

Decision – Application to Administrator

Application Summary:

Reference Number:	RE#545 (AQ#1477)
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:	Current Sea Products Inc.
Date Received by Department:	April 22, 2025
Location:	Pubnico Harbour
County:	Yarmouth
Site Type:	Marine
Operation Type:	Commercial

Proposed Licence / Lease Information:

Site Size (in hectares):	23.15
Method(s) of Cultivation:	Suspended
Species:	Sugar kelp
ADA Site No.	8038
Application File No.	1477

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. 8038, with a submission deadline of June 15, 2024.

On January 22, 2025, the Administrator issued a decision to select Current Sea Products Inc. (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. 8038.

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 August 28, 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.

1 submission was received by the Department, and was received during the 30-day public comment period. The submission met the requirements set out in Section 41 of the Prior Regulations (Section 43 of the Regulations) and has been included with this document (refer to **Supplement 1: Written Public Submissions**).

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. The applicant intends to use seedstock sourced locally. 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.

Assessment of the information available in the Site Report for ADA site no. 8038 previously determined that there was no indication of Eel grass (*Zostera marina*) meadows or ree-floating strands of Eel grass within the site. 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

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 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. 8038 is hereby **approved**. The associated aquaculture site is henceforth known as AQ#1477.

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 online form (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>).

City/Town/Community			
First name	Last name	Community	Comments
Michael	Scott	Arcadia	Sugar Kelp farming is rather new to this area yet we have a vibrant rock weed industry. Without proper public consultation as to how we manage one industry over the other or the effects this industry (highly subsidized) will have on existing industries is concerning we once had a great Irish Moss industry here lost to what is perceived as run off from the Tin Mine. Every action has a reaction. Also the expansion of these commercial farms in our public waters and the effect it poses on recreational boating and navigation. I feel more proper public consultation needs to occur prior to any approval of new industry. Also to have a public comment session at the end of a perceived forgone conclusion only gives the residents and tax payers a false sense that they have actually had any input in this decision making.