

This experimental licence made in duplicate this 9th day of May, 2024,

BETWEEN:

HIS MAJESTY THE KING, in right of the Province of Nova Scotia, as represented by the Administrator, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, as appointed under section 54A of the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act, SNS 1996, c. 25,

hereinafter referred to as "**the Administrator**"

OF THE ONE PART

- and -

BEAR RIVER FIRST NATION, a band within the meaning of the *Indian Act c. I-5* (as amended), as represented by Chief Carol Dee Potter

hereinafter referred to as "**the Licensee**"

OF THE OTHER PART

WHEREAS the Administrator, under the provisions of the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act, S.N.S. 1996, Chapter 25 (the "Act") and the Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations (the "Regulations"), is authorized to grant special experimental licences;

AND WHEREAS Aquaculture Licence No. 5006 was first issued to the Licensee for a term of one year from March 10, 2020 to March 10, 2021;

AND WHEREAS Aquaculture Licence No. 5006 has been consecutively renewed for four one year terms, most recently from March 10, 2023 to March 9, 2024;

AND WHEREAS under the Regulations, a special experimental licence may be renewed annually for up to 5 years;

AND WHEREAS the Licensee wishes to renew Aquaculture Licence No. 5006 for a fifth term;

NOW THEREFORE in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained, the Parties agree as follows:

1. The Administrator hereby grants to the Licensee a special experimental licence to use a 121.70 hectare area located in the body of waters known as Annapolis Basin, Annapolis County, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached to and forming part of this Agreement (that area, the "site") for the suspended cultivation of American oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*).
2. The term of this licence shall be for one year from March 10, 2024 to March 9, 2025, in accordance with the terms of the Act and the Regulations.
 - a. This being the fifth and final renewal permissible under the Regulations, should the Licensee desire to convert this licence to a commercial purpose (further to section 51 of the Regulations), the Licensee shall submit an application to the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture prior to the end of the term of this licence.
 - b. Should an application identified in subsection (a) be received prior to the end of the term of this licence, the Licensee is authorized to retain any aquaculture gear and produce on the site, pending the Aquaculture Review Board decision on such application. No new produce shall be introduced to the site following the end of the term of this licence, pending the Aquaculture Review Board decision.
 - c. Should no application identified in subsection (a) be received prior to the end of the term of this licence or should an application identified in subsection (a) be rejected by the

Aquaculture Review Board, the Administrator shall discontinue the licence and the Licensee shall within thirty (30) days, as applicable, of the licence being discontinued or of the Aquaculture Review Board rejecting an application to convert this licence to a commercial purpose, request a Certificate of Discharge per Section 60 of the Regulations.

3. The Licensee shall pay to the Minister of Finance an annual fee as set out in the Regulations. The annual payment must be received by the anniversary date of the licence. Late payments are subject to a fee as set out in the Regulations.
4. The undertakings set out in Schedule "B" to this licence (the "undertakings"), form part of this Agreement, and the Licensee hereby agrees to comply with any conditions or limitations contained in the undertakings unless compliance for licensing purposes is expressly waived by the Administrator. The Licensee is responsible for confirming any undertakings and ensuring compliance with them.
5. The Research Agreement set out in Schedule "C" to this licence forms part of this Agreement, and the Licensee hereby agrees to comply with and use this licence only for the research purposes contained in the Research Agreement.
6. The Licensee shall submit a final report to the Administrator no later than 2 months after the end of the term of this licence. The final report shall contain a summary of the Reporting Requirements listed in the Research Agreement set out in Schedule "C".
7. The Licensee agrees to comply with any permits, protocols, approvals, licenses or permissions (the "licensing requirements") which may be required under the laws of the relevant municipality, the Province or Canada. The Licensee is responsible for confirming any licensing requirements and ensuring compliance with them.
8. This licence must not be assigned. If the Licensee is a corporation, any change in the right to control the corporation shall be deemed to be an assignment.
9. In the event that the Licensee shall cease conducting an aquaculture business in the normal course, become insolvent, make a general assignment for the benefit of creditors, suffer or permit the appointment of a receiver of its business assets, or avail itself of any proceeding in bankruptcy under any statute relating to insolvency or the protection of rights of creditors, the Administrator may revoke this licence and this Agreement shall be of no further force and effect subject only to the right of His Majesty the King in right of the Province of Nova Scotia ("His Majesty") to claim for damages.
10. The Licensee must adhere to the Farm Management Plan, as it is in effect for this licence from time to time, and any failure to adhere to the Farm Management Plan is a breach of this licence.
11. This licence does not include any rights as to minerals in or on the site.
12. The Licensee shall submit to the Minister of the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (the "Minister") an annual report stating such information as the Minister requires concerning the Licensee's use and the productivity of the site.
13. Following the completion of a performance review, in accordance with the Regulations, of the aquacultural operation subject to this licence, the Administrator may vary any terms or conditions of this licence in order to address any concerns raised in the performance review.
14. The Licensee is hereby prohibited from using the site in any way that would interfere with other licenced aquaculture operations.
15. If the Administrator, in his or her sole discretion, is of the opinion that the aquaculture activities authorized by this licence are detrimental to or interfere with other licenced facilities, the Administrator may revoke this licence without compensation.
16. The Administrator may revoke this licence without advance notice or compensation if the Licensee is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be in violation of any law of the Province or Canada relating to fishery activities.
17. If the Licensee fails to perform any of its obligations under this licence, the Minister may

have the obligations performed, with the amount of any costs incurred to be a debt due to His Majesty, for which His Majesty shall have a first priority charge on the aquacultural produce within the site.

18. If the Licensee is in breach of any term of this licence and such breach is not corrected within the time period set out in the notice from the Administrator, the Administrator may revoke this licence without further notice or compensation.
19. Should it become necessary for His Majesty to expropriate the Licensee's rights under this licence, it is hereby agreed that the value of the licence for purposes of expropriation compensation shall not exceed the depreciated value of improvements made by the Licensee that cannot be removed from the site. No compensation may be claimed for the cancellation of this licence where compensation is paid or payable in relation to the expropriation of a lease for the same site.
20. Any notices required to be given under this licence may be sent by regular mail to the parties at their addresses set out in the heading of this Agreement, and notice will be deemed to have been received by the intended recipient thereof five business days from the date on which the notice is post-marked. The parties, by agreement, may effect notice by any other means. The Licensee must notify the Administrator of any change of address within thirty (30) days.
21. Nothing in this Agreement shall be taken as a warranty by the Administrator that the site may be used now or in the future by the Licensee for aquaculture purposes. The Administrator assumes no responsibility whatsoever for any private property rights or for the actions of other levels of government which may interfere with the use of the site for aquaculture purposes.
22. This licence shall be subject to the laws of the Province of Nova Scotia and the Parties hereby agree to attorn to its courts.
23. This licence shall be subject to any changes made from time to time in the Act, the Regulations or any other relevant legislation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties have caused this Agreement to be duly executed.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED
in the presence of

[Redacted signature area]

[Redacted signature area]

) **HIS MAJESTY THE KING**
) in right of the Province of Nova Scotia, as
) represented by the Administrator, Nova Scotia
) Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

[Redacted signature] _____ 
Robert Ceschiutti

) **BEAR RIVER FIRST NATION**

[Redacted signature] _____ 
Chief Carol Dee Potter

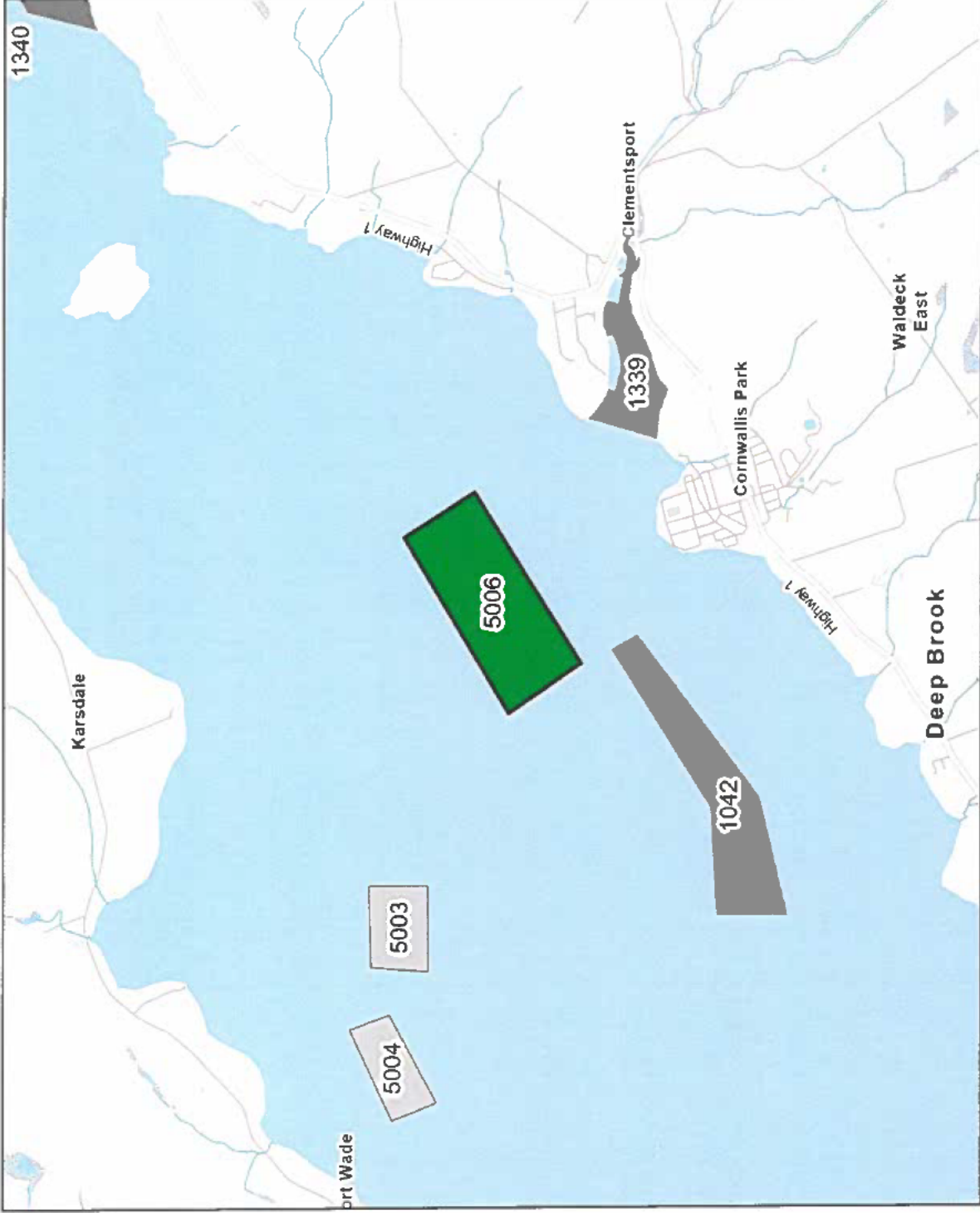
SCHEDULE A



Aquaculture Site 5006

Corner	Latitude	Longitude
1	44° 40' 7.912"	-65° 39' 15.122"
2	44° 40' 37.656"	-65° 38' 9.923"
3	44° 40' 18.956"	-65° 37' 51.850"
4	44° 39' 48.673"	-65° 38' 55.217"
Centre	44° 40' 12.617"	-65° 38' 32.046"

DATUM NAD 83 CSRS UTM Zone 19
The above coordinates are not from a legal survey



License/Lease Holder Bear River First Nation

County Annapolis

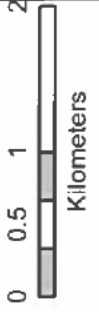
Waterbody Annapolis Basin

Hectares 121.7

Species Type Shellfish

Chart 4396

- Renewal Application
- Other Issued Experimental
- Other Issued Lease
- Other Proposed Commercial Lease



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SCHEDULE A



Aquaculture Site 5006

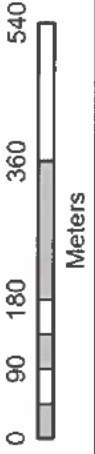
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License/Lease Holder	County	Waterbody	Hectares	Species Type	Chart
Bear River First Nation	Annapolis	Annapolis Basin	121.7	Shellfish	4396

Renewal Application



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Schedule "B"

This Schedule sets out any undertakings required of the Licensee.

The Licensee undertakes to the following:

No product will be harvested for human consumption, unless all permits and approvals under the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program (CSSP) have been obtained. Oyster aquaculture is subject to Acts and Regulations governed by the CSSP which is delivered by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada DFO.

Schedule "C"

Research Agreement

Research Purposes:

This licence had been granted to enable the Licensee to assess the technical and biological feasibility of an aquaculture site and to determine its potential for commercial development, in an effort to support the sustainable expansion of suspended oyster aquaculture in Nova Scotia.

In particular, further to this licence, the Licensee will be involved in the following activities as summarized from the Department Plan submitted to the Department:

- Using OysterGro units to stock with seed oysters purchased from the Bideford Shellfish Hatchery in PEI or an approved source, to monitor oyster growth, and survival and to evaluate the performance of the culture unit;
- Assessing the licensed area and the environmental conditions for its potential to sustain and grow American oyster at a commercial level;
- Assessing the licensed area for its potential to provide economic prosperity; and
- Assessing the sustainability of the operation and overall production outcomes.

AMENDMENT TO LICENCE

THIS INDENTURE made in duplicate the 24th day of September, 2024,

BETWEEN:

HIS MAJESTY THE KING, in right of the Province of Nova Scotia, as represented by the Administrator, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, as appointed under section 54A of the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act, SNS 1996, c. 25,

hereinafter referred to as "**the Administrator**"

OF THE ONE PART

- and -

BEAR RIVER FIRST NATION, a band within the meaning of the *Indian Act c. I-5* (as amended), as represented by Chief Carol Dee Potter

hereinafter referred to as "**the Licensee**"

OF THE OTHER PART

WHEREAS the Administrator, under the provisions of the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act, S.N.S. 1996, Chapter 25 (the "Act") and the Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations (the "Regulations"), is authorized to amend existing aquaculture licences and aquaculture leases;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to the Act the Licensee was issued Special Experimental Aquaculture Licence No. 5006 on May 9, 2024, for a term of one year from March 10, 2024 to March 9, 2025, authorizing the suspended cultivation of American oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*);

AND WHEREAS the Licensee wishes to amend Special Experimental Aquaculture Licence No. 5006 to permit a modified gear configuration for the cultivation of American oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*), subject to whatever undertakings are prescribed by the Administrator;

AND WHEREAS the Administrator consents to amend Special Experimental Aquaculture Licence No. 5006 to permit the modified gear configuration for cultivation of American oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*);

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Special Experimental Aquaculture Licence No. 5006 is hereby amended by deleting its Schedule "C" and substituting the attached Schedule "C".
2. Except as expressly amended herein Licence No. 5006 shall remain unchanged in full force and effect.

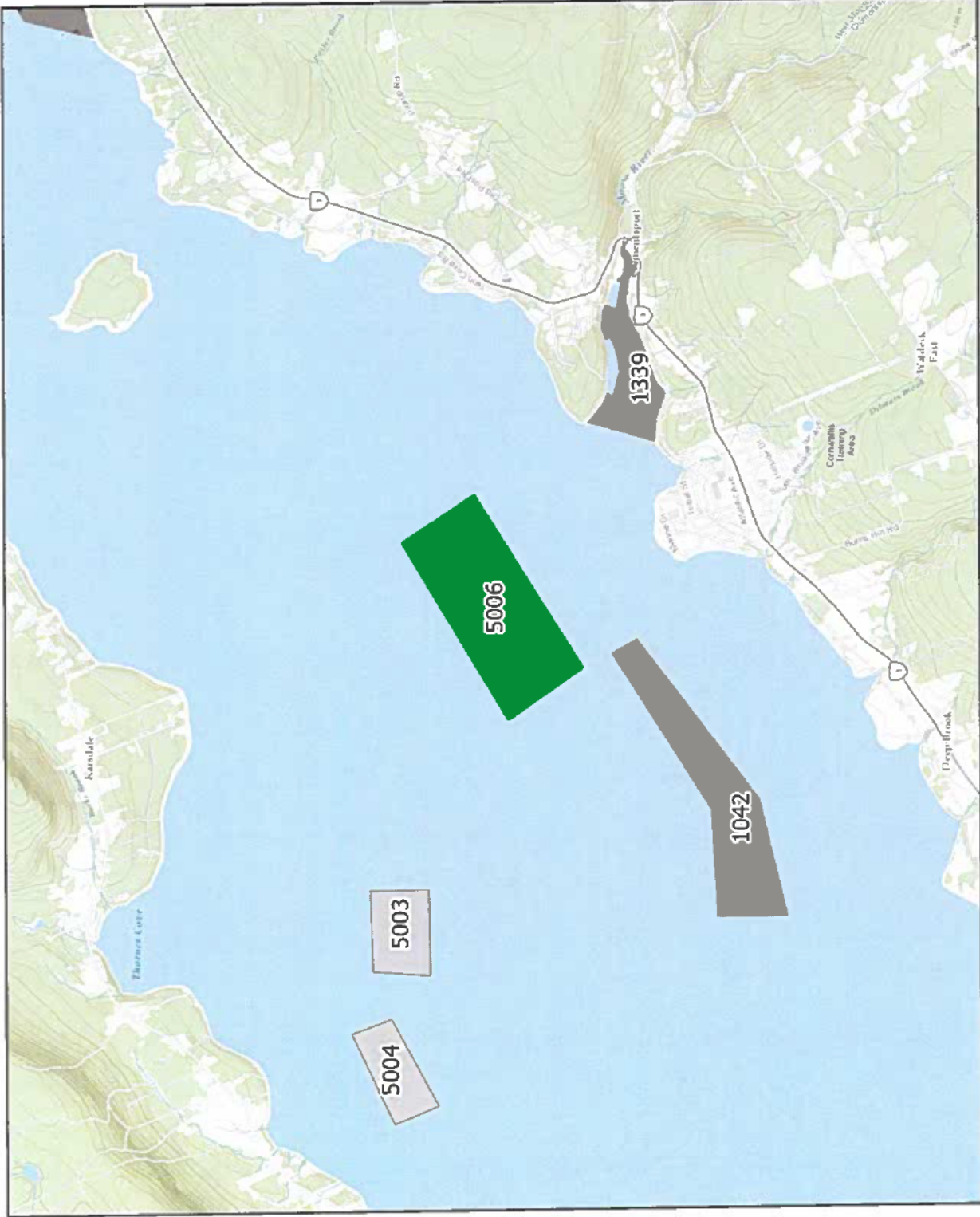
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Aquaculture Site 5006

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License/Lease Holder	County	Waterbody	Hectares	Species Type	Culture Type	Chart
Bear River First Nation	Annapolis	Annapolis Basin	121.7	Shellfish	Suspended Culture	4396

Proposed Amendment
 Issued Experimental
 Other Issued Lease



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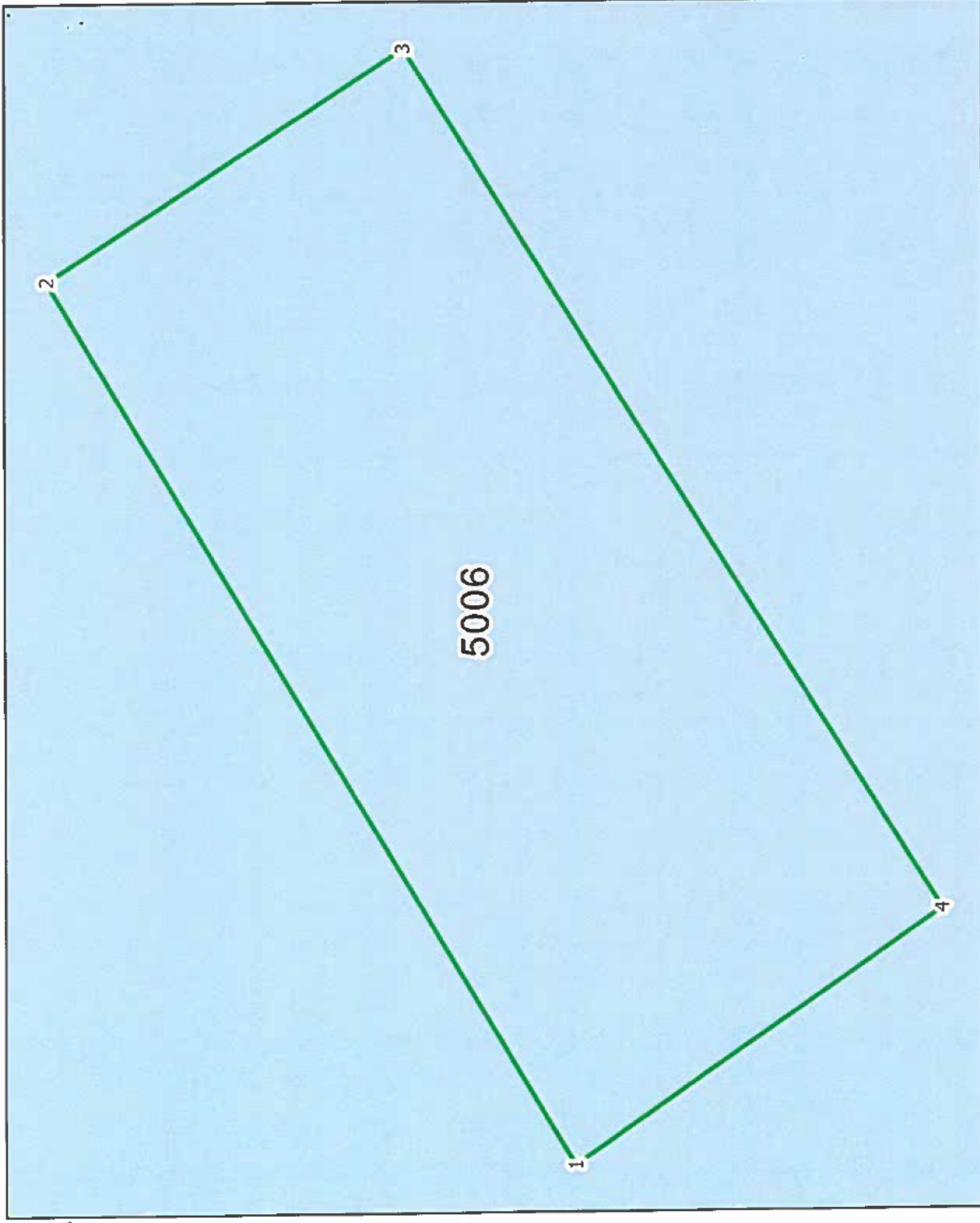
SCHEDULE A



Aquaculture Site 5006

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Proposed Amendment



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Schedule "C"

Research Agreement

Research Objectives and Activities:

The purpose of this Special Experimental Licence is to assess the technical and biological feasibility of an aquaculture site and to determine its potential for commercial development in an effort to support the sustainable expansion of American oyster aquaculture in Nova Scotia.

In particular, further to this licence, the Licensee may be involved in research activities including, but not limited to:

1. Using suspended aquaculture gear to collect and/or stock with seed product, to monitor growth and survival.
2. Evaluating the performance of the suspended aquaculture gear (for example, OysterGro or similar cages, floating upweller systems).
3. Assessing the site and the environmental conditions for its potential to sustain and grow product at a commercial scale and thus, its potential to provide economic prosperity.
4. Assessing the sustainability of the operation and the overall production outcomes.