

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

## Application to the Administrator:

On November 21, 2023, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (the “Department”) received an application to renew Aquaculture Licence and Lease #1380 (AQ#1380), as described below:

## Application Summary:

<b>Type:</b> Marine	<b>Size:</b> 11.42 HA
<b>Number:</b> AQ#1380	<b>Cultivation Method:</b> Bottom without gear
<b>Applicant:</b> Brian Lewis and Dale Webb	
<b>Location:</b> Caribou Harbour, Pictou County	<b>Species:</b> American oyster
<b>Proposed Term:</b> 10 year Licence / 20 year Lease	

## Site History:

Aquaculture licence and lease no. 1380 were first issued on March 25, 2015, for a ten-year term (November 1, 2014 to November 1, 2024) for the bottom without gear cultivation of American oyster. There is currently an application in process to amend the existing licence and lease to authorize the bottom with gear cultivation method and the suspended cultivation method.

## Performance Reviews Conducted by Administrator:

A performance review was conducted on the aquacultural operation of site AQ#1380, 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 September 25, 2024.

No submissions were received by the Department during the 30-day public comment period.

**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. Review of the file indicates that the site has had production and employment since the licence and lease were first issued.

*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.

*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 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 established within their aquaculture licence and lease.

*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*

Aquaculture site no. 1380 is located along the southern shores of Caribou Harbour, south of Munroes Island. There are currently a total of 4 aquaculture sites with issued licences/leases, all of which are authorized for the cultivation of shellfish. The nearest aquaculture site, AQ#1347, is located approximately 980 m north of this site. To date, 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 factors considered above, Aquaculture Licence #1380 shall be renewed for a period of 10 years (November 2, 2024 to November 1, 2034) and Aquaculture Lease #1380 shall be renewed for a period of 20 years (November 2, 2024 to November 1, 2044).

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

October 28, 2024

Date