

Decision on Application to Assign a Land-based Aquaculture Licence

Application to the Administrator:

On October 4, 2024, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (the “Department”) received an application to assign Aquaculture Licence #1312 (AQ#1312), as described below:

Application Summary:

Type: Land-based (Commercial)	Size: N/A
Number: AQ#1312	Cultivation Method: Hatchery, Nursery, Grow-out
Assignor: Deloitte Restructuring Inc. (As Receiver for Sustainable Fish Farming (Canada) Limited)	
Location: Centre Burlington, Hants County	Species: Atlantic halibut, Sablefish, European sea bass, Black sea bass, Striped bass, Gilthead seabream, Atlantic salmon
Proposed Assignee: 4644903 Nova Scotia Limited	

Site History:

AQ#1312 was first issued to Sustainable Fish Farming (Canada) Ltd. on December 20, 2005, for a 10-year term (December 20, 2005 to December 20, 2015) for the Land-based (Hatchery, Nursery and Grow-out) cultivation of Atlantic halibut and Sablefish. On February 20, 2008, the licence was amended to add the species European sea bass. On December 2, 2008, the licence was amended to add the species Black sea bass. On June 11, 2009, the licence was amended to add the species Striped bass. On July 31, 2012, the licence was amended to add the species Gilthead seabream. On December 20, 2012, the licence was amended to add the species Atlantic salmon. On May 19, 2016, the licence was renewed for a 10-year term (December 20, 2015 to December 20, 2025). On October 1, 2019, the licence was assigned to the restructured Sustainable Fish Farming (Canada) Ltd.

Performance Reviews Conducted by Administrator:

A performance review was conducted on the aquacultural operation of site AQ#1312, 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 December 11, 2024.

Zero 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 financial viability of the proponent and the proposed operation

In consideration of all information submitted by the applicant, the proposed operation of AQ#1312 demonstrates both financial and technical viability.

The extent to which the proposal is in accordance with the Act, the relevant regulations made under the Act and any guidelines or policies established by the Minister

The nature in which the assignee intends to develop and operate this land-based site is consistent with the Act, Regulations, licence requirements, guidelines and policies of the Department.

The technical viability of the proposed operation

Upon consideration of all information submitted by the applicant, the applicant’s proposal was determined to be technically viable. The technical information provided suggests that the proper infrastructure is currently in place or will be put in place for the proposed method and scale of operation.

Any factors that the Administrator considers relevant to the application

Although there are no specific operational changes required for the assignment of this licence, the facility will continue to benefit the local community and province through the creation of jobs, requirement of local services and contribute to the local economy through the sales of their product.

Decision:

Based on the factors considered above, aquaculture Licence No. 1312 shall be assigned to 4644903 Nova Scotia Limited. The assignment shall be deemed effective upon all parties having signed an agreement to such effect. Except as expressly assigned, Licence No. 1312 shall remain unchanged in full force and effect, including any terms and conditions.

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

Robert Ceschiutti
Aquaculture Administrator
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

January 14, 2025

Date