

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 #1386 (AQ#1386), as described below:

Application Summary:

Type: Marine	Size: 8.16 HA
Number: AQ#1386	Cultivation Method: Bottom with gear, bottom without gear
Applicant: Future Seafoods Inc.	
Location: Tracadie Harbour, Antigonish County	Species: American oyster
Proposed Term: 10 year Licence / 20 year Lease	

Site History:

Aquaculture licence and lease no. 1386 were issued to Brian Howard on February 17, 2015 for a ten year term (November 1, 2014 to November 1, 2024) for the bottom cultivation of American oyster. The licence and lease were assigned on November 26, 2020 from Brian Howard to Future Seafoods Inc. On December 7, 2022, the licence and lease were amended to authorize the bottom shellfish with gear cultivation method.

Performance Reviews Conducted by Administrator:

A performance review was conducted on the aquacultural operation of site AQ#1386, 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 according to their Notice of Works issued by Transport Canada under the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*, reference number NPP#2012-200389.

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. 1386 is located within the body of water known as Tracadie West Arm, south of the West Arm Beach. There are no other aquaculture sites within the same body of water. The nearest aquaculture site, AQ#0524, is located in Tracadie Harbour approximately 2 km to the east 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 #1386 shall be renewed for a period of 10 years (November 2, 2024 to November 1, 2034) and Aquaculture Lease #1386 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*.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Ceschiutti".

Robert Ceschiutti
Aquaculture Administrator
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

October 28, 2024

Date