

Decision on Application to Amend a Marine Aquaculture Licence and Lease

Application to the Administrator:

On March 24, 2022, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (the “Department”) received an application to amend Aquaculture Licence and Lease #1040 (AQ#1040), as described below:

Application Summary:

Type: Marine Finfish	Size: 8.21 HA
Number: AQ#1040	Cultivation Method: Marine cage
Applicant: Kelly Cove Salmon Ltd.	
Location: Annapolis Basin, Annapolis County	Species: Atlantic salmon
Proposed Amendment: Authorize the cultivation of Lump fish (<i>Cyclopterus lumpus</i>).	

Site History:

The start of aquaculture in this lease space began in 1995, as an experimental tenure. The first commercial tenure began in 1996 and continued over the years, through renewals and assignments until the lease and licence was assigned to Kelly Cove Salmon Limited in 2014. Since Kelly Cove Salmon Ltd. has taken over the site and began farming in 2014, they have applied and been granted one licence and lease renewal. Their current licence is valid until May 16, 2026 and their lease is valid until May 16, 2036.

Performance Reviews Conducted by Administrator:

A performance review was conducted on the aquacultural operation of site AQ#1040, pursuant to Sections 71-72 of the *Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations* (the “Regulations”). There were no concerns raised following the performance review.

Consultations on Application to Administrator:

AQ#1040 was sent for consultation to the following departments or agencies of the Government of Nova Scotia, pursuant to Clause 40(1)(a) of the Regulations:
Environment & Climate Change, Office of L'Nu Affairs (OLA), Municipal Affairs.

AQ#1040 was sent for consultation to the following departments or agencies of the Government of Canada, pursuant to Clause 40(1)(b) of the Regulations:
Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO), Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Canadian Wildlife Services (CWS).

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 July 14, 2022.

Zero (0) 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

As a result of these amendments, there will be no change in the production levels of the other production species being cultured on site. The application supports the optimum use of marine resources.

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

The proposed amendment indicates the applicant will use local service providers where possible. There were no other observed impacts related to this application.

Fishery activities in the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation

This amendment, if approved, would not change any aspect of the fishery activities in the public waters surrounding the aquacultural operation.

The oceanographic and biophysical characteristics of the public waters surrounding the proposed aquacultural operation

The proposed amendment would not result in any known changes to the benthic environment at this site.

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

This amendment, if approved, would not change any aspect of the other users of the public waters surrounding the aquacultural operation.

The public right of navigation

This amendment, if approved, would not change any aspect of the public right of navigation surrounding the aquacultural operation.

The sustainability of wild salmon

There is no indication that the proposed amendment 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

In the Annapolis Basin, there are a total of three (commercial) marine finfish aquaculture sites, five commercial marine shellfish sites and three experimental marine shellfish sites. Review of this amendment application and supporting documentation did not indicate that the carrying capacity of this region would change, if implemented.

Decision:

Based on the factors considered above, AQ#1040 shall be amended to authorize the cultivation of Lump fish (*Cyclopterus lumpus*).

Except as expressly amended, AQ#1040 shall continue in full force and effect, including any terms and conditions.

The Licence and Lease documents shall be prepared in accordance with the Department's standard operating documents and shall be made publicly available subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.



Robert Ceschiutti
Aquaculture Administrator
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

August 29, 2022

Date