

Findings and Decision - Amendment Application of Hamilton's Eel Fishery Limited for AQ#1411

1. Overview:

On November 24, 2021, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from Hamilton's Eel Fishery Limited to amend Aquaculture Licence #1411 (AQ#1411), as described below:

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence #1411

Type: Landbased	Location: Centrelea, Annapolis County
Number: AQ#1411	Current Species: Rainbow trout, Striped bass, Brook trout, American eel
Applicant: Hamilton's Eel Fishery Limited	Proposed Amendment: Addition of Arctic char

2. History

AQ#1411 licence was first issued on February 9, 2018 for a ten year term (February 16, 2018 to February 16, 2028).

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 amendment be approved 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 May 20, 2022.

3.2 Network Review

AQ#1411 was sent for review on March 9, 2022 to the following agencies: Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Comments received from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada indicate that the application will require an Introductions and Transfers Licence, which is applied for after NSDFA approval.

3.3 Public Comment Period

Notice of the application for the renewal of AQ#1411 for the 30-day public comment period was published on NSDFA's website (<http://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/public-information/>) for the period of March 31, 2022 to Friday April 29, 2022. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on April 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2022.

3.4 Submissions

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

4. **Factors to be considered**

AQ#1411 is a land-based aquaculture facility that has reported consistent production in recent years. For the purpose of this amendment application, there are no expected costs to implement the addition of Arctic char, and the current production and employment statistics history demonstrates the land-based facilities ability to remain viable.

Furthermore, the information reviewed suggests that the proposed operation will be in compliance with the Act, relevant regulations, policies and guidelines of the Department.

The proposed operation in related to the amendment application was reviewed and determined to be technically viable.

5. **Decision**

Based on the considerations above, Aquaculture Licence #1411 shall be amended to authorize the cultivation of Arctic char. Except as expressly amended, Licence #1411 shall continue in full force and effect.

The Licence amendment document 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

May 24, 2022

Date