



Office Use Only

# Aquaculture Renewal Application

Licence/Lease No: 0995

## Licence/lease holder:

Applicant: Bay Tender Shellfish Limited Contact Person: Duncan Bates

Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stocks Number: [REDACTED]

Revenue Canada Business Number: [REDACTED]

Telephone No. (Work): [REDACTED] (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell): [REDACTED]

Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: 132 Highway 14, Robinsons Corner, N.S.

Postal Code: BOJ 1J0

Civic Address: 132 Highway 14, Robinsons Corner, N.S.

Postal Code: BOJ 1J0

## Application Materials

A complete application includes the following:

- Renewal fee (payable to Minister of Finance) according to Section 77 of the Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations for Nova Scotia made under Section 64, Chapter 25 of the Acts of 1996, *the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act*
- Application Form
- Development Plan according to application
- Copy of up-to-date Shareholder's Register which sets out the shareholdings of the company (if applicable)

## Public Notice and Disclosure

As part of the process for deciding on an aquaculture application, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture ("Fisheries and Aquaculture") will disclose application information to other government bodies, including, if applicable, the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Review Board for use at an adjudicative hearing relating to the application.

Submit completed applications to:

Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Aquaculture Division  
1575 Lake Road, Shelburne, NS B0T 1W0  
E-mail: [aquaculture@novascotia.ca](mailto:aquaculture@novascotia.ca)

In accordance with departmental policy, which seeks to promote public involvement in the process for deciding on aquaculture applications, Fisheries and Aquaculture may disclose application information – not including, however, personal or business confidential information – on the departmental website.

**Privacy Statement**

The personal and business confidential information collected as part of an aquaculture application will only be used or disclosed by Fisheries and Aquaculture for the purpose of deciding on the application.

All application information collected is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (“FOIPOP”) and will only be used or disclosed in accordance with FOIPOP.

By signing and submitting this form, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and accept the above statements regarding the collection, use, and disclosure of the information provided on this form.



Date

November 28, 2025

Signature of Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Designate

Date



December 1, 2025

# Aquaculture Licence 0995 Renewal Development Plan

**APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL  
NS AQUACULTURE LICENCE #0995**

DUNCAN BATES, PRESIDENT, BAY TENDER SHELLFISH LIMITED

**Section 1: Optimum use of marine resources:**

This application is to renew NS aquaculture licence #0995. The current licence was issued to Bay Tender Shellfish on June 17, 2016 for a term of ten years from June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 to June 3, 2026, authorizing the suspended cultivation of Blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*), and Giant sea scallop (*Placopecten magellanicus*). The purpose of the request is to renew licence 0995 which is set to expire June 3, 2026. Fulfillment of this request would allow Bay Tender Shellfish to continue to operate current lease #0995 issued to Bay Tender Shellfish on June 17, 2016 for a term of twenty years from June 3, 2016 to June 3, 2036, amended on Aug 3, 2018 to update schedule "B" for changes to harvesting Giant sea scallops from licenced aquaculture sites, and further amended on July 14, 2023 to update schedule "A" for changes to the site boundaries.

Lease 0995 is situated on the Northeast side of Snake Island, Mahone Bay on the south shore of Nova Scotia. The lease was first assigned to Bay Tender Shellfish Limited, (BTS), in October 2004. The lease was previously operated by [REDACTED] and was originally assigned to [REDACTED]. The lease is comprised of 1.04 Ha of space containing 5 parallel longlines 100m in length spaced 25 metres apart. The lease is entirely devoted to scallop aquaculture, suspended method.

Bay Tender Shellfish has been operating lease 0995 for 21 years now and has always maintained a very positive relationship with local fishers, recreational users, and the community as a whole. It represents a small piece of the local marine resource located in a relatively wide open area of the Mahone Bay that poses no challenge to navigation. The lease has proven to be an optimal area for the cultivation of Giant scallops with results improving over the course of time as better husbandry techniques have been learned and applied. Ongoing addition of better quality equipment, nets etc. has resulted in very good results most recently. The farm produces a very high quality, sought after product with high value. Scallop aquaculture is slowly rising as a viable business enterprise even as other shellfish species in the Maritimes are at serious risk due to the spread of disease. As such this small lease tucked just behind Snake Island represents an optimal use of marine resources, serving as a crucible for the development of scallop farming techniques whilst providing 100% of the income of the licence holder. Lease 0995, which faces no apparent opposition, has begun to generate approximately \$100000 per year from just one hectare. It is a three dimensional scallop bed in the water column, recently experiencing excellent survival and growth. It remains a labour intensive process begging for mechanization to some degree. It is low impact in terms of its effect on the environment, even exhibiting some positive effects. The proponent, Bay Tender Shellfish Ltd., asks that the application for renewal of licence 0995 be granted in order to continue building viable small business and helping to forge the path of scallop aquaculture in Nova Scotia.

**Section 2:** The contribution of the proposed operation to community and Provincial economic development:

2.1 Production plan: suspended culture:

- Species: Sea scallop, Placopecten magellanicus
- Gear unit type: pearl nets and ear hanging form the vast majority of the culture gear used on the lease. Spat bags are also deployed for the purpose of seed collection. To a far lesser extent, lantern nets may be used temporarily or periodically. Pearl nets are pyramid shaped and approximately 12” square. Pearl nets are arranged in “strings” of 12 - 15 nets with each string being approximately 25 -30 feet long. Ear hanging lines are approximately 30 feet long and each ear hanging line will hold approximately 120 scallops being grown to maturity.
- Maximum number of gear units: lease 995 will hold a maximum of 7000 pearl nets and 500 ear hanging lines. Also 200 – 300 spat bags.
- Maximum number and length of lines: The lease is composed of 5 parallel longlines at 100m length each. The lines are oriented approximately North/South.
- Maximum shellfish introduced: The lease can hold a maximum number of 100 000 scallops per cohort. Up to 3 different year classes or cohorts may be held on the lease, although the full volume of each cohort cannot be held simultaneously. That is to say that members of the oldest cohort must be harvested away in order to make room for thinning and spreading out the younger cohorts as they grow.
- Seed source: Seed has been mainly sourced from Université de St. Anne, collected in the wild from the waters of Chedabucto Bay in Cape Breton. Collection is through the deployment of scallop collectors, also known as spat bags. Some collection is also possible directly on lease 995. Identifying alternate sources of seed is also a priority.
- Expected time to achieve maximum production: The lease is currently maximised. We are hoping to bring in new seed, (1 year olds), in 2025. We are in the process of thinning the density of the juveniles, (2 year olds). The 2 year olds, (numbering in excess of 100000 individuals), have been well looked after and are in extremely good condition right now. There is currently not enough, or perhaps barely enough, space to both thin the 2 year olds and bring in new 1 year old spat. We are regularly harvesting market size scallops, (weekly). Harvesting can sometimes necessitate planting back undersized scallops, (i.e. thinning three year olds). Lease 0995 can be categorized as completely full with no extra space, necessitating creative solutions to address a space deficiency. For example, if it is necessary to hold two year olds at higher than optimal densities, the nets that contain them must be clean/cleaned. Scallops can tolerate some overcrowding but only if their nets are clean. Growth will be stalled but good results will follow when they are finally thinned. We have investigated, including providing samples, sending the two year olds to market as “pasta grade” or “cocktail” scallops, but have not had very positive results with this yet. Further excess two year olds may also need to be offered for sale to other local growers, via transfer permits, for growout. Bay Tender Shellfish is currently in the process of applying to expand lease 0995. This application is in the scoping phase and is anticipated to be submitted prior to the deadline of March 11, 2026. So far the application steps have gone very well, including very positive public engagement and a successful public meeting with only positive feedback. Bay Tender Shellfish, licence 0995, is fully utilizing lease 0995, taking every opportunity to work the lease.

## 2.2 Infrastructure:

This application for licence renewal does not absolutely require any additions or changes to the infrastructure currently being used. BTS will continue to operate using existing infrastructure, whilst identifying needs for a potential future expansion.

## 2.3 Services and suppliers:

BTS will continue to source most services and supplies locally, which benefits the local community. Some equipment and supplies are not available locally and so are imported internationally. Examples of these are scallop specific culture equipment such as pearl nets and ear hanging supplies.

## 2.4 Employment:

Licence 0995 currently provides 100% of the licence holder's income as well as providing part time and seasonal employment for 1 or 2 deckhands. It is hoped and anticipated that employment will increase as production improves and through potential expansion.

## 2.5 Other economic contributions to the local community and province:

Renewing Licence 0995 will allow the province and local community to continue to benefit from the scallop farming activities on lease 0995. All kinds of economic activity are experienced by the local community and the Province as a result of this small business. Things like fuel; mechanic services; materials; supplies; marine supplies and services from local companies; local employment; food (scallops); tourism (locals and tourists alike take an interest in the farm and get to enjoy a unique experience in talking to the farmer and obtaining this fresh farmed scallop product); volume of business directed to local processor/distributors such as "Afashionado".

There are probably many other economic benefits. Small business activity is good for the local economy. Again, Bay Tender Shellfish enjoys broad support from the local community many of whom seek out and buy the product.

## 2.6 Adverse economic impacts:

It is hard to imagine any adverse impact on the economic development of the community and the Province. Bay Tender Shellfish operates a well-organized, properly marked, small aquaculture lease which is located relatively far from mainland shores. No pollutants, drugs or chemicals are released at the farm. Invasive species are a potential hazard to any local habitat, and could manifest themselves in a negative way economically. Bay Tender Shellfish has a history of clean, ITC licenced seed transfers and is constantly cleaning and removing any biofouling organisms as a matter of the husbandry systems in place. Invasive species arrive through many pathways and Licence/Lease 0995 does not represent a significant increase to the risk of the arrival of invasive species.

No disease or pathogen has presented itself and the scallop farm poses no risk to local salmon or any other marine population. Oysters are not currently being farmed or commercially harvested in Mahone Bay. The closest wild American oyster population is located 4.7 Km from lease 0995 at Goat Lake. This population was introduced without authorization many years ago. I do not currently know the source. European oysters are beginning to gain a foothold in Mahone Bay and we are occasionally seeing wild European oyster set on the ear hung scallops and occasionally on buoys. Scallops are not a vulnerable species to MSX or Dermo. It is not believed that the responsible introduction of scallop seed poses a risk to the spread of these pathogens.

The only active commercial fishery surrounding lease 0995 is the commercial lobster fishery. Licence 0995 has a very good relationship with the local lobster fishers. Lease 0995 is not situated over

typically good lobster bottom as it is located primarily located on mud bottom. Local lobster fishers have no issue with lease 0995.

All this to say that there is no obvious adverse economic impact from the renewal of licence 0995, the introduction of scallop seed, or the operations at lease 0995.

Not renewing Licence 0995 would inflict economic harm.

### **Section3: Fisheries Activities in the Public Waters Surrounding the Proposed Aquaculture Operation:**

#### **3.1 Impacts on fisheries activities:**

There would be no changes to the impact on fisheries if licence 0995 is renewed.

The only actively executed commercial fishery surrounding lease 0995 is the commercial lobster fishery. Licence 0995 has a very good relationship with the local lobster fishers. Lease 0995 is not over typically good lobster bottom as it is located primarily over mud bottom. While the lease potentially displaces a small number of lobster traps, the area is not particularly popular as a fishing ground, and local lobster fishers have no issue with lease 0995. This sentiment was affirmed at a public meeting held recently in the community of Chester as part of the proponents scoping phase for an application to expand the lease boundaries. Lease/Licence 0995 does not significantly interfere with any commercial or indigenous fisheries.

The public have always fished recreationally around the lease. The farm itself acts as a reef, hosting a huge variety of sea life, including fish. All surfaces of the farm structure and gear in the water are absolutely teeming with life. Easily hundreds of species colonize the "reef".

There appears to be no significant negative impacts on fisheries activities.

## **Section 4: Oceanographic and Biophysical Characteristics of the Public Waters:**

### **4.1 Oceanographic environment:**

This site has experienced many major environmental events since its assignment and development by BTS In 2004. The site has withstood a number of hurricanes and tropical storm force winds. The site has proven very resilient to these events and has not suffered significant damage due to storms. The site also experiences the movement of passing ice sheets during the months of February and early march. This ice is usually quite thin but does put pressure on surface buoys as it passes through the site. There have been a couple of occasions when moorings have been moved by the ice. Bay Tender Shellfish is always working to maintain and re-enforce the longline moorings using secondary anchors.

### **4.2 Environmental monitoring:**

Fulfilling the current request for renewal of licence 0995 will not result in any change to the impact on the benthic environment. The suspended scallop farm has a fairly minimal impact on the benthic environment. Some scallop shells will be discarded to the bottom and have no negative impact. Some organic debris will fall to the bottom during times when the culture medium is cleaned, particularly when pressure washing tunicates from the gear. In the summer this activity can attract many fish who gather to feed on the shredded tunicates and other organic debris. In general when organic material is removed from the main back/headlines by hand, the material is not cast overboard especially in the area of the lease. This important husbandry technique prevents organic debris from re-settling on the culture gear. Sometimes the collected organic material is brought ashore and composted for use in personal gardens.

Observation of the bottom of the lease by SCUBA diving and from benthic video recordings has shown the bottom to be relatively pristine mud bottom. Occasionally a piece or line of gear may be lost to the bottom but this is rare and obviously undesirable. Occasionally there may be an opportunity to monitor and retrieve some of these items via SCUBA.

Live scallops, a handful of other invertebrate species, and a few species of benthic fish inhabit the bottom below the lease. However, whereas it is relatively deep and a mud bottom, it is not a particularly lively place. There would be a considerable amount of scallop "drop-off" which would go to the bottom of the lease. Naturally occurring scallop spat are often left to go to the bottom since collecting them would generally slow down the task at hand. This natural seeding of the bottom underneath the scallop lease is regarded as a positive impact.

There would be very little to no vegetation under this deep, mud bottom lease. The shallowest moorings are in approximately 70 feet depth of water and the deepest moorings are in approximately 95 feet.

Bay Tender Shellfish is closely monitored for the presence of toxic algae within the scallops. CFIA collects samples for testing on a weekly basis and toxin levels normally remain very acceptable.

There will be no change to the current situation as a result of this administrative application for licence renewal. A separate adjudicative application for lease expansion is anticipated to be submitted before March 11, 2026.

### **4.3 Site design:**

The site is arranged in typical shellfish aquaculture longline fashion. There are 5 parallel 100m long lines arranged approximately 25 metres apart. The lines are arranged North to South. In southerly winds the lease receives some lee-shore protection from Snake Island. Northerly and southerly winds are workable at the farm below 12 knots. Direct east and west winds are more problematic as the boat

and line then take the wind on the beam. East and west winds of more than 10 knots are not workable. East is always bad weather, so generally not good working conditions. West is a clearing wind, but not workable above 10 knots. The currents generally push the gear east and west and this seems to work fine. Each longline is suspended by four 16" surface floats for a total of 20 surface floats per Ha, (not including site markers), which is a relatively low density of floats at the surface for scallops as compared to other types of shellfish operations.

An adjudicative application to amend the lease with an increase in size are currently in the scoping phase. Granting the current administrative application for renewal of licence 0995 will allow this development to continue.

**Section 5: The other Users of the Public waters surrounding the Proposed Aquaculture Operation:**

**5.1 Impacts to other users including wildlife:**

A successful application for renewal of licence 0995 would not result in any immediate change for the users of the public waters surrounding the aquaculture site.

- There are no private, adjacent property owners or wharves. Snake Island was acquired in 2017 by the Nature Conservancy of Canada with financial support from the Mahone Islands Conservation Association, (MICA). Their mission is to bring Islands in Mahone Bay into public ownership for conservation and public use. The licence holder is a member of MICA and the organization is aware of and supportive of lease/licence 0995.
- Pleasure craft and commercial boat traffic have ample space for navigating around the farm.
- Anchorages and moorings are all in mud bottom and do not disturb wildlife. The farm functions a bit like a reef, and actually attracts wildlife.

The request for licence renewal will not change the effect on wildlife in the region. There are no known changes in knowledge of local species at risk since the current lease/licence was approved.

**5.2 Impacts by other users including wildlife.**

Bay Tender Shellfish has not had any negative impacts from other users or wildlife.

**Section 6:** The Public Right of Navigation

6.1 Navigation Protection Act (NPA) approval:  
The current NPA approval is attached.

**Section 7: The Sustainability of Wild Salmon:**

**7.1 Identification of local salmon populations:**

Lease/licence 0995 falls within the zone SFA 21 within the southern uplands designatable unit. All rivers are closed to recreational fishing for Atlantic salmon which are in serious decline. There are no known changes in the status of salmon run rivers in the region since the current lease/licence was approved. Lease/licence 0995 are not in close proximity to salmon run rivers.

**7.2 Support of the sustainability of wild salmon:**

Fulfillment of this application will not affect the sustainability of wild salmon.

**Section 8: The Number and Productivity of Other Aquaculture Sites in the Public Waters Surrounding the Proposed Aquacultural Location:**

**8.1 Interactions with other aquaculture operations:**

There are 3 other aquaculture leases in the public waters of eastern Mahone Bay surrounding lease 995. [REDACTED] Fulfillment of the request will not impact other existing or known proposed aquaculture sites in the area.

Licence 0995 regularly cooperates with other scallop growers on the western side of Mahone Bay and assists them in their operations. Examples of this are providing growers with access to ear hanging materials imported from Japan by licence 0995. Also coordinating with these other growers on seed transfers as well as market access.

**Section 9: Development Viability:**

**9.1 Financial ability:**



**9.2 Technical ability:**

Viability of the operation has long hinged upon the learned knowledge, experience, drive and willpower of the licence holder. No changes or additions to technical ability are required to maintain viability of the operation. Scallop aquaculture is still a species under development in Nova Scotia and Bay Tender Shellfish has shown increasing viability over the last 6 years.

The applicant possesses a BSc in Biology from Acadia University (1994) where he worked under Mike Dadswell, an early scallop culture pioneer. Duncan has worked in scallop aquaculture on and off since 1988 and is currently at the forefront of the scallop aquaculture effort in NS.

**9.3 Compliance history:**

Bay Tender Shellfish has no history of enforcement issues and remains fully compliant.