

Decision – Application to Administrator

Application Summary:

Application Reference Number:	REF#570
Aquaculture Site Number:	AQ#0040
Application Class:	Class II
Application Type:	Renewal
Abstract:	Application for the renewal of licence no. 0040
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):	1.26HA
Method(s) of Cultivation:	Suspended
Species:	Blue mussel, American oyster, Giant sea scallop, bay scallop and European oyster
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 14, 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:

Aquaculture licence no. 0040 was first licenced by the Province on March 4, 1991, for a tenyear term, from March 4, 1991 to March 3, 2001 for the suspended cultivation of blue mussel, American oyster, Giant sea scallop, European oyster and Bay scallop on a 1.26 hectare site located in Lunenburg Bay, Lunenburg County. Licence renewal issued to Corkums Island Mussel Farm 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. 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 obtained 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 further indicate compliance with Farm Management Plan requirements and no significant conformance issues identified during site assessments conducted by Department staff. 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 considered the historical utilization of the site, production reporting, Farm Management Plan implementation, site information, and other matters relevant to the performance of the aquaculture operation. The review determined that AQ#0040 has historically been used in conjunction with the licence holder's nearby aquaculture operations, primarily as a holding and nursery site for shellfish production within Lunenburg Bay. Additional information provided during review of the renewal application indicates the licence holder intends to utilize the site more actively for shellfish production during the upcoming licence term. The site is operated pursuant to an approved Farm Management Plan and Department records confirm that cultivation gear is located within the leased area. While historical production reporting reflects the site's specialized role within the licence holder's broader operation, the information before me does not identify any performance concerns that would support administrative action in relation to this renewal application. Accordingly, no actions were taken by the Administrator in response to the Performance Review conducted for this 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

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.

Four submissions were received by the Department during the 30-day public comment period. Of the four submissions received, four 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

AQ#0040 is an existing commercial shellfish aquaculture site that has operated in Lunenburg Bay for decades. The operation contributes to the local economy through the cultivation and sale of shellfish products and through the continued use of local goods and services. Department reviewers concluded that continuation of the operation will maintain economic benefits associated with the site and support ongoing

participation in Nova Scotia's aquaculture industry. Public comments received during consultation were supportive of the renewal and identified the operation as a positive contributor to the local community.

Fishery activities in the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation

The application is for the renewal of an existing site with no changes to the licensed area, species authorized for cultivation, or cultivation methods. Department reviewers concluded that the site has co-existed with fisheries activities in Lunenburg Bay for many years and identified no evidence that renewal of the licence would adversely affect surrounding fisheries activities.

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

The site is located within a sheltered area of Lunenburg Bay that has historically supported suspended shellfish aquaculture. Department reviewers determined that the oceanographic and biophysical conditions remain suitable for the continued cultivation of shellfish and that the site classification remains open and approved for shellfish harvesting.

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

The renewal application does not propose changes to the existing operation. The site has co-existed with other users of Lunenburg Bay for decades, and Department reviewers identified no evidence that continued operation would adversely affect other users of the area. Public comments received during consultation were supportive of the operation and did not identify concerns regarding conflicts with other users.

The public right of navigation

The site has operated in its current location for many years and the application proposes no changes to site boundaries, configuration, species, or cultivation methods. No navigation concerns were identified through the review process or within the public submissions received by the Department. Continued operation of the existing site is not expected to interfere with the public right of navigation.

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

Department reviewers concluded that renewal of AQ#0040 will not adversely affect existing aquaculture operations in the area. The closest aquaculture site is AQ#0039, which is owned and operated by the same licence holders and is located approximately 340 metres away in the same bay. The two sites have operated together for many years and are used in a complementary manner to support shellfish production. Renewal of AQ#0040 is therefore expected to support the orderly development of aquaculture within Lunenburg Bay.

Decision:

Based on my consideration of the applicable factors set out in section 17(1) of the Regulations, I am satisfied that the renewal of aquaculture licence AQ#0040 promotes the optimum use of marine resources. In reaching this decision, I have considered the information contained in the application, the technical review,

the compliance review, the performance review, the results of public consultation, and the information obtained through consultations undertaken by the Department. Accordingly, the application to renew aquaculture licence AQ#0040 is hereby approved.

The licence shall be renewed for a term of ten (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 Submissions via email (2 pages)

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 #: 92d18ff5 Submission Date (MM/DD/YYYY): 03/21/2026 11:35:56

Reference to Application: 570

First Name: Peter Last Name: Fougere

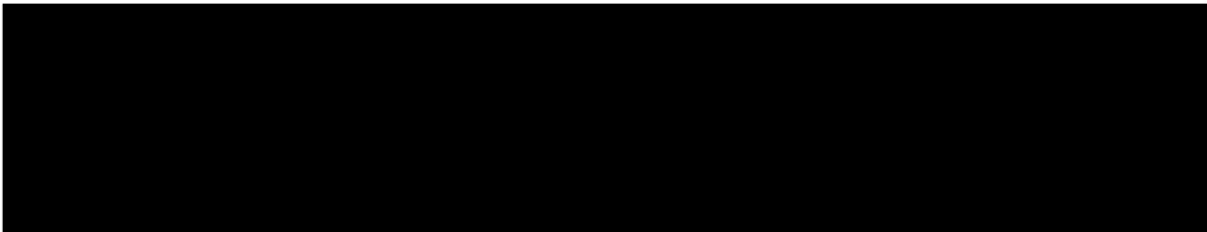
Community: Lunenburg

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 #: 92d18ff5

Personal Contact Information:



Online Written Public Comment Submission

Submission ID #: db20e027

Submission Date (MM/DD/YYYY): 03/11/2026 09:22:00

Reference to Application: REF#570

First Name: Jonathan

Last Name: Romkey

Community: Corkums Island

Written Comment on Application:

Lived here 39 years and never had problems with this farm. My understanding is that this permit is for renewal and not expansion so I have no objections.

Submission ID #: db20e027

Personal Contact Information:



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Aquaculture](#)
Subject: Project reference number REF#570
Date: March 11, 2026 11:48:38 AM

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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

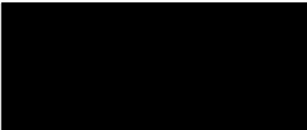
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This note is in response to your letter of Feb 25th requesting feedback for Corkum's Island Mussel Farm, reference number 570. Our response is below.

Renewing aquaculture licence no. 0040

1. This enterprise has been in operation for many years now. The farm is very well maintained, clean and neat.
2. The farm provides employment for several people as it is a very welcome retail outlet for fish for residents and visitors to the Lunenburg area during the summer months.
3. This section of cove off of Lunenburg bay is rather shoally so not likely to be frequented by pleasure craft on a regular basis so the section used for the mussel farm does not really impede navigation.
4. The cove is used by some local fishermen to dock their boats and provides a space sheltered from storms. This is also shelter for the farm itself. Seems to be a great spot for such an aquatic venture.
5. Having lived in this area for at least 55 years, we see no reason why this application should not be renewed unless there would be some scientific reason not perceptible from a lay person.

Respectfully submitted
David & Susan Afford



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Aquaculture](#)
Subject: Ref#570
Date: March 21, 2026 9:27:17 PM

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Hello,

I live on Corkum's Island and I fully support Corkum's Island Mussel farm's application to renew their license.

They're an excellent addition to the community and I'm proud to be their neighbour.

Marc
[REDACTED]