

# Decision on Application for Marine Aquaculture Licence and Lease - Reallocation

## Application to the Administrator:

On July 22, 2024, 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:

<b>Type:</b> New Marine Licence and Lease (Reallocation)	<b>Site Size:</b> 8.50 HA
<b>Site Reference:</b> RE#9002	<b>Cultivation Method:</b> Suspended Cultivation
<b>Application File Reference:</b> AQ#1468	
<b>Applicant:</b> Laurie Starr O/A Wild Heart Sea Farm	
<b>Location:</b> Lunenburg Bay, Lunenburg County	<b>Species:</b> American oyster, Bay scallop, Blue mussel, Giant sea scallop, European oyster, Sugar kelp, Nori, Dulse, Oarweed

## Site History:

The Administrator revoked aquaculture licence and lease no. 41 on March 23, 2018, and added the associated aquaculture site to the aquaculture registry as no. 9002 on February 2, 2022.

A call for proposals was issued by the Administrator on December 11, 2023 for the aquaculture site under registry no. 9002. The deadline for submissions was February 12, 2024.

On April 22, 2024, the Administrator issued a decision to select Laurie Starr as the successful proponent and was given 90 days to submit an application for a marine aquaculture licence and lease for reallocation of aquaculture site under registry no. 9002.

## 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 demonstrates an 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. The applicant has identified provincial suppliers wherever possible.

*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*

The aquaculture site under registry no. 9002 is located between Corkums Island and the mainland. There are currently a total of five (5) aquaculture sites in Lunenburg Bay, two of which have a licence and lease issued (site nos. 0039 and 0040), both of which are licensed for the cultivation of shellfish and are operated by Corkums Island Mussel Farm. One site is in the registry of sites eligible for reallocation (no. 9012). The remaining two sites are under application for reallocation (one of which is this application). 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 site under registry no. 9002 is hereby approved. As a result, aquaculture licence no. 1468 shall be issued to Laurie Starr (operating as Wild Heart Sea Farm) for a period of ten (10) years (from October 24, 2025 to October 23, 2035) and aquaculture lease no. 1468 shall be issued to Laurie Starr (operating as Wild Heart Sea Farm) for a period of twenty (20) years (from October 24, 2025 to October 23, 2045) and the aquaculture site is hereafter referred to as site no. 1468 (AQ#1468).

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 24, 2025

Date