

**Findings and Decision - Assignment Application of Sustainable Fish Farming (Canada)
Limited for AQ#1312**

1. Overview:

On July 5, 2019, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from Sustainable Fish Farming (Canada) Limited to assign Aquaculture Licence #1312 (AQ#1312), as described below:

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence #1312

Type: Landbased Finfish	Location: Centre Burlington, Hants County
Number: AQ#1312	Cultivation Method: Landbased
Assignor: Sustainable Fish Farming (Canada) Limited (current ownership)	Species: Atlantic halibut, Sablefish, European sea bass, Black sea bass, Striped bass, Gilthead seabream, Atlantic salmon
Assignee: Sustainable Fish Farming (Canada) Limited (prospective ownership)	

2. History

AQ#1312 was first issued to Sustainable Fish Farming (Canada) Limited on December 20, 2005 for a ten-year term (December 20, 2005 to December 20, 2015). AQ#1312 was amended on February 20, 2008 to allow for the cultivation of European sea bass. AQ#1312 was amended on December 2, 2008 to allow for the cultivation of Black sea bass. AQ#1312 was amended on June 11, 2009 to allow for the cultivation of Striped bass. AQ#1312 was amended on July 31, 2012 to allow for the cultivation of Gilthead seabream. AQ#1312 was amended on December 20, 2012 to allow for the cultivation of Atlantic salmon. AQ#1312 was renewed on May 19, 2016 for a ten-year term (December 20, 2015 to December 20, 2025).

3. Procedure

3.1 Performance Review

A performance review of the information submitted by the operator in support of their Assignment application was completed. This review recommended that the site be assigned based on the technical and biological assessment. This performance review is required pursuant to Subsection 72(d) of the Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations, and was completed on October 1, 2019.

3.2 Public Comment Period

Notice of the application for the assignment of AQ#1312 for the 30-day public comment period was published on NSDFA's website (<http://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/public-information/>) for the period of July 15, 2019 to August 13, 2019. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on July 16, 23, 30 and August 6, 2019.

3.3 Submissions

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

4. Factors to be considered

AQ#1312 was last renewed in 2016 and has demonstrated production and employment during this time period. AQ#1312 is a land-based grow-out operation, and the operators have utilized Nova Scotian facilities to process their product. The site has a record of compliance with respect to the Act, Regulations, guidelines, and policies of the Department. The nature in which the operator intends to continue operating the site is consistent with the Act, Regulations, licence requirements, guidelines, and policies of the Department.

Since issuance, the site has produced a number of species, with a focus on Atlantic salmon in recent years. The technical and biological information submitted with respect to the assignment application suggests that the planned continued operation of the site will be viable. Specifically, the operation makes use of multiple facilities with recirculation technology. Water is sourced from the Avon Estuary, all effluent is received and re-purposed, and any waste water is properly treated. Technical information provided suggests that proper infrastructure is in place for the proposed method and scale of the operation. All other aspects of the application information and the subsequent review of this information supports the assignment application.

5. Decision

Based on the considerations above, Sustainable Fish Farming (Canada) Limited's right, title, and interest in and to Aquaculture Licence #1312 is hereby assigned to Sustainable Fish Farming (Canada) Limited. The assignment shall have an effective date of October 2, 2019. The approval documents shall be prepared in accordance with the standard operating documents of NSDFA, and shall be made publicly available subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

In addition, the following condition shall apply.



Brennan Goreham
Aquaculture Administrator
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

October 1, 2019
Date