

Decision – Application to Administrator

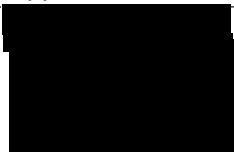
Application Summary:

Application Reference Number:	REF#569
Aquaculture Site Number:	AQ#0039
Application Class:	Class II
Application Type:	Renewal
Abstract:	Application for the renewal of Licence no. 0039
Applicant Name:	Dale Cook and Diana Cook carrying on business under the name of "Corkums Island Mussel Farm"
Date Received by Department:	September 2, 2025
Location:	Lunenburg Bay
County:	Lunenburg
Site Type:	Marine
Operation Type:	Commercial

Current Licence / Lease Information:

Site Size (in hectares):	1.38HA
Method(s) of Cultivation:	Suspended
Species:	Blue mussel, American oyster, Giant sea scallop, European oyster, Bay scallop
Term of Licence:	March 4, 2016 to March 4, 2026
Term of Lease:	March 4, 2016 to March 4, 2036

Decision:

Decision Issued:	Approved
Signature and Date:	 August 11, 2026 Bruce Hancock, 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:

Licence issued to Dale & Diana Cook on March 4, 1991 for a ten year term from March 4, 1991 to March 3, 2001 for suspended cultivation of Blue mussel, American oyster, Giant sea scallop, European oyster, Bay scallop on a 1.38 hectare site located in Lunenburg Bay, Lunenburg County. Licence renewal issued to Corkums Island Mussel Farm on February 15, 2001 for a five year term from March 4, 2001 to March 4, 2006. Licence Renewal issued to Corkums Island Mussel Farm on March 7, 2006 for a five year term from March 4, 2006 to March 4, 2011. Licence renewal issued to Corkums Island Mussel Farm on June 20, 2011 for a five year term from March 4, 2011 to March 3, 2016. Amendment issued on August 14, 2018 to change Schedule B. Licence renewal issued to Dale Cook and Diana Cook carrying on business under the name of “Corkums Island Mussel Farm” on June 9, 2016 for a ten year term from March 4, 2016 to March 4, 2026.

Outcomes of Compliance Review:

Pursuant to Section 33 of the Regulations, the Administrator (or an appointed employee) must conduct a compliance review of the applicant in accordance with Sections 86 and 87 of the Regulations.

The compliance review did not identify any significant concerns respecting the compliance history of Corkums Island Mussel Farm, Dale F. J. Cook, or Diana M. Cook. Information received through the Department's compliance review process, including the Compliance History Report and Justice Enforcement Information Network (JEIN) review, identified no complaints, written warnings, summary offence tickets, charges, or convictions relevant to this review. Department records also indicate compliance with Farm Management Plan requirements and no significant conformance issues identified during site assessments. As a result, no compliance concerns were identified that would support further administrative action.

Outcomes of Performance Review:

Pursuant to Section 34 of the Regulations, the Administrator (or an appointed employee) must conduct a performance review of the associated aquaculture site in accordance with Sections 89 and 90 of the Regulations.

The performance review found that the site has remained active and productive throughout the review period, with the continued cultivation of blue mussels and giant sea scallops. The site has been utilized on an ongoing basis, is operating in accordance with an approved Farm Management Plan, and no prior notices, warnings, or actions related to site productivity were identified. The site continues to be stocked, maintained, and operated within the authorized lease area and no significant performance concerns were identified through the review. Accordingly, I determined that no administrative action is required as a result of the performance review.

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

Public Submissions on Application to Administrator:

Pursuant to Clause 32(c) of the Regulations, the Administrator must undertake consultations with the public, in the manner provided in Section 43 of the Regulations.

Pursuant to Section 43 of the 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 a 30-day period, from March 4, 2026, to April 3, 2026.

Three submissions were received by the Department during the 30-day public comment period. Of the three submissions received, three in general met the requirements set out in subsection 43(4) of the Regulations (see below for exceptions) and have 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 contribution of the proposed operation to community and Provincial economic development

The renewal will support the continued production and sale of shellfish from an established aquaculture operation in Lunenburg County. The operation contributes to the local economy through ongoing business activity, seafood production, and public engagement associated with the farm. Public comments received during consultation also identified the operation as a positive contributor to the local community.

Fishery activities in the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation

The review concluded that the existing site has co-existed with fisheries in the surrounding area for many years and that no changes are proposed that would introduce new impacts on fishing activities. No concerns respecting fishery activities were identified through the review process.

The oceanographic and biophysical characteristics of the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation

The site has operated successfully since 1979 and the evidence before the Department indicates that environmental conditions within this sheltered area of Lunenburg Bay remain suitable for suspended shellfish aquaculture. The review found that the site design, cultivation practices, and anticipated production levels remain appropriate for the oceanographic and biophysical characteristics of the area.

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

No expansion of the site, change in species, or alteration to cultivation methods is proposed. The operation has co-existed with nearby residents and other users of the public waters for many years. Public comments received during consultation did not identify concerns regarding interference with other uses of the area and generally expressed support for the continued operation of the site.

The public right of navigation

Historical navigation review conducted by the Canadian Coast Guard identified no conflict between the operation and the public right of navigation. Transport Canada has advised that historical navigation documentation will be updated to align with current legislative requirements; however, no navigation concerns were identified through the review that would warrant refusal of the application. The continued operation of the site is not expected to interfere with navigation.

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

The review concluded that the renewal of AQ#0039 is not expected to adversely affect neighbouring aquaculture operations and will continue to support the orderly development of aquaculture in Lunenburg Bay. The site has successfully co-existed with other aquaculture operations in the area, including AQ#0040, for many years.

Decision:

Having considered the application, the Technical Review, the Performance Review, the Compliance Review, the results of public consultation, and each of the factors prescribed in subsection 17(1) of the Regulations, I find that the renewal of Aquaculture Licence AQ#0039 promotes the optimum use of marine resources. I further find that no significant concerns were identified through the compliance review, performance review, technical review, or public consultation processes that would justify refusing the application. Accordingly, I approve Application Reference No. 569 and renew Aquaculture Licence AQ#0039.

The licence shall be renewed for a term of 10 years, from March 5, 2026, to March 4, 2036.

Modifications:

None.

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.

Supplement 1: Written Public Submissions

Written Public Submissions via online form (2 pages)

Written Public Submission via Letter-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 therein.

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>).

Online Written Public Comment Submission

Submission ID #: 7a246dbb Submission Date (MM/DD/YYYY): 03/21/2026 11:38:57

Reference to Application: 569

First Name: Peter Last Name: Fougere

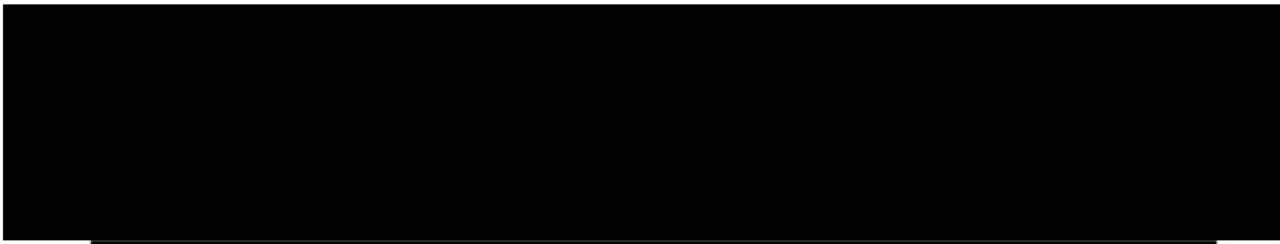
Community: Lunenburg

Written Comment on Application:

We absolutely approve of this business and hope it continues for years to come. We are curious as to why we are now being asked our opinion as we have been at the address for 26 years

Submission ID #: 7a246dbb

Personal Contact Information:



Online Written Public Comment Submission

Submission ID #: 21f27fef

Submission Date (MM/DD/YYYY): 03/11/2026 08:59:14

Reference to Application: REF#569

First Name: Jonathan

Last Name: Romkey

Community: Corkums Island

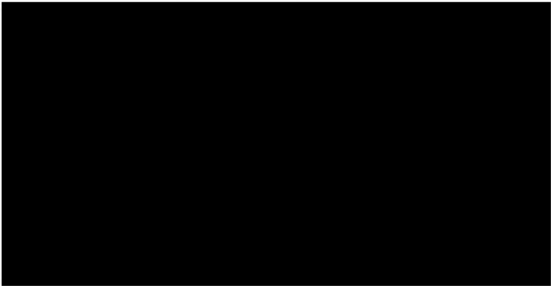
Written Comment on Application:

Have lived here for 39 years and in no way has this farm caused any harm or stress whatsoever to me and the property. The only way I would be concerned is if the farm was going to expand. My understanding of this application is just to renew and not expand if I am wrong please inform me.

Submission ID #: 21f27fef

Personal Contact Information:

Peter and Carolyn Matthews



Date March 9th 2026

Nova scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
1575A lake Road,
Sandy Point
Nova Scotia B0T 1W0

Re; Corkums Island Mussel Farm. Renewal Application Number REF #569

To Whom it may concern

We the undersigned confirm that our home is within 500 metres of the Corkums Island Mussel Farm.
We wish to confirm our complete support for the renewal of the license to operate the mussel farm.

Our reasons for this are:

1. The farm causes no inconvenience to us or other residents in the area
2. The farm is a good use of the area indicate
3. There is no inconvenience to marine traffic
4. The farm contributes to the economic development of the area
5. There are no other aquaculture sites in the area
6. The farm does not result in any pollution in the area

We have no relationship to the current owner of the farm and we hope that his application for renewal will be approved.

Signed: Peter Matthews

Carolyn Matthews

