Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Aquaculture Division, Licensing & Leasing Unit
1575A Lake Road, Sandy Point, NS B0T 1W0
www.novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture
aquaculture@novascotia.ca

Public Notice – Call for Proposals (ADA)

On behalf of the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (the "Department") hereby announces a Call for Proposals for the exclusive right to apply for an aquaculture licence and aquaculture lease within an aquaculture development area (ADA). Details of the call for proposals are as follows:

Site Number:	8039		
Location:	PUBNICO HARBOUR	**Size:**	21.89 HA
County:	Yarmouth	**Area Map / Boundaries:**	Refer to Appendix A for related map(s)
Start Date:	November 18th, 2026	**Deadline for Submissions:**	December 18th, 2026
Additional Information:	Refer to the applicable Site Report for a summary representing the general conditions regarding the site and any specific information to include in a proposal to the Administrator.		

Species and Methods of Cultivation Eligible for Consideration		
Species Type:	**Common Species Name(s):**	**Method(s) of Cultivation:**
Shellfish	American oyster, Giant Sea scallop, Bay scallop. Other species native to this water body are eligible but must be specified in a proposal	Suspended Cultivation
Aquatic Plants	Sugar kelp. Other species native to this water body are eligible but must be specified in a proposal	Suspended Cultivation

Section Weighting (*See* "Weighting of Criteria" below *for an explanation.*)		
Section #	Section Name	Weighting
3	Proposed Production Plan Summary	**X 1.0**
4	Production Plan Details	**X 1.0**
5	Benefits to the Local Community and Province	**X 1.0**
6	Past and Present Aquaculture Operations in the Province	**X 1.0**
7	Ability to Execute the Proposed Activities	**X 1.0**
8	Market Plan	**X 1.0**
9	Financial Plan	**X 1.0**
10	Summary / Additional Information	**X 1.0**

Background:
An Aquaculture Development Area (ADA) is a designated set of marine sites on Crown land that have been approved by the Governor in Council for the purpose of conducting aquaculture. An ADA has pre-defined site boundaries, species, methods of cultivation and may have other conditions or restrictions. This information is available on the Aquaculture Division website at https://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/public-information/

The Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture may issue a public call for proposals for any site within an ADA not currently issued an aquaculture licence and lease. Following this competitive call for proposals, the Aquaculture Administrator may issue an approval for a proposal, as submitted or with variations. A proponent whose proposal is approved has the exclusive right to apply for a new aquaculture licence and lease for the specified site during the approval period. The approval period expires on the date determined by the Administrator, which must be no later than 90 days after the approval is issued.

Applications for an aquaculture licence and lease within an ADA follow the administrative decision process as set out in the Nova Scotia *Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations*. However, the procedures involved in designating an ADA and choosing a proponent mean that much of the necessary information is already gathered. Because information about the area and site has already been gathered through the ADA process, a subsequent licence and lease application can rely on some of that existing information.

How to Submit a Proposal:

Interested parties must complete and submit the form titled "Proposal for the Exclusive Right to Apply for a Licence and Lease Within an ADA" (hereafter called the "Proposal Form") which can be found on the Department website at https://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/starting-an-aquaculture-site/

Proposals may be submitted as follows:

1. By Email (preferred method) at: Aqua.Admin@novascotia.ca
2. By Mail at: Aquaculture Administrator
   Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
   1575A Lake Road, Sandy Point, NS B0T 1W0

Proposals will be accepted from the above Start Date until 11:59 PM Atlantic on the above Deadline for Submissions Date.

Assessment of Proposals:
Proposals are screened to ensure that they are received within the Call for Proposals period and that all sections of the Proposal Form have been completed. Incomplete proposals or proposals received outside the period are not eligible for further assessment or consideration. Following screening, eligible proposals will undergo an assessment process based on the criteria outlined in this Call for Proposals.

The table below explains the general criteria for assessing and evaluating proposals. Additional criteria

may be taken into consideration based on the specific site. Refer to the Proposal Form for more details on the criteria under consideration and how proposals are assessed.

Relevant Section of the Proposal Form	Section Name	Criteria to Consider
3	Proposed Production Plan Summary	The suitability of the proposed production plan to the given site
4	Production Plan Details	The technical feasibility of the proposed production plan
5	Benefits to the Local Community and Province	The benefits of the proposed development to communities in the area as well as to the Province
6	Past and Present Aquaculture Operations in the Province	The proponent's past and present aquaculture operations in the Province, in terms of site utilization and compliance history. Note that if the proponent has no past or present aquaculture activities in the Province, they will not be penalized in this section.
7	Ability to Execute the Proposed Activities	Relevant knowledge and experience, technical and business skills
8	Market Plan	Feasibility of the plan to promote, sell and distribute the product
9	Financial Plan	Understanding of financial requirements for starting and maintaining the proposed activities. Ability of the proponent to achieve their plan
10	Summary / Additional Information	How the proponent has positioned themselves as the most suitable proponent. Any additional criteria to consider as indicated in this Call for Proposals and the associated Site Report

Weighting of Criteria:
To ensure that the most suitable proposal is matched to the unique characteristics of each site, certain criteria may be given more weight than others. For transparency, each Call for Proposals includes a table indicating how each criterion will be weighted during assessment (refer to the table on **page 1**).

Evaluation and Decision:
Following assessment of the proposals, a recommendation (not a decision) is provided to the Aquaculture Administrator. The Administrator has the authority to issue the final decision on the Call for Proposals. The Administrator may decide whether to issue an approval and, if an approval is issued, whether to issue
it as set out in the proposal or with variations. The Administrator's decision will be posted on the department's website. If no eligible proposals were received in response to the Call for Proposals, the Administrator will provide a public notice to that effect on the department's website.

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Appendix A: Site Map

