

# Decision on Application to Renew a Marine Aquaculture Licence and Lease

## Application to the Administrator:

On June 15, 2024, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (the “Department”) received an application to renew Experimental Aquaculture Licence and Lease #5013 (AQ#5013), as described below:

## Application Summary:

<b>Type:</b> Marine (Experimental)	<b>Size:</b> 34.42 HA
<b>Number:</b> AQ#5013	<b>Cultivation Method:</b> Marine Cage
<b>Applicant:</b> WFN Fish Farm Limited Partnership	
<b>Location:</b> South Aberdeen, Whycomomagh Bay, Inverness County	<b>Species:</b> Rainbow Trout
<b>Proposed Term:</b> One Year License/Lease	

## Site History:

AQ#5013 was first issued on September 27, 2021, for a one-year term (September 14, 2021 to September 13, 2022). On August 15, 2022, the licence and lease were renewed for a second one-year term (September 14, 2022 to September 13, 2023). On August 18, 2023, the Licence and Lease were renewed for a third one-year term (September 14, 2023 to September 13, 2024).

## Performance Reviews Conducted by Administrator:

A performance review was conducted on the aquacultural operation of site AQ#5013, 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 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.

*Fishery activities in the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation*

As this is an application to renew an existing experimental 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 experimental 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#2021-204291.

*The sustainability of wild salmon*

There is no indication that the continued operation of this site will pose ecological concerns to, 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*

Experimental aquaculture site AQ#5013 is located in South Aberdeen, Whycocomagh Bay, Inverness County, approximately 250 metres from the shoreline. The nearest marine aquaculture site, AQ#5010, is approximately 1.5 km North, and is operated by We'koqma'q First Nation. Within Whycocomagh Bay, west of these two sites, are another three (3) aquaculture sites also operated by WFN Fish Farm Limited Partnership (AQ#0814, AQ#0845 and AQ#0600). There is an application to expand the boundaries of site AQ#0814, which at the time of this issued document was in the application review phase. Existing and proposed finfish sites will be managed collectively and therefore are not expected to negatively impact each other or shellfish sites. The existing sites have proven to be successful in their productivity and utilization.

**Decision:**

Based on the factors considered above, Aquaculture Licence and Lease #5013 shall be renewed for a fourth one-year term (September 14, 2024 to September 13, 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*.



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Robert Ceschiutti  
Aquaculture Administrator  
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

September 27, 2024

Date