

Decision – Application to Administrator

Application Summary:

Application Reference Number:	REF#575
Aquaculture Site Number:	AQ#1228
Application Class:	Class III
Application Type:	Assignment
Abstract:	Application to assign licence and lease no. 1228 to 4512617 Nova Scotia Ltd.
Applicant Name:	Innovative Fishery Products Inc.
Date Received by Department:	September 16, 2025
Location:	St. Mary's Bay
County:	Digby
Site Type:	Marine
Operation Type:	Commercial

Current Licence / Lease Information:

Site Size (in hectares):	1682.02
Method(s) of Cultivation:	Bottom without gear
Species:	Bay quahog
Term of Licence:	December 15, 2017 to December 15, 2027
Term of Lease:	December 15, 2017 to December 15, 2037

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 and lease no. 1228 were initially issued to Innovative Fishery Products Inc. on February 13, 2001, for a 10-year term (February 23, 2001 to February 23, 2011), for the bottom without gear cultivation of Bay quahog, on a 1682.02 hectare site located in St. Mary's Bay, Digby County. In April 17, 2013, the licence and lease were renewed for a limited term (February 13, 2011 to December 15, 2012). In June, 2013, the licence and lease were renewed for a 5-year term (December 15, 2012 to December 15, 2017). In June, 2017, the licence was renewed for a 10-year term (December 15, 2017 to December 15, 2027) and the lease was renewed for a 20-year term (December 15, 2017 to December 15, 2037).

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 assignment 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(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

As this is an application to assign an existing Aquaculture licence and lease, there are no expected novel impacts to the use of marine resources.

The contribution of the proposed operation to community and Provincial economic development

The application to assign this site did not appear to have any novel impacts (positive or negative) to the economic development of the community or Province.

Fishery activities in the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation

This application to assign an existing aquaculture licence and lease contained no expected novel impacts to the fishery activities in the public waters near the existing site.

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

The species and methods of cultivation authorized for this site are suitable for this area.

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

This application to assign an existing Aquaculture licence and lease contained no expected novel impacts to the other users of the public waters near the existing site.

The public right of navigation

This application to assign an existing Aquaculture licence and lease contained no expected novel impacts to the public's right of navigation. Because there are no major or minor works to be installed by the operator, there are no requirements for approvals under the Canadian Navigable Waters Act.

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

Aquaculture site no. 1228 is located in the nearshore environment of St. Mary's Bay and spans the entirety of the upper portion of the bay. There are currently a total of 7 marine aquaculture sites in St. Mary's Bay. There is no evidence to suggest that the assignment of this licence and lease would negatively impact the productivity of other aquaculture sites.

Decision:

Based on the factors considered above, the application to assign licence and lease no. 1228 is hereby approved.

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.