

**Findings and Decision - Renewal Application of Innovative Fishery Products Incorporated for AQ#1185**

**1. Overview:**

On April 29, 2020, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from Innovative Fishery Products Incorporated to renew Aquaculture Licence (AQ#1185), as described below:

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence #1185

<b>Type:</b> Land-Based	<b>Location:</b> St. Bernard, Digby County
<b>Number:</b> AQ#1185	<b>Species:</b> Bar clam, Bay quahog, Soft shell clam, Razor clam
<b>Applicant:</b> Innovative Fishery Products Inc.	<b>Proposed Term:</b> 10 year Licence

**2. History**

AQ#1185 was first issued on September 1, 2000 for a ten year term (September 1, 2000 to September 1, 2010). AQ#1185 was renewed on January 5, 2011 for a five year term (September 1, 2010 to September 1, 2015). AQ#1185 was renewed on October 22, 2015 for a five year term (September 2, 2015 to September 2, 2020).

**3. Procedure**

*3.1 Performance Review*

A performance review of the information submitted by the operator in support of their renewal application was completed. This review recommended that the site be renewed based on the technical and biological assessment. This performance review is required pursuant to Subsection 72(c) of the Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations, and was completed on August 14, 2020.

*3.2 Public Comment Period*

Notice of the application for the renewal of AQ#1185 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 9, 2020 to August 7, 2020. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on July 8, July 15, July 22, and July 29, 2020.

*3.3 Submissions*

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

#### **4. Factors to be considered**

In addition to AQ#1185, Innovative Fishery Products Incorporated holds marine soft-shell clam aquaculture licences and leases and also operates a soft-shell clam processing facility. AQ#1185 is an important component of the overall production model for Innovative Fishery Products Incorporated. The nature in which Innovative Fishery Products Incorporated intends to operate this land-based site is consistent with the Act, Regulations, and policies of the Department. There is no record of non-compliance with respect to the operator of the facility.

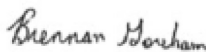
An aquaculture licence for land-based shellfish aquaculture issued pursuant to the *Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act* only grants an approval to conduct commercial farming of the identified species. The operators of AQ#1185, by condition of licence, will be required to comply with any permits, protocols, approvals, licenses or permissions which may be required under the laws of the relevant Municipality, the Province, or Canada. Innovative Fishery Products Incorporated will be responsible for confirming any of the before-mentioned requirements and ensuring compliance with them.

The technical information submitted with respect to the renewal application suggests that appropriate equipment, infrastructure, and technology will be in place for the proposed method and scale of the operation. In addition, described operational elements are adequate for the proposed method and sale of the operation. To operate the facility, Innovative Fishery Products Incorporated is be required to develop and implement an approved Farm Management Plan (FMP), in accordance with the *Aquaculture Management Regulations*. Information on the Minimum Compliance Points for Farm Management Plans can be found at: <https://novascotia.ca/fish/documents/compliance-documents/Minimum-compliance-requirements-Landbased.pdf>.

#### **5. Decision**

Based on the considerations above, Aquaculture Licence #1185 shall be renewed for a period of 10 years (September 2, 2020 to September 1, 2030).

The Licence 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*.



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**Brennan Goreham**  
**Aquaculture Administrator**  
**Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture**

September 1, 2020

**Date**