

Decision – Application to Administrator

Application Summary:

Reference Number:	REF#535 (AQ#1478)
Application Class:	CLASS II
Application Type:	NEW LICENCE/LEASE
Abstract:	Application for a new aquaculture licence and lease within a designated Aquaculture Development Area
Applicant Name:	Connor Greene
Date Received by Department:	March 6, 2025
Location:	Argyle Sound
County:	Yarmouth
Site Type:	Marine
Operation Type:	Commercial

Proposed Licence / Lease Information:

Site Size (in hectares):	6.00
Method(s) of Cultivation:	Suspended
Species:	American oyster, Sugar kelp
ADA Site No.	8046
Application File No.	1478

Decision:

Decision Issued:	Approved
Signature and Date:	
	Robert Ceschiutti, Aquaculture Administrator

Definitions:

The following are terms, acronyms and definitions that may appear in this document:

Act means the Nova Scotia *Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act*

ADA means “Aquaculture Development Area”

CFIA means the Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Department means the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

DFO means the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Prior Regulations means the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations, O.I.C. 2015-338 (issued October 26, 2015), N.S. Reg. 347/2015, amended to O.I.C. 2019-322 (effective November 12, 2019), N.S. Reg. 186/2019.

Regulations means the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations, O.I.C. 2025-371 (issued December 16), 2025, N.S. Reg. 276/2025.

Site History:

On April 15, 2024, the Argyle ADA was designated representing 53 sites for shellfish and marine plant aquaculture, within Lobster Bay and Pubnico Harbour, Yarmouth County.

On April 15, 2024, the Minister issued a public Call for Proposals for the exclusive right to apply for an aquaculture licence and lease for ADA Site No. 8046, with a submission deadline of June 15, 2024.

On January 22, 2025, the Administrator issued a decision to select Connor Greene (the applicant) as the successful proponent and was given 90 days to submit an application for a new aquaculture licence and lease within ADA Site No. 8046.

Consultations on Application to Administrator:

Pursuant to Clause 32(a) of the Regulations, the Administrator must undertake consultations with any of the following as required under the laws of the Province or of Canada with respect to the application:

- A department or agency of the Government of Nova Scotia
- A department or agency of the Government of Canada

As such, consultations were undertaken with the following departments or agencies:

Government of Nova Scotia:

- Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

It is important to note that these consultations do not include the work performed by the Department prior to the designation of the Argyle ADA.

Pursuant to Clause 32(b) of the Regulations, the Administrator may undertake consultations with any person, group of persons or organization they consider necessary in the circumstances.

As such, consultations were undertaken with the following person(s) or organization(s):

- Centre for Marine Applied Research (CMAR)

Public Submissions on Application to Administrator:

The application, following the completion of consultation, was referred to the Administrator on October 21, 2025. At that time, the Prior Regulations were in effect. Pursuant to Section 41 of the Prior 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 October 15, 2025.

Three (3) submissions were received by the Department, all of which were during the 30-day public comment period. Two (2) of the three (3) submissions *in general* met the requirements set out in Section 41 of the Prior Regulations (see below for exceptions) and have been included with this document (refer to **Supplement 1: Written Public Submissions**). One (1) of the three (3) submissions was withdrawn and not taken into consideration and has not been included with this document.

One or more public submissions included material in a form other than written, including but not limited to, photographs and charts. Such material was not eligible for consideration by the Administrator under Section 41 of the Prior Regulations (Section 43 of the Regulations). However, consistent with previous decisions made on aquaculture applications under the Prior Regulations, the Administrator has chosen to include any such material with this document *if the material was created by the individual submitting the comment for the purpose of this specific application and met the terms applicable to the use of Government of Nova Scotia websites*.

One public submission initially did not contain the mailing/civic address. However, this information was later provided by the individual submitting the written comment. Please note that the submission by Idle Oars Boatbuilders is from the community of Argyle Sound.

One public submission was received by mail, and contained a hand-written signature as opposed to a printed name. The signature has been redacted for privacy reasons. Please note that the submission provided has a printed date of October 8, 2025 (or a date of August 10, 2025) at the top, however the comment was received by the Department on October 16, 2025 and therefore met the 30-day submission criteria. Please note that this submission is from Russell Goodwin from the community of Argyle Sound.

Factors to be Considered:

Under Section 17(1) of the Regulations, in making decisions related to marine aquaculture sites, the Administrator must take into consideration the optimum use of marine resources, as determined by taking into consideration the following factors only:

- a) The contribution of the proposed operation to community and Provincial economic development;
- b) Fishery activities in the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation;
- c) The oceanographic and biophysical characteristics of the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation;
- d) The other users of the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation;
- e) The public right of navigation;
- f) For marine finfish applications, the sustainability of wild salmon;
- g) The number and productivity of other aquaculture sites in the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation.

All of the above factors have been taken into consideration prior to making the decision on this application. The following is a summary of the outcomes of the Departmental review and any consultation undertaken (where indicated above). This summary is not intended to be an exhaustive account of the results following review and consultation.

The optimum use of marine resources

The applicant's proposed development suggests an optimum use of marine resources, taking into account the amount of product proposed to be cultivated and the size of the proposed site. Department staff will monitor that the proposed production plan is implemented and that the site is utilized for Aquaculture.

The contribution of the proposed operation to community and Provincial economic development

The species and method of cultivation for this site are suitable for this area and are expected to be a positive contribution to the local and provincial economy. There is an anticipated creation of new jobs with this proposed operation.

Fishery activities in the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation

This application was assessed to consider any potential impact to fishery activities within and surrounding the proposed site boundaries. There was no indication that this application would have any meaningful impact on any specific fishery activities, comparing the size of the proposed site with the size of the surrounding waterbody.

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 proposed operation. These culture methods are common and successful within this region, which suggests suitable oceanographic environment for culture of shellfish such as Oysters.

Assessment of the information available in the Site Report for ADA site no. 8046 previously determined that there was no indication of Eel grass (*Zostera marina*) meadows within the site, and it was rare to see free-floating strands of Eel grass. The Department has provided the applicant with recommended measures to avoid and mitigate the potential for prohibited effects to fish and fish habitat (in the event the application is subsequently approved). Provided the measures are incorporated into the applicant's Farm Management Plan, the proposed operation is not likely to result in the contravention of the Fisheries Act, Species at Risk Act and Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations prohibitions and requirements.

The other users of the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation

The proposed operation is not expected to have an unacceptable level of impact to wildlife or wildlife habitat, provided that waste material is disposed of properly. The applicant has been provided with strategies to mitigate impact to sensitive species and other migratory birds (in the event the application is subsequently approved).

The public right of navigation

Concerns were raised by the public regarding the ability to navigate commercial vessels to and from nearby public/private wharves/docks. Should an aquaculture licence and lease be granted, the operator will be required to obtain approval by Transport Canada under the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* for the placement of works (i.e. aquaculture gear and navigation buoys). The designation of ADA site no. 8046 had taken into consideration the location of nearby public/private wharves/docks and no concerns were raised by Transport Canada during review of the site (prior to designation of the Argyle ADA).

Based on the information available, there is more than enough room to the west of the proposed site for navigation of commercial vessels to safely pass and reach the channel between Frost Island and the mainland Argyle Sound. However, the Department recognizes that this subject is under the jurisdiction of Transport Canada who will determine if any gear exclusion areas will be necessary, upon any approval for the placement of works.

The number and productivity of other aquaculture sites in the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation

There is no evidence to suggest that the proposed operation would negatively impact the productivity of other aquaculture sites.

Decision:

Based on the factors considered above, the application for a new aquaculture licence and lease within designated Aquaculture Development Area (ADA) No. 8046 is hereby **approved**. The associated aquaculture site is henceforth known as AQ#1478.

Implementation:

The licence and lease documents shall be prepared in accordance with the Department's standard operating documents. The decision shall be deemed implemented once the licence and lease documents have been signed by all parties. The licence and lease shall be made publicly available subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, once the decision has been implemented.

Supplement 1: Written Public Submissions

Written Public Submissions via email (3 pages)

Written Public Submissions via mail (1 page)

The Department does not endorse, and is not responsible for, the content of the included submissions, including, but not limited to, the accuracy, reliability, or currency of the information contained wherein.

Wherever they may occur, text within public submissions will have been redacted by the Department for the purpose of protecting personal information, including but not limited to, names, addresses, and contact information, with the exception of the following:

- The name and community of the individual submitting the written public comment
- The name of the applicant and any authorized contacts, as listed on the application form
- Names and contact information of politicians
- Names and contact information of municipal, provincial, and federal employees
- Names of aquaculture licence holders
- Names of authors of published works

The Department also reserves the right not to post submissions or to redact certain details from submissions, in accordance with the Terms of Use for government websites, web applications or web communications (copy of terms available at <https://beta.novascotia.ca/terms>).

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Aquaculture Administrator](#)
Subject: Connor Greene shellfish thing
Date: October 23, 2025 6:16:13 PM
Attachments: [1000002164.png](#)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Good afternoon,

I am just becoming aware of some sort of proposed shellfish growing plant in my area and I need some more details. I am speaking on behalf of Idle Oars Boatbuilders located on the argyle sound road. I have a steady supply of customers who drive their boats through that channel to get to my boat shop and I cannot have it obstructed. Attached is a picture of the boatshop from viewpoint and a rough outline of the path the boats take to get to us. There is no other way to get to the shop other than that channel where this plant is looking to be put.

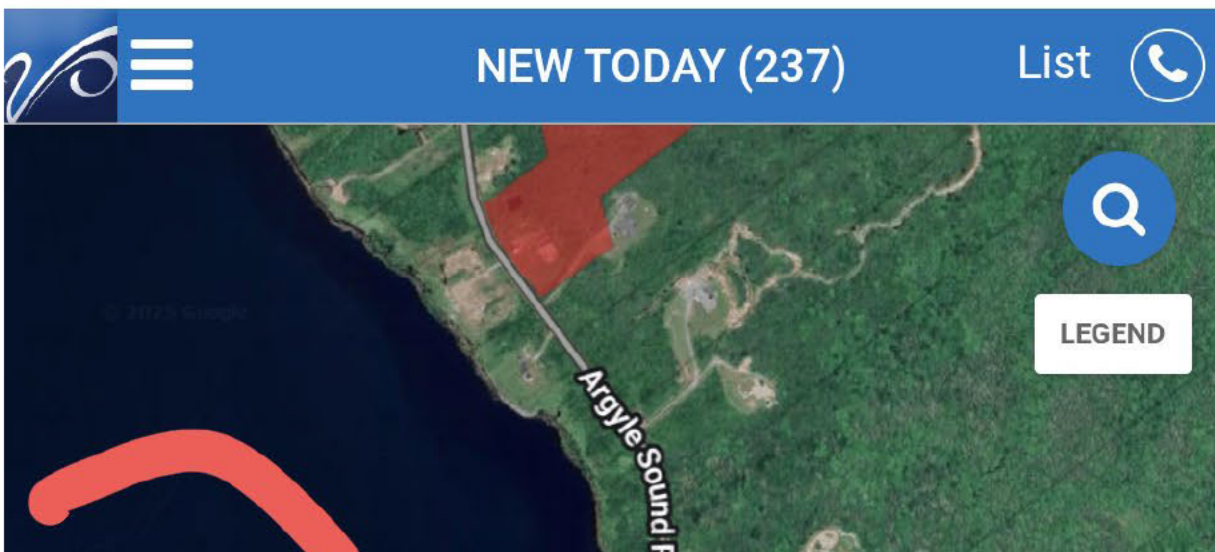
Feel free to further contact me,

[REDACTED]

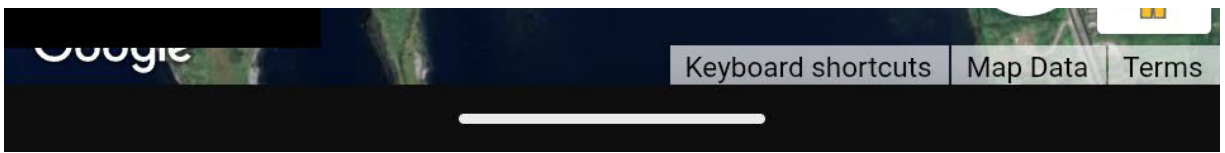
Thank you,

[REDACTED]

6:13







08/10/2025 9:46 a.m.

- ☐ Im against the proposed Oyster farm in such close proximity to our wharf for the following reason:
 - ☐ It will be a navigational hazzard coming and going to the wharf in the busy lobster season. Approaching the wharf at dark ,with Northwest gales or foggy conditions could result in ropes in the wheel and or going aground on the rocks. This is extra and unnecessary stress and potential compromised safety the captain and crew dont want or need.All the best to him in a different area.
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