

Decision on Application to Assign a Marine Aquaculture Licence and Lease

Application to the Administrator:

On April 25, 2022, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (the “Department”) received an application to assign Aquaculture Licence and Lease #1385 (AQ#1385), as described below:

Application Summary:

Type: Marine	Size: 10.27 HA
Number: AQ#1385	Cultivation Method: Bottom cultivation with gear, bottom cultivation without gear
Assignor: Samuel McKinlay	
Location: Antigonish Harbour, Antigonish County	Species: American oyster
Proposed Assignee: Jordan Paradis	

Site History:

AQ#1385 was first issued on March 5, 2015, for a ten-year term (November 1, 2014 to November 1, 2024). AQ#1385 was amended in November 2020 to authorize the bottom shellfish cultivation with gear method (on a portion of the site).

Performance Reviews Conducted by Administrator:

A performance review was conducted on the aquacultural operation of site AQ#1385, pursuant to Sections 71-72 of the *Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations* (the “Regulations”). There were no concerns raised following the performance review.

Public Submissions on Application to Administrator:

Pursuant to Section 41 of the Regulations, notice of the application was published on the Department’s website and in the Royal Gazette Part I inviting the public to submit written comments on the application to the Administrator within the 30 days following the date the notice was published. This notice was published on June 16, 2022.

Zero submissions were received by the Department during the 30-day public comment period.

Factors to be Considered (as set out in Section 3 of the Regulations):

The optimum use of marine resources

The assignee's development plan demonstrates an optimum use of marine resources. Review of the file indicates that the site has had minimal production and employment in recent years under the assignor. Department staff will continue to monitor the assignee that production plans are implemented as submitted and that the site is utilized for Aquaculture.

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

The species and methods of cultivation authorized for this site are suitable for this area and are expected to be a positive contribution to the local and provincial economy.

Fishery activities in the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation

As this is an application to assign an existing Aquaculture licence and lease, there are 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 site is in a closed area, classified under the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program. The assignee has provided a plan for the depuration of the product harvested in a closed area. Historical data suggests that the proposed use of the site is reasonable. Changes to benthic impacts are not anticipated with the assignment of the licence/lease.

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

As this is an application to assign an existing Aquaculture licence and lease, there are no expected novel impacts to the other users of the public waters near the existing site.

The public right of navigation

The operator shall adhere to the site marking requirements according to their Notice of Works issued by Transport Canada under the Canadian Navigable Waters Act, reference number NPP#2013-200038.

The sustainability of wild salmon

There is no indication that continued operation of the site for shellfish aquaculture will pose ecological concerns or have an impact on the sustainability of wild salmon.

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

AQ#1385 is located along the shoreline within Antigonish Harbour. Currently there are no other licensed aquaculture sites within the same body of water, however there are currently

applications being processed for three (3) new marine aquaculture licenses and leases for shellfish species (file AQ#1442, 1443, 1444), with no decision issued as of October 21, 2022. There is no evidence to suggest that the extent of the existing aquaculture in the harbour has exceeded the carrying capacity.

Decision:

Based on the factors considered above, AQ#1385 shall be assigned to Jordan Paradis. The assignment shall have an effective date of October 21, 2022. Except as expressly assigned, AQ#1385 shall remain unchanged in full force and effect, including any terms and conditions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Ceschiutti".

Robert Ceschiutti
Aquaculture Administrator
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

October 21, 2022

Date