

Findings and Decision - Renewal Application of Cape d'Or Sustainable Seafoods Inc. for AQ#1209

1. Overview:

On January 17, 2020, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from Cape d'Or Sustainable Seafoods Inc. to renew Aquaculture Licence and Lease #1209 (AQ#1209), as described below:

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence and Lease #1209

Type: Land-based	Size: N/A
Number: AQ#1209	Cultivation Method: Land-based cultivation
Applicant: Cape d'Or Sustainable Seafoods Inc	Species: Atlantic salmon, Atlantic halibut and Arctic char
Location: Advocate Harbour, Cumberland County	Proposed Term: 10 year Licence

2. History

AQ#1209 was first issued on July 28, 2000 to Atlantic Ova Pro Ltd. for a ten-year term (July 28, 2000 to July 28, 2010). AQ#1209 was amended on December 5, 2005 to authorize the cultivation of Atlantic halibut and Arctic char. AQ#1209 was assigned on December 5, 2006 from Atlantic Ova Pro Ltd. to CanAqua Seafoods Limited. AQ#1209 was renewed on February 2, 2011 for a five-year term (July 28, 2010 to July 27, 2015). AQ#1209 was renewed on September 10, 2015 for a five-year term (July 27, 2015 to July 27, 2020). AQ#1209 was assigned on May 8, 2017 from CanAqua Seafoods Limited to Cape d'Or Sustainable Seafoods Inc.

3. Procedure

3.1 Performance Review

A performance review of the information submitted by the operator in support of their renewal application was completed. This review recommended that the site be renewed 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 May 12, 2020.

3.2 Public Comment Period

Notice of the application for the renewal of AQ#1209 for the 30-day public comment period was published on NSDFA's website (<http://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/public-information/>) for the period of April 9, 2020 to May 8, 2020. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on April 9, April 16, April 23 and April 30, 2020.

3.3 Submissions

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

4. Factors to be considered

The operator has extensive background in land-based aquaculture at this location. AQ#1209 has had consistent levels of production and employment, and the renewal application suggest that this will continue for the renewed tenure. The nature in which Cape d'Or Sustainable Seafoods Inc. intends to operate this land-based site is consistent with the Act, Regulations, and policies of the Department. There is no record of non-compliance with respect to the operator of the facility.

An aquaculture licence for land-based finfish aquaculture issued pursuant to the *Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act* only grants an approval to conduct commercial farming of the identified species. The operators of AQ#1209, by condition of licence, will be required to comply with any permits, protocols, approvals, licenses or permissions which may be required under the laws of the relevant Municipality, the Province, or Canada. Cape d'Or Sustainable Seafoods Inc. will be responsible for confirming any of the before-mentioned requirements and ensuring compliance with them.

The technical information submitted with respect to the renewal application suggests that appropriate equipment, infrastructure, and technology will be in place for the proposed method and sale of the operation. In addition, described operational elements are adequate for the proposed method and sale of the operation. Cape d'Or Sustainable Seafoods Inc. will be required to develop and implement an approved Farm Management Plan (FMP), in accordance with the *Aquaculture Management Regulations*. Information on the Minimum Compliance Points for Farm Management Plans can be found at:

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

5. Decision

Based on the considerations above, Aquaculture Licence #1209 shall be renewed for a period of 10 years (July 27, 2020 to July 27, 2030).

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



May 19, 2020

Brennan Goreham
Aquaculture Administrator

Date

Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture