

NOTICE OF APPLICATION POSTED

These documents have been submitted with respect to three (3) adjudicative applications for a new marine aquaculture licence and lease. The information in these documents is provided as part of the routine disclosure of information by the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Some information may be redacted as business confidential information or personal information.

This application is in the preliminary stages of review by the Department. Please note, the review process may require the applicant to submit additional information to the Department which will be posted to the Department’s website.

These documents were provided to the Department by the applicant. The Department is not responsible for the content of these documents, including, but not limited to, the accuracy, reliability, or currency of the information contained within.

Adjudicative Application for a New Aquaculture Licence and Lease	
Posting Date: March 15, 2021	
Applicant: Premium Seafoods Limited	Species: American oyster (<i>Crassostera virginia</i>)
Location: AQ#1438: LeBlanc Harbor, Richmond County	Method of Cultivation: Suspended shellfish cultivation

Adjudicative Application for a New Aquaculture Licence and Lease	
Posting Date: March 15, 2021	
Applicant: Premium Seafoods Limited	Species: American oyster (<i>Crassostera virginia</i>)
Location: AQ#1439: LeBlanc Harbor, Richmond County	Method of Cultivation: Suspended shellfish cultivation

Adjudicative Application for a New Aquaculture Licence and Lease	
Posting Date: March 15, 2021	
Applicant: Premium Seafoods Limited	Species: American oyster (<i>Crassostera virginia</i>)
Location: AQ#1440: St. Mary’s Harbor, Richmond County	Method of Cultivation: Suspended shellfish cultivation

To learn more about the marine aquaculture lease and license application process, please visit <https://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/licensing-leasing/Aqua-Licensing-and-Leasing-Overview.pdf>

For information on the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Review Board, please visit <https://arb.novascotia.ca/>

Please note that this application is being reviewed pursuant to the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* by Transport Canada. Written comments regarding the effect of this work on marine navigation may be submitted to Transport Canada as follows, for a period of 30 days following the posting date of this notice.

1. On line at : <http://cps.canada.ca/> under the Registry/NPP#:
 - AQ#1438: 2020-203427
 - AQ#1439: 2020-203428
 - AQ#1440: 2020-203429
2. By Mail at: Manager
 Transport Canada - Navigation Protection Program
 P.O. Box 42, Moncton, NB E1C 8K6

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Aquaculture Licence/Lease Application

Applicant Information:Applicant: Premium Seafoods Limited Contact Person: Wayne FowlieNova Scotia Registry of Joint Stocks Number: 1508765Revenue Canada Business Number: [REDACTED]Telephone No. (Work): 902-226-3474 (Home): ----- (Cell): [REDACTED]Fax No.: 902-226-0026 E-mail: wfowlie@premiumseafoods.ns.caMailing Address: PO Box 39Arichat, Nova Scotia Postal Code: B0E1A0Civic Address: 517 Veteran's Memorial DriveArichat, Nova Scotia Postal Code: B0E1A0**Proposed Site Information:**Location of Site: LeBlanc Harbor County: Richmond Site Size (Ha): 14 ha (SITE 1)Site Dimensions: 425m * 335m * 460m * 300mHydrographic Chart No.: 4308Approximate Center Coordinates: Latitude: 61.116565Longitude: 45.527694**Type of Licence Application**

(Check appropriate boxes):

- Commercial licence/lease
 Experimental licence/lease

- Marine Plants Finfish Shellfish Other

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

Received

17 OCT. 2019

Fisheries and Aquaculture
Shelburne, NS



Office Use Only

Land-based

Freshwater

Saltwater

U-Fish

Hatchery

Nursery Facility

Growout

Marine

Cage culture

Suspended shellfish or marine plants

Bottom shellfish with gear

Bottom shellfish without gear

Application Materials

A complete application includes the following:

- Application 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
- Report on Public Engagement during Scoping (for all Marine applications and for other applications, as applicable)
- Copy of up-to-date Shareholder's Register which sets out the shareholdings of the company (if applicable, and if not already provided during the Option to Lease application process).

Public Notice and Disclosure

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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.

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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.

Signature of Applicant

Date



Oct 15/19

Signature of Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Designate

Date

M. Greenwood

Oct 21/19



Office Use Only
AO 1439

Aquaculture Licence/Lease Application

Applicant Information:

Applicant: Premium Seafoods Limited Contact Person: Wayne Fowlie

Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stocks Number: 1508765

Revenue Canada Business Number: [REDACTED]

Telephone No. (Work): 902-226-3474 (Home): ----- (Cell): [REDACTED]

Fax No.: 902-226-0026 E-mail: wfowlie@premiumseafoods.ns.ca

Mailing Address: PO Box 39

Arichat, Nova Scotia Postal Code: B0E1A0

Civic Address: 517 Veteran's Memorial Drive

Arichat, Nova Scotia Postal Code: B0E1A0

Proposed Site Information:

Location of Site: LeBlanc Harbor County: Richmond Site Size (Ha): 15 ha (SITE 2)

Site Dimensions: 475m * 375m * 320m * 340m

Hydrographic Chart No.: 4308

Approximate Center Coordinates: Latitude: 61.108282

Longitude: 45.524748

Type of Licence Application

(Check appropriate boxes):

- Commercial licence/lease
- Experimental licence/lease

- Marine Plants
- Finfish
- Shellfish
- Other

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Office Use Only

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land-based | <input type="checkbox"/> Marine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cage culture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saltwater | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspended shellfish or marine plants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> U-Fish | <input type="checkbox"/> Bottom shellfish with gear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hatchery | <input type="checkbox"/> Bottom shellfish without gear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery Facility | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Growout | |

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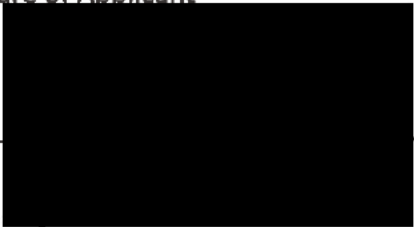


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Mailing Address: PO Box 39

Arichat, Nova Scotia Postal Code: B0E1A0

Civic Address: 517 Veteran's Memorial Drive

Arichat, Nova Scotia Postal Code: B0E1A0

Proposed Site Information:

Location of Site: LeBlanc Harbor County: Richmond Site Size (Ha): 12.5 ha (SITE 3)

Site Dimensions: 660m * 182m * 582m * 225m

Hydrographic Chart No.: 4308

Approximate Center Coordinates: Latitude: 61.111841

Longitude: 45.536202

Type of Licence Application

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- Shellfish
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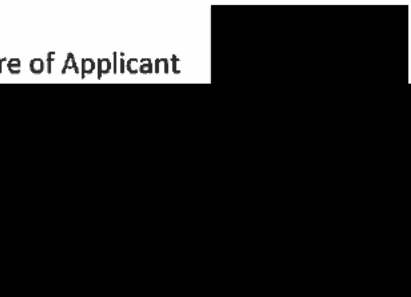
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Signature of Applicant 

Date
OCT 15/14

Signature of Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Designate
M. Greenwood

Date
OCT 21/19

Premium Seafoods Limited

Received

17 OCT. 2019

Fisheries and Aquaculture
Shelburne, NS

Oyster Aquaculture Development Plan

LeBlanc Harbor, Nova Scotia.

Option lease site

10/11/2019

Section 1: The Optimum Use of Marine Resources

LeBlanc Harbor is a fantastic little harbor located next to Janvrin's Island and the community of Port Royal and West Arichat. At present the site under consideration is underutilized commercially and by the public. The site has been surveyed by Premium and two locations within the harbor and one in St. Mary's Harbor have been identified as suitable oyster grow areas.

The first two areas identified are marked by the GPS coordinates below.

Site 1) W61.118763 N45.527153

W61.116145 N45.530340

W61.112111 N45.528957

W61.115587 N 45.526071

Total area encompassed is approx.14 Hectares

Site 2) W61.112368 N45.524718

W61.107304 N45.526642

W61.104086 N45.524387

W61.107691 N45.522703

Total area encompassed is approx 15 hectares

The third proposed lease site is adjacent to Le Blanc Harbor in St. Mary's Harbor and is marked by the following coordinates:

Site 3) W61.116510 N45.536713

W61.109450 N45.537660

W61.108892 N45.535796

W61.115029 N45.535045

The total area within this lease is approx. 12.5 ha

The main floating cage sites will be established in two locations, well protected from winds from all directions, and are close to the two harbor openings so that tidal flushing will provide good nutrient supply and oxygenated water which in turn allows for max stocking density.

Water depth is sufficient to allow for sinking of gear in the winter months, but also shallow enough to warm up sufficiently during the spring, summer and fall, to allow for optimal growth.

The third proposed site is located just above the LeBlanc sites in St. Marys harbor. This site is chosen for the shallow waters which are ideal for floating bag only. The site does not have the depth for winter sinking so oysters grown here will need to be moved for winter.

LeBlanc harbor and St. Mary's Harbor is relatively unused presently by the local population with the exception of some recreational boating, so a development such as this will demonstrate that the harbor is being optimally utilized.

Section 2: THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE PROPOSED OPERATION TO COMMUNITY AND PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Production Plan

Eastern/American Oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*)

It is the intention of Premium Seafoods Ltd. to use a proposed lease site in LeBlanc harbor to grow American Oysters (*Crassostrea Virginia*) using floating cage technology. The cages which are manufactured by BBI in Bouctouche, New Brunswick have been tried and tested in the oyster industry worldwide since 2001.

Cage measurements are 60" wide, 36" l by 20" high, and have a tested density of 345 cages per hectare.

The cages are arranged 12 per set along lines which are anchored to the harbor bed using screw anchors. Total line length is determined by lease boundaries.

Stocking densities vary dependant on life stage of oysters and nutrient availability. Spat density ranges from 800- 1000 spat per bag@ 6 bags per cage= 4800- 6000 per cage. Downsizing year two decreases animals per bag to 300-500 or 1800- 3000 per cage. Year 3 downsizing leaves approx 160-250 per bag or 960-1500 per cage.

The maximum number of animals per hectare will vary as there is generally a mix of age classes throughout the lease and density is determined by nutrient supply, water flow, etc.

The proposed lease sites have excellent water flow being located between two openings in the harbor so stocking density should be very good, as nutrient supply should be high.

Premium Seafoods staff attained a permit to set Chinese hat collectors in LeBlanc Harbor (just off Mussel Island) in July 2019. Hats were deployed on July 16th and retrieved October 2nd.

They were found to contain only a mix of clam spat, mussel spat and many, many tunicates, with no oyster present.

The collectors were positioned at the following coordinates: W 61.055690 N45.324450

2.2 Infrastructure

Oyster farming requires the use of specialized equipment such as tumblers, shakers and vision grading systems and space for short term storage. Much of this equipment will need to be purchased or built and fitted to a working platform located on site. Some additional processing equipment will also be placed on land at a registered plant which Premium Seafoods has now in Arichat.

Wharf space is available in West Arichat, at a wharf owned by West Arichat Preservation Society, and is located approx 10 minutes from proposed site. Premium Seafoods also owns a wharf in Arichat harbor which is approx an hour away from the proposed site.

Premium has approached one of the local residents (██████████), who attained a permit to place a small wharf in the harbor adjacent to his property. Premium has discussed the opportunity to work along with ██████████ in building the wharf, which would enable us to secure our barge and skiff during the summer months.

2.3 Services and suppliers

Several companies operating in the area have the knowledge and ability to supply the. Samson Enterprises have a boat building shop in Petit DeGrat and in the incubator mall in Loiusdale. Both locations are approx ten minutes away from lease site.

2.4 Employment

Technical

2019

One full time seasonal

2020

One full time seasonal

4 part time seasonal

2021

One full time

3-5 part time seasonal

2022

One Full time

25-35 part time seasonal.

2.5 Other Economic contributions to the local community and Province

Premium Seafoods owns a retail market (seafood) in Arichat, where some of the local oysters will be sold to the public. Their restaurant will also carry oysters, as well as being made available to other restaurants on the island and communities such as St.Peter's , Loiusdale and Port Hawkesbury which are all close by. Premium Seafoods has also been approached by interested parties outside the local area, asking for potential supply of oysters to their operations.

The attraction of sustainable, quality local seafood is attractive to not only the local public but to those tourists traveling to the area.

2.6 Financial Viability

There are no changes to the financial viability or standing of the company since application was made.

2.7 Adverse economic impact

Over the course of the scoping process, no adverse impacts on the economic development of the community or province were identified. Pictures of the proposed lease site were taken during mid June, during lobster season, and there did not appear to be any fishing activity.

In addition there are no other oyster farmers in the local area, so there should be no impact.

Section 3: Fisheries Activities in the Public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation.

3.1 Status of fisheries activities

According to locals there is some clam digging and mussel collection that takes place although I have not witnessed it. There is no commercial fishery in LeBlanc harbor outside eel and green crab fishing as described below..

In speaking to Jason Boudreau who is the Manager of Resource Management with Inland Fisheries Division, he indicated that his department has no concerns with developing aquaculture within LeBlanc Harbor.

The only recreational fishing activities noted where site is proposed is eel and green crab fishing done by [REDACTED] of Janvrin's Island. [REDACTED] fishing activities have been discussed at our community hall meeting and he has no objection to the oyster farm (see the community meeting minutes). There is no research or enhancement work ongoing in the area.

3.2 Impacts on fisheries activities.

As noted above in section 3.1, public activity in the area around the proposed aquaculture operation is at very least, seasonally limited and not of concern to Inland Fisheries Department.

Section 4: OCEANOGRAPHIC AND BIOPHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PUBLIC WATERS

4.1: Temperature recorder /logger is deployed on our proposed site.

Our location is listed as Red Hatch area, so at this point depuration will take place on site 0692 in Arichat Harbor, prior to releasing oysters for sale to the public.

4.2 Baseline Environmental Monitoring

The Standard Operating Procedures for the Environmental Monitoring of Marine Aquaculture in Nova Scotia does not test in our area.

A video taken by ourselves in the area of the proposed sites shows a composition of black mud silt bottom which is devoid of seaweeds and grasses. Please see included thumb drive showing video of the bottom on sites 1 & 2.

4.3 Site Design

The sites which are being considered for oyster cultivation have been chosen for their positive growth attributes. The harbor has a very good flushing action during tidal movement which will replenish food and oxygenated water.

The bottom on our proposed sites consists of silt/mud and do not provide a diverse ecosystem. The area is well protected from all winds and is deep enough to allow for winter sinking of cages to prevent ice damage but shallow enough that the waters warm considerably faster than outside the harbor which will allow for good growth of the farmed animals.

SECTION 5: THE OTHER USERS OF THE PUBLIC WATERS SURROUNDING THE PROPOSED AQUACULTURAL OPERATION

5.1 Description of other users

There is limited use of the area by recreational boaters. There is an eel and green crab fishery which is undertaken by [REDACTED] of Janvrin's Island. Premium staff (Wayne Fowlie and [REDACTED]), have spoken to [REDACTED] at our community hall meeting and there is no interference with his activities.

5.2 Significance to other users including wildlife

There are several landowners in the area which have been contacted as indicated below.

5.3 Impacts to other users including wildlife

Adjacent property owners.

There are two property owners adjacent to area. I have spent time with one of the landowners close to the proposed lease site/sites,. Their names are [REDACTED] Their home is located at [REDACTED]

In the hour or so I spent with the couple, they indicated that they have no objection to an oyster aquaculture site being established in the proposed area.

I have attempted to contact another property owner in the same area, but have not been able to establish a connection. Starting August 19th, Telile TV on East Link will begin advertising a community open house that will take place at Acadia Ville Community Centre in West Arichat, which will be used to address any questions or concerns that local community members would have in Premium establishing an oyster operation.

Pleasure craft and commercial boat traffic

Not applicable. The site is not near any shipping lanes or through traffic areas. Access to local recreational traffic will not be hindered.

Anchorage and moorings

Not applicable

Processing plants

Not applicable

Campgrounds

Not applicable

Communities

Not applicable

Municipal, industrial and agricultural

Not applicable

Tourism or recreational operations

Not applicable. The sites may be considered a resource for ecotourism in the future if tours are arranged on sites.

Private and government wharves

The site is not near any wharves that may be impacted.

First Nations

Not applicable

Historical Archeological resources

Not applicable

Important habitats and conservation areas

Not applicable

Species at risk

Not applicable

SECTION 6: THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF NAVIGATION

6.1 Navigation Protection Act (NPA) Approval

Notice of work is attached.

The location of the site is not near any shipping lane or any other kind of access for public navigation. The site is located in LeBlanc Harbor, outside West Arichat. There are no structures to be built, moved, replaced, secured, renovated or procured. The site will be used for floating cages anchored to the mud bottom only and will be serviced by an aluminum barge.

6.2 Site marking

There will be 4 yellow corner marker buoys on each lease site. Within the lease areas, cages will be attached via a main rope, anchored to the mud bottom and floating at the surface, so gear will be very visible. In the winter months, all gear will be sunk as the harbor freezes over annually.

SECTION 7: THE SUSTAINABILITY OF WILD SALMON

7.1 Identification of local salmon populations

There are no salmon run rivers in the area. The closest salmon run river in proximity to the site is located in Baddeck, which is a distance of 125 km, and is located in the Bras Dor Lakes.

7.2 Support of the Sustainability of Wild Salmon

The location of these sites will have no impact on salmon population as there are no salmon run rivers in the local area.

SECTION 8: THE NUMBER AND PRODUCTIVITY OF OTHER AQUACULTURE SITES IN THE PUBLIC WATERS SURROUNDING THE PROPOSED AQUACULTURAL LOCATION

8.1 Identification of other Aquaculture sites

The nearest aquaculture sites to proposed oyster farm is one belonging to Premium Seafoods, site number 6092 which is presently active growing suspended sea scallops. The distance to site is 12.7 km, and is located in a completely different harbor.

The next nearest aquaculture site is located 17.4 km distance and is in active at present in the Lennox passage area.

8.2 Interactions with other aquaculture operations

There will be no interaction with other sites, other than to obtain oyster spat from these areas, so that continued growth/expansion of the lease sites can continue.

Section 9: Development Viability

9.1 Financial ability

Premium Seafoods Ltd has been in operation for over 30 years, and through that time it's operations have expanded so that today, the company is very capable of supporting a start up business in oyster farming, and supporting that operation over the 3-4 years required prior to harvesting and sales of commercial oysters. Premium has many connections in the seafood industry and inquiries for oysters are turned away often, so sales of commercial oysters will not present any challenge.

Premium also owns and operates their own retail market where some oysters will be sold as well.

9.2 Technical Ability

The sites will be run by two full time employees and one – three part time employees who will be employed seasonally .The two full time staff posses the education, skills, and experience needed to run the sites.

9.3 Compliance history

Premium Seafoods has had no compliance issues with lease #0692, and so we don't expect any with new oyster sites. In regards to other operations, Premium Seafoods has always followed the guidelines of quality control and monitoring required provincially and federally. They have successfully operated crab, shrimp and lobster operations while continuing to adhere to and follow all known rules and regulations.

Aquaculture Lease Application 1438, 1439, 1440 Premium Seafoods Group
Additional Information
Nov 17, 2020

Section 2.1

- Maximum lines:



An example of what the line set up would be like. Two strings on the right side have 10 lines consisting of 12 cages each line

Lease 1438

Each line is 120ft long consisting of 12 cages. 10 lines per string (running corner 3 to 2 or South to Northeast) would be 120 Cages per string. There can be 37 Strings in total (corner 3 to 4) bringing the cage amount to 4440 at absolute maximum capacity and 370 lines in total.

Lease 1439

Each line is 120ft long consisting of 12 cages. 9 Lines per string (running corner 3 to 2 or south to Northeast) would be 108 cages per string. There can be 52 strings (corner 1 to 2) bringing the maximum cage amount to 5616 and 468 lines in total.

Lease 1440

This site is intended to be used as a holding area for first year spat. Extremely shallow, it would allow for single bags to float in very warm water for a short period of time (June-August) allowing a growth spurt. They would not be overwintered on that site (relocated to 1438 or

1439). Maximum would be 20,000 individual bags on lines 72 ft long (although highly unlikely it would ever contain that many).

** Please note that although this is the maximum amount we could hold, it is unlikely we will reach the full potential.

- Maximum Number of Oysters

Based on 1 Million spat per year:

1. 1 Million
2. 2 Million
3. 3 Million
4. Harvest year one, plus another 1 Million Spat
5. Harvest Year 2, plus another Million spat

Based on this 5 year plan, there will be approximately 5 Million Oysters on site. Harvest plan is year 4, but will all depend on growth rates.

Cages:

1. 1000 Bags on 1440
2. 333 Cages on 1438 or 39 and 1000 bags on 1440
3. 834 Cages on 1438 or 39 and 1000 bags on 1440
4. 834 Cages on 1438 or 39 and 1000 bags on 1440
5. 834 Cages on 1438 or 39 and 1000 bags on 1440

This is our initial 5 year plan and for numbers sake there is 0 mortality.

- Oyster (*crassostrea virginica*) Spat Source:

Paqtnket First Nation

7 Dillon St, RR#1

Afton, NS

B0H 1A0

Reliable seed source, easy to access, supports local first nation. Wild collection on Chinese hats in Pomquet area. Hats set out in July for collection, brought in September, harvested and overwintered for sale in spring. Good size on oyster seed.

L'Etang Ruisseau Bar Ltee

Shellfish Hatchery

11 Rue Point-Brulee

Box 3332

Shippagan, NB

E8S 3H9

Very reliable seed source. Difficult to access as it is far away in New Brunswick. Oysters spawned in hatchery, collected in tanks. Found this source had smaller seed than the wild collection from Pomquet.

Aquaculture Lease Application 1438, 1439, 1440 Premium Seafoods Group
Additional Information
Nov 17, 2020

Section 3.2

When we held the public open house we were approached by [REDACTED] of Janvrin's Island who fishes eels and green crab in the area around 1440. Once assured that we would have no impact on his fishing grounds he had no issues with our proposed lease. Otherwise, there is no commercial or recreational fishing in any of the three proposed areas. Lease 1438 and 1439 have a mud bottom therefore no direct fish habitat directly below the cages (lobster, crab etc). In fact, the cages may give shelter to finfish to hide in the shade during the warmer summer months. There is no seaweeds in the area of 1438 and 1439 so there is no disruption to natural processes. These cages will be sunk to the substrate in the winter months, but use of divers will help mitigate any disruption to the seafloor. Although, it is a mud bottom, so there will be little impact.

Aquaculture Lease Application 1438, 1439, 1440 Premium Seafoods Group
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Section 4.1

- Annual maximum wind speed(not including hurricane data) is approximately 60km/hr
- Annual tides maximum 1.8m, minimum -0.13
- Annual maximum wave height is 1m(very sheltered location) NW
- Current speed range and averages not available
- Annual maximum water temperature 25 degrees Celsius, minimum -5(frozen)
- Water depth:
 - 1438
 - 1) 3.6m 2) 5.4m 3)4.2m 4) 4.2m
 - 1439
 - 1) 5.09m 2) 6.6m 3)1.2m 4) 1.2m
 - 1440
 - 1) 1m 2) 1.2m 3)1.2m 4) 1m
- Primary production will be *crassostrea virginica*(Eastern Oyster)
- Biotxin Information: - email from Angela Smith :

***As per our monitoring program there have only been trace amounts of PSP detected in Arichat historically (last 5 years). Most samples have been not detected for biotoxin. Everything from this past year has been not detected.

Angela Smith
Regional Program Officer, Shellfish and Food Safety Programs, Operations Branch, Nova Scotia
Canadian Food Inspection Agency / Government of Canada
angela.smith@canada.ca / Tel: [REDACTED] (cell)***

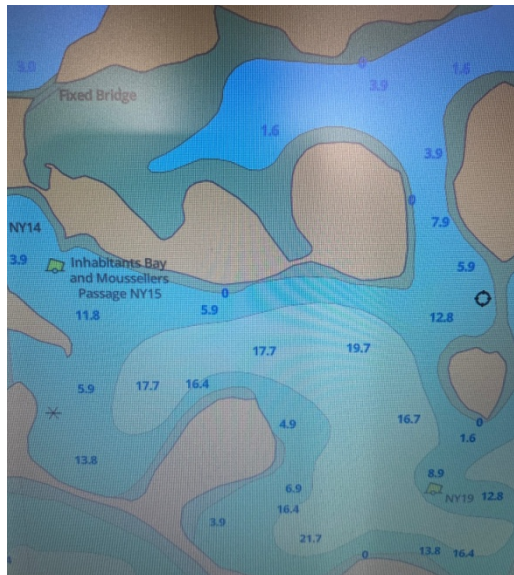
Aquaculture Lease Application 1438, 1439, 1440 Premium Seafoods Group
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Section 4.3

Lease site 1438 has a maximum depth of 17.7ft(5.4m) and minimum of 5.9ft(1.8m)

Lease site 1439 has a maximum depth of 21.7ft(6.6m) and minimum of 3.9ft(1.2m)

Lease site 1440 has a maximum depth of 3.9ft(1.2m) and minimum of 1.6ft(< 1m)



Aquaculture Lease Application 1438, 1439, 1440 Premium Seafoods Group
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Section 5.2

The area of the proposed lease site is home to the usual local fauna. Some herons, seagulls, a few ducks. This is not a migratory area although geese have occasionally been seen in there. Very few seals in the area as it is a difficult location for them to get into and quite shallow. There are no SARA animals in the region.

Aquaculture Lease Application 1438, 1439, 1440 Premium Seafoods Group
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Section 5.3

The proposed lease site is in a very secluded area and has no impact on marine traffic. There is a bit of recreational boating in the area, but our specific location is rather “off the beaten path” so to speak. We have discussed the proposal with a local fisherman and he is confident that we will have no impact on his eel and green crab fishery.

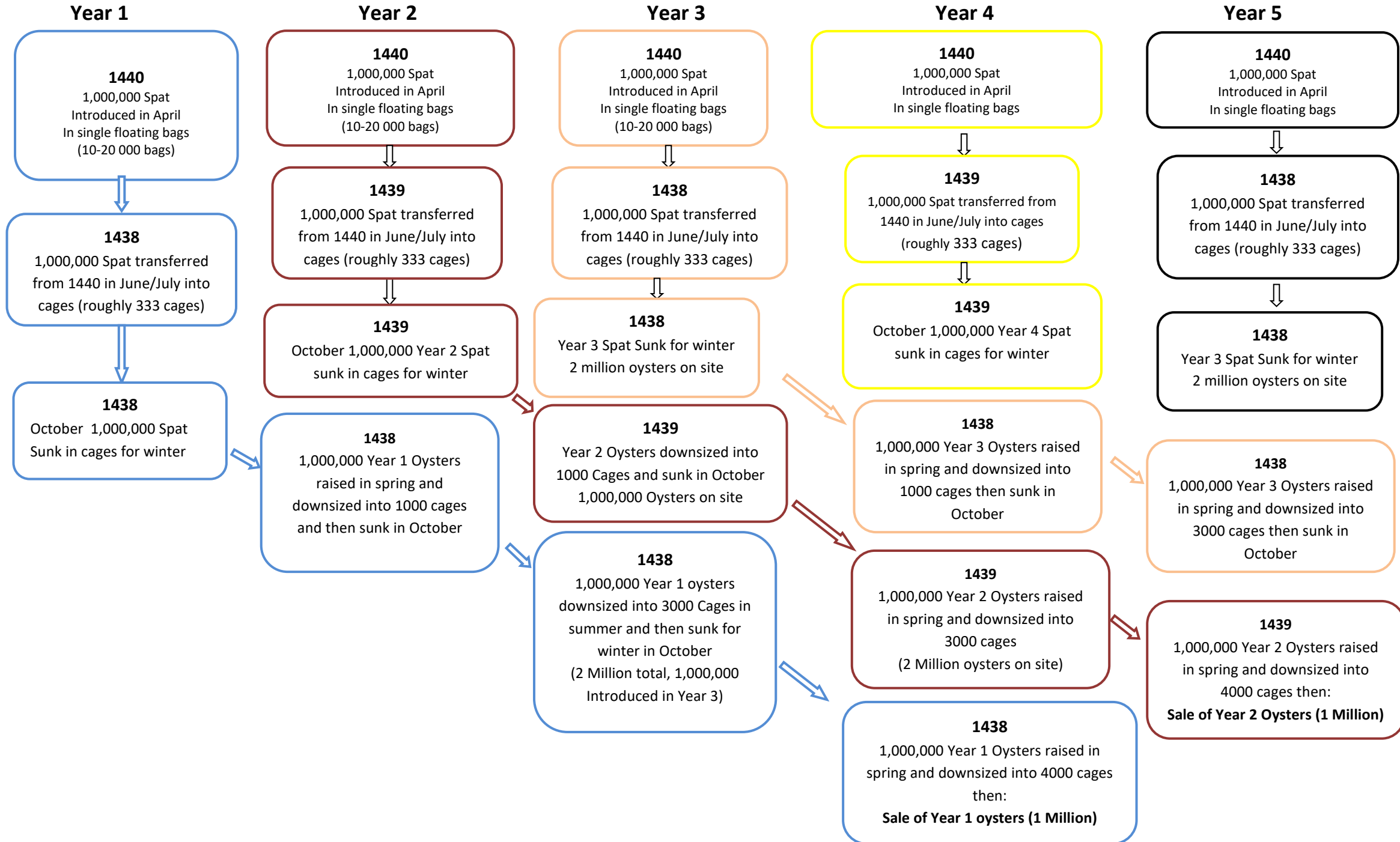
There should not be any impact to local fauna with the exception of extra roosting spots for seagulls to sit on top of the cages. We do not believe any mitigation of impacts to wildlife are needed at this time. However, if we become aware of any issues, we will do everything to ensure the safety and health of local wildlife populations. For example, if we have an oil leak etc. we will have equipment on hand to clean up the oil on the water. The floating oyster cages may even provide needed shelter/shade to fish species in the heat of summer.

Aquaculture Lease Application 1438, 1439, 1440 Premium Seafoods Group
Additional Information
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Section 5.4

The proposed lease may impact scenic viewing of the area, although all local property owners have been contacted as per the scoping. Seals are not abundant in the area as it is quite shallow, although they have been known to chase a school of fish in the harbour. Our cages should not impact them in any manner. Tunicates will be killed off by the use of the floating cages which are flipped every three weeks to kill off fouling (tunicates) which are unfortunately abundant in that area. The gear itself does not contain nets, which are the primary hazard for birds and fish. The cages are fairly dense and difficult for any creature to get into. Checks of the cages are done consistently, so if there was an issue with any animal it would quickly be discovered and rescued.

Appendix to Section 2.1



Community Hall Meeting

September 18th, 2019

Received

17 OCT. 2019

Fisheries and Aquaculture
Shelburne, NS

Prior to our community Hall meeting, I had reached out to some of the public. One such family was [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]. Their home is located adjacent to one of the proposed sites and so we had a good discussion over a period of an hour and a half while seated on their back deck having a cup of tea. They were not at all concerned about an oyster farm and supported the idea.

I also sat down with [REDACTED] of Janvrin's Island and he expressed a lot of interest in having an oyster farm locate to his area. As an oyster lover, [REDACTED] looked forward to having a farm close by. We also talked about helping him with a small wharf that his wife and he were building in front of their house and possible collaboration on the project. He was also very excited about helping us keep an eye on the farm

Our public engagement /community hall meeting was held on September 18th at the Acadiaville Community Center in West Arichat and information was presented over two separate times slots, 2-4 pm and 5-7 pm, so that those who worked during the afternoon session could stop by in the evening with their questions or concerns. The meeting times were advertized on Telile Community Television which is a local service for Isle Madame, for a month prior starting on August 17th. An ad was also posted at the local post office in West Arichat, Nova Scotia for a period of two weeks prior.

The location of the meeting was chosen as it sits directly in front of the option site in Le Blanc Harbor. In fact the proposed oyster development sites can be seen from the windows of the presentation room.

We had sweets, sandwiches, coffee etc. available for the public so that anyone visiting us could feel welcome and relaxed.

Tom Smith from AANS was present to answer any questions about the option process, and to lend support where needed. His presence was greatly appreciated.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from BBI Plastics were onsite to present on behalf of the manufacturer of the floating oyster cages. They brought several cages with them to show interested parties and help answer any questions about the equipment we would be utilizing.

The session from 2-4 gave us one visitor [REDACTED] who is the Fishery Manager for Potlotek First Nation in Chapel Island, Cape Breton, was there to lend his support for the project. Potlotek also has interest in developing and rejuvenating an oyster industry in the Bras Dor Lakes which was hard hit in the past by MSX disease.

The evening session from 5-7 gave us two visitors: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Both parties were interested in aquaculture and particularly in the development of an oyster farm. [REDACTED] presently fishes eels in one of the areas that we were proposing, so his first concern was about access to the fishing areas. We assured him that access would be available at all times, and that any oyster growing cages would be located far enough from shoreline to allow good access to the areas where he traditionally fished eels and green crab. He left the meeting satisfied that our farm would not interfere with his fishing.

[REDACTED] was a past employee of Scotia Rainbow which was located in Arichat, and was interested in the prospect of us growing oysters in the area. He was more interested in how the process worked and may be a potential farmer himself in the future. I told him we have a CFIA facility ready to help out him and any others in the future.

I got a call on the morning of the 19th, from [REDACTED] who lives across from where two of the proposed oyster farms would be located. He was interested in the locations of the proposed leases and how his access to the harbor would be affected. I walked through the locations with him on marine charts and after this he was quite receptive.

During the open house, we had a draw for \$50.00 worth of seafood which was awarded to [REDACTED]

The following two pages are representative of the ads which were run.

Information session

Learn about our option to set up a Shell fish farm lease,
in LeBlanc Harbour this coming fall.

Wednesday, September 18th, 2019

2 – 4 pm & 5 – 7 pm

At Acadiaville Community Centre, West Arichat

Company reps & the Aquaculture Association of NS will be on hand
To answer questions or concerns. Some written information will be
available to hand out, featuring some equipment we plan to use in
the development of an oyster growing site.

Premium Seafoods of Arichat, NS

Premium Seafoods of Arichat, NS

Premium Seafoods will be holding a community information session on Wednesday September 18th from the hours of 2-4 p.m. and 5-7 pm for all interested in learning about our option to set up a shell fish farm lease in Le Blanc Harbor this coming fall. The meeting location is in the Acadiaville Community Centre, West Arichat.

Company representatives and those from Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia will be on hand to answer questions or concerns. Some written information will be available to hand out as well as on display, and will feature some of the equipment we plan to use in the development of an oyster growing site.