

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

## Application to the Administrator:

On October 19, 2023, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (the “Department”) received an application to renew Aquaculture Licence and Lease AQ#1363), as described below:

## Application Summary:

<b>Type:</b> Marine	<b>Size:</b> 5.00 HA
<b>Number:</b> AQ#1363	<b>Cultivation Method:</b> Bottom cultivation with gear, Bottom cultivation without gear.
<b>Applicant:</b> Andrew Thompson, Jeremy 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:

AQ#1363 was first issued on May 1, 2014, for a 10-year term from May 1, 2014 to May 1, 2024. On April 4, 2023, an amendment was approved to authorize the bottom cultivation with gear of American oyster.

## Performance Reviews Conducted by Administrator:

A performance review was conducted on the aquacultural operation of site AQ#1363, 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 April 18, 2024.

Zero (0) 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. The applicant's development plan demonstrates an optimum use of marine resources. The performance review confirmed that the current licence/lease holder has been consistently producing at this site.

*The contribution of the proposed operation to community and Provincial economic development*

The application to renew this site 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 history of this site has been suitable and because it is in open ocean, they do have to consider all oceanographic conditions, including ice coverage in the winter.

*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# 2011-200180.

*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*

Site No. 1363 is located near the southern shoreline of Caribou Harbour, with no other aquaculture sites within the immediate vicinity. The nearest site, AQ#1351, is approximately 4km to the northwest. In total there are four (4) aquaculture sites within the waterbody of Caribou Harbour, all of which have active licences and leases issued for the cultivation of shellfish. 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 #1363 shall be renewed for a period of 10 years (May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2034) and Aquaculture Lease #1363 shall be renewed for a period of 20 years (May 1, 2024 to April 30, 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

May 27, 2024

Date