Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Aquaculture Division, Licensing & Leasing Unit
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Decision – Application to Administrator

Application Summary:

Application Reference Number:	REF#571
Aquaculture Site Number:	AQ#0524
Application Class:	Class II
Application Type:	Renewal
Abstract:	Renew Licence of existing oyster lease in Tracadie Harbour
Applicant Name:	Roger Myette
Date Received by Department:	September 8, 2025
Location:	Tracadie Harbour
County:	Antigonish County
Site Type:	Marine
Operation Type:	Commercial

Current Licence/Lease Information:

Site Size (in hectares):	2.23 Ha
Method(s) of Cultivation:	Bottom (seeding Only) & Bottom Cultivation with Gear
Species:	American Oyster
Term of Licence:	March 31, 2016, to March 31, 2026
Term of Lease:	March 31, 2016, to March 31, 2036

Decision:

Decision Issued:	Approved
Signature and Date:	[redacted] October 19, 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:

May 9, 2005: Aquaculture Licence/Lease No. 0524 was first issued by the Province to **John Myette** for a one-year term (**April 1, 2005, to April 1, 2006**). Authorized the **bottom cultivation of American oyster without gear**. Site area: **1.22 hectares**. Location: **Tracadie Harbour, Antigonish County**.
September 26, 2006: Licence renewal approved.
Established a new licence term from **April 1, 2006, to March 31, 2016**.
January 7, 2008: Amendment approved to expand the site boundaries.
Authorized site area increased from **1.22 hectares to 2.23 hectares**.
May 20, 2016: Renewal application approved.
Extended the licence term from **March 31, 2016, to March 31, 2026**.
Established a new lease term from **March 31, 2016, to March 31, 2036**.
June 14, 2016: Assignment application approved.
Licence and lease transferred from **John Myette** to **Roger Myette**.
November 6, 2020: Amendment approved. Authorized an additional cultivation method, permitting **bottom culture with gear** on a portion of the site. The previously authorized **bottom culture without gear** remained permitted.

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.

A compliance review of the applicant was completed in accordance with the Regulations. The review identified no significant compliance concerns. The compliance history report found no complaints, written warnings, summary offence tickets or charges, or convictions relating to the applicable aquaculture legislation, regulations, or licence and lease terms and conditions.

A review of the Justice database also identified no issues respecting pending charges or convictions within the period reviewed. The completed compliance review records that no concerns were raised.

Based on the results of the compliance review, no compliance-related action is required in relation to this renewal application.

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.

A performance review of aquaculture site AQ#0524 was completed in relation to this renewal application. The review considered the site's licence and compliance history, site marking and navigation approval, historical site utilization and production, the Farm Management Plan, available audit information, and current site information.

The review found no issues in the compliance history report and identified no prior notices, warnings, or other actions by the Administrator relating to the productivity of the site within the review period. The site has an approved Farm Management Plan, approved January 29, 2021.

The site has remained active in the cultivation of American oyster and the performance review documents continued utilization of the site. The review identifies the site as a restricted shellfish harvesting area due to sanitary pollution, with product relayed to a site with an approved/open classification, and also notes that the site has experienced impacts from ice during winter months.

No action affecting the renewal is warranted on the basis of the performance review. A security bond was, however, identified as required in the performance review and should be addressed as part of implementation of the renewed licence.

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

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 February 4, 2026, to March 6, 2026.

One (1) submission was received by the Department during the 30-day public comment period. Of the One (1) submissions received, One (1) 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#0524 is an existing commercial shellfish operation. The renewal does not propose a change in species, culture method, supporting infrastructure, services, suppliers, or current employment. The technical review indicates that recent production information identified two seasonal part-time positions associated with the site. The applicant also intends to purchase cages from a local supplier and increase production at the site. No known adverse economic impacts were identified in the technical review.

The applicant similarly indicated that increased production is intended over the coming years and that cages would be purchased locally, with harvested oysters subsequently transferred to a neighbouring community for relay.

I am satisfied that continuation of this established operation is consistent with community and Provincial economic development.

Fishery activities in the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation

The site is an established aquaculture lease and no changes to its location, species, or cultivation methods are proposed as part of this renewal. The technical review found that the site has co-existed with fisheries in the area and identified no known impacts on fisheries that would require mitigation.

The applicant states that the lease has operated for many years without impacting surrounding fishing activities and that recreational fishing adjacent to the site continues.

On the information available, I am satisfied that renewal of this existing operation is not expected to adversely affect fisheries activities in the surrounding public waters.

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

The technical review concluded that the oceanographic environment has historically proven suitable for the existing bottom-culture oyster operation. The location supports natural oyster growth, and the benthic environment has historically supported bottom cultivation and natural set. The majority of the site is operated without grow-out gear, with cages placed on the bottom in a designated storage area.

The site is located within an area restricted for shellfish harvesting for sanitary reasons. Product must therefore be relayed under the applicable authorization to an approved site in an open area; the operation currently relays product to AQ#1387 in Havre Boucher. The review also recognizes ice-related mortality as an existing site condition.

The proposed renewal does not change the species, cultivation methods or basic site configuration. Based on the established history of production and the technical review, I am satisfied that the oceanographic and biophysical characteristics of the site remain suitable for the proposed operation.

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

No change in effects on other users is expected as a result of the renewal. The technical review notes that this is an existing site with no proposed changes to production methods or species and that it has co-existed with other users of the public waters for many years. No impacts from other users were identified by the operator or brought to the Department's attention.

The applicant identifies recreational fishing, boating, kayaking, paddle boarding and swimming as activities occurring in Tracadie Harbour and states that the existing operation has not adversely affected these uses.

In addition, the sole written public submission was from a neighbouring property owner and expressed support for renewal of the site.

On balance, I am satisfied that continuation of the existing operation is compatible with other established uses of the surrounding public waters.

The public right of navigation

The performance and technical reviews confirm that the site has an existing Transport Canada navigation approval, file number 2007-200833. The technical review further indicates that the information provided in the application is consistent with the information on file.

As this application is for renewal of the existing operation and does not propose a change to the site's gear or configuration, I am satisfied that the renewal is consistent with the public right of navigation.

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

The technical review found that no changes in interactions with other aquaculture operations are expected from the renewal. It identifies the closest aquaculture operation as approximately 3 km away by water in the Tracadie Harbour West Arm. The principal interaction with another aquaculture site is the relay of harvested product to AQ#1387 in Havre Boucher.

The Department's technical assessment concluded that renewal of the existing site is expected to complement aquaculture development in the region and is not expected to impede existing aquaculture sites or further aquaculture development in the area.

I am therefore satisfied that renewal is compatible with the number and productivity of other aquaculture operations in the surrounding public waters.

Decision:

Based on the factors considered above, and having considered the optimum use of marine resources in reaching this determination, the application by Roger Myette to renew Aquaculture Licence No. 0524 for the cultivation of American oyster in Tracadie Harbour, Antigonish County, is hereby approved.

The renewed licence shall authorize the continuation of the existing bottom cultivation and bottom cultivation with gear in accordance with the approved site configuration, applicable licence terms and conditions, and approved Farm Management Plan.

The licence is renewed for a term of ten years, from March 31, 2026 to March 30, 2036.

Modifications:

No modification.

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 letter-mail 1(one) 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 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).

Notice of Public Comment

NOVA SCOTIA

Feb 25, 2026

I am supportive of Roger Myette renewing licence # 0542 application Reference # REF# 571

Sincerely, Carson Fougere [redacted]

January 28, 2026

Dear Property Owner: I am connected with the applicant as a neighbouring property owner. [redacted]

RE: We want your feedback on an existing shellfish farm in your area

Roger Myette has applied to the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture to renew their licence for a shellfish farm within 500 metres of your property.

This is your chance to share feedback, comments or concerns you have about this project based on one or more of the following factors:

- Optimum use of marine resources
- Contribution of the operation to community and provincial economic development
- Fishery activities in the public waters surrounding the proposed operation
- Oceanographic and biophysical characteristics of the public waters surrounding the operation
- Other users of the public waters surrounding the proposed operation
- Public right of navigation
- Number and productivity of other aquaculture sites in the public waters surrounding the operation

When deciding on applications, only the above regulated factors can be considered.

We need your feedback between February 4, 2026, and March 6, 2026. See below for how to respond.