

Findings and Decision- Amendment Application of ProNova Marine Products Limited for AQ#1234

1. Overview:

On January 22, 2019, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) received an application from ProNova Marine Products Inc. to amend Aquaculture Licence and Lease #1234 (AQ#1234) to authorize the cultivation of striped bass, as described below to ProNova Marine Products Limited.

Table 1. Description of Aquaculture Licence and Lease #1234

Type: Landbased Grow-out	Current Cultivation Method: Landbased
Number: AQ#1234	Current Species: Atlantic halibut, Atlantic cod, Haddock, Green sea urchin, Irish moss, Dulse, Rainbow trout, Cunner, Lumpfish, American oyster
Applicant: ProNova Marine Products Ltd.	Proposed Amendment: Addition of the following species for cultivation: - Striped bass
Location: Woods Harbour, Shelburne County	

2. History

AQ#1234 was first issued to Scotian Halibut Limited on March 1, 2001 for a ten year term (March 1, 2001 to March 1, 2011). AQ#1234 was amended on March 25, 2004 to authorize the cultivation of Atlantic cod and Haddock. AQ#1234 was renewed on January 16, 2013 for a five year term (March 2, 2011 to March 2, 2016). AQ#1234 was amended on June 18, 2014 to authorize the cultivation of American oyster. AQ#1234 was amended on November 6, 2014 to authorize the cultivation of Cunner and Lumpfish. AQ#1234 was renewed on June 24, 2016 for a ten year term (March 1, 2016 to March 1, 2026). AQ#1234 was assigned on February 23, 2017 from Scotia Halibut Limited to Scotian Halibut (2016) Limited. AQ#1234 was assigned on March 15, 2018 from Scotian Halibut (2016) Limited to ProNova Marine Products Inc.

3. Procedure

3.1 Performance Review

A performance review completed on October 22, 2019 for the amendment of AQ#1234. This review recommended that the site be amended based on the technical and biological assessment. This performance review is required pursuant to Subsection 72(b) of the Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations.

3.2 Public Comment Period

Notice of the application for the amendment of AQ#1234 for the 30-day public comment period was published on NSDFA's website (<http://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/public-information/>) for the period of September 18 to October 18, 2019. Notice of the application was also published in the Royal Gazette Part I on September 18, 25 and October 2, 9, 16, 2019.

3.3 Submissions

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

4. Factors to be considered

The site has demonstrated consistent levels of production and employment. AQ#1234 operates in conjunction with AQ#1233, a land-based facility in Clark's Harbour also being amended to add Striped bass. The review of information submitted suggests that the cultivation of Striped bass at this location can be conducted in a manner that maintains compliance with respect to the Act, Regulations, guidelines, and policies of the Department.

The technical information submitted with respect to the amendment application indicates that the proposed continuation of the operation is technically viable. The amendment does not involve any changes to the infrastructure relating to water source and water discharge, and the technical information provided suggests that the proper infrastructure is in place for the proposed method and scale of the operation. All other aspects of the application information submitted and the subsequent review of this information supports the amendment of this licence.

The licence holder is responsible to obtain the required introductions and transfer permit prior to stocking Striped bass on the site and is responsible to comply with any permits, protocols, approvals, licenses, or permissions that may be required under the laws of the relevant Municipality, the Province, or Canada. The licence holder is also responsible for confirming licensing requirements and ensuring compliance with them.

5. Decision

Based on the considerations above, Aquaculture Licence #1234 shall be amended to authorize the cultivation of add Striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*). Except as expressly amended, Licence#1234 shall continue in full force and effect.

The Licence amendment documents shall be prepared in accordance with the standard operating documents of NSDFA, and shall be made publically available subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.



November 29, 2019

Brennan Goreham
Aquaculture Administrator
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Date