

Findings and Decision- New Application of Hamilton's Eel Fishery Limited for AO#1411

1. Overview:

On December 28, 2016, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from Hamilton's Eel Fishery Limited for a new Aquaculture Licence #1411(AQ#1411), as described in Table 1.

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence and Lease #1411

Type: Landbased	Location: Centrelea, Annapolis County
Number: AQ#1411	Species: Rainbow trout, Brook trout, Striped bass, American eel
Applicant: Hamilton's Eel Fishery Limited	Proposed Term: 10 year Licence

2. History

AQ#1411 is a new licence. The operator Hamilton's Eel Fishery Limited has never held an aquaculture licence with NSDFA.

3. Procedure

3.1 Performance Review

A performance review of the information submitted by the operator in support of their application was completed. This review recommended that the site proceed to network review based on the technical and biological assessment. This performance review is required pursuant to Subsection 72(c) of the Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations, and was completed on April 12, 2017.

3.2 Network Review

AQ#1411 was sent for review on April 27, 2017 to the following agencies: Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, NSDFA Inland Fisheries Division, Nova Scotia Department of Environment, Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Comments received from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada indicate that the applicant will require an Introductions and Transfers licence, which is applied for after NSDFA approval.

3.3 Public Comment Period

Notice of the application for AQ#1411 for the 30-day public comment period was published on NSDFA's website (<http://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/public-information/>) for the period of December 14, 2017 to January 12, 2018. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on December 12, 20 and 27, 2017 and January 3, 2018.

3.4 Submissions

Zero submissions were received by NSDFA during the 30-day public comment period.

4. Factors to be considered

The nature in which Hamilton's Eel Fishery Limited intends to develop and operate this landbased site is consistent with the Act, Regulations, licence requirements, guidelines and policies of the Department.

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. All aspects of the application information submitted and the subsequent review of this information supports the issuance of this licence.

Hamilton's Eel Fishery Limited will be required to prepare a Farm Management Plan (FMP) will require approval prior to stocking the site. The applicant will also require an Introductions and Transfers permit from the Canada Department of Fisheries and Ocean prior to moving fish to the site.

5. Decision

Based on the considerations above, Aquaculture Licence #1411 shall be issued to Hamilton's Eel Fisheries Limited for a period of 10 years (February 16, 2018 to February 16, 2028).

The Licence and Lease documents shall be prepared in accordance with the standard operating documents of NSDFA, and shall be made publically available subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.



Brennan Goreham
Aquaculture Administrator
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

1/16/18
Date