

Decision on Application to Renew a Marine Aquaculture Licence and Lease

Application to the Administrator:

On May 27, 2024, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (the “Department”) received an application to renew Experimental Aquaculture Licence and Lease #5011 (AQ#5011), as described below:

Application Summary:

Type: Marine (Experimental)	Size: 3.68 HA
Number: AQ#5011	Cultivation Method: Bottom cultivation with gear
Applicant: Annapolis Valley First Nation	
Location: Minas Basin, Hants County	Species: American oyster
Proposed Term: 1-year Licence / 1-year Lease	

Site History:

AQ#5011 was first issued on September 8, 2022, for a one-year term (August 8, 2022 to August 7, 2023). The licence and lease were renewed on June 29th, 2023 for a second one-year term (August 8, 2023 – August 7, 2024). This application is to renew the licence and lease for a third one-year term. Experimental licenses and leases may be renewed annually to a maximum of five years.

Performance Reviews Conducted by Administrator:

A performance review was conducted on the aquacultural operation of site AQ#5011, pursuant to Sections 71-72 of the *Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations* (the “Regulations”). There were no concerns raised following the performance review.

Factors to be Considered (as set out in Section 3 of the Regulations):

The optimum use of marine resources

As this is an application to renew an existing Aquaculture licence and lease, there are no expected novel impacts to the use of marine resources, for the tenure of the experiment.

The contribution of the proposed operation to community and Provincial economic development
The proposed renewal did not involve any change to the operator's services and suppliers and did not involve any change to the operator's employment impact to the community.

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
There were no anticipated changes identified in the development plan which reflect the oceanographic and biophysical characteristics of the public waters surrounding the existing operation.

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#2021-204921.

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
There are currently no marine aquaculture sites within the Minas Basin and therefore there is no impact to the productivity of existing aquaculture operations.

Decision:

Based on the factors considered above, Aquaculture Licence and Lease #5011 shall be renewed for a third 1-year term (August 8, 2024 to August 7, 2025).

The Licence and Lease documents shall be prepared in accordance with the Department's standard operating documents 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

September 6, 2024

Date