

Decision on Application for Marine Aquaculture Licence and Lease - Reallocation

Application to the Administrator:

On March 21, 2025, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (the “Department”) received an application for a Marine Aquaculture Licence and Lease (Reallocation), as described below:

Application Summary:

Type: New Marine Licence and Lease (Reallocation)	Site Size: 75.05 HA
Site Reference: RE#9007, 9027, 9028, 9030, 9031, 9032, 9033	Cultivation Method: Suspended Cultivation
Application File Reference: AQ#1472	
Applicant: Bill & Stanley Oyster Company Ltd	
Location: Ship Harbour, Halifax County	Species: American oyster, Blue mussel, European oyster, Giant sea scallop

Site History:

The Administrator revoked aquaculture licence and lease no. 25 on May 8, 2023, and added the associated aquaculture site to the aquaculture registry as no. 9027 on October 13, 2023.

The Administrator revoked aquaculture licence and lease no. 112 on May 8, 2023, and added the associated aquaculture site to the aquaculture registry as no. 9028 on October 13, 2023.

The Administrator revoked aquaculture licence and lease no. 184 on May 8, 2023, and added the associated aquaculture site to the aquaculture registry as no. 9030 on October 13, 2023.

The Administrator revoked aquaculture licence and lease no. 236 on January 18, 2018, and added the associated aquaculture site to the aquaculture registry as no. 9007 on February 9, 2022.

The Administrator revoked aquaculture licence and lease no. 1071 on May 8, 2023, and added the associated aquaculture site to the aquaculture registry as no. 9031 on October 13, 2023.

The Administrator revoked aquaculture licence and lease no. 1241 on May 8, 2023, and added the associated aquaculture site to the aquaculture registry as no. 9032 on October 13, 2023.

The Administrator revoked aquaculture licence and lease no. 1242 on May 8, 2023, and added the associated aquaculture site to the aquaculture registry as no. 9033 on October 13, 2023.

A call for proposals was issued by the Administrator on August 23, 2024 for the group of seven (7) aquaculture sites within the same body of water (Ship Harbour), under registry nos. 9007, 9027, 9028, 9030, 9031, 9032 and 9033. The deadline for submissions was October 23, 2024.

On December 23, 2024, the Administrator issued a decision to select Bill and Stanley Oyster Company Ltd. (the applicant) as the successful proponent and was given 90 days to submit an application for a marine aquaculture licence and lease for reallocation of the aquaculture sites under registry nos. 9007, 9027, 9028, 9030, 9031, 9032 and 9033.

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 10, 2025.

No (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

A review of the applicant's production plan and development plan supports the optimum use of the existing leased space. Department staff will continue to monitor that production plans are implemented as submitted and that the site is utilized for Aquaculture.

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 for the reallocation of an existing aquaculture site, 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

The applicant's development plan has taken into account the oceanographic and biophysical characteristics of the public waters surrounding the existing operation. There were no issues raised during review in respect to this factor.

The other users of the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation

As this is an application for the reallocation of an existing aquaculture site, 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 will be required to adhere to the site marking requirements according to their Notice of Works issued by Transport Canada under the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*.

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

There are no other aquaculture sites currently operating within Ship Harbour. There is no evidence to suggest that the extent of the proposed aquaculture in the harbour will exceed the carrying capacity.

Decision:

Based on the factors considered above, the application to reallocate the aquaculture sites under registry nos. 9007, 9027, 9028, 9030, 9031, 9032 and 9033 is hereby approved. As a result, aquaculture licence no. 1472 shall be issued to Bill & Stanley Oyster Company Ltd. for a period of ten (10) years (from October 22, 2025 to October 21, 2035) and aquaculture lease no. 1472 shall be issued to Bill & Stanley Oyster Company Ltd. for a period of twenty (20) years (from October 22, 2025 to October 21, 2045), and the aquaculture site is hereafter referred to as site no. 1472.

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*.



Robert Ceschiutti
Aquaculture Administrator
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

October 21, 2025

Date