

Public Notice – Administrative Application Posted

These documents have been submitted with respect to an administrative aquaculture licence / lease application. The information in these documents is provided as part of the routine disclosure of information by the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (the “Department”). Some information may be redacted as business confidential information or personal information.

These documents were provided to the Department by the applicant (with the exception of the attached Schedule “A” which was generated by the Department). The Department is not responsible for the content of these documents, including, but not limited to, the accuracy, reliability, or currency of the information contained within.

Applicant: Royal B. Stevens, Karen Westhaver-Stevens	Type of Application: Renewal
Application File Number: AQ#0200	Species: Atlantic salmon, Rainbow trout, Brook trout
Location: Sunnybrook, Lunenburg County	Method of Cultivation: Land-based facility
Application Received On: June 17, 2025	

To learn more about the aquaculture lease and license application process, please visit

<https://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/licensing-leasing/Aqua-Licensing-and-Leasing-Overview.pdf>

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Office Use Only

Received June 17, 2025
E. Lynn Winfield

Aquaculture Renewal Application

Licence/Lease No: 0200

Licence/lease holder:

Applicant: Royal B. Stevens & Karen Westhaver-Stevens Contact Person: Karen Westhaver Stevens

Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stocks Number: —

Revenue Canada Business Number: [REDACTED]

Telephone No. (Work): (902) 634-4752 (Home): (902) 634-4752 (Cell): [REDACTED]

Fax No.: NA E-mail: oldmillaquafarm@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 7 Sunnybrook Road

Sunnybrook, Nova Scotia Postal Code: B0T 2C0

Civic Address: same as above

Postal Code: —

Application Materials

A complete application includes the following:

- Renewal fee (payable to Minister of Finance) according to Section 77 of the Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations for Nova Scotia made under Section 64, Chapter 25 of the Acts of 1996, *the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act*
- Application Form
- Development Plan according to application
- Copy of up-to-date Shareholder's Register which sets out the shareholdings of the company (if applicable)

Public Notice and Disclosure

As part of the process for deciding on an aquaculture application, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture ("Fisheries and Aquaculture") will disclose application information to other government bodies, including, if applicable, the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Review Board for use at an adjudicative hearing relating to the application.

Submit completed applications to:

Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Aquaculture Division
1575 Lake Road, Shelburne, NS B0T 1W0
E-mail: aquaculture@novascotia.ca



Office Use Only

In accordance with departmental policy, which seeks to promote public involvement in the process for deciding on aquaculture applications, Fisheries and Aquaculture may disclose application information – not including, however, personal or business confidential information – on the departmental website.

Privacy Statement

The personal and business confidential information collected as part of an aquaculture application will only be used or disclosed by Fisheries and Aquaculture for the purpose of deciding on the application.

All application information collected is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act ("FOIPOP") and will only be used or disclosed in accordance with FOIPOP.

By signing and submitting this form, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and accept the above statements regarding the collection, use, and disclosure of the information provided on this form.

Signature of Applicant

Date

May 10, 2025

May 10, 2025

Signature of Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and
Aquaculture Designate

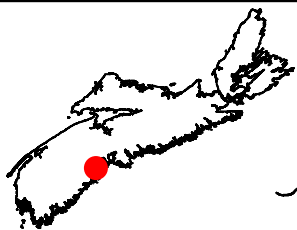
Date

June 17, 2025

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Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Aquaculture Division
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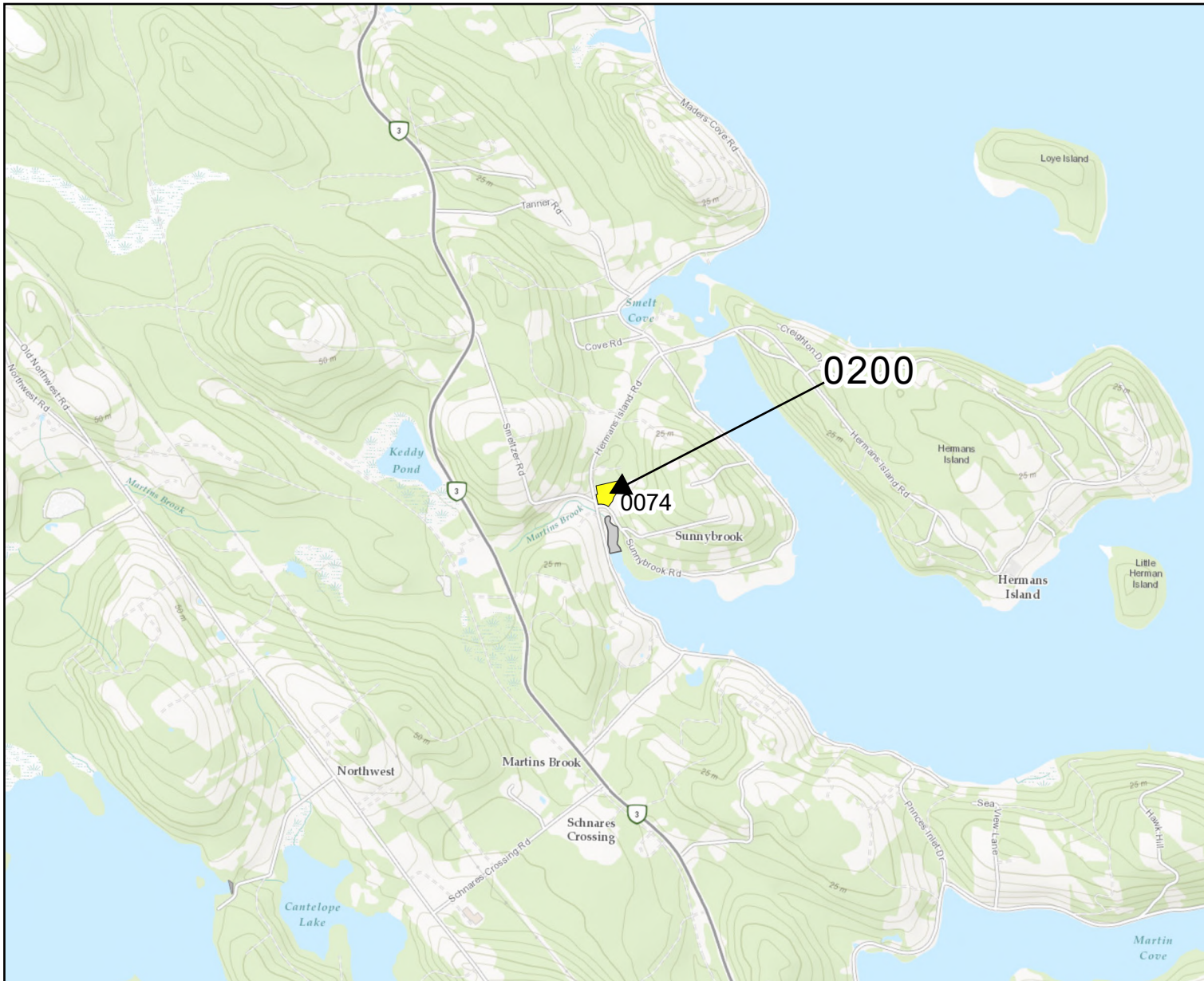
SCHEDULE A



Aquaculture Site 0200

Latitude	Longitude
44° 24' 52.200"	-64° 20' 37.201"



DATUM NAD 83 CSRS UTM Zone 20
The above coordinates are not from a legal survey

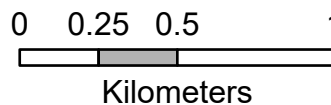


Licence Holder
Stevens, Royal & Stevens, Karen

County
Lunenburg

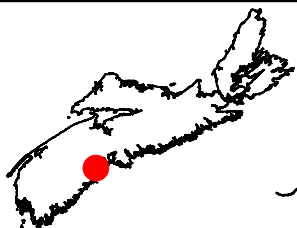
Species Type
Finfish

 Renewal Application
 Issued Marine Lease



Disclaimer
This map should not be used for navigation or legal purposes. It is intended for general NSDA purposes only.
Date: 2025-09-04
Created By: MK

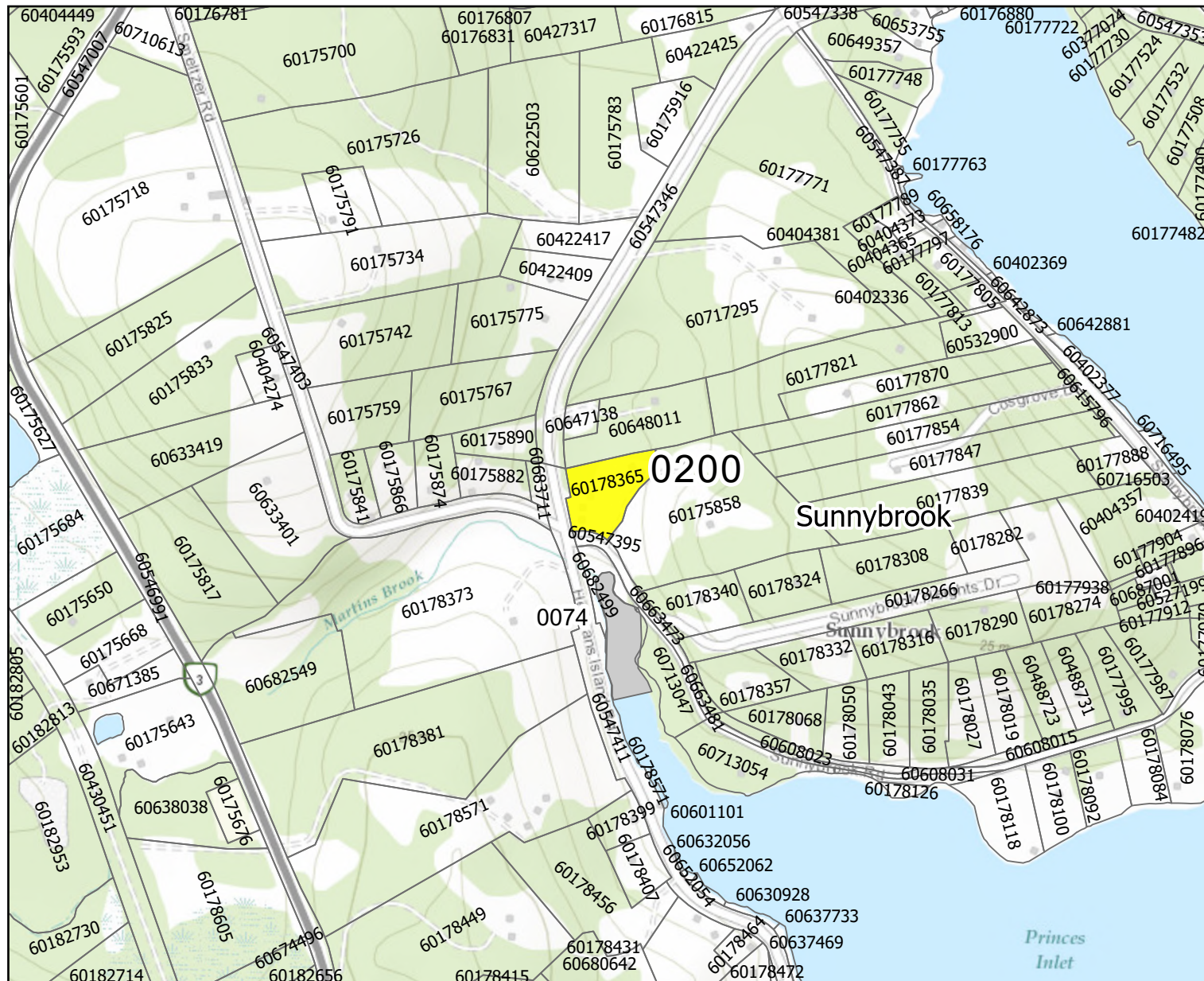
SCHEDULE A



Aquaculture Site 0200

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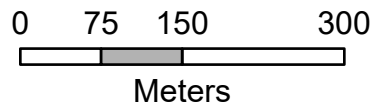


Licence Holder
Stevens, Royal & Stevens, Karen

County
Lunenburg

Species Type
Finfish

 Renewal Application
 Property Boundary
 Issued Marine Lease



Disclaimer
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Date: 2025-09-04
Created By: MK

Land Based Aquaculture Renewal Application for Lease/License 0200

**Applicant: Royal B. Stevens &
Karen
Westhaver-Stevens**

Expiry Date: December 17, 2025.

Section 1: Project Overview

This application is for the renewal of aquaculture license and lease 0200 which expires on December 17, 2025.

This site has been in existence since 1982 and has been licensed under the Aquaculture Act since its inception. This location was the first commercially registered aquaculture site in Canada, initially established by Spencer Stevens in 1948 (license 148). He grew speckled trout which he sold locally to hotels and restaurants, and to locals as a Ufish operation. In fact, Princess Elizabeth (who became Queen) ate fish from this site during her visit to Nova Scotia in 1953.

Due to his untimely death in 1967 caused by a hunting accident, the fish farming ceased until 1982 when his son revived the operation. The first year stocking included 5000 speckled trout and 5000 salmon fry purchased from the Federal government. The fish were sold to local markets, and cage growers. Once the site was proven, more fry were purchased and numbers increased. During the 1990s to 2020 this site was an integral supplier to many of the cage facilities with annual production of 200,000 plus fish. Since 2020 the site has pivoted to growing market fish for the local market and consumers.

Section 2: Technical Viability

2.1 Production Plan

- **Species and strain**

Three species are licensed on this site.

They are: 1. Rainbow trout

2. Atlantic salmon

3. Speckled trout

- **Stock source**

For the past 25 years, stock was purchased from either Troutlodge (Silver Bullets) or Riverence (Riverence strain).

All permits required to import all female diploid eyed eggs were granted through all necessary government departments.

- **Maximum site biomass (kg)**

Maximum site biomass as per our FMP (Farm Management Plan) is 41,000 kg.

- **Maximum fish number**

Maximum number of fish depends on the size of the fish.

As stated in the overview, yearly production of marketable fish has been approximately 20,000 kg.

- **Maximum feed (annual total) (tons)**

Maximum annual total amount of feed again is determined by the number of fish being raised. The maximum feed used was approximately 25T/year class.

- **Maximum tank density (kg/m³)**

Maximum tank density 60kg/m³

This density has never been used. When producing large amounts of fish for cage growers we would reach 50-55kg/m³ just prior to shipping.

- **Maximum total tank volume (m3)**

Maximum total growout tank volume (excluding hatchery tanks) 682.2m3

- **Intended initial stocking date**

At the present time there are fish on site, and site is stocked as required, usually on an annual basis.

- **Expected FCR**

FCR depends on the age of the fish being raised. For example, in the hatchery, feed up fry have a feed conversion close to 1:1 while large market fish experience a FCR of 1.2:1.

- **Expected production or grow out period for each group**

We expect to get a market size fish from an eyed egg is 18-24 months depending on the size of fish being targeted.

- **Expected time to achieve maximum production at the site**

Time to achieve maximum production depends on business opportunities to grow fish, markets, and economic conditions. The past two year classes grown for other growers resulted in them not being able to purchase the fish once they were grown which resulted in a pivoting in our future business plan.

2.2 Location

There has been no change in the location of the farm. The physical location is at 7 Sunnybrook Road, Sunnybrook, Nova Scotia.

2.3 Water source

There has been no change in the water source that is used on the facility. The water right permit expires in 2026 for the water usage from Martin's Brook and Keddy's Pond.

2.4 Water discharge

There have been no change to the way exits the facility. The water leaves the tanks through a culvert to the settling pond which then exits through another culvert to the saltwater.

2.5 Infrastructure

There have no changes to the infrastructure on the facility.

2.6 System

There have been no major changes in the system. On site we have a 80kw generator for backup electricity, as well as liquid oxygen system on site which supplies oxygen to each tank individually through use of oxygen stones. Water enters the site using gravity and if water is required to be pumped, several pumps (both electrical and gas) are available to be used in case of an emergency.

2.7 Containment

There have been no changes in our containment arrangements. All the fish are reared in tanks which are located in greenhouses with metal sheeting buried two feet in the ground around the greenhouses.

2.8 Site History

Please see project overview.

2.9 Technical ability

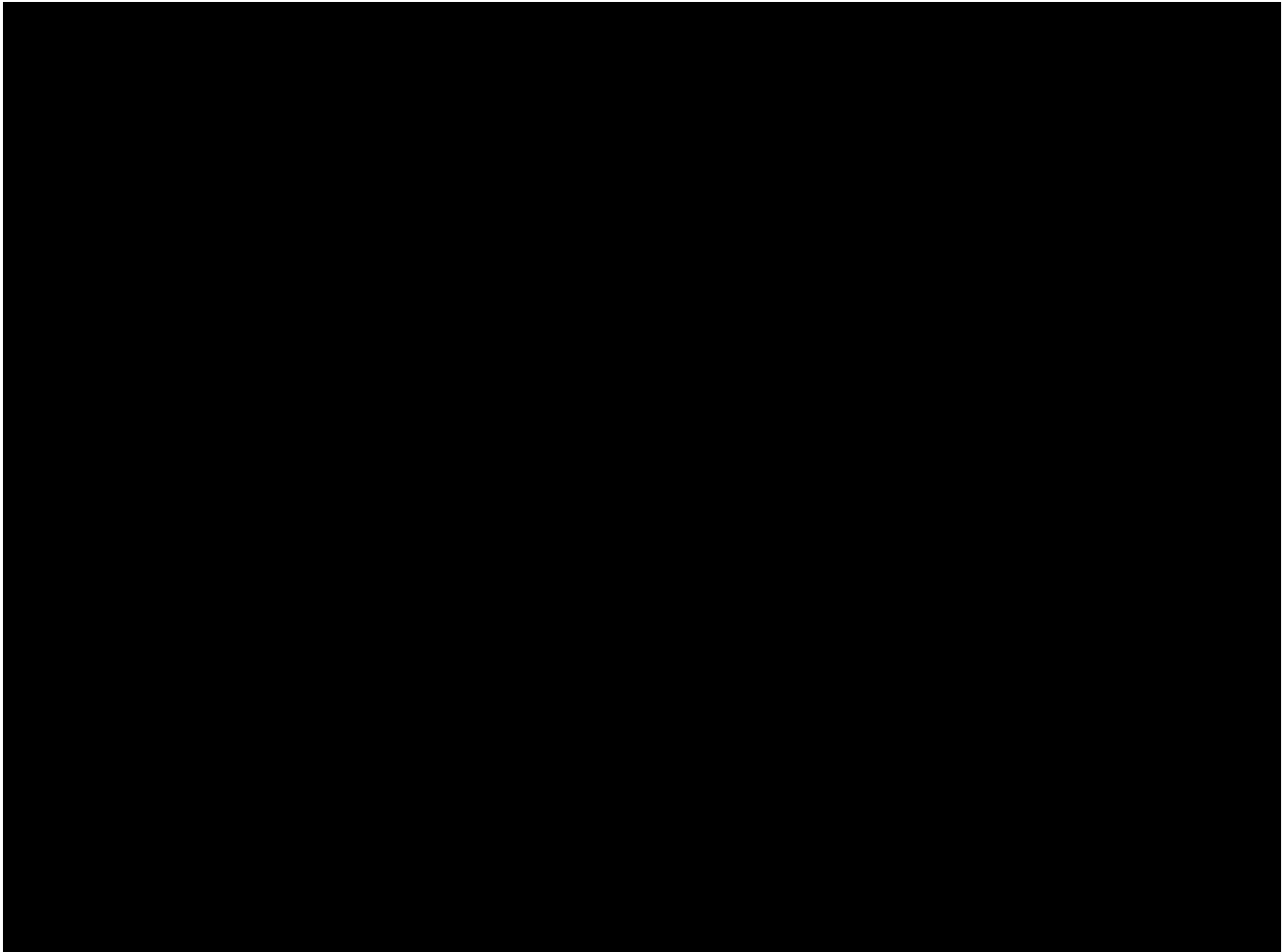
The technical ability of the proponents has remained relatively the same. We have actively grown fish on the site for four decades successfully. Please review our file for details of our experience in aquaculture.

2.10 Compliance history

I believe that we have been in compliance while operating our aquaculture operations. I don't believe that there have been any enforcement issues in the past which needed to be resolved.

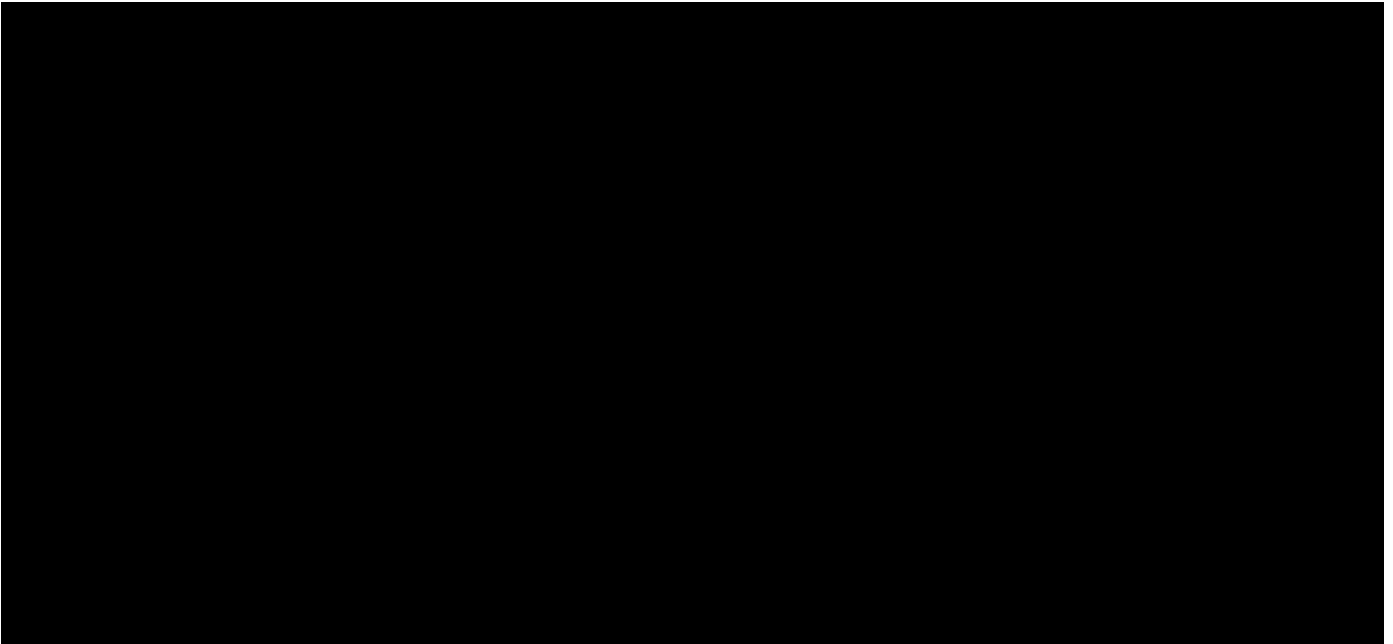
Section 3: Financial Viability

3.1 Financial ability

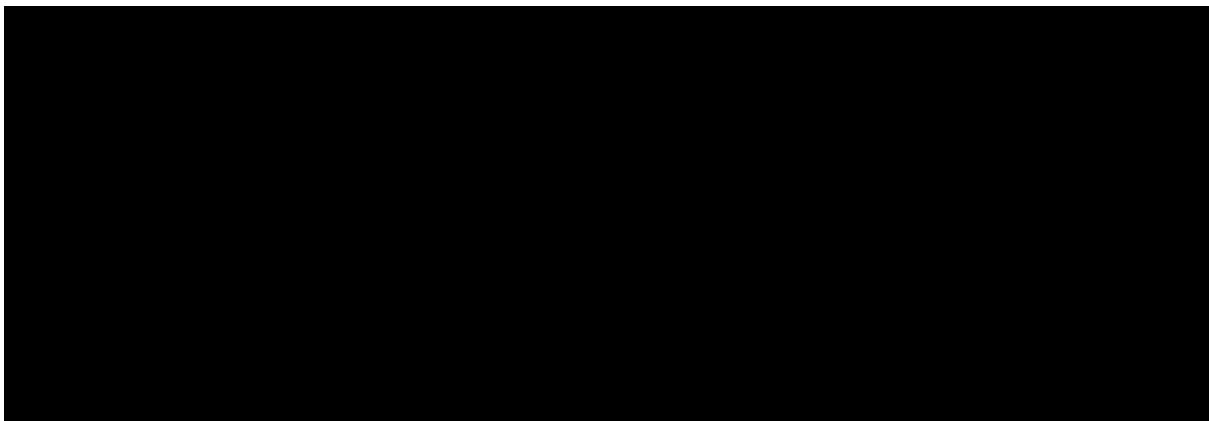


Projected financial

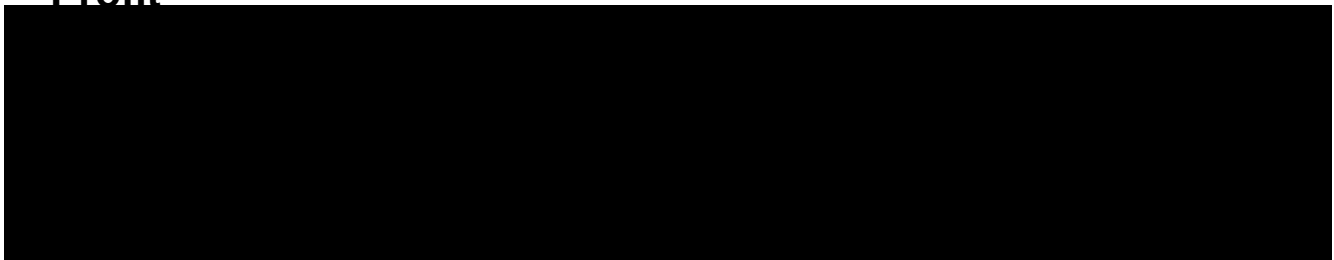
Expenses

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Sales

A rectangular area that has been completely redacted with a solid black fill, obscuring all data and text within this section of the document.

Profit

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Section 4 Other Users of Area Surrounding the Proposed Aquaculture Operation

- **Adjacent property owners**

Being a land based site, we own all the property that surrounds the site.

- **Fishers (commercial, recreational, food, social and ceremonial)**

There are no commercial, recreational, food, social, or ceremonial fishers in the immediate area.

- **Pleasure craft and commercial boat traffic**

This is a land based site which doesn't affect pleasure or commercial boat traffic.

- **Anchorage and moorings**

This is a land based freshwater site enclosed within greenhouses. There are no moorings used.

- **Other watershed users**

There are a couple of Christmas tree growers which have their farms on the brook above us. We have worked closely with them in the past. Many of them are close to retirement age and due to health and physical barriers, they are ceasing their operations. Neither they or we have had no issues.

- **Processing Plants**

The only processing facility which is our vicinity is Hi Liner Seafoods which is located in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia approximately 10 kms. away.

- **Campgrounds**

No campgrounds are located near us. Rayport Campground is the nearest – approximately 15 kms away (near Western Shore)

- **Communities (including cottage communities)**

We do have “cottages” in our community which are seasonal in nature.

- **Municipal, industrial and agricultural users which may be sources of effluent**

As mentioned we have Christmas tree growers that have been in our area, but their activities are becoming less significant.

- **Tourism or recreational operations**

There are AirBB residences in the area as well as one cottage development of five units. They have been in existence for twenty plus years and we have never had any issues and neither have they.

- **Private and government wharves**

Nearest government wharves are in Lunenburg and Mahone Bay town. There are numerous private wharves but they are not affected by our activities.

- **First Nations territories/ reserves**

The nearest reserve is the Gold River Reserve which is located appr. 25 km from the site.

- **Other aquaculture sites**

The nearest aquaculture site to us is 074 which is owned by the proponents. There are numerous shellfish sites located in Mahone Bay and the Lunenburg area, and the nearest finfish site is in St. Margaret's Bay.

- **Wildlife, including migratory birds, marine mammals and other animals that inhabit or migrate through the area**

We are very wildlife friendly. Deer are always an issue in this area especially with market gardens on site. Electric fencing is used throughout the farm for pasturing of cattle, sheep and goats which encourages the deer to be cautious. There are resident populations of ducks and geese which invite themselves to feed from our tame ducks and geese enclosure. Marine mammals don't affect us being on land.

- **Any known or suspected pre-contact or historic archaeological resources**

There are no archeological resources known on the site or in the area.

- **Important habitats and conservation areas**

There are no important habitats and conservation areas in the immediate area.

- **Other known potential projects and activities**

There are no potential projects or activities scheduled for this area that are known of.

- **Other users that are relevant to the area, if applicable.**

None

If changes to the water discharge are proposed, include a description of the type of habitat and flora and fauna that will be directly affected by the changes. Include how you will minimize negative effects during both the establishment and the execution of the request. If the request requires construction in or near water, describe construction materials, methods and equipment to be used. Include mitigation measures to be used to reduce impacts on fish and fish habitat.

There are no changes to be made .

Describe if there has been any change in knowledge of local species at risk since the current licence was approved. If yes, and a species at risk has been identified, permits are required for activities that may affect these species. Describe the status of this permit(s) if applicable.

There have been no changes of local species at risk since the current license was approved.

Identify any changes in the status of salmon run rivers in the region since the current licence was approved. These should include designated salmon rivers within the DFO Designatable Unit. Salmon rivers and Designatable Units are to be defined based on the latest DFO Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat Science Response for the Maritimes Region: Status of Atlantic salmon in salmon fishing areas (SFAs) 19-21 and 23; and the latest DFO Canadian Science

Advisory Secretariat Science response for the Gulf Region: Update of stock status of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) in DFO Gulf Region (Salmon fishing Areas 15 to 18). Describe the proximity of these rivers to the site (if applicable).

There are no salmon found in the Martin's brook. Martin's Brook is located between two major "salmon" rivers in Lunenburg County, those being the LaHave and the Gold River. Both of these rivers are at least twenty kilometers away from the site.

Where applicable, describe public consultation activities that have been undertaken to allow community members to know about and provide input to the proposed request. Describe the outcomes of these activities (eg. Modification of the development plan, mitigation measures to address concerns, etc.).

This is a renewal of a license that has been in existence for four decades. The neighbours are very familiar with the farm and enjoy purchasing local fresh fish and other products from the farm.

Describe how fulfillment of the request may complement the other users, where applicable.

The fulfillment of this request is very beneficial to other users. We sell the fish locally which allows them to enjoy locally grown fresh fish. As well, most neighbours know that we have pumps and

other equipment which they would need at times and we lend to them.

4.2 Impacts by other users including wildlife

If applicable, describe how other users may impact fulfillment of the request. Include how you will minimize interactions with and mitigate possible negative impacts by other users.

For the past four decades we have had no negative impacts from other users.

4.3 Navigation Protection Act (NPA) approval

This is not applicable to this application since it is a land base site.