

Decision – Application to Administrator

Application Summary:

Reference Number:	REF#568
Application Class:	Class III
Application Type:	Renewal
Abstract:	Application to renew licence no. 1234
Applicant Name:	ProNova Marine Products Inc.
Date Received by Department:	August 29, 2025
Location:	Woods Harbour
County:	Shelburne
Site Type:	Land-based
Operation Type:	Commercial

Current Licence Information:

Method(s) of Cultivation:	Facility
Species:	Atlantic halibut, Atlantic cod, Haddock, Cunner, Lumpfish, Rainbow trout, Green sea urchin, American oyster, Irish moss, Dulse, Striped bass, American lobster, Atlantic salmon
Term of Licence:	March 1, 2016 to March 1, 2026

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*

Department means the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Regulations means the Nova Scotia *Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations*

Site History:

Aquaculture Licence No. 1234 was initially issued to Scotian Halibut Ltd. on March 1, 2001, for a 10-year term (March 1, 2001 to March 1, 2011), for the land-based facility cultivation of Atlantic halibut. In March, 2004, the licence was amended to authorize the cultivation of Atlantic cod and Haddock. In August, 2010, the licence was amended to authorize the cultivation of Green sea urchin. On November 1, 2011, the licence was amended to authorize the cultivation of Irish moss and Dulse and was also renewed for a 5-year term (March 2, 2011 to March 2, 2016). On November 10, 2011, the licence was amended to authorize the cultivation of Rainbow trout. In June, 2014 the licence was amended to authorize the cultivation of American oyster. In November, 2014, the licence was amended to authorize the cultivation of Cunner and Lumpfish. In June, 2016, the licence was renewed for a 10-year term (March 1, 2016 to March 1, 2026). In February, 2017, the licence was assigned to Scotian Halibut (2016) Ltd. In March, 2018, the licence was assigned to ProNova Marine Products Ltd. In November, 2019, the licence was amended to authorize the cultivation of Striped bass. In April, 2025, the licence was amended to authorize the cultivation of Atlantic salmon and American lobster.

Outcomes of Performance Review:

Pursuant to Section 40 of the Regulations, the Administrator (or an appointed employee) may conduct a performance review of the associated aquaculture site in accordance with Sections 89 and 90 of the Regulations.

No actions were taken by the administrator in response to the Performance Review conducted in response to receipt of this renewal application.

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

Factors to be Considered:

Under Section 17(2) of the Regulations, in making decisions related to land-based aquaculture sites, the Administrator must take all of the following factors into consideration:

- a) The Contribution of the Proposed Operation to Community and Provincial Economic Development;
- b) The Technical Viability of the Proposed Operation;
- c) The Ability of the Applicant to Carry Out the Proposed Operation;
- d) Any Previous Record of the Applicant Related to Aquacultural Operations.

The Contribution of the Proposed Operation to Community and Provincial Economic Development

The proposed renewal did not involve any change to the operator's services and suppliers and did not involve any change to the operator's employment impact to the community.

The Technical Viability of the Proposed Operation

There were no proposed changes to the operation of the existing land-based facility. The historical information on record indicated that the proper infrastructure is in place for the proposed method and scale of operation and is deemed technically viable.

The Ability of the Applicant to Carry Out the Proposed Operation

There were no concerns raised regarding the financial viability of the applicant or their proposed operation with respect to this renewal application. The applicant has demonstrated their ability to carry out the proposed operation through historical operation of this site. No issues were raised during review of their renewal application.

Any Previous Record of the Applicant Related to Aquacultural Operations

The applicant's historical records related to aquacultural operations were taken into account and did not impact the decision on this renewal application.

Decision:

Based on the factors considered above, the application to renew aquaculture licence no. 1234 is hereby approved.

Implementation:

The licence documents shall be prepared in accordance with the Department's standard operating documents. The decision shall be deemed implemented once the licence documents have been signed by all parties. The licence 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.