

MAR 23 2016

Registration 1829

Ms. Marilyn Clark
Director of Development
Mills Aquaculture Inc.
5 Mills St.
Bouctouche NB E4S 3S3

Dear Ms. Clark:

Re: Stephenville Crossing Estuary Soft Shell Clam Farm – Registration 1829

Your proposal has been reviewed and an opportunity to comment has been provided to the public and government agencies, as required by Part X of the *Environmental Protection Act, SNL 2002, cE-14.2*. Upon consideration of the comments received, please be advised that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

The EIS is necessary to provide information concerning the effects of the undertaking over the lifetime of the project to the people whose environment may be affected, and to meet with the local community to identify and respond to their concerns regarding the environmental effects. Additional information requirements shall address, but are not limited to:

- More detailed description of the project activities and methodology being used;
- Collation of existing baseline information and the collection of new information as a baseline study for identified valued ecosystem components such as endangered shorebirds, sea ducks and waterfowl, Atlantic salmon, Banded Killifish, and eelgrass beds;
- Evaluation of the potential environmental impacts;
- Proposed mitigations and monitoring efforts to minimize the risk of impacts on endangered shorebirds, sea ducks and waterfowl, Atlantic salmon, Banded Killifish, and eelgrass beds;
- A Wildlife Monitoring Plan, Waste Disposal Plan, Oil Spill and Leaks Contingency (Response) Plan, Environmental Effects Monitoring Plan – Shorebird Monitoring Plan, and a Cumulative Effects Assessment – Shorebird Habitat;
- A public information session to be held at Stephenville Crossing, to provide an opportunity for the proponent to inform the public of every aspect of the project.

An Environmental Assessment Committee will be appointed for the purpose of providing technical and scientific advice to you regarding the preparation of an EIS. As per the legislative requirements, you will be issued guidelines for the completion of the EIS. Due to the requirement to submit an EIS for each of your three clam aquaculture projects (Reg# 1829, 1830

and 1831) which have raised similar environmental issues, the department is willing to explore options to issuing one set of EIS guidelines, submitting one EIS and conducting a single government and public review. Please be reminded that, in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act*, project activities may not proceed until the proposal is released from the Environmental Assessment Process.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact Mr. Bas Cleary, Director, Environmental Assessment Division at 729-0673.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Perry Trimper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "P".

PERRY TRIMPER, MHA
District of Lake Melville
Minister