an application to renew an existing Aquaculture licence and lease, there are no expected novel impacts to the fishery activities in the public waters near the existing site.

The oceanographic and biophysical characteristics of the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation

The applicant recognizes the changing environment and more extreme weather events and is adapting with husbandry practices and gear usage to consider the changes and modify where necessary. The history of this site has been suitable and because it is in open ocean, they do have to consider all oceanographic conditions, including ice coverage in the winter. The site is in an open area, classified under the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program.

The other users of the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation

As this is an application to renew an existing Aquaculture licence and lease, there are no expected novel impacts to the other users of the public waters near the existing site.

The public right of navigation

The operator shall adhere to the site marking requirements according to their Notice of Works issued by Transport Canada under the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*, reference number NPP#2011-200183.

The sustainability of wild salmon

There is no indication that continued operation of the site for shellfish aquaculture will pose ecological concerns or have an impact on the sustainability of wild salmon.

The number and productivity of other aquaculture sites in the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation

AQ#1369 is situated along the shoreline of Camerons Cove at Big Merigomish Island, within the body of waters known as Merigomish Harbour. There are currently 11 marine aquaculture sites

in the Merigomish Harbour. The closest site is approximately 900m away, AQ#1086, which is also operated by Shandaph Oyster Co. Inc. There is no evidence to suggest that the extent of the existing aquaculture in the harbour has exceeded the carrying capacity.

Decision:

Based on the considerations above, Aquaculture Licence #1369 shall be renewed for a period of 10 years (August 31, 2022 to August 30, 2032) and Aquaculture Lease #1369 shall be renewed for a period of 20 years (August 31, 2022 to August 30, 2042).

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*.



Robert Ceschiutti
Aquaculture Administrator
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

August 18, 2022

Date