

Decision on Application for a New Land-based Aquaculture Licence

Application to the Administrator:

Pursuant to the Nova Scotia *Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act* (the “Act”) and the Nova Scotia *Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations* (the “Regulations”); On August 23, 2024, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (the “Department”) received an application for a new land-based aquaculture licence #1470 (AQ#1470), as described below:

Application Summary:

Type: Land-based	Location: Port Williams, Kings County
Number: AQ#1470	Species: Tilapia
Applicant: TapRoot Farms Inc.	Proposed Term: 10 year licence

Consultations on Application to Administrator:

The application was sent for consultation to the following departments or agencies of the Government of Nova Scotia, pursuant to Clause 40(1)(a) of the Regulations:

Environment & Climate Change, Agriculture, Communities Culture Tourism & Heritage (CCTH), Natural Resources, Public Works.

The application was sent for consultation to the following departments or agencies of the Government of Canada, pursuant to Clause 40(1)(b) of the Regulations:

Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO), Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC).

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, 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 43 of the Regulations):

The financial viability of the proponent and the proposed operation

In consideration of all information submitted by the applicant, feedback from other government Departments and Agencies, and submissions from the public, the proposed operation of the land-based facility 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 applicant intends to develop and operate this land-based site is consistent with the Act, Regulations, licence requirements, guidelines and policies of the Department.

If a licence is granted, the licensee will be required to develop and implement an approved Farm Management Plan (FMP), in accordance with the Nova Scotia *Aquaculture Management Regulations*, prior to becoming operational. The Farm Management Plan for land-based shellfish aquaculture operations include minimum compliance requirements related to production planning, inventory control, facility design specifications, storage of supplies and refuse, maintaining the site in good order, noise, and record-keeping. This Farm Management Plan will be reviewed by Department staff for approval. Additional information on the Minimum Compliance Points for Farm Management Plans can currently be found at:

<https://novascotia.ca/fish/documents/compliance-documents/Minimum-compliance-requirements-Landbased.pdf>

The technical viability of the proposed operation

Upon consideration of all information submitted by the applicant, feedback from other government Departments and Agencies, the applicant's proposal was determined to be technically viable. The technical information provided suggests that the proper infrastructure will be put in place for the proposed method and scale of operation.

Any factors that the Administrator considers relevant to the application

There were no other factors deemed relevant to the application.

Decision:

Based on the factors considered above, the application for a new land-based aquaculture licence is hereby approved. As a result, aquaculture licence no. 1470 shall be issued to TapRoot Farms Inc. for a term of ten (10) years (October 28, 2025 to October 27, 2035). 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 28, 2025

Date